



Community Development Halton (CDH) and Volunteer Halton are pleased to announce that nominations for the 2026 **Heather Thompson Volunteer Excellence Award** is now open!

The **Heather Thompson Volunteer Excellence Award** is in honour of long-time CDH Director, Age-Friendly Initiatives, Heather Thompson. The award pays homage to a person who has worked continuously to make life better and more equitable for older adults in Halton Region. Heather Thompson's impact on our Halton communities is profound and lasting as she works and is working to improve the quality of life in Halton Region for older adult which includes but is not limited to: elder abuse awareness, access to information including the Home Share toolkit, reduction of isolation and loneliness, and increasing opportunities for older adults to contribute through volunteering and civic engagement.

This award:

- Offers organizations with an opportunity to honour an individual older adult volunteer or an older adult volunteer group and showcase their organization to the broader Halton community.
- Provides a means of celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding older adult volunteer(s) in Halton Region as nominated by their organizations.

Eligibility and Criteria

Nominating organizations must submit a written submission reflecting the impact an individual older adult volunteer or an older adult volunteer group has made on the delivery of their mission. For this award, attending membership meetings or social events of a community service group would not normally be considered qualifying service, while manning a community crisis action phone line would. A maximum of one (1) award recipient or group will be selected; this award may not be awarded every year. Nominations are open to all organizations providing services in Halton.

- The nominee(s) must be older adults aged 55 years or older.
- The nominee(s) must have volunteered their service in one or more Halton communities during the previous year.

- The nominee(s) made an outstanding, impactful, and measurable contribution to a charity, nonprofit, or grassroots organization providing services in Halton Region.
- Nomination must include a minimum of one (1), maximum of three (3) letters of support
- One nomination per organization will be accepted each year.
- Nomination must be submitted using the online form (preferred) OR via email.
- Award recipients will be selected by **March 27, 2026**. If your nominee is chosen, you will be notified with next steps by **March 30, 2026**.
- The award recipient(s) must be willing to sign a photo/video consent form providing permission to Community Development Halton to use their image (still or moving), impact story, and/or spoken words in perpetuity. Recipients will receive their award during National Volunteer Week celebrations April 19 to April 25, 2026.

Exemptions

Nominations not accepted from organizations who do not provide direct services to residents of Halton Region.

Submitting Your Nomination

Submit your [nomination online](#) (preferred) or email to volunteer@cdhalton.ca (put "Heather Thompson Volunteer Excellence Award Nomination in subject line).

Submissions must include the following (online form guides nominator through all these questions):

1. Organization Name
2. Nominator (Contact Name)
3. Organization Address
4. Nominator Email
5. Nominator Telephone
6. Community where the volunteer activity took place
7. Written submission of maximum 1000 words; following questions to be answered/addressed in submission:
 1. Briefly describe the nominee or group's role and contributions to your organization

2. Describe how their contributions have made a lasting impact to your organization through their work
3. Provide measurable impact data on their contributions to your organization's mission in community.
4. Provide examples of who benefited from the nominee or group's contributions - for example, individuals or specific groups. Indicate how many people were impacted and in what ways.
5. How has the nominee or group served as a role model in community for other volunteers in your organization? Describe how the nominee or group inspired others through their work ethics, attitude, dedications, and/or leadership abilities.
6. Why is this nominee or group deserving of the Heather Thompson Volunteer Excellence Award?

Required: Minimum of one (1), maximum of three (3) letters of support for the nominee or group. Send the letters with your emailed nomination to volunteer@cdhalton.ca.

Optional: A maximum of two (2) supporting documents (e.g. photo, email, letter, media clipping) per submission. Please send any attachments with your emailed nomination to volunteer@cdhalton.ca.

For more information on the **Heather Thompson Volunteer Excellence Award**, please contact Karen Mayer at 905-632-1975 or via email at volunteer@cdhalton.ca