

Community Development Halton

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**Walter Mulkewich Community
Development Award**

Burlington, September 23, 2014:

On Tuesday September 16th, Community Development Halton celebrated 30 years of creative initiatives throughout Halton to build healthy and inclusive communities. A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the new Walter Mulkewich Community Development Award. This award pays homage to a man who has worked continuously to make life better and more equitable for all residents of Halton. Walter Mulkewich's imprint on our Halton communities is profound and lasting as he works and is working for change in our small place on this planet. The totality of his acts have rewritten the history of these communities and are influencing their respective journey into the future. It seems so fitting that a man who has brought people together to build a healthy, creative community should have an award named in his honour.

There is a story to this award. Community Development Halton's Volunteer Program recognizes and celebrates the work, generosity and impact of individual volunteers across Halton's four communities. But these extraordinary people have said to us repeatedly, "it isn't really me, it is about the group, it's about the energy and commitment of my neighbours". This rippled through CDH such that the Board of Directors created an award to celebrate those extraordinary people who come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems in their community. This beautiful glass sculpture, an award named for a man whose lifelong commitment is helping others to act for change, has been designed and created by local Halton artist, Tara Marsh. In the future, it will be awarded to a community group that has come together to take collective action to enhance the common good.

Walter shared his thoughts on 30 years of community development, its successes, its limitations, its aspirations and its profound involvement of community. His remarks encouraged the audience to reflect on three major challenges that dominate our future: i) increasing inequality; ii) climate change; and ii) decline of social capital and democracy.

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For Immediate Release
September 23, 2014

