



Community
Development
Halton

Mission:
Through research, community
development, planning and promotion
of volunteerism, Community Development
Halton strives to improve the quality of
life for all residents of Halton.

SOCIAL
PLANNING

Annual Report

2023-2024



A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Halton friends,

Over the course of 2023/2024, the Community Development Halton team and Board has stepped out boldly undertaking some significant change and in doing so has accomplished a great deal as we mark our 40th anniversary. Our focus has been on the following strategic priorities: information sharing, revitalizing communication, creating opportunities for connecting and collaboration and ensuring that there is value for membership.

Some of the activities surrounding those strategic priorities include a significant office move, monthly on-line and in person capacity building workshops, the publication of a seven-part social research series, a monthly research publication, the celebration of some amazing volunteers, the decision and steps necessary to switch to a new volunteer portal called [Volunteer Connector](#), a renewed effort to share information through social media, and the convening some great conversations in community.

Through all of this change we've been encouraged by the participation and support of our funders, members, community partners and some wonderful Halton citizens. We are grateful for each conversation and opportunity to learn alongside of you, it has deepened our understanding of the community we walk with.



Over the course of the next year we will be undergoing a strategic planning process, launching a Strengthening Grass Roots initiative knowing that many of the solutions to the challenges that Halton faces start with civic engagement.

We all need to find our passion and voice to ensure Halton is a great place to live, for all of us. We will also continue to working with others to address the tough issues that face our nonprofit sector and convening for action. As always, we will have our eye to issues that impact our community such as housing, food insecurity, inclusion and belonging. This work is best done alongside our community, we value your partnership as we continue the work for quality of life for everyone in Halton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rishia Burke'.

Rishia Burke, Executive Director

A Message From Our Board Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As my tenure as Board President draws to a close, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the transformative journey we have embarked upon at Community Development Halton. It's been a challenging, yet incredibly rewarding time as we have worked tirelessly to steer our organization toward a healthier, impactful and more sustainable future.

This past year, our talented and growing staff team have delivered on this vision in spades.

With the release of the Our Halton research series and reanimation of our community's Research Advisory Committee, we have deepened our understanding of the challenges facing our communities, identifying key areas where our shared interventions and community investment can make a difference.

And as we've reanimated our research capacity, Volunteer Halton continues to respond to the evolving landscape of volunteerism, implementing the leading-edge Volunteer Connector platform to ignite volunteer recruitment in our region. This is huge progress in addressing a fundamental shift in how volunteers engage in community at a time when we need their participation most.

With gratitude,



Joanne McKiernan, Board Chair

"It's been a full and ambitious year, and none of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and collaboration of our exceptional team, Board of Directors, volunteers, funders, partners and community champions. Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our mission. Together, we have proven that in face of adversity, we can achieve remarkable things."



Social Planning

Revitalizing Research and Convening for Understanding and Collaboration

Community Development Halton's Social Planning Team embarked on a yearlong journey to publish a seven-part series called [Our Halton 2023](#). Community Development Halton (CDH) introduced the Our Halton series in 2018 to raise awareness of the changing socio-demographic characteristics of Halton. This 2023 update includes peer-reviewed issues on: Women, Income Inequality and Poverty, Housing, Diversity, Volunteerism, Older Adults, Children and Youth. The main data source for the

series is Statistics Canada's Census of Population in addition to other National, Provincial and local data.



Each publication release was followed by an on-line presentation and community dialogue drawing together hundreds

of individuals over the course of the year.

Each gathering was an opportunity to talk through the findings and discuss ways the data can be used in planning for the community and collaborating for change. In addition, there were four in-person events in 2023-2024 that had participants working in small groups to take an even deeper dive into the research, with some wonderful help from community partners lending a hand as peer facilitators.

CDH also reinstated its monthly publication, renamed [Community Data Watch](#). Each publication focused on a specific topic viewed through a Halton lens. Community Data Watch has also provided the opportunity to reintroduce mapping into CDH's analysis of community data.



CDH wants to thank the members of its Research Advisory Committee for their guidance and encouragement and the many peer reviewers that played an essential role in forming each publication.

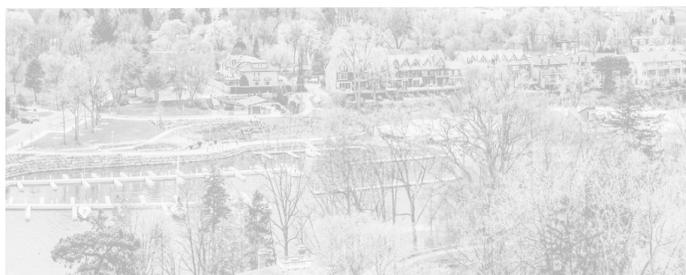
"Thank you for creating this community-led event. It was truly invaluable... Together we were able to better learn from one another, recognize what is missing from current data in Halton, and showcase some of the incredible work already being done in our community."

— Session participant

Event on the State of Halton's Nonprofit Sector

November 2023

In November 2023, CDH invited Halton nonprofit leaders to gather to hear the Halton results of the Ontario Nonprofit Network's (ONN) State of the Sector survey. The group of 60 local nonprofit leaders were joined by ONNs Executive Director Cathy Taylor. This was a dynamic half day together spent discussing policy recommendations for the sector. A 2024 event is being planned.



"Thank you/team so much for your all your hard work! Information such as this contributes to our ability to plan effective programs Recreation & Culture that meet our community's requirements."

— Our Halton Report reader



"I appreciated the time given to collaboration instead of a lecture style workshop. The safe and open climate that the facilitator created handle complex discussion and the critical conversation was appreciated."

— Session participant

Community Stories

CDH's research often focuses on community challenges. In 2023/2024 CDH set out to capture stories about community groups and agencies using a an approach called Generative Journalism. Each story celebrates community passion for action and civic engagement, highlighting what is possible in community to tackle those community challenges.

The stories can be found on the CDH [website](#).



Volunteer Halton

**Capacity Building, Collaboration
and Celebrations!**

“I appreciated the backstories and tidbits shared as the presentation was going along. As related topics came to mind the facilitator took a quick sidestep to explain provide contexts.”

— Succession Planning participant

“Great flow of information in this workshop and actionable insights to develop next steps for volunteer program evaluation.”

— OHRC & Volunteer Engagement participant

CDH Educates Workshop Series

CDH Educates Workshop series provides professional development training for leaders of volunteers, nonprofit sector workers, and community volunteers. It is an essential part of CDH’s information sharing and capacity building work.

In 2023-24, Volunteer Halton presented twelve workshops on a variety of topics, including:

- ▶ Volunteer engagement fundamentals
- ▶ Board governance including the transition to the Ontario Nonprofit Corporations Act (ONCA)
- ▶ Social finance
- ▶ And a two-part series on Equitable Community Building with Breana Dorelus, Founder and Cause Consultant with Connecting the Cause.

Just over 350 people attended the series over the course of the year.



Halton Nonprofit Congress

November 18, 2023

Guided by a common goal of setting organizations up for success, the Town of Oakville, City of Burlington, Town of Milton, and Town of Halton Hills, under the leadership of Volunteer Halton, worked together and delivered the first Halton Non-Profit Congress on Saturday November 18, 2023, at the Milton Sports Centre with 78 people registering for the day-long event, representing 45 different organizations from across Halton Region. The event featured key-note speaker Rosita Hall and a rich selection of afternoon workshops.



“I just want to express my sincerest gratitude to you all for your spectacular Halton Non-Profit Congress yesterday at the Milton Sports Centre. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn some new skills and share ideas with people from other non-profits. I hope you will do every year!”

— Nonprofit Congress participant

Other Workshops and Capacity Building Work

The Volunteer Halton Team has also been engaged in a variety of targeted and made to order training, presentations, and facilitation, such as the Building Strong Organizations series with the Town of Halton Hills, monthly workshops with newcomers through Halton Connects, to name just a couple.



Senior Connector Project

With funding from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, CDH continued the Senior Connector project until March 2024. Under the supervision of the Director, Volunteer Haton, a dedicated program coordinator was hired, who re-engaged current Senior Connectors and recruited new older adult volunteers to the Connector team. **From June 2023 to March 2024, Senior Connectors attended 45 outreach events** (an average of 5 per month), **reaching over 1650 individuals**, connecting them to essential local information for health and well-being. We are grateful to the Senior Connectors and their commitment to other seniors in Halton.

National Volunteer Week 2023

In the lead up to National Week 2023 (April 16 – 22), over 300 nominations were submitted by CDH member agencies for the annual awards celebrating the incredible impact volunteers have in Halton Region.

Celebrations were held in each municipality and at each, deserving volunteers were recognized with Cheers to Volunteers or Halton Volunteer Impact awards. Volunteer Halton is grateful for the community partners who took the time to be part of the National Volunteer Week nomination process.



"Congratulations to all of the volunteers that received awards this year! Your contributions are essential to Halton's communities."

- Rishia Burke, CDH

2023 Cheers to Volunteers Award Recipients

BURLINGTON

- ▶ Michael Lopes – Food for Life Canada
- ▶ Jeanne Woodcroft – HMC Connections
- ▶ Tanureet Bajwa – Centre for Diverse Learners/Reading Rocks

HALTON

- ▶ Isobel Watkinson – Georgetown Choral Society
- ▶ Pauline Russell – Hillview Active Living Centre
- ▶ Mary Robinson – Links2Care

MILTON

- ▶ Tammy Szafer – Halton Food for Thought
- ▶ Eve Delanty – Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ▶ Abdul Sami Malik – Milton Community Resource Centre

OAKVILLE

- ▶ Kathy Burgess – Global Medic
- ▶ Joe Jostiak – Oakville Meals on Wheels
- ▶ Peter Ashlee – Kerr Street Mission

Halton Volunteer Impact Awards

BURLINGTON

- ▶ Tracy Vrkljan, Victim Assistance Volunteer Program
- ▶ Betul Gurel, Centre for Skills Development

HALTON HILLS

- ▶ Mary Lock, Hillview Active Living Centre, Georgetown

MILTON

- ▶ Tammy Szafer – Halton Food for Thought
- ▶ Eve Delanty – Big Brothers Big Sisters

OAKVILLE

- ▶ Drew LeBlanc, Kerr Street Mission

"Many of Halton's nonprofits rely extensively on volunteers to deliver services for the community. Volunteers build relationships with clients, bring cultural events to life, and strengthen our social services. Volunteers make Halton a better place to live for all. Thank you to the award recipients for every hour given, skill shared, and unique contribution to our communities!"

- Heather Johnson, Volunteer Halton



Staff & Board of Directors



2023-2024 CDH Staff

- ▶ Rishia Burke
- ▶ Heather Johnson
- ▶ Karen Mayer
- ▶ Richard Lau
- ▶ Takyrah Anderson
- ▶ Emma Blachar*
- ▶ Jude Salomon*
- ▶ Shahzi Yasmin Bokhari*

**Contract ended in 2023-2024*

2023-2024 Board Members

- ▶ Joanne McKiernan
- ▶ Fawzia Patel
- ▶ Ancilla Ho Young
- ▶ Deinde Olatunde
- ▶ Andrew Drummond
- ▶ Hamidreza Mafi
- ▶ Oluseyo Okanla
- ▶ Maureen Turner
- ▶ Lynn Matisz
- ▶ Stephanie Phillips*
- ▶ Blessing Oluloto*
- ▶ Bolu Babatope*

**Left during the 2023-2024 year*

Acknowledgements

Financial Partners in 2023/24

- ▶ Municipality of Halton
- ▶ United Way of Halton Hamilton
- ▶ Cockwell Foundation
- ▶ Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility
- ▶ Rotary Burlington Lakeshore
- ▶ Rotary Burlington North Club
- ▶ Rotary Burlington Central Club
- ▶ Rotary Club of Burlington
- ▶ Anonymous Donors

Community Development Halton is a membership-based organization. We are grateful for the support and participation of all member agencies and groups. It is with their partnership that we are building community together. For a complete list of our members please see www.cdhalton.ca

Learn more about the benefits of membership [HERE](#) or contact us at office@cdhalton.ca

Community Development Halton would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support of the Regional Municipality of Halton and The United Way of Halton and Hamilton.



United Way
Halton & Hamilton



Financials

REVENUE	
Halton Region	\$320,823
UW Halton Hamilton	\$125,000
Other Income	\$25,044
Foundations	\$18,511
Workshops	\$8,405
Project Grants	\$4,245
Product Sales	\$3,170
Donations	\$3,021
Total Revenue	\$508,219

EXPENSES	
Salaries	\$208,065
Office + General	\$70,559
Occupancy	\$32,140
Project Expenses	\$30,322
Professional Fees	\$28,142
Outsources Labour	\$18,413
Conferences + Communication	\$7,109
Travel, Meetings + Development	\$6,281
Insurance	\$6,003
Subcontractors	\$4,690
Board Development + AGM	\$2,282
Equipment Leases + Maintenance	\$327
Administration	\$123
Depreciation	\$648
Total Expenses	\$415,104
Allocation to Reserve	\$55,869
Net Surplus (after reserve allocation)	\$37,246

Full audited financial statements prepared by Astrid Latkis, LLP are available on our [website](#).



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