

The Town of Oakville

Department of Recreation & Culture

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

Minutes – Wednesday, September 24, 2025

In Attendance: Darlene Cox, Ruth Sheridan, Ted Lambert, Margaret Kirwin, Micheline Wheeler, Julie Pennal, Rachel Fraser, Councillor Duddeck, Pierre Wong, Michelle Cleary

Regrets: Bev Cathro, Kelly Meeussen, Pat Moore

Guest: Councillor McNeice, Councillor Adams

Minutes: Julie/Rachel

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

Guest Speaker: Councillor Tom Adams, Councillor Jonathan McNeice

Following the budget slideshow presented by Councillor Adams, the committee asked the following questions:

Q: Does the town still collect Development Charges?

- Town collects development charges (DCs) to support infrastructure like roads, recreation centres, and fire stations.
- DCs don't cover full costs but contribute significantly.
- Recent provincial changes include:
 - Delaying collection from upfront to occupancy.
 - Reducing DCs and parkland requirements.
- Concern raised about aligning development pace with infrastructure capacity.

Q: Is the town planning to implement a hiring freeze?

- No hiring freeze planned.
- Staffing levels will be adjusted based on community needs.
- Growth areas may see increased staffing (e.g., fire services, recreation).
- Some headcount increases reflect services downloaded from the Region.

Q: Can you provide more information regarding your Senior Fitness Fees & Discounts slide?

- No current plan to raise the 50+ age threshold for senior fitness classes.
- Ongoing discussion about age-based vs. needs-based subsidies.
- Rec Connect offers income-based support; many municipalities shifting to this model.
- Concerns raised about 50 being a low cutoff and seniors hesitant to apply for needs-based discounts.
- Council acknowledges the importance of balancing financial need and age.

Discussion: Recreation & Health Integration

- Some fitness programs recover costs; senior discounts around 20%.
- Desire from SWAG to better integrate recreation and health services.
- Oakville is recognized for senior programming but SWAG wants to improve; current pricing structure is confusing (seniors membership 50 yrs but 65 yrs for fitness discount).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on whether discounts should be increased or better targeted. <p>Q: Discussion regarding Library & Parks Synergies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation for Oakville and Burlington libraries. • Libraries and Parks & Rec operate separately; potential for cost efficiencies; looking for greater library collaboration across region. • Challenges remain with digital material sharing and governance structures. <p>Questions around Rain Water, Property Assessment, Automated Speed Enforcement and Property Tax Deferral (to allow for Reverse Mortgages) also took place.</p> <p>During the presentation, Rachel mentioned that the conversation around age thresholds, fees, and discounts will be addressed through the development of the Older Adult Strategy. This was a key recommendation in the recently approved Recreation and Culture Master Plan. There were some conflicting suggestions from the group in each of the different areas.</p> <p>After the presentation, staff thanked the Committee for their thoughtful feedback and highlighted how important the Older Adult Strategy will be in helping us move forward with a clear direction around the issues discussed during the presentation—one that is shaped by input from the community and our key stakeholders like SWAG, the Policy Review Board, and our Older Adult Centres. We also shared updates on our Synergies Project, highlighting the collaboration between the OPL, SSU, Culture and Recreation lines of business, as well as the strengthened partnership with Oakville Trafalgar Hospital and the new Stronger and Steadier program.</p>
2.	Attendance / Regrets – Regrets as noted.
3.	Acceptance of previous Minutes / Agenda Margaret Kirwin, seconded by Ted Lambert. Carried.
4.	<p>Update from Rachel Fraser –</p> <p>Closure/renovation September 2025-Summer 2026 River Oaks Rink A will be closed for renovations. We're excited to replace the rink slab, dasher boards and arena flooring. We're also improving accessibility and architectural features, and upgrading the refrigeration plan and change room HVAC system.</p> <p>Renovation October(end)-May 2026 We are pleased to share that the Falgarwood Outdoor Pool will be undergoing a series of renovations aimed at enhancing both operational efficiency and accessibility. Planned improvements include upgrades to the pool deck, chemical room, entrance, staff area and changerooms. These enhancements will contribute to a safer, more inclusive, and welcoming environment for all patrons. We appreciate your support as we work to improve this valued community facility.</p>
5.	

National Truth & Reconciliation Day September 30th The OCPA presents Mimi O'Bonsawin Truth & Reconciliation on Tuesday September 30th at 8pm. This contemporary roots singer-songwriter was born in NE Ontario, is mixed French Canadian and Abenaki, and a member of Odanak First Nation. Through her rhythm and story-driven songs, Mimi's music embraces the beauty of the Land. Before the show, Grandmother's Voice, Oakville Museum and Town of Oakville Culture will present Truth & Reconciliation information, songs, drumming and hands-on activities outside the OCPA in Centennial Square and in the lobby.

Culture Days at QEPCCC October 5 QEPCCC 10 a.m.-2p.m. Featuring approximately 52 events including cultural organizations, individual artists, town led workshops and exhibitions. Performances in the Black Box and Rehearsal Hall, and Multipurpose Rooms 1&2, workshops throughout the building, exhibition reception "Faces of Culture Community Show" with artist led activities in the Main Gallery

Culture Days at OCPA October 11 OCPA, Backstage tours, performances on the main stage by Bharatanatyam Indian Classical Dance by Abhinaya School of Dance at 2p.m., and Chinese Performing Arts Collection by Oakville Chinese network at 7p.m. as well as the launch of the OCPA outdoor vinyl murals by artist Leeay Aikawa

Aquatic Aqua Adapt Staff Training Early Fall Season The Aquatics team has expanded a summer pilot of Aqua Adapt training this fall to over 60 instructors, equipping them with strategies to adapt swim lessons in ways that leverage the sensory regulation benefits of the aquatic environment. This approach not only supports inclusion but also enhances overall program delivery and swim lesson development.

Update to IRCC Pool Renovation: We are pleased to share that the General Contractor has committed to turn back the pool to the town on Friday, October 10. Once returned, our Facilities team will begin preparing the natatorium, which includes filling and balancing the pool, testing the air handling system, meeting all regulatory requirements, and completing a thorough post-construction cleaning. A shortened aquatic lesson session has been scheduled to begin on November 1. Our aquatic programmers have created over 1,800 lesson spaces, offering a wide range of options for the community.

Special Events Master Plan Oct 29 - The Special Events Master Plan will be presented to Council for approval. Developed over 18 months through research, consultation, and engagement, this 10-year strategic plan will guide and support special events across the town for the next decade.

Standing Agenda Items

Councillor Cathy Duddeck update:

The Ministry of Health has advised that those residing in Long Term Care Facilities can obtain their flu vaccine, COVID booster and RSV (if applicable)

The Premier has been in the news lately indicating that he prefers to see all speed cameras being removed as he perceives it as a tax grab. However, many municipalities, including Oakville, have firm data to substantiate their continued use as they have a direct impact on speeding. Speed cameras do change location periodically and if that occurs the appropriate signage (coming soon camera use) are installed.

Halton Region recently opened the new Senior's Health Centre (called PACE) with new housing units above the offices. 54 new housing units are being provided and fully accessible.

Kerr and Bronte Streetscaping reports were received and approved at Monday night's Council meeting. This will improve the streetscaping (lights, benches. Plantings, road improvements) in each area. The next step is obtain council approval through the 2026 Budget process and the 10 year capital plan.

The previously announced Halton Provincial Courthouse is finally being re-approved for construction. This is badly needed as the current courthouse, in Milton on Steeles Avenue, has long outgrown that facility. Police and court officials are thrilled to know this is finally getting underway.

This Saturday from 9 -2 pm Halton Waste Management is hosting a Special Waste drop off at Halton Regional headquarters. Electronics and other waste (cans, hazard waste, etc.) will be accepted,

	<p>Meals on Wheels – Michelle Nichols <u>Annual General Meeting</u></p> <p>We held our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, and it was a wonderful afternoon with strong attendance. Our guest speaker, the dynamic Moodivator Carole Bertuzzi Luciani, brought great energy and inspiration to the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We're thrilled to welcome Marva Bethune to our Board of Directors! Marva was successfully voted in and joins us as a Human Resource Specialist. We're looking forward to the expertise and insight she'll bring to our team.• <u>OMoW Highlights</u>• We'd love to highlight some key stats from the past year:
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A big thank you to our donors and incredible volunteers for helping us deliver care, connection, and community this past year!

Here is what we've achieved together.



Increased social media followership

870
Social media posts
up 43% from prior year!

+18%
+4%
+2%
+125%

296
Individual clients
up 8% from prior year!

Initiatives this past year



*Stats reflect the fiscal period of April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025 ©2025 Oakville Meals on Wheels

- You can view our full **Annual Report** here:
- <https://www.oakvillemealsonwheels.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Annual-Report-2025-FINAL-revised.pdf>
- **Cookie Fundraiser – Launching Soon!**
- Do you have any cookie monsters in your house? Our cookie fundraiser launches on Sunday, September 28, 2025, and we'd love your support!
- <https://fundraising.terracottacookies.com/current-fundraisers/oakvillemealsonwheels/>

- **Mo's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner**
- Mo's Family Restaurant will be hosting their annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday October 13, 2025. Mo's amazing team will be donating 300 meals free of charge. All donations raised during the dinner will be directed to Oakville Meals on Wheels.
- **Volunteer Opportunities**
- We're currently looking for passionate individuals to join our team to help us continue to Drive Care into our Community in the following roles:
 - Board of Directors – Specialists in Fundraising, Finance, and Secretary roles
 - Drivers – Weekly drivers needed, especially on Monday, Thursday, and Friday
 - Spare Drivers – Help fill in for vacations or illness
 - If you know someone who might be interested, please help us spread the word! [Get Involved – Oakville Meals on Wheels](#)

Senior Connector Update – Pat Moore

No report this month

enVISION Oakville Update – Ruth Sheridan.

Ruth is facing some health challenges after a fall at home. No report this month.

OAAC- Darlene Cox

Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Halton Crisis Services Sydney Schmidt, Team Lead, provided an overview of the organization's accessible services and programs that enable individuals in crisis who have a serious mental illness to remain within their own environment to help prevent further crisis.

Crisis Outreach Program self referral 905-693-4270

9-8-8 Suicide Helpline

Halton Age-Friendly – Darlene Cox

Shalon Jeffers , Health Promoter, Halton Region gave a slide presentation on the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program. For more information, email shalon.jeffers@halton.ca or call 905-825-6000 x2834

	<p>Older Adult Isolation Table</p> <p>Community Engagement and Education Recommend re-establishing a working group for community engagement and education. Meeting monthly beginning in late October with a focus on: • Review and update LITE presentation • Develop an awareness plan • Identify presenters (possibly recruit older adults to co-present) • Draft content for new print material Please contact Patricia if you, or someone from your organization would like to participate. Or if you know an older adult that might want to participate.</p> <p>Links2Wellbeing – Kelly Meeussen No update this month.</p>
6.	<p>Business Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Caregiver 101 presentation: went well, great information about 37 people in attendance which is low for our events. Perhaps it was the week/timing of the event. 13 surveys were completed with positive reviews. Suggested topics navigating grief, transitional grief, loss of home, independence etc. and nutrition. Suggested to have QR codes on tables if possible and SWAG Members can help those wanting to try to use it. Launch the trial at the AI presentation in November. b. Community Wellness Hub update: 265 Kerr: Building has been completed and is beautiful. Programming discussions are under way in terms of what new activities will be planned in the common area space for 265 residents, what programming will take place in the CWH spaces at 265 and ongoing activities at 271. Office spaces have been designated, and IT needs are in process of being implemented for the CWH spaces Some residents have started moving in on the 3rd and 4th floor. Residents for 2nd floor begin moving in next week. Brenda will be slowly moving over and spending some time at new space while maintaining presence at 271 space while we monitor residents reactions to the move. As mentioned before, we want to ensure we maintain the beautiful culture at 271. c. Future Guest speakers – Nancy Beddoe will be asked to come back in November to present on Death Café.
8.	Information Sharing –
9.	Next meeting – Wednesday, October 22 at 1:30 p.m. at Colborne Centre with MP Stephen Crawford
10.	Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.