



GOING, GOING, GONE: Christine Booth was sold out of her "big ticket" items as "early birds" swooped up some great deals at the Acton resident's garage sale on Saturday morning. — Denise Paulsen photo

Full waste service?

How much would it cost to provide full waste services to the rural areas of Halton Hills, and how could it be done? The Town wants Halton to study a possible expansion of services in the rural areas, which currently only have pick-ups of recyclables and green cart organics.

Ward Two Councillor Joan Robson said there is a growing interest by rural residents to have the convenience of waste and bulk pick-ups.

Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Som-

erville noted the last survey on the issue found a majority of rural residents rejected the proposal, but there has been a wholesale shift of opinion with very successful Green Cart and Blue Box recycling programs.

"It is time for us to look at this again, and we have been telling residents for the past couple of years as we've been asked, (to) let the Green Cart get established and we'll find out the process to do this," Somerville said, adding it will take time to get the information they need to make a decision.

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Suicide prevention

Education and awareness will help Halton Hills become a suicide-safer community according to officials with the Halton Hills Suicide Prevention Group who delivered some sobering statistics to Town Council last Monday.

"There are over 4,000 deaths by suicide per year in Canada and it is the second leading cause of death among youth aged 10 to 24, behind motor vehicle accidents," H.E.A.L. member Sue Vogt-Culp said, adding suicide is the third lead-

ing cause of death among adults aged 25 to 49.

H.E.A.L. (Hope, Education, Advocacy, Life) began in 2007 when family and friends of a young local suicide victim agreed to make suicide prevention and advocacy strategies their life work.

Vogt-Culp said when someone dies by suicide, their pain is transferred to their family, friends and community, and almost three million Canadians have been affected by the tragedy of suicide — a tragedy compounded by the knowledge that many of those deaths are preventable.

Paul Ivany, minister of the United Church in Norval where H.E.A.L. meets monthly — said one of their most important accomplishments is safeTALK training that was offered to Georgetown high school

students, teachers and staff in the fall, and will be offered to Acton District High School students, teachers and staff in the future.

"It is a three-hour training (workshop) designed to ensure that persons with thoughts of suicide are connected with people who are prepared to provide interventions for them..." Reverend Ivany said, adding they've partnered with the Halton Suicide Prevention Coalition and with the Canadian Mental Health Association. He said they plan to take the safeTALK presentation to local church and service groups to help make Halton Hills a "suicide safer community."

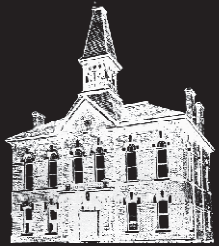
For those dealing with a loss by suicide, Ivany said they began a self-help suicide survivors group to provide caring, support

and understanding, and also a safe place to share grief and feelings.

Vogt-Culp thanked the Town for providing H.E.A.L. with a location for past safeTALK workshops and thanked the councillors who have taken the training that taught them to see and understand the signs of someone at risk.

"It's really about giving people the courage to ask the question," she said, prompting Reverend Ivany later to say that suicide is one of the "last stigmas."

H.E.A.L. is not a crisis resource and suicidal people, or those who think someone is suicidal, should call a mental health official or the North Halton Distress Centre at 905-877-1211, C.O.A.S.T at 1-877-825-9011 or R.O.C.K (for kids and youth to age 17) at 905-875-2575.



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