

Council supports 988 suicide crisis line

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Shelburne Town Council has approved a motion in support of a three-digit crisis line initiative.

The motion was brought forward by Coun. Lindsay Wegener during town council's meeting on Monday (March 8). The motion supports the national 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hotline that is in the works of being implemented across North America.

The federal government unanimously passed a motion in the House of Commons to adopt the three-digit hotline number in December of 2020. The United States also plans to have the 9-8-8 crisis hotline in place in 2022.

According to the Canada Suicide Prevention Service from October of 2019 to October of 2020 went up 200 per cent.

The current existing suicide prevention hotline in Canada is a 10 digit number that requires those calling to go through directories and the possibility of being placed on hold.

Mayor Wade Mills, following the motion, said given the current climate that he personally wanted to expedite the motion of support for the hotline, despite the usual approach of including in the next town council agenda.

Shelburne Town councillors unanimously approved the motion. A letter of support will be sent to local MP Kyle Seebach, MPP Sylvia Jones, the Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local municipalities to indicate the Town's support.