

Muslim Society opens doors for dialogue on hate graffiti | Your community newspaper in Guelph, Ontario

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The Muslim Society of Guelph is responding to recent hate graffiti by attempting to reach out to people and educate them about the Muslim faith and community in Guelph. The society is partnering with the Guelph Wellington Local Immigration Partnership and the University of Guelph's Multi Faith Resource Team to host an open house on April 6 at its house of worship at 286 Water St. – a site that was the target of hate graffiti in early March. “In response to recent hate crimes against the Muslim community of Guelph, we felt that we should open our doors to the entire Guelph community and especially our neighbours and give them a better introduction to our centre and congregation,” society president Muhammed Sayyed said in a news release. The event, which runs from 1 to 4 p.m., will be a chance for people to visit the mosque and show their support for Guelph's Muslim community, it said. Visitors are invited to take participate in or observe prayer from 2 to 2:15 p.m., followed by a few words from Mayor Karen Farbridge, local MPP Liz Sandals and local MP Frank Valeriote. Other activities will include tours of the mosque, Islamic posters and a Quran display, and the screening of the documentary Islam, Empire of Faith. “We hope that we can work together to get past any misinformation and build a better neighbourhood and community at large,” said Sayyed. A police news release said the spray-painted graffiti was found on the Muslim Society's building and a portable building, and it contained numerous racial slurs and hate symbols.