



November 8, 2025

# HALTON NON-PROFIT CONGRESS

Program Schedule (as at August 20, 2025)

Registration	8:15am – 9:00am
Welcome	9:00am – 9:30am
Key-Note Speaker	9:30am – 10:30am
Plenary Session	10:45am – 11:45am
Lunch	11:45am – 12:30pm
Mindful Meditation	12:15pm – 12:30pm
Education Session #1	12:30pm – 1:30pm
Education Session #2	1:45pm – 2:45pm
Closing Plenary	3:00pm – 4:00pm
Closing & Thank You	4:00pm – 4:15pm

15 minutes breaks: 10:30am & 1:30pm



Welcome to the Non-Profit Congress! Thank you for joining us for this transformative event tailored to non-profit leaders in arts, culture, heritage, recreation, and sports. Today we'll unlock Halton's non-profit sector's full potential!

KEY NOTE SPEAKER

9:30AM - 10:30AM

Auditorium

**TROY D.GLOVER, Ph.D**

## **Advancing A New Core Mandate: Building Connection through Social Infrastructure and Placemaking**

Loneliness and social isolation threaten public health in communities across Canada, including in Halton Region. As the region grows and diversifies, nonprofit leaders and volunteers can take the lead in fostering social connection by rethinking how they shape and activate community space. This session will challenge participants to see their work not just as service delivery, but as placemaking aimed intentionally to create meaningful spaces, programs and experiences that bring people together. Drawing on the concept of social infrastructure, Dr. Glover will show how community organizations can strengthen social ties, reduce isolation, and promote belonging through the (re)shaping, (re)territorializing, and (re)making of community spaces. Participants will explore the **CONNECT** Framework, a practical tool designed to help organizations build connection into everything they do. This session will help attendees reimagine their role in creating healthier, more socially connected communities.



**Troy D. Glover** is a Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies and Director of the Healthy Communities Research Network at the University of Waterloo. His research examines how leisure in the public realm contributes to the social infrastructure of urban community life by facilitating the strengthening of social ties and fostering conditions for social capital development. He also operates a consulting business called Healthy Placemaking Solutions that serves not-for-profit organizations and municipal governments and is currently leading a grassroots initiative to address social isolation and loneliness in Waterloo Region called Waterloom: A Social Fabric Project



PLENARY SESSION

10:45AM - 11:45AM

Auditorium

# CHRIS CHANDLER

## Connections & Commitments: Volunteerism & Vipers Wheelchair Basketball

Chris Chandler and his family moved from Wales to Canada when he was 11 years old. He is quick to let you know that he was born with a fractured neck, resulting in him being a quadriplegic. He is just as quick to share his passion for sport. This passion that has led to the development of a strong wheelchair basketball program that engages youth in Burlington and the Golden Horseshoe.

In his teens, Chris got involved with the Vipers Wheelchair Basketball Program, falling in love with the game, becoming team captain, and playing competitively with the Vipers. At age 20, he transitioned from player to coach; he did not have any coaching experience, however, he decided it was his turn to step up. He learned how to support the team and reached out to other coaches for mentoring. His coaching skills lead him to international success with a national team who won the world championship in Japan.

Focusing on player development and working with a whole host of volunteers, he developed a more inclusive wheelchair basketball program that gives everyone equal access and support. **In this plenary session, Chris will share his story of connections and commitment with the Vipers.** Attendees will then join in small group conversations to explore their own volunteer stories and be challenged to think how their organizations engage volunteers and its practices for community building.





# MINDFUL MEDITATION 12:15PM - 12:30PM

## 100 SEEDS OF JOY

Sometimes we just need to slow down, breathe, and reconnect with our surroundings. The Halton Non-Profit Congress is pleased to welcome **100 Seeds of Joy**, part of the Sahaja Yoga Meditation Network, to lead a *15-minute mindfulness meditation* during the lunch break.

Founder **Ioana Poppa** will be our guide through this simple meditation, helping to ground us before we head into the afternoon education sessions. This session is open to everyone and all are encouraged to participate.

The session will be held from 12:15pm to 12:30pm; room information will be available when you check-in on November 8th!





## EDUCATION SESSIONS

The Halton Non-Profit Congress is pleased to welcome subject-matter experts delivering education sessions on topics such as Empowering Communities, Governance & Advocacy, Diversity & Inclusion, Data-Driven Management, and Volunteer Engagement.

**Select two sessions (one from each time slot) to attend using the Forms link on page 13 of this package.**

THEME	WORKSHOP	PRESENTER	Time
Volunteer Engagement	Fundraising Essentials for Volunteer Managers	Sammy Feilchenfeld, CVA Volunteer Toronto	12:30pm - 1:30pm
Data-Driven Management & Storytelling	Cyber-Security 101: A Common Sense Approach for Non-Profits	Ryan Parker	12:30pm - 1:30pm
Community Connections	Youth Volunteering in Burlington: Research into Facilitators & Barriers to Youth Volunteer Involvement	CDH Youth Leadership Team	12:30pm - 1:30pm
	<b>BREAK</b> 1:30pm - 1:45pm		
Volunteer Engagement	Encouraging Engagement: Planning, Position Descriptions & Postings	Heather Kaufmann, Town of Halton Hills & Heather Johnson, CVA, Volunteer Halton	1:45pm - 2:45pm
Data-Driven Management & Storytelling	Ethical Storytelling in Fundraising and Advocacy	Jessica Pang-Parks, CVA	1:45pm - 2:45pm
Community Connections	Collaboration: The Sport Aurora Story	Ron Weese, President, Sport Aurora and Ward I Councillor, Town of Aurora	1:45pm - 2:45pm



## CLOSING PLENARY

### Panel Discussion

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Auditorium

## BUILDING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

For many sports, recreation, arts, and culture focused organizations, bringing their programming to the community means finding ways to utilize community places and spaces such as sports fields and hub spaces. Facilitated by Heather Johnson, Director, Volunteer Halton, the Halton Non-Profit Congress is pleased to welcome a panel of experts who will share their perspectives on effective ways to build community partnerships with municipalities and community foundations.

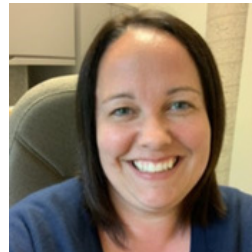
### Rishia Burke

Executive Director  
Community Development Halton



### Heather Kaufmann

Community Development Supervisor  
Community Partnerships and Sport Development  
Town of Halton Hills



### Molly McCoubrey

Business and Sport Services Coordinator  
Town of Milton



### Don Pangman

CEO & Founder  
ArtHouse Halton



### Ron Weese

President, Sport Aurora  
Ward 1 Councillor, Town of Aurora

## EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

### Fundraising Essentials for Volunteer Managers

**Sammy Feilchenfeld, CVA** (he/him)

Senior Manager, Learning, Volunteer Toronto

**Description & learning objectives:** Fundraising is an important part of non-profit work. As a leader of volunteers, you may be directly involved in stewardship, fundraising, sponsorship, and other “development” activities. In this 60-minute interactive workshop, we’ll explore the various realms of fundraising, including building a culture of philanthropy with your volunteers and articulating your role in community engagement.

**About the Presenter:** **Sammy Feilchenfeld** is an adult educator, volunteer, and lifelong learner. His 20+ years of experience leading volunteers inform the interactive learning experiences that are the core of his work as Senior Manager of Learning with Volunteer Toronto. Whether supporting the learning goals of non-profit engagement professionals, Board members, volunteers, or community leaders, Sammy has a strong focus on a variety of educational interventions that challenge and inspire. Sammy contributes to regular connections for the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN), and is currently Vice-Chair with the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration (CCVA). Sammy’s experiences as a high school teacher, theatre producer, and policy developer regularly inform his learning development and outlook on the future of the sector.



## EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

### CYBER-SECURITY 101: A Common Sense Approach for Non-Profits

**Ryan Parker, Director**

Digital Platforms, Architecture & Cyber Security, City of Burlington

**Description & learning objectives:** Cybersecurity plays a critical role in safeguarding the integrity, trust, and functionality of any size organization. Similar to large organizations, small organizations still manage sensitive data and are often targeted by cyber threats.

In today's cloud-powered AI-driven landscape, cybersecurity needs both brains and balance. The goal? Don't overcomplicate - just stick to practical, proactive steps. In this presentation, we boil down cyber security strategies into a solid **common-sense approach** that organizations and individuals can adopt without needing a full-time security team.

**About the Presenter:** **Ryan Parker** is the Director of Digital Platforms, Architecture, and Cyber Security for the City of Burlington. In this role, Ryan oversees the strategic vision for architecture and cyber resilience of all data and technology, both on-premises and cloud infrastructure. With over 25 years of IT experience, Ryan brings extensive knowledge and expertise, particularly in IT cyber security and digital architecture, helping organizations deliver their digital strategies.

Throughout his career, Ryan has successfully managed the cybersecurity program at various levels of government, aligning it with strategic goals and implementing a scalable security architecture. Additionally, Ryan has overseen enterprise platforms and infrastructure, ensuring robust and efficient operations. Ryan is passionate about security and holds several certifications, including CISA, CISSP, TOGAF, and ITIL, which underscore his proficiency in digital transformation, security, and enterprise architecture.





# EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

## Voice of Volunteering in Burlington: Research into the Facilitators and Barriers to Completing the 40-Hour Volunteer Requirement for High School Graduation

**Description & learning objectives:** In Ontario, high school students must complete a minimum of 40-hours to graduate. Insights research conducted by Community Development Halton on volunteerism revealed that youth (born after 1996) volunteer at a higher rate but contribute fewer hours compared to other generations. This research also highlighted that youth increasingly view volunteerism as transactional and that students in low-income households, those with disabilities, and those from marginalized communities struggle to successfully complete the 40-hour volunteer mandate for graduation. Findings from Our Kids Network Youth Survey and data from the Halton District School Board and the Halton District Catholic School Board Student Census also show that many youth face mental health challenges and feelings of disconnection.

The **CDH Youth Engagement Research Team** set out to better understand the facilitators and barriers to volunteerism and civic engagement among youth aged 14 to 24 in the City of Burlington. The Team set out to learn more about what young people are looking for in terms of volunteering and what might get in the way of a positive volunteering experience. Collecting feedback through an online survey and one-to-one conversations from youth that live and/or attend school in Burlington, the Research Team is analyzing the data to learn what might need to change to foster youth volunteer connections with their community of Burlington. Today’s presentation is based on the story this data is telling.

**About the Presenters:** The CDH Youth Engagement Research Team is comprised of ten students who attend or have attended high school in Burlington. Ranging in age from 14 to 22, the team, under the guidance of Iman Kaur, Community Planner and Youth Engagement Coordinator, believe that the voices of youth should be heard in matters that pertain to them, and this includes volunteering and civic service.



The **Youth Researchers** are:  
Claire Liu, Bilal Jawaid, Matthew Clerigo,  
Gabriel Henriquez, Pasha Jazayeri, Vishisht Bhatnager,  
Yogitha Machina, Krisha Thakkar,  
Dharmi Kambodi, and Tumi Segun-Ajala.



# EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

## Ethical Storytelling in Fundraising and Advocacy

**Jessica Pang-Parks** (she/her)-Principle, Learn with JPP

**Description & learning objectives:** Do you lead volunteers at an organization where people with lived experience (e.g. former service users, caregivers, alumni) are encouraged to ‘give back’ through volunteering? Does this volunteer work involve telling their stories to raise money or awareness? Do you sometimes feel uncomfortable about how these volunteer storytellers are positioned to ‘tug at heartstrings’?

People with lived experience deserve to be engaged ethically as volunteer storytellers. This workshop will provide guidance on important opportunities, challenges, and priorities.

By the end of this interactive session, participants will be able to:

- Use strengths-based messaging in volunteer recruitment campaigns to target people with lived experience
- Prepare for conversations with people with lived experience interested in volunteering
- Develop a story request process for internal use
- Collaboratively and ethically fulfill story requests for fundraising and advocacy needs
- Meaningfully steward volunteers who share their lived experiences

**About the Presenter:** **Jessica Pang-Parks** is a volunteer engagement thought leader who helps organizations build trust, create impact, and inspire belonging. She is the recipient of the 2021 Alison Caird Young Leader Award in recognition of her leadership and excellence in volunteer engagement and the recipient of the 2023 VMPC Exemplary Leader Impact Award in recognition of her contributions to the field as a mentor, leader, trainer, and advocate.

Jessica earned her CVA credential in April 2023 and has facilitated Fleming College’s Volunteer Management Spectrum of Engagement course since May 2022. She has held professional and community engagement roles at Crohn’s and Colitis Canada, Pathways to Education Canada, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Volunteer Toronto, and WWF Canada.



# EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

## Encouraging Engagement: Planning, Position Descriptions & Postings

**Heather Kaufmann** (she/her)-Community Development Supervisor –  
Community Partnerships and Sport Development, Town of Halton Hills  
**Heather Johnson**, CVA (she/her)-Director, Volunteer Halton

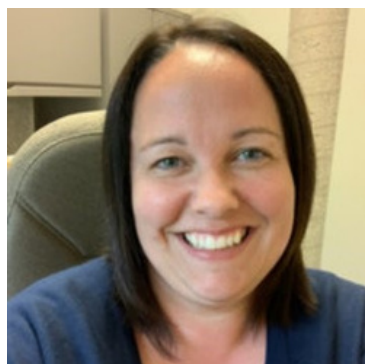
**Description & learning objectives:** In this workshop, participants will learn how to create a focused and well-planned recruitment process for your organization. Recruiting is the key to an effective volunteer program because how you recruit your volunteers affects the kind of relationship you are going to have with them. The way you tell your stories, define your needs, and convey what the volunteer experience will be like create certain expectations in the minds of your candidates.

By the end of this session, participants will have a better understanding of:

- the importance of planning for volunteer engagement
- how to create meaningful volunteer assignments and roles
- the value of having clear processes to inform, recruit, interview and retain volunteer

**About the Presenters:** **Heather Kaufmann** has been working in the sports and recreation field since 2000. She has an extensive background in recreational management, leadership, and problem solving. With a thorough background in analytical problem solving with broad experiences in diverse environments, Heather has collaborated successfully to manage three fundraising campaigns for nonprofit organizations in the sport and social service industries. Through her leadership in municipal roles, she secures large-scale sponsorships for special events.

**Heather Johnson** has been working in the non-profit sector since 2003, moving into the sector after working for 12 years with Enbridge Gas (Toronto). Her current role as Director, Volunteer Halton, offers her the opportunity to share her knowledge and expertise in support of the non-profit sector in Halton Region. Heather is a recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Award in recognition of her contributions to the volunteer engagement profession in Canada. A champion of the profession, she is an active member of the Volunteer Management Professionals of Canada (VMPC), and the Professional Association of Volunteer Leaders-Ontario (PAVRO) where she currently serves as PAVRO's Past-President.



# EDUCATION SESSION OUTLINES & SPEAKER BIOS

## Collaboration: The Sport Aurora Story

**Ron Weese** (he/him)-President Sport Aurora and Ward 1 Councillor, Town of Aurora

**Description & learning objectives:** Collaboration is fundamental to the success of any volunteer-driven community-based system. Its primary purpose is to bring together a group of stakeholders, such as local sport organizations, schools, municipalities, public health agencies, businesses, and participants to collectively build a coordinated, inclusive, and sustainable environment for success. By aligning efforts, groups can better serve the needs of the community, promote lifelong participation, and maximize the use of shared resources.

Sport Aurora is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year of operation in the Town of Aurora. As one of the founding members of the Community Sports Councils Ontario, it has delivered on its promise to build a quality sport community through collaboration. **Collaboration is not just a word at Sport Aurora - it is a founding and guiding principle.** The presentation will follow its successes and challenges, and the reliance on collaboration.

Participants in this session will learn how collaboration works, how it fails, and how it can be used effectively in any volunteer-driven community-based system to build a sustainable future.

**About the Presenter:** **Ron Weese** is a retired Professor of 34 years at Seneca College in Sport, Physical Education, and Recreation with cross-appointments to Applied Health Seneca College. His true “avocation” however, is in Community Development, having spent over 20 years in volunteer leadership in the Town of Aurora and elsewhere.







## SELECT YOUR EDUCATION SESSIONS

Choose your education sessions! As a Congress attendee, you can choose two education sessions to attend in the afternoon.

Use the online form by [clicking here](#) to select your education sessions. You'll also be able to indicate any dietary accommodations or food allergies on this form.

See the session outlines and speaker bios starting on page 6.

## NOT YET REGISTERED? REGISTER NOW!

Register for The Halton Non-Profit Congress by [clicking here](#) to be taken to the online registration form.

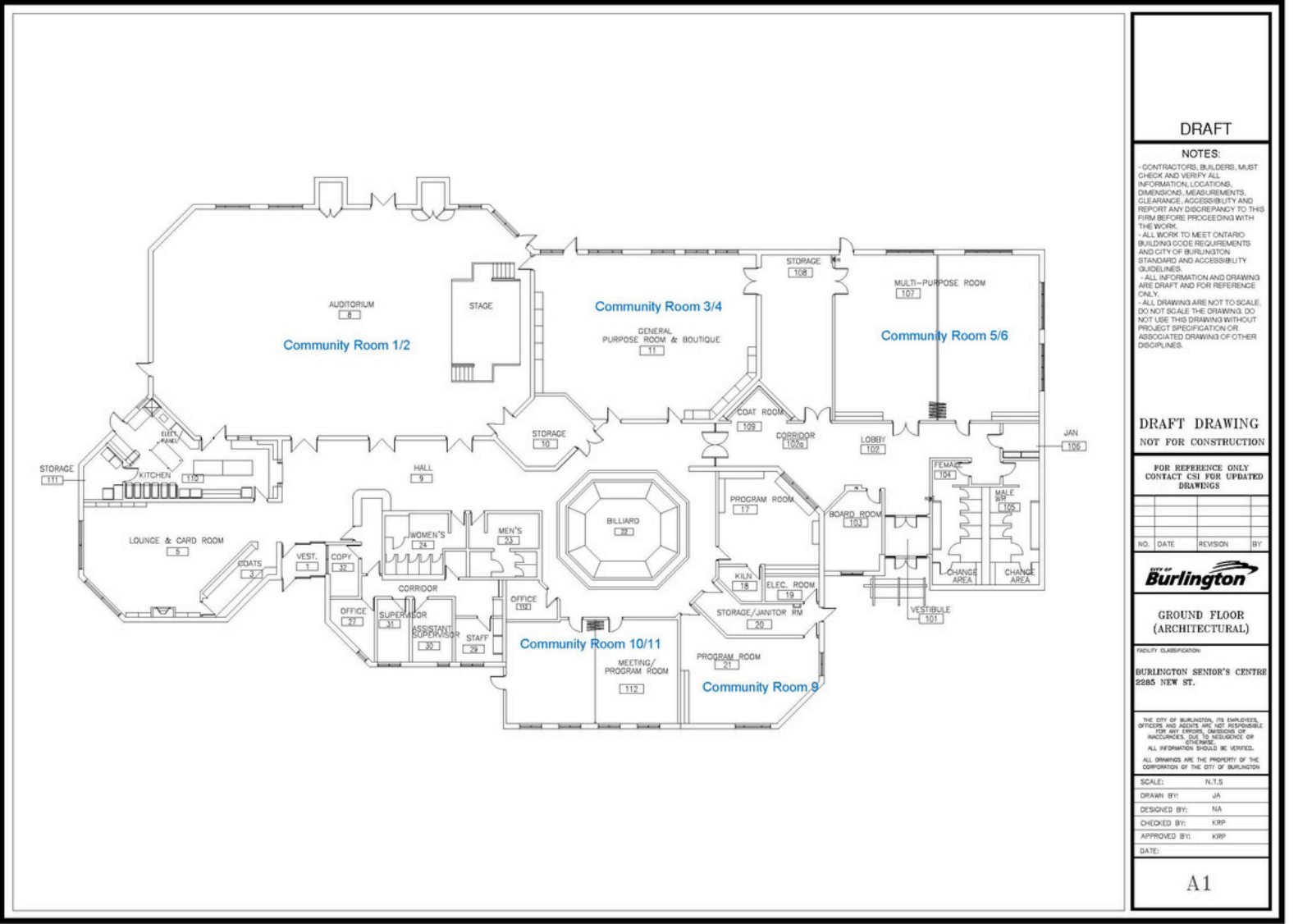
\$50 Early Bird Single Rate (ends September 15)

\$60 Regular Single Rate

# BURLINGTON SENIORS CENTRE

2285 New Street, Burlington, ON

Plenty of on-site parking  
Fully accessible space





## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Events like these do not happen by themselves! Many thanks to our sponsors, committee members, and community!

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Teresa Campbell, City of Burlington

Elizabeth Gordon, Town of Halton Hills

Heather Johnson, Volunteer Halton

Heather Kaufmann, Town of Halton Hills

Crispin Martin, Town of Milton

Karen Mayer, Volunteer Halton

Molly McCoubrey, Town of Milton

Scott O'Donnell, Town of Oakville

Deirdre Taylor, Town of Oakville

