

The Town of Oakville

Department of Recreation & Culture

Seniors' Working Action Group (SWAG) - We're Age Friendly

Minutes – Wednesday, October 23, 2024 via ZOOM

In Attendance: Darlene Cox, Ruth Sheridan, Ted Lambert, Margaret Kirwin, Micheline Wheeler, Bev Cathro, Pierre Wong, Pat Moore,

Regrets: Julie Pennal, Julie Mitchell, Michelle Nichols, Stephanie O’Keefe, Councillor Duddeck

Guest: Giulia Reinhardt, Lawyer, Halton Community Legal Services

Minutes: Kelly Meeussen

1. **Call to Order:** by Darlene Cox – 1:30 p.m.

2. **Guest Speaker:** Giulia Reinhardt
Halton Community Legal Services

- Helps low-income individuals living in Halton Region with their legal problems for free.
- Not a government organization. They are funded by Legal Aid Ontario.
- Areas the clinic can assist: Landlord and Tenant, Social Assistance (Ontario Works, ODSP, CPP, CPP-D), employment, human rights.
- Provide referrals to other community groups and agencies.
- Process includes: Clients contact the clinic, intake, appropriate referrals/transferred to caseworker.
- The Outreach Clinic is available to meet with clients in Milton, Burlington, Oakville and Halton Hills (Georgetown/Acton) in locations including libraries, food banks, courthouses.
- Mobile clinic is a free drop-in clinic for low-income people in North Halton. Delivered by HCLS and the Legal Clinic of Guelph and Wellington County. Available between 10 am and 3:30 pm. Alternate between Acton and Georgetown every Friday.
- Provide public legal education sessions including, housing, first time renters, employment law, human rights, wills/power of attorney, social assistance, benefits, police powers and more.
- Provide support for people who are unhoused and require a replacement birth certificate.
- Provide a legal health check-up with focus on income, housing, education, employment, health, family and community supports.
- Provide secondary legal consultation to health care providers, social service providers, community groups and volunteers working with clients or patients, thus eliminating the need for multiple referrals.

Contact information: haltonconsult@hcls.clcj.ca, 905-875-2069, www.haltonlegal.ca
PowerPoint slides have been emailed to the committee.

3. **Attendance / Regrets** – Regrets as noted.

4. **Acceptance of previous Minutes / Agenda**
Ted Lambert, seconded by Micheline Wheeler. Carried.

5. **Update from Julie Mitchell**
- No report
 - Darlene did indicate to the group that Julie Mitchell is leaving the Town. The SWAG Committee extends a very large 'Thank You' to Julie for the fantastic support and encouragement she has always given to SWAG. Our best wishes to her in her future endeavours.

6. **Standing Agenda Items**

Councillor Cathy Duddeck update:

This past week the Mayor presented his State of the Town Address. This is an opportunity to hear what has taken place over the past year and what will be coming in 2025.

Unfortunately, for some Library patrons, the Centennial Library was closed due to a water leak in the library portion of the building. This is a reinforcement of the need to create a new library for the downtown area and the town is currently looking at using the Old Post Office building and renovating the interior to provide more natural light into the space along with enjoying the views of the Sixteen Mile Creek from the newly renovated library.

The old Library location is being allocated for the new Cultural Hub (there have been numerous renditions and plans presented for the public to comment on and express their concerns or support).

The hub will have a new performing arts building and there will no longer be an indoor pool as the Trafalgar Community Centre has a new pool to take its' place.

The Halton Conservation Authority and the Town of Oakville are providing the public the necessary information (flood plain mapping) for the 14-mile creek area – both north and south.

The flood mapping is based on the 100-year flood or as many know it the Hurricane Hazel storm/water levels.

At Monday evening's Council meeting there was a memo to Council indicating the rising concerns relating to E Scooters. Currently, the only authority to lay charges under Highway Traffic Act is the police. In November there will be a fuller report coming back to Council regarding this issue. Specifically, regarding what enforcement we as a municipality can implement.

The 2025 Budget deliberations are commencing and the projected increase at this point is 3.92 %

There may adjustments to this projected figure as there are additional requests that both council and the public may want to see included in the budget.

Meals on Wheels – Michelle Nichols

- Oakville Meals on Wheels is doing well and busy preparing for the upcoming holiday season.
- We are excited to announce we are part of the Give Oakville campaign from the Oakville Community Foundation which will be launching on November 12
- We will be hosting our Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser November 18 – December 3
- Giving Tuesday – will take place on Tuesday December 3, 2024, raising funds to provide a New Year's Day Meal
- **Save the date:** March for Meals Flag raising at Town Hall on March 4, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Senior Connector Update – Pat Moore

- Sheridan Elder Research – elder.research@sheridancollege.ca, a new line of research: Intergenerational home sharing. If you are an older adult 60+ OR, a student of any age or someone who works in the community supporting/engaging with older adults and/or students in any capacity invited to share thoughts and complete the survey link https://sheridan.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3gY1XLPHAgE0DEG
- The survey was for home sharing of unrelated persons.
- COVID & High-dose flu vaccinations – <https://ontario.ca/vaccine-locations/> High dose flu vaccinations and COVID-19 are now available at 3159 locations. Go to the website, enter a postal code to find the nearest pharmacy. My pharmacist recommended calling for an appointment to ensure the High-dose vaccination was available.
- Crime Stoppers Launches Community Watch, Pilot Program. South-East Oakville Ward 3 inviting members of the community to sign up for the Community Watch newsletter, or register as volunteers, and play an active role in promoting this modernized version of neighbourhood watch <https://Haltoncrimestoppers.ca> click on Community watch.
- Halton Regional Police 4th Annual Kozy Kids Initiative. Starting Thursday October 17th to October 31st. HRPS kindly invites residents & business owners to purchase and donate new snow suits (youth sizes 6-16) by dropping them into collections boxes stationed at any one of HRPS locations – Oakville, Burlington, Milton & Georgetown.

enVISION Oakville Update – Ruth Sheridan.

enVISION Oakville -

October 1 Meeting #199 (In Person

15 people attended! This set a new attendance record!

- Highlights and takeaways: The additional half hour work wonders. Despite the large number of attendees, we made it without stress through our group check-in and all the way to the lighter side. We had an inspiring group check in. All members commented on the value that they see in our group and mentioned their personal highlights. It was quite moving. We sang happy birthday to 2 of our members. We had a lot of interest in the river cruise & good interest in both Christmas concerts.

OAAC- Darlene Cox

- Scot Luren, Halton Housing report:
- Please see attachment for details of the report

Halton Age-Friendly – Julie Pennal

- No report this month

WOW/Links2Wellbeing – Kelly Meeussen

- **WOW:** Had a few new participants join our program. Continue to promote on social media and share with community partners.
- Recently shared with a care giver in the community who passed on our information to community partners.
- **Links2Wellbeing:** No update this month.

7. New Business Arising/Information Sharing

- Halton National Right to Housing Day Forum: November 22 at 8:30 a.m. Held at the Noon Gary Allen Centre in Burlington. Registration is free.
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- Upcoming in-person presentation: Frauds and Scams with Cynthia Pacheco on Thursday, November 28 at 1:30 p.m. at Trafalgar Park CC.
- Thursday, January 23 – online presentation on Frauds and Scams with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.
- Next meeting: Guest speaker: Lia Tsotos – SWAG will be a focus group for Intergenerational Homesharing.

8. **Information Sharing –**

9. On October 16, Ward 3 Councillors Janet Haslett Theall and Dave Gittings had a zoom presentation on Personal, Property and Car security. Politicians and Councillors spoke on what is being done in Oakville and all of Canada to try and stop break-ins of cars and residences. Halton Regional Police spoke of new measures that are in place and said that they believed many of the car thefts and break-ins were drug related. Cars and other items were sold for cash to gangs and in turn, drugs were purchased with the cash. HRPS offered to have a member of the Auxiliary Police come to your home and check out how secure it is and what could be done to possibly make it more secure.
10. Ward 2 Councillors Cathy Duddeck and Ray Chisholm are offering an in-person Presentation on the above topic on October 24 at 7pm, Sir John Colborne Recreation Centre for Seniors, 1565 Old Lakeshore Rd.

NOTE: Next meeting is Wednesday, November 27 at 1:30 pm. This meeting will be hybrid (offered on Zoom and in-person) at the Colborne Centre.

*****Please confirm with Kelly if you are attending in person*****

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.