

Celebrating 20 Years of Building Community



2002-2003
Annual Report



A United Way Agency

HISTORY...

Throughout our history, the role of the Halton Social Planning Council and Volunteer Halton has been to strengthen communities by building a strong civil society, a requirement of social development that creates social equity at the community level.

Social Planning

Social Planning Councils have played an integral role in the development of the service delivery system in Halton since the early 1970s.

With support of local United Ways and municipalities, Councils were established to fill an independent planning role in the identification of community needs and the development of organizations and services to meet those needs.

In 1984 the local councils in Burlington, Oakville and North Halton amalgamated to form the Halton Social Planning Council. This gave a broader planning framework with greater emphasis on community development, applied research, policy analysis and planning and coordination of services.

The Social Planning Council increasingly assumed the role of “public reporter”, a social witness documenting changes in the quality of community life.

“My experience on the board of the HSPC opened my mind to the importance of looking at statistical information as a way to understand communities and trends. Social Planning Councils help us to see the whole picture and have a better idea of what the future can hold.”

Helen Ferguson
Board member 1992 to 1996

Volunteer Halton

Volunteer Centres were established by the Social Planning Councils in Burlington and Oakville by the mid 1970s. Their primary focus was promotion of volunteerism and the recruitment and referral of individuals wanting to contribute to the development of their community.

The Volunteer Centre in North Halton, established in the late 1970s, focused on promoting volunteer opportunities and providing training and management support to local service providers.

During the 1980s the Volunteer Centre expanded its services to provide management consultation and training to agencies.

During the 1990s the Volunteer Centre created programs to further volunteerism in population groups such as seniors and youth. The 1990s mark the development of corporate volunteerism at Volunteer Halton.

Community Development Halton Today

We continue to evolve with changing times. 2003 sees the Social Planning Council’s new name and logo: Community Development Halton. Community Development Halton is an intermediary organization that helps improve the effectiveness of the sector and facilitates the development of its capacities through research, needs identification, education and training.

“The Council is a strong voice for the disenfranchised – it is the conscious of Halton. It brings to light the need for us to be a kinder society. The Council is a vehicle to show us where we need to go as a caring society.”

Gary Shillington
Board member 1991 to present



CELEBRATING OUTCOMES...

The Halton Social Planning Council and Volunteer Centre is committed to social development as a desired state of community well being and social change as a continual process toward achieving and sustaining social development for all members of the community.

Some of the programs offered throughout Halton today are the result of research, planning, community development and advocacy work of the Halton Social Planning Council:

- **Burlington Family Resource Centre**
- **First Base Before and After School Care**
- **Food For Thought – School Nutrition Programs**
- **Halton Anti-Poverty Coalition**
- **Halton Multicultural Council**
- **Halton Non-Profit Housing Corporation**

- **Halton Women's Place (Burlington)**
- **Information Oakville**
- **Milton Community and Information Services**
- **North Halton Literacy Council**
- **S.E.N.A.C.A. Day Program**
- **Seniors' Help Line**
- **United Ways of Milton and Halton Hills**
- **Youth Employment Services throughout the Region**

Member/Agency Comments:

"The Council's roles are comprehensive and potentially crucial to the vitality of this community..."

"I often think of the Council as the communities' conscience..."

Source: HSPC Consultation Survey Results (2001)

The following is a list of some of the reports the Halton Social Planning Council has produced in an effort to provide important information for community decision-making and action:

- **Growing Up Black In Oakville: The Impact of Community on Black Youth Identity Formation and Civic Participation (2003)**
- **Building Hope Together: Strategies for Creating Housing in Uncertain Times (2003)**
- **Halton Official Plan Review: Embracing Smart Growth – Which Path? (2003)**
- **Growing Old In Burlington (2002)**
- **Employment and Employability Needs of the Deaf Community in Peel and Halton Regions (2002)**
- **A Profile of Literacy Skills and Needs for Halton (2002)**
- **Halton 211 Feasibility Study**



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT...

Volunteer Halton

Volunteer Halton continues to support over 100 community agencies in the Halton Region in the areas of:

- ♦ Education & Training
- ♦ Management & Program Consultations
- ♦ Promotion of the Voluntary Sector
- ♦ Technology & Volunteerism
- ♦ Recruitment & Maintenance

Volunteering Works in Halton

Volunteer Works, a project funded by HRDC, continued into 2002 with two youth coordinators partnering with four agencies in Burlington, Oakville and Halton Hills. This program, completed in August 2002, proved that the youth of the Halton region are civic minded and enthusiastic volunteers, true future leaders.

National Volunteer Week

This year's focus was media awareness with help from AM 740 radio and four local Halton newspapers. A "Media Spirit" initiative invited various media to volunteer at local agencies in their community. A National Volunteer Week Committee was established to plan activities for 2003.

Town Hall Group

The Council is involved in the Town Hall Group - a partnership of the Inter-Church Council of Burlington, Milton Affordable Housing Coalition, Halton Hills Homelessness Task Force, Transitions For Youth, CLAW, the Region of Halton and Habitat for Humanity. The purpose of the Town Hall group is to raise the awareness and increase the sensitivity of the Halton community to the need for affordable housing. Importantly, the Town Hall group is actively developing strategies to create more affordable housing in Halton.

Food Security

The Council is an active member of the Halton Anti-Poverty Coalition's Food Security Committee. Activities include promoting Community Gardens and Community Kitchens. After conducting a Good Food Box feasibility study for Halton, the committee established a Good Food Box Sub-Committee to start a Good Food Box Program in Halton. In March 2003, the Food Security Committee hosted a Community Consultation to provide information on food security programs and develop strategies to reduce food insecurity in Halton.

Affordable and Emergency Housing

The Council is a member of the advisory committee for the local Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), which is a Federal response to homelessness. The Council was successful in securing a grant to undertake a housing insecurity study. The result was a report released in March 2003, entitled *Building Hope Together: Strategies for Creating Housing in Uncertain Times*.

"The housing system is a socially created institution. It is a mix of public, private and non-profit actors. Over the past two decades the public and private actors in the system have increasingly left more and more people without housing. Homeless making processes are now a part of Canada's housing and social welfare systems."

David Hulchanski, *Housing Policy for Tomorrow's Cities* 2002

Urban CAP

The Council is the lead organization for the South Halton Urban Community Access Program (CAP). This is a Federal initiative that aims to provide Canadians with affordable public access to the Internet and the skills they need to use it effectively. Nine access sites have been established in Burlington and Oakville, with a grand opening in the fall of 2002.



PROMOTING VOLUNTEERISM...

Volunteer Centre Activities

- *Volunteerism Through Technology*
The database hosts volunteer opportunities for over 100 organizations and this year received over 214,600 visits to the site. Visit us at: www.haltonvolunteer.org
- Volunteer recruitment and referrals through promotion, weekly newspaper ads and presentations
- Workshops and consultations on volunteerism
- Support volunteerism through policy analysis, educational workshops and consultation
- Designated training centre for volunteer screening and volunteer management
- Promoting youth volunteerism

"...take the concept of volunteerism right into the heart of the concept of democracy and citizenship. It would reassert the idea of citizens' rights and citizens' obligations as the real meaning of the balanced structure of democracy."

John Ralston Saul



*Volunteerism - The value of one
The power of many*

www.haltonvolunteer.org

- Interviewing of potential volunteers by volunteer advisors to match volunteers with agencies in Halton
- Volunteer education through Volunteer Week supplements in four community newspapers and cable programs
- National Volunteer Week promotion
- Facilitation of corporate volunteering
- Member of Halton Association of Volunteer Coordinators (HACVS)
- Regional Representative Ontario Volunteer Centre Network (OVCN)
- Founding member of the Community Information Online Consortium (CIOC)
- Member of Professional Administrators of Volunteer Resources –Ontario (PAVR-O)
- Member of Volunteer Canada



SOCIAL RESEARCH & POLICY ANALYSIS...

Growing Old in Burlington – A Report on Seniors Trends and Issues

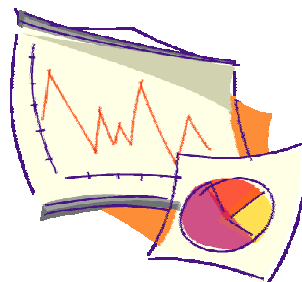
This report, Commissioned by the United Way of Burlington, Hamilton-Wentworth, was released at a press conference in December 2002. This report provides Burlington with a profile of the senior population along with an overview of the trends and issues that affect this age group. The report outlines issues that seniors face that affect the quality of their lives and, ultimately their full participation in the life of the community. The report is based on traditional social-economic indicators as well as information from key informants.

The persistence of child poverty in Ontario is a clear indication that economic growth alone is not sufficient to ensure the well-being of children and families... Public policy must play a stronger and more deliberate role in ensuring that all families can share in our province's prosperity.

Report Card on Child Poverty in Ontario 2003, Campaign 2000

Employment and Employability Needs Of The Deaf Community In Peel And Halton Regions

The Centre for Skills Development and Training, The Canadian Hearing Society of Peel, and the Halton Social Planning Council partnered to develop and conduct a research study that would assist in understanding the employability and employment needs of the deaf community. The study looks into both the problems deaf people encounter in finding work, and the problems and challenges they face in maintaining stable employment.



Campaign 2000 and Child Poverty

The Council is a community partner, with Campaign 2000, a non-partisan, cross-Canada network, promoting the elimination of child poverty. Information on poverty in Halton and updated poverty indicators are posted on our website for the community to access: www.haltonspcvc.on.ca

A Profile of Literacy Skills and Needs for Halton

This study investigates the literacy skills and literacy needs of the Halton population. It assists educators, business and labour, not to mention government and civil society, to understand the social and economic conditions that influence literacy in Halton.

Halton Official Plan Review

The Regional Municipality of Halton recently undertook a community *Consultation Plan* as part of the statutory five-year review of their *Official Plan*. The Council played two roles in this *Consultation Plan*. First, the Council convened two community consultations – one in Burlington and one in Georgetown to provide community agencies with opportunity for input and discussion on *Official Plan Review*. Second, we provided the Region with the Council's observations on the proposed changes to the *Official Plan*. Both reports will inform the overall review process that will assist Regional Council in the development of the new *Official Plan*.

Price of Eating Well in Halton

The Price of Eating Well in Halton brochure is produced annually in partnership with the Halton Region Health Department. It documents how much it costs to eat nutritiously in Halton and whether all Halton residents can afford to eat well. The latest 2002 update of this brochure documents that low-income Halton residents do not have adequate income levels to purchase the groceries necessary for a healthy diet.



INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Volunteer Week Supplements

Training Workshops

Seminars

Volunteer Columns

Presentations



Community Dispatch



Report Cards

MALL DISPLAYS

Community Dispatch 2002 - 2003

- A Profile of Literacy Skills and Needs in Halton
- Redeeming the Public Purpose – The Real Revolution is Yet to Come
- Embracing Smart Growth – Which Path?
- Growing Old in Burlington – A Report on Seniors Trends and Issues

Resource Centre



Volunteer Week

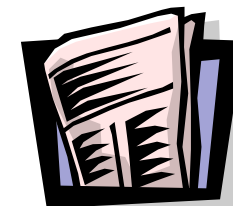
Internet site

Publications

Cogeco Programs

Pamphlets

Mass Media



Manuals



IN THE COMMUNITY...

Broad-based Membership

Our 102 agency members are engaged in the full spectrum of human service activities:

- community and family services
- counselling and support services
- health promotion, disease prevention
- health care services
- senior services
- children and youth services
- food security
- housing
- cultural, recreational and faith organizations
- education and information
- human resources and youth leadership development
- violence prevention
- women's issues
- advocacy for the disabled
- government services
- human rights groups
- environmental groups

Collaboration and Partnerships

- Affirmative Communications Inc.
- Burlington Economic Development Corporation
- Burlington Local Service Delivery Committee
- Canadian Council on Social Development
- Halton Anti-Poverty Coalition
- Halton Association of Coordinators of Volunteer Services
- Halton Coalition for Social Justice
- Halton District School Board
- Halton Emergency Housing Advisory Group
- Halton Hills Cooperative Program Planning Committee
- Halton Housing Advisory Committee
- Halton Information Network (HALINET)
- Halton Information Providers
- Halton Multicultural Council
- Halton Violence Prevention Council
- National Anti-Poverty Organization
- North Halton Cultural Awareness Council
- Oakville and District Labour Council
- Ontario Social Development Council
- Ontario Social Safety Network
- Our Kids, Our Community, Our Concern
- Peel-Halton-Dufferin Adult Learning Network
- Regional Municipality of Halton
- Social Planning Network of Ontario (SPNO)
- System-Linked Research Unit, McMaster University
- The Centre for Skills Development & Training
- Town Hall Group
- Volunteer Canada

We thank our partners for their continued financial support:

Regional Municipality of Halton
United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton
United Way of Milton
United Way of Oakville

Special Project Funding Partners:

Centre for Skills Development & Training
Health Canada
Healthy Community Fund
Human Resources Development Canada

Special Project Funding Partners (continued):

Industry Canada
Milton Community Resource Centre
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation (Ont.)
Ministry of Community, Family & Children's Services
Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities (Ontario)
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Regional Municipality of Halton
Volunteer Canada

Special Donations:

AM 740 radio
Burlington Convention Centre
Burlington News/Hamilton Spectator
Burlington Post
Cogeco and Cogeco North Cable 14
Georgetown Independent & Free Press
Georgetown Market Place
Milton Canadian Champion
Milton Mall
Oakville Today and Oakville Beaver



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

The voluntary sector plays a critically important role in both local service delivery and civic engagement. It needs recognition and stable funding support in order to perform both mandates well, rather than becoming reduced to serving with meagre resources strictly the most marginalized victims of downloading and devolution.

Peter Clutterbuck and Marvyn Novick, *Building Inclusive Communities: Cross-Canada Perspectives and Strategies, 2002*

Future Strategic Areas

- Affordable Housing
- Building the Capacity of the Voluntary Sector
- Child and Youth Poverty
- Social and Economic Inclusion
- Closing the Distance Diversity – Competence
- Promoting Volunteerism

It is an honour to be President of this organization as we celebrate 20 years of service to the people of Halton Region. At the same time as we look back on our past, we face the future bearing a new name: Community Development Halton (CDH). This is a good time to celebrate our history while we proudly re-introduce ourselves to the broader community.

This is also a good time to recognize some individuals and groups associated with our organization.

Staff

- We recently bade farewell to Lynne Russell after 9 accomplished years as a social planner. As much as we're sad to see her leave, we wish her well in her new position.
- Our remaining staff colleagues: Joey, Ann, Ted, Margaret, Jenny and Sonya, continue to work with dedication, grace and humour. We're grateful for all that they do.
- Various consultants and contract workers come into the organization for shorter or longer periods. We thank them for contributing their talent to the larger cause.

Board

I am grateful to all my colleagues on the Board of Directors for their volunteer service and leadership. In particular, we appreciate the contributions of Richard Lapierre, Robert Aceti and Nancy Syer who have left or are about to finish their term on the board. We also welcome new members who will be elected at the AGM.

Volunteers

It should be no surprise that an agency promoting volunteerism itself makes good use of volunteers. CDH is blessed with volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who perform a variety of vital functions on a regular basis. We could not get along without them.

Members

There are more than one hundred individuals and agencies who are members of CDH. We draw great comfort from the knowledge that they value our work enough to make an annual contribution of membership dues. Moreover, they provide useful input and feedback on issues and projects that affect the community.

Partners

Our project partners include CDH members, but other agencies and grassroots organizations as well. Together we can build community in ways that we could not do by ourselves. Our work is greatly enriched by the participation of our partners.

Funders

The majority of our revenue comes from four funding partners: the Region of Halton; and the United Ways of Milton, Oakville and Burlington/Greater Hamilton. In addition to money (which we appreciate *very* much), they provide a perspective on our work that helps us to improve our service to the community.

Friends

The Oakville Labour Council has been a special friend to us over the years, giving us people to serve on our Board of Directors and moral support in many other ways.

Over the next year the Board of Directors will be focussing its attention on three pressing issues:

- *Identity* – establishing our new name and logo in the consciousness of the Halton community
- *Funding* – achieving greater budgetary strength and stability
- *Governance* – re-examining the processes by which we set program priorities and evaluate outcomes

We look forward to your continuing support of our mission as we enter our third decade of existence.

Jeff Pym



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT...

A few years ago, I began my report to the annual meeting with the words of Antonio Machado and today his words continue to ring true.

*Caminante, no hay camino. Se hace camino al andar.
Traveller there are no paths. Walking makes paths.*

The changing terrain on which government, the market, philanthropic funders and voluntary organizations are shaping their contribution to society has been a major challenge for Community Development Halton (CDH). We have seen the human service landscape change over the 1990s: i) by federal and provincial government withdrawal of support to the social safety network and the human services that complement it; ii) by the devolution of responsibilities for social well being to local levels of government without the tax base to provide such services and, in turn; iii) further devolution of responsibility for vulnerable people to the voluntary sector without appropriate human and financial resources. In the wake of these changes, there are many people in our community who are not prospering. At the same time, there are increasing signs that the voluntary sector's role in society – creating connectedness and civic engagement – has changed to delivering state funded public programs and services under purchase of service agreements with governments.

Research in our community has demonstrated that there is a significant group of Halton residents who are at risk of homelessness and certainly struggling to be housed. Affordable housing has been a major focus of CDH activity during 2002-2003. CDH facilitated a participatory research process, *Building Hope Together: Strategies for Creating Housing in Uncertain Times*, which has been a journey marked by growth, reflection and, ultimately, the development of strategies

and actions to address homelessness and affordable housing in our community.

Also, the Council is an active member of Town Hall Group, a collaborative of diverse organizations. Our purpose is to raise community awareness of the issues of homelessness and affordable housing and convene community to develop solutions to this social problem. *Building Hope Together* provides a guide for strategy development and community action. In the area of housing, the Council continues to participate as a member of the Halton Housing Advisory Committee to Regional Government, bring the lens of community to the deliberations of Regional Government.

The CDH has been a local partner in a growing initiative across Canada to build socially and economically inclusive communities. Spearheaded by the Laidlaw Foundation and in partnership with the City of Burlington, CDH held a community sounding to explore the meaning of an inclusive community and the strategies needed to create such a community. Burlington, along with 11 other communities across Canada outlined the characteristics of inclusive communities resources along with the kinds of institutions, strategies and resources required to foster a vision of inclusive community. This work is found in the report, *"Building Inclusive Communities: Cross Canada Perspectives and Strategies."*

CDH, in partnership with the Centre for Skills Development and Training and the Canadian Hearing Society, explored the employment and employability needs of the deaf community. This study provides insights into the lives of deaf people as they struggle to participate in the world of work. This investigation is a poignant reminder of the practices of exclusion that prevent members of the deaf community from engaging in full employment and working in "good jobs." The report identifies recommendations for further action in six key areas.

CDH believes that the Official Plan of the Regional Municipality of Halton sets the stage for social and economic development and as such affects the many activities of the voluntary sector. As such, CDH consulted with members of our agency community on changes to the Official Plan. *Embracing Smart Growth-Which Path?* is a report emerging from this consultation. It addresses those areas relevant to the Voluntary sector specifically, healthy communities, smart growth and the Smart Growth Index, a human services plan and affordable housing. CDH remains concerned that the shift from a healthy communities philosophy and framework to that of smart growth which focuses on economic and physical criteria, overlooks the importance of social and human capital.

Volunteer Halton, a program of CDH, has continued to pioneer in the area of youth volunteering. From this perspective, Volunteer Halton, has been an active participant in the Youth Steering Committee of the Regional Municipality of Halton. This committee has worked on the development of a Halton Youth Services Plan that is a collaborative effort of youth, community agencies, Halton Region and HRDC to develop a plan that addresses services for youth, at-risk youth and homeless youth. Youth volunteering will be a major area of development for Volunteer Halton in 2003-2004.

Volunteer Halton supports agencies in the voluntary sector in the promotion and maintenance of volunteers. A particular focus of Volunteer Halton's work is in the training and development of volunteer managers within the agency community. Volunteer Halton continues to promote volunteerism as an essential building block of community. In partnership with the Halton Association of Coordinators of Volunteer Services (HACVS), Volunteer Halton celebrates volunteer accomplishment throughout Halton.

CDH foresees a busy and active 2003-2004 and looks forward to our work with others to build the civic foundation of care and support in our community.

Joey Edwardh



FINANCIAL REPORT...

The Halton Social Planning Council (Incorporated without share capital) Operating statement of revenue and expenditure for year ended March 31, 2003

Organizations are facing difficulties in obtaining the financial resources they need to provide their programs and services. Their key financial capacity concerns include the following:

- *Reductions in funding prevent organizations from meeting the increase demands for services that result from government downloading and cutbacks.*
- *Funding restrictions lead to difficulty finding revenue to support organizational infrastructure and administration.*
- *Difficulty accessing long-term funding requires organizations to spend excessive amounts of time searching for new funding to support programs, and limits their ability to do long-term planning.*
- *Difficulty in obtaining funding tempts organizations to "drift" from their missions in order to access funds.*
- *Onerous demands for financial accountability from funders and the different financial accountability requirements of funders are straining the available resources of organizations.*
- *Corporate support is difficult to access for many organizations.*

The Capacity to Serve: A Qualitative Study of the Challenges Facing Canada's Non-profit and Voluntary Organizations, 2003

	2002-2003		2001-02
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Revenue			
Grants			
United Way of Burlington/ Hamilton	\$ 71,438	\$68,968	\$68,536
United Way of Milton	2,075	2,075	2,000
United Way of Oakville	75,415	74,595	73,163
Regional Municipality of Halton	88,000	88,000	88,000
Halton District School Board			90,000
Other Income	153,450	166,769	103,015
	390,378	400,407	424,714
Expenditure			
Salary expenses	307,010	311,051	313,336
Travel/Meetings/Development	15,626	15,141	19,505
Administration expenses	35,799	39,470	31,497
Promotion and publicity	2,785	2,920	2,955
Facility expenses	35,860	32,496	38,424
Equipment expenses	7,458	9,564	9,260
	404,538	410,642	414,977
Excess of revenue over expenditure (expenditure over revenue)	(14,160)	(10,235)	9,737
Deficit, beginning of year		865	(8,872)
Surplus (deficit), end of year	\$	(9,370)	865

*Glenn-Graydon-Wright Chartered Accountants
For a full copy of the financial report, contact the office.*



Board Members (April 2002 – March 2003)

Robert Aceti
 Kimberly Bowman*
 Abdul Chaudhry
 Michael Cushing
 Carl Dawson
 Les Horne
 Richard Lapierre*
 Cindy Lunau
 Norma Pennington-Drabble
 Jeff Pym
 Gary Shillington
 Doug Simpson
 Nancy Syer
 Wally Syme
 Joan Winchell
 Maureen Weinberger

Project Consultants

Mike Balkwill
 Peter Clutterbuck
 Phil Courneyeur
 Lien Le
 Tendai Moyana
 Chandra Rice

Youth Coordinators*

Michelle MacKeller
 Andrea Neilson

Staff

Joey Edwardh, Executive Director
 Margaret Petrovics, Executive Assistant/
 Office Manager

Social Planning

Ted Hildebrandt, Senior Planner
 Lynne Russell, Social Planner
 Jenny McKnight, Administrative Assistant

Volunteer Halton

Ann Coburn, Director
 Sonya Mackey, Administrative Assistant

Intergenerational

Kimberley Rogers, Celebrating Literacy*
 Darlene Edmonds, Food For Thought*

Council Volunteers

Denise Colson
 Doris Cullum
 Barbara Dutton
 Bill Fraser
 Marilyn Joiner
 Mona Micheal
 Audrey Soroka
 Mike Wesolowsky

Volunteers

We recognize our *many* volunteers in the community who donated time and talents to build caring inclusive communities.

In Residence

Early Years Specialists*
 Sharon Campbell, Early Literacy Specialist
 Shelley Lothian, Data Analysis Coordinator

* Left during the year

Community Development Halton

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