

Community urged to attend lunch to discuss new Georgetown youth centre

What is it that turns kids into responsible adults? If there was a simple answer I would be out of a job! Research has shown that one important

component of successful kids' lives is a caring, supportive community. Halton Hills is such a community. One thing that it is lacking, however, is a full service youth centre in

Georgetown.

You may have read my past columns about The Open Door and Off The Wall.

The Open Door is located in the basement of St. George's Church, next to Georgetown District High School, and is only open during lunch hours. That is very limiting. Off The Wall is located in downtown Acton. It is full service, but rather inaccessible to the Georgetown youth.

Why do the youth in our town need youth centres? The youth today face pressures that my generation didn't have, and certainly pressures that my parents didn't have. The youth centres provide support for family issues, bullying, relationships, eating disorders, peer pressure and more. Even the "well-adjusted" kids have issues they don't feel comfortable talking to parents about.

The youth workers at the centres are trained to support the youth, and have connections to get further support for them if needed. Sometimes kids just need a place to hang out... where they are not "moved along".

Both youth centres come under the umbrella of Halton Hills Community Support and Information and are funded by three small grants from the Town of Halton Hills, The Region of Halton and the United Way. Those grants account



911/411


Const. Laurel Barnett

for about \$47,000 of the \$125,000 budget. The rest comes from fundraising.

The HHCSI board has a dream. They would like to build a new Youth Resource Centre in Georgetown. One that is more accessible to youth, both in location and operating hours. It all boils down to money.

If you think that you are able, or have connections to a company, to assist financially with this dream, come to lunch on Friday, December 2 at noon. Go to St. George's Anglican Church and enter through the Open Door Youth Resource Centre. HHCSI will provide a brown bag lunch to those who attend. Come out and support this dream and the youth of our town. RSVP to 905-873-6502.

—Const. Laurel Barnett is the community support officer for District 1



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4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
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