



The Town of Oakville

Department of Recreation & Culture

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

Minutes – Wednesday, May 27, 2026,

In Attendance: Darlene Cox, Pat Moore, Bev Cathro, Ruth Sheridan, Micheline Wheeler, Julie Pennal, Margaret Kirwin, Michele Cleary.

Regrets: Councillor Duddeck, Brent Copeland, Pierre Wong, Ted Lambert, Michelle Nichols

Minutes: Kelly Meeussen

Guests: Andy Liu & Angela Parsons from Challenge Golf - challengegolf.ca

- Challenge Golf, also known as Golf for the Physically Challenged, is a registered Canadian charity based in Oakville, Ontario.
- Their mission is to empower community members facing physical limitations, aiding them in their journey towards a more active and fulfilling life—both physically and mentally. We strive to expand opportunities for fellowship by providing a dedicated space, necessary equipment, and guidance.
- The team of volunteers is committed to offering advice, tuition, and encouragement, enabling participants to fully learn and play the game of golf to the fullest extent of their abilities.
- Participate in two tournaments per year at Granite Ridge Golf Club.
- Currently looking for sponsorship and continuous recruitment of volunteers.
- Celebrating 35 years on April 17, 2027

Call to Order

- Darlene Cox – 1:30 p.m.

● Attendance / Regrets

Regrets as noted.

● Acceptance of previous Minutes / Agenda

Pat Moore, seconded by Margaret Kirwin, Carried.

- **Update from the Town of Oakville - Brent Copeland** – no report

Standing Items:

- **Councillor update: - Cathy Duddeck**

- Nominations for the upcoming municipal election have commenced and there a considerable number of candidates who have filed for the various positions. You can access the list along with their contact information by going to <https://www.oakville.ca/townhall/elections/candidates/>
- You will note that there are no candidates registered for the position of Halton Regional Chair as the passage of Bill 100 stipulates that the province will appoint that position – rather than having it voted on by the electorate.
- The first phase of the Stormwater Management Fee has been included in the most recent tax billing statements at 50 % of the entire fee. Next year it will be increased by 25% and 2028 it will be the full fee incorporated in the tax statements.
- From May 11 to October 31, 2026, Halton Region Public Health will be conducting a mosquito larviciding program under the direction of Dr. Deepika Lobo, Halton Region Medical Officer of Health, to reduce the incidence of West Nile virus in the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville. You notice that a bright green dot is usually affixed to the area that has been administered the application.
- Burloak Drive is closed for the immediate future to finalize the work on the Burloak underpass (rail line).
- There was an increased police and municipal enforcement presence in Bronte this past Victoria Day weekend – and it resulted in 3 arrests and improved crowd control of the youth in the area. Plans are in place to address any possible events that may take place at the Canada Day celebrations in Bronte.
- This past week Council heard about the future plans for the Bronte Harbour waterfront area. One of the options for consideration was introducing an ice rink loop adjacent to the playground area. To review the plans and provide comment you can go to <https://www.oakville.ca/parks-recreation-culture/parks-gardens-trails/parks/park-planning-projects/bronte-waterfront-strategy/>
Or just type in Bronte Waterfront Strategy and it will also take you to that webpage.

- **Meals on Wheels – Michelle Nichols**

- **Summer Student Program:** We are pleased to share that we have received funding through the Government of Canada Summer Career Jobs Program to support a 9-week summer student position. This opportunity will help enhance our services and provide valuable work experience to a student in our community.
- **Community Partnership Support:** Through generous funding from the May Court Club of Oakville, in partnership with the Community Hub at Kerr Street, we will be providing meals for one week to new residents moving into second-floor housing.
- This initiative is designed to support individuals who are entering stable housing for the first time in a long while, helping to ease their transition and provide comfort during this important period of change.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** We are currently seeking passionate individuals to help us continue Driving Care into Our Community. Opportunities include:
- **Board of Directors:** Fundraising Specialists, Finance Professionals, Secretary, Drivers (Weekly Need) especially Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Spare Drivers to provide support during vacations or illness. If you or someone you know is interested, please help spread the word!
- **50th Anniversary Celebration:** Please save the date for our 50th Anniversary Celebration: Thursday, October 1, 2026, Mo's Family Restaurant, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. More details will be shared in the coming months—stay tuned.
- **50/50 Raffle:** To help support our programs, we will be hosting a 50/50 Raffle, September 1 – October 5, 2026. Additional information on ticket sales and participation will be provided shortly.

- **Senior Connector Update – Pat Moore**

- Pat shared information about QR code scams, fake fines and tolls, email phishing, physical tampering and the best practices to stay safe.
 - Verify the sender
 - Inspect the URL (website address)
 - Do not enter your credentials
 - Check physical codes
- Pat touched on fare evasion on the Go Transit rail network. This loss represents 21 million in lost revenue annually. The Ministry of Transportation will continue to work with Metrolinx to update the fine structure before the end of 2026.
- The area codes currently used in and around the Toronto region are divided by geographic areas to accommodate population growth and increased demand for phone numbers. In the Greater Toronto Area, the primary area code is 416, along with overlay codes 647, 437, and 942. West of Toronto, the region uses area codes 519, 226, 548, and 382. To the north of Toronto, the codes in use are 705, 249, and

683. Meanwhile, east of Toronto is served by area codes 613, 343, and 753. Together, these codes ensure that there are enough phone numbers available across southern and central Ontario.

- **enVISION Oakville Update – Ruth Sheridan**

- Working on a handbook for members containing information and resources.
- The committee is learning about the Blind Square System, an app that helps you navigate indoor spaces through live audio description. Government offices such as Service Canada are equipped with this technology.
- During our meeting we discussed keychain containers. The container or capsule can include personal information, list of medications, etc. They are inexpensive and can be purchased on Amazon.

- **OAAC - Darlene Cox**

- Did not attend the meeting

- **Older Adult Isolation Table - Julie Pennal**

- No report

- **Links2Wellbeing – Kelly Meeussen**

- Two more referrals from Halton Healthcare Social Work, Neuro Rehab department.
- One of the referrals speaks Punjabi, and our volunteer ambassador who speaks the same language was able to connect with them directly. The ambassador met with the individual at the hospital, helping to facilitate communication and provide support

- **Business Arising – Future Guest Speakers**

- MPP Stephen Crawford –June 24
- Nursing Home Without Walls in Ontario – separate speaker but could Stephen Crawford also discuss this?
- Darlene to reach out to Chris Bint re: AI presentation. Julie to look into Sixteen Mile as a potential location for this presentation.

- **Information sharing**

- Nursing Home Without Walls is a community-based program that allows older adults to receive essential care and social support while living in their own homes. By using existing long-term care facilities as central hubs, it aims to prevent

isolation, delay premature admission to nursing homes, and ease pressure on the healthcare system.

- The model, pioneered in New Brunswick by Dr. Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard, operates proactively. Instead of waiting for a senior's health to decline to the point of requiring a hospital or a full-time bed, it brings the "nursing home" environment out into the community.
- This is a person-centred model, with services tailored to the needs of the community/individual. Core offerings include, social connections, system navigation, clinical outreach, facilities access.
- The benefits of this program include aging in place, caregiver respite and system efficiency (reducing the visits to hospital emergency rooms)

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, June 24 at 1:30 p.m. in person with Zoom option.

9. Adjournment

3:30 p.m.