

# Together Building Community

Equity  
Diversity  
Inclusiveness  
Social Justice  
Accountability  
Empowerment  
Community

2009 - 2010  
Annual Report

## 25 Years of Building Community Together

### Creating one council

By the mid 70's several groups of concerned Halton citizens had formed 3 regional social planning councils. In 1984 these 3 councils (Burlington, Oakville, and North Halton) amalgamated to form the Halton Social Planning Council (HSPC). The goal of amalgamation was "...to forge a harmonious working relationship between formerly separate organizations and people" (David Rae, President of the Board 1984). The purpose of the newly formed HSPC was "...improving the quality of life by working to ensure the development of healthy communities throughout the community of Halton" (Susan Goodman, Executive Director of HSPC 1984).

The Volunteer Service bureau created in 1972 by Burlington Social Planning Council remained attached to the newly formed HSPC as a strategic way to share resources and to position volunteerism as a crucial foundation for community development and civic engagement.

In July 2002 the Halton Social Planning Council was renamed Community Development Halton (CDH). This name more accurately reflects the breadth and depth of the work of this agency. CDH has continued to be a catalyst for community engagement, leader in social development, champion of inclusion and the impetus for community-based research for community decision making and action.

### Accepting all challenges

The job of CDH has been to identify issues impacting quality of life, inform community of present and future impact of these issues and participate actively in addressing them. Social planning, research, community development and civic engagement are crucial to community viability and progress. It is complex work, requiring a broad range of skills and expertise.

CDH has been the leading edge in advancing social issues for 25 years. This agency has had to operate as a theatre troupe – changing roles (hats and costumes) in order to articulate issues and plan effective community responses. This demanding performance has occurred in an environment of scarce funding requiring onerous application processes and bureaucratic resistance to the importance of the work.

The work of the CDH has been accomplished by a small staff with the support and direction of an ever evolving Board of Directors. Of the current permanent staff 3 have been with CDH since 1996. This dedicated staff group has sustained the ability, interest and energy to tackle a variety of changing needs and community issues over the years.

### Creating Community by providing:

#### Access to Basics

- Affordable Housing initiatives 1988 – present
- Implementing Before and After School programs 1988
- Campaign 2000 – local partner in Federal initiative to end child poverty 1992– present
- Food For Thought – 23 snack programs for school aged children 1998-1999
- Housing Insecurity – community capacity building to respond to homelessness 2001– present
- Hidden faces of poverty 2001-2002

## 25 Years of Building Community Together

- Collaboration with Marvyn Novick on analysis of poverty reduction 2007-2008
- Women's Shelter Study 1998-1999
- Directed Family Violence Task Force 1991-1992
- Directed first HIV/AIDS workshop in Halton 1991-1992
- Prepared Violence Against Women Study and Recommendations 1992-1993
- Cozy Reading – established 63 school literacy programs 2001-2002

### Inclusion

- Addressing multi-cultural barriers in aging (90's)
- Forum on developing Diversity Competent Organizations 2003-2004
- Diversity Breakfast Series 2005 – present
- Employment and employability needs of the deaf 2002-2003
- Growing Old in Burlington – a report on services, trends, and issues 2002-2003
- Inclusive Cities Work 2003-2004

### Community Development and Volunteerism

- Completed community needs assessment 1984-1985
- Established youth employment counselling service 1984-1985
- Online volunteerism 1988 – present
- Study on transportation through volunteer drivers 1991-1992
- Youth Volunteerism works in Halton Campaign 2001-2003
- Annual Education Days 2003-2008
- Manager of Education and Training Grant 2006-2009
- Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge in partnership with Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration 2008-present
- Volunteer Halton Website Launch 2008
- Infrastructure for Halton Nonprofit Network 2008 – present

### Research and social planning

- 2001 Census Consortium 2004-2005
- Social Profile of Halton 1999-2000, 2009
- Social Profile of Burlington 2000, 2006, 2009
- Social Profile of Milton 2009: A Changing Social Landscape
- Social profile of Halton's visible minority population 2001
- HARP – Halton Research Partnership 2004-2005
- Launch of *Community Lens* 2008
- Halton Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Labour Force Study 2007

The initiatives, projects, and campaigns listed here are a small sample of the incredible amount of work accomplished by CDH since 1984. Community Development Halton has devoted 25 years to creating conditions fostering social progress and enriching our understanding and appreciation of community.

## Report of the President and the Executive Director

This year has been a time replete with much activity, of challenges and opportunities, of change and innovation. The ravages of economic recession and its impact on the people and social organizations of Halton have continued even with the tepid indicators that suggest our communities are climbing out of recession. It has been a year marked by hardship and falling aspirations for both people and organizations. It is a year where we have been witness to growing social divisions among people.

Powerful threads run through CDH's (Community Development Halton) work over time that supports the social development of our community. They are:

- i) identifying and reducing disparities in living conditions;
- ii) affirming the growing diversity of our population;
- iii) nurturing civic and healthy communities through citizen participation and engagement, and
- iv) documenting and supporting the critical role of nonprofit organizations in sustaining people, often with growing and changing needs, in the communities of Halton.

Community Development Halton (CDH) continues to focus our work in the areas of social equity and poverty reduction. Over 2009-2010 CDH has worked to put into action the recommendations of a blueprint for poverty reduction discussed with community members and partners across Halton. With others across the province, we have worked to address the hunger created by our social assistance programs through the campaign, *Put Food in the Budget*. CDH continues to work with others to create a poverty free Halton focusing on education and a series of ongoing "kitchen conversations" with marginal individuals in order to bring their voices to community and to decision making tables.

We continue to encourage community residents to participate actively in their community through civic engagement. The number of hours contributed to make our community liveable, safe and compassionate exists due to the unwavering work of Volunteer Halton. Volunteers are celebrated for their participation in community activities where they make a difference in the lives of people. At the same time, Volunteer Halton continues to train organizations in the art of active civic engagement for good.

In 2009-2010 CDH documented the effects of the first wave of economic recession on the nonprofit community social agencies of Halton. Reports such as, *Hard Hit: Impact of the Economic Downturn on Nonprofit Community Social Services in Ontario* and, more locally, *Economic Recession: Impact on Oakville Serving Agencies* lay out the impact of recession on the nonprofit community service sector and the implications for Ontarians and Halton residents. These studies paint a picture of increased demand for community services especially in areas of crisis management, less time for preventative programming and, most significantly, an increase in the complexity of the needs of the people they serve. However, while service demands have been increasing for most agencies, they have been experiencing funding cuts. Human needs are going unmet which has long term implications for a safe, healthy and caring community.

Our social planning program continues to be a repository of knowledge on the changing demographics of Halton. *Community Lens* is a popular and useful snapshot of community information. Businesses, social service agencies, local government use this information for their decision making processes.

The Board of Directors welcomed nine new members whose energy and commitment made 2009-2010 a productive year. The Board reviewed and updated CDH's bylaws, approved a revised edition of the organization's Human Resources Policy, and further refined the Board's newly adopted Governance Policy. While the Board continues to be challenged by funding cuts, we appreciate the contribution of local funders.

The heart and soul of Community Development Halton is the skill, ability and dedication of our volunteers, staff, and Board members. We salute your dedication, commitment to service and leadership. Together they strive to ask why equality, equity and social justice are beyond the horizon. Together we continue to question and explore why it is this way and look to change it.

*Laila Siriksson, President*

*Joey Edwardh, Executive Director*



# Volunteer Halton

## Volunteerism in Halton

One of the remarkable features of Halton is the extent to which residents reach beyond their families and friends to contribute to others and to their communities through charitable giving and civic engagement by volunteering. In Halton, the volunteers collectively contributed over 38 million hours in the 12 month reference period (between 2006 and 2007). The number of volunteer hours when converted into employment is equivalent to 20,232 full time year-round jobs (assuming 40 hours of work for 48 weeks). In an attempt to determine the economic contribution of Halton volunteers, a hourly wage of \$24.05 (average hourly wage in health care and social assistance industry for Ontario—December 2007) was used. This represents a contribution to the economy of about \$1 billion.

In April 2009, in celebration of National Volunteer Week, Volunteer Halton launched a new and redesigned website: [www.volunteerhalton.ca](http://www.volunteerhalton.ca) in order to nurture volunteerism across our community.

## National Volunteer Week April 19<sup>th</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup> 2009

National Volunteer Week is a special time, set aside in April each year, to honour and recognize Canadians who donate their time and energy to their communities. Every year more than 80,000 registered charities and 100,000 not-for-profit organizations across Canada pause to thank and recognize their volunteers.

## Cheers to Volunteers Awards

In 2009, Volunteer Halton and the Region of Halton hosted our annual “Cheers to Volunteers” in an effort to recognize the valuable contributions our residents make in our communities. This year, 12 recipients were presented with a unique award, created by Tara Marsh, a graduate of Sheridan College. CogecoTV, Oakville Beaver, and Burlington Post continue to partner with us to promote these awards and recognize the recipients and their contributions. Volunteers spent an average of 165 hours (about 3 hours per week) in the 12-month reference period preceding the survey (between 2006 and 2007). Halton’s average annual volunteer hours are similar to the provincial (164 hours) and national (166 hours) averages.



## Change the World 2009: Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge



In the spring of 2009, the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network partnered with Volunteer Halton and other local volunteer centres to encourage as many youth as possible to volunteer during National Volunteer week. Youth Volunteer Challenge encouraged Ontario youths to volunteer for a minimum of five hours during National Volunteer Week, April 19-25 as a way for Ontario teens to make a difference in their lives and communities through volunteering. Over 300 Halton youth contributed over 1500 hours to this effort.

## Volunteer Management Training and Consultation Services

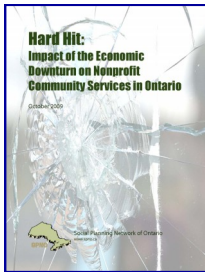
Volunteer Halton delivered 10 training and educational sessions on civic engagement and management of volunteers throughout the Halton Region. A number of these sessions were offered in partnership with Town of Halton Hills, and the Town of Oakville to increase our accessibility to our services.

## Diversity

Representatives from Halton Agencies as well as interested community members attended the Diversity Breakfast Series that Volunteer Halton offers in partnership with Halton Multicultural Council. Topics include: Providing Culturally Competent Care for Seniors; Understanding the Nuances of Cultural Competency; and Common Ground.

## Social Planning

### Economic Recession



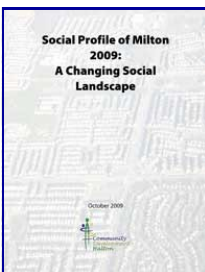
*“Hard Hit: The Impact of the Economic Downturn on Nonprofit Community Social Services in Ontario”* is a research report in conjunction with the Social Planning Network of Ontario (SPNO) that documents the one-two punch affecting Ontario’s nonprofit community services – an increasing demand for services and lost revenue from funding cuts driven by the economic downturn.

Locally, CDH produced *Economic Recession: Impact on Oakville Serving Agencies* to identify the impact of the current global recession on social service agencies serving Oakville and, ultimately, their capacity to provide their services in these economic times and to a growing Oakville population. CDH staff also presented Halton data to Halton Region’s Health and Social Services Committee.



### Mapping: A Spatial Expression of Community

CDH has been providing Census data and maps to community agencies so that they may have better understanding of the demographics they service. CDH staff is further developing their skills to provide analysis of agency data as part of this service.

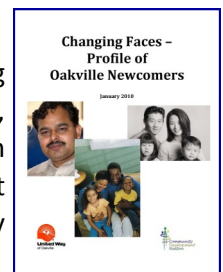


### Social Profile of Milton 2009: A Changing Social Landscape

This report, based on the data from the latest Statistics Canada Census, constructs a portrait of the socio-demographic characteristics of the Town of Milton. The Town of Milton has undergone significant changes in terms of its size, age distribution, family structure and size, living arrangement, education attainment, workforce and activities, incomes, ethnic origins, place of birth, mother tongues and home languages, etc. These changes are reshaping the Milton community and the types of human services needed by its population.

### Changing Faces - Profile of Oakville Newcomers

The newcomer population of Oakville is growing and in response to the changing demographics, CDH wrote a report on newcomers to better understand their needs and thus, the implications for social services. The report describes Oakville’s newcomers and locates on maps the emerging clusters and neighbourhoods of newcomers within the Town. This report provides background information for the development of the Newcomer Settlement Strategy of Halton.



### Seniors Roundtable Discussions: A Community's Path to an Age-Friendly City

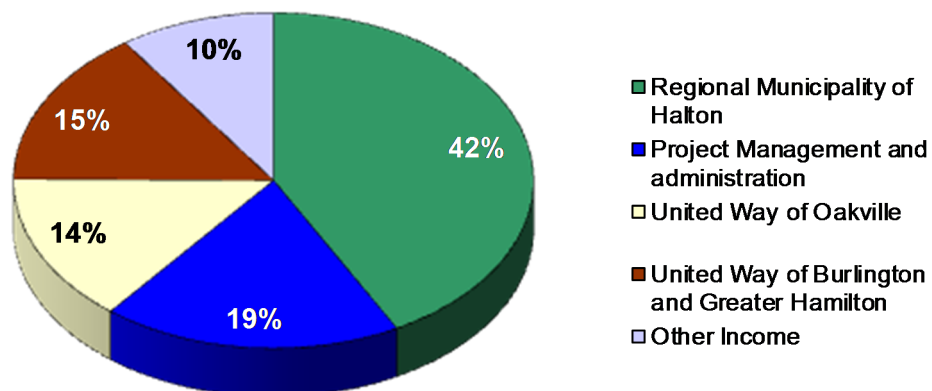
This report documents the proceedings of a series of four roundtables held over 2009 to explore further the growing and changing seniors population of the City of Burlington. It documents difficulties seniors have in meeting their basic needs and participating actively in society. Recommendations based on the World Health Organization’s Age-Friendly Cities paradigm have been developed that suggest that human aging, the role and needs of seniors are now a priority.

### Poverty Reduction

CDH continues to work with community partners on poverty reduction within Halton. Three priority areas of 2009-2010 are: 1) engaging marginalized communities; 2) preparing for the social assistance review process and; 3) participating in the *“Put Food in the Budget”* campaign.

## 2009-2010 Financial Statement

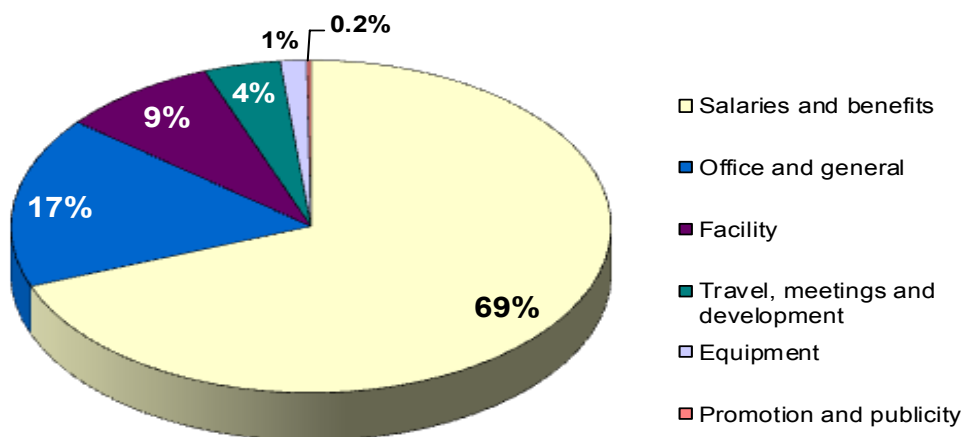
### Revenue - Core Operations (\$557,519)



### Funded Projects - \$465,032

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### Expenses - Core Operations (\$534,323)



### Funded Projects - \$465,032

Full audited financial statements prepared by Pettinelli, Mastroluisi, LLP are available by request.

## The Community Development Halton Team

### Staff Members:

Dr. Joey Edwardh  
*Executive Director*

Ted Hildebrandt  
*Director, Social Planning*

Ann Coburn  
*Director, Volunteer Halton*

Carole Fuhrer  
*Manager, Community Development and Education*

Jenny McKnight  
*Office Manager*

Corina Ciobanu  
*Communication and Information Coordinator, Volunteer Halton*

Richard Lau  
*Project Coordinator*

Peter Clutterbuck  
*SPNO Consultant*

Glynis Maxwell  
*Research Associate*

Catharine Anderson  
*Bookkeeper*

Lorraine Hanes  
*Administrative Support*

Alexandra Hick  
*Project Assistant Associate*

Rishia Burke  
*Research Associate*

### Board of Directors:

Laila Eiriksson  
*President*

Angus Coll-Smith

Jack Dossett

Patti Eix

Elaine Forbes

Maheen Hasan

Marg Macfarlane

Donna Messer

Judene Esther Nwaojigba

Jeffrey S. Overall

Penny Smith

Nina Truscott

## Mission Statement

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

The primary purpose of CDH is to build and strengthen the community of Halton. It focuses on the social impact of larger social, economic, political and cultural forces on individuals, families and the broad community. CDH is committed to **social development** as a desired state of community well-being and **social change** as a continual process towards achieving and sustaining social development for everyone in the community.

## Values & Principles

CDH values: **community, volunteerism, diversity, equity and social justice.**

The principles underlying our work are: independence, knowledge-based action, non-partisan activity, inclusiveness, citizen participation, empowerment, integrated holistic perspective and community accountability.



## Future Strategic Initiatives

- Implementation of Blueprint for Poverty Reduction
  - Do the Math – Invest in Food
  - Social Assistance Review
  - Engaging Marginal Communities
- Seniors: Emerging Issues of the Decade
- Youth Volunteering Works
- Management of Volunteer Base
- Economic Impact of Recession on Halton Social Service Agencies
- Promoting the Social Determinants of Health
- Advancing Diversity: Newcomers Settlement Strategy
- Labour Force Challenges of the Nonprofit Social Service Sector
- Halton Nonprofit Network

*I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now.*

*Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.*

*--Mahatma Gandhi--*

## Financial Partners

We thank our partners for their continued financial support:



### Special Project Funding Partners:

- Burlington Community Foundation
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- ECHO: Improving Women's Health in Ontario
- Enbridge Gas
- Heart & Stroke Foundation
- Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
- Ontario AIDS Network
- Ontario Federation of Labour
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Regional Municipality of Halton
- Steelworkers' Humanities Fund

### Community Partners:

- Community Donors
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton
- Burlington Post
- Burlington Public Library
- CogecoTV
- Halton AVA
- Halton Multicultural Council
- Halton Regional Police
- Milton Community Resource Centre
- MS Society – Halton Chapter
- Oakville Beaver
- Sheridan College
- The Georgetown Independent & Free Press
- The Milton Canadian Champion
- Town of Halton Hills
- Town of Milton Community Fund
- Town of Oakville

*You will find as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others.*

*--Source Unknown--*

# Community Development Halton

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Empowerment · Integrated holistic perspective · Community accountability · Social justice

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