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## Gays uneasy about living here

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anti-homophobia committee representing service providers through ADAPT (Alcohol, Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment), many youth problems stem from difficulties regarding sexual orientation.

Ms Kidd said there is no safety net for homosexuals. She explained that while there is little overt violence, there is a segregation of groups, which is where violence begins.

"We are beginning to see the next stage of innuendo and verbal attack which could lead to physical violence," she said. "We need to do what's necessary to stop Halton from moving to that point."

homophobia committee, related several disturbing incidents she experienced since purchasing a home with her lesbian partner.

Ms Jeffs said whispering and ostracism by some neighbours is uncomfortable but when someone drove a pick-up truck into their driveway and squealed the tires she and her partner found the gesture threatening.

"Living a few doors down from us are people who at least think we are abnormal and mentally ill and, at the most feel we should be punished for who we are," said Ms Jeffs.

Ms Jeffs said she did not feel comfortable calling the police because they might not understand her fears and might themselves be homophobic and threatening.

"We have not been physically attacked while living in Halton," she told councillors. "But the threat is very

real and is part of our daily reality."

Ms Jeffs said heterosexual couples can hold hands or kiss in public without thinking they are flaunting their sexuality or making a political statement.

"No one turns their head or tells their children not to look," she said. "In fact most people appreciate signs of love and affection between two people. What is so different about love and affection between two women or two men?"

To illustrate her point that heterosexuals take their privileges of public sexuality for granted Ms Jeffs related an anecdote. She said during the last municipal election her partner contacted all Halton Hills candi-Acton resident Lisa Jeffs, also a member of the anti-dates to find out their stand on homosexual issues.

Most did not understand what she was talking about, Ms. Jeffs explained, though one said she did not believe anyone should be beaten up nor should anyone engage in public displays of affection. The same candidate, a victor on election night, was pictured in the newspaper getting a congratulatory kiss from her male

Ms Jeffs related further problems with health care personnel, legal issues of access or decision making in the event of an accident, and said there are many more homosexuals than the majority of people think.

Ms Jeffs asked councillors to do their part to help make Halton a safe place for all members of the community.

Councillors endorsed the efforts of the Halton Anti-



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