

The Town of Oakville

Department of Recreation & Culture

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

Minutes – Wednesday, May 28, 2025

In Attendance: Darlene Cox, Rachel Fraser, Councillor Duddeck, Pat Moore, Ted Lambert, Micheline Wheeler, Bev Cathro, Michelle Nicols, Michele Cleary, Julie Pennal

Regrets:, Ruth Sheridan, Pierre Wong, Margaret Kirwin

Guest: Customer Service Experience Survey focus groups with Ben Proulx of Catalyst Connections.

Minutes: Kelly Meeussen

1. **Call to Order:** by Darlene Cox – 1:30 p.m.
2. Guest speaker, Debra Popa E.D. from KnowledgeFlow, Cybersafety Foundation was not able to attend the meeting and will be rescheduled.

Ben Proulx from Catalyst facilitated a session to gather information and feedback from the committee regarding communication and customer experience when interacting with staff at Town Hall and other related services. While feedback was actively provided during the session, it has not been included in these minutes, as all comments and observations were recorded directly by Ben Proulx. The feedback will be reviewed and processed by Catalyst as part of their ongoing work.
3. **Attendance / Regrets –** Regrets as noted. Welcome to new member Michelle Cleary.
4. **Acceptance of previous Minutes / Agenda**
Acceptance of minutes and agenda was not provided as this was not a formal meeting. Reports were sent by email to minute taker.
5. **Update from Rachel Fraser –**

New Vending Machine Vendor
Following a competitive process and negotiations, Coca-Cola has been selected as the new drink vendor for vending machines within the town for the next 5 years, with an option to extend for an additional 5 years. This procurement was led by the Town of Oakville's Purchasing Team and conducted through the "Halton Collective Purchasing Group (HCPG)", allowing the town to benefit from a collective purchasing power within the region and resulting in a financially favourable contract for the town.

Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts – Dance Season (Various dates)
"Dance Season" is a long-standing cultural tradition that is country wide, where most repertory theatres host annual final dance recitals throughout May and June. 12 Dance schools from Oakville and surrounding communities will showcase their students at the OCPA, all together presenting 27 shows between May 11th and June 24th.

Iroquois Ridge Community Centre Renovation Update

Renovations at Iroquois Ridge Community Centre began in January 2025 to upgrade essential infrastructure and enhance accessibility, safety, and comfort. Completed improvements include a fully accessible customer service desk, facility-wide tile replacement, and new heat pumps for consistent temperature control. The Iroquois Ridge pool remains closed due to unexpected underground conditions discovered during excavation. The reopening has been delayed from early summer to fall 2025. In response, aquatics programming has been expanded at White Oaks Pool, Falgarwood Outdoor Pool (opened May 21), and Lions Outdoor Pool (extended to mid-September).

Outdoor Pools

Outdoor pools open for the season starting with Falgarwood on May 21. Lions opens June 1; Brookdale, Bronte, and Wedgewood on June 14. Falgarwood offers early lessons in June. All pools offer evening/weekend swims; Lions also has daytime swims. Swim to Survive runs in June at all locations. Full programming starts June 28. Four pools close August 31; Lions stays open until Sept. 14.

Standing Agenda Items

Oakville is now accepting applications for the 2025 Community Activation Grant, offering up to \$1,000 to support resident-led initiatives that bring neighbours together and strengthen community connections. Now in its second year, this grant helps fund small-scale projects that enhance well-being and foster a sense of belonging. With \$35,000 allocated in the 2025 budget, the program continues to support meaningful community engagement. Residents, informal groups, and neighbourhood associations are encouraged to apply at least two months before their initiative date. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so early applications are recommended.

Feed Halton – Feeding Communities Together

Feed Halton's purpose is to ensure no one in Halton goes hungry and that all our food bank and community service partners' needs are met with enough supplies to serve their clients. Feed Halton with a generous matching donation from an Oakville family along with the Burlington Food Bank and Region of Halton has created the necessary infrastructure by which to address the projected food distribution shortfall with adequate resources and efficient utilization of those. Their impact is not only in servicing Agency Network partners with needed food but also to collect sector-wide data and better understand hunger in Halton to sustainably address and advocate on the issue. Our food banks will continue to need your support as there is tremendous need within our community.

Ship of Tolerance

Oakville Galleries presents the exhibition *Between Heaven and Earth* by Ilya & Emilia Kabakov at both of our gallery locations. *Between Heaven and Earth* highlights several of the artists' works, including paintings, prints and installations, and spills out into the gardens with several larger artworks. The largest installation is *The Ship of Tolerance*, a 60-foot long, hand-crafted wooden ship with sails made from children's paintings, presented lakeside in Gairloch Gardens for one year. Now, marking its 20th anniversary, its first appearance in Canada takes place at a critical time where a crossroads towards a new global order is visible. In Oakville, over 2,000 children from local schools and diverse community groups have played a part in creating *The Ship of Tolerance* project to date. These young participants converse together about inclusivity, different cultures, respect and creative ideas of the future, then they create paintings that express their visions of tolerance and how that shapes our collective future. A selection of the resulting paintings is sewn together to create the sail for the ship, while the remaining paintings are displayed in various locations in Oakville. Programmed to complement the exhibition and presented adjacent to *The Ship of Tolerance*, this year's Sunset Kino festival will run from June to July. Founded by Séamus Kealy in 2017 in Salzburg, Austria, Sunset Kino is Canada's only outdoor, avant-garde cinema. This year's theme is **WHAT WAS THAT** and will include films and programs by Ilya & Emilia Kabakov, Renée Helène Browne, Ala Roushan and others. Altogether this set of exhibitions, programs and installations is the most ambitious project by Oakville Galleries to date. *The Ship of Tolerance* is presented in collaboration with the Ilya and Emilia Kabakov Foundation, as well as with The National Gallery of Canada. The National Gallery of Canada's National Engagement initiative is generously supported by Michael Nesbitt, with additional funding from the National Gallery of Canada Foundation.

Meals on Wheels – Michelle Nichols

- Thank you to the SWAG members for your support with the elevator situation at Merchants Gate. We have been able to successfully deliver meals to all our clients. We have been late some days and missed the building staff, so the volunteers have carried the meals up the 6 flights of stairs. They truly are amazing!
- We have hired a summer student for an 8-week contract thanks to funding from the Canada Summer Jobs Program
- We launched a new menu on Monday May 5, 2025, with lighter options for the warmer months, now just need the weather to cooperate
- We are starting the preparations for our 50th Anniversary which will take place on Sunday October 4, 2026
- Two of our volunteers were the proud recipients of the King Charles Coronation Awards (Robin Jepson and Lyn Wilson)

- We celebrated our volunteers in April with a luncheon at Mo's Family Restaurant
- We proudly had 16 volunteers receive milestone awards from 5 Years to 35 Years length of Service

Senior Connector Update – Pat Moore

HRPS and Halton Healthcare partner to launch mental health support team. The partnership represents a significant step forward in providing comprehensive care to individuals experiencing mental health crises, said Claudia Barning, Program Director, Mental Health Addictions.

enVISION Oakville Update – Ruth Sheridan

Thank you so much for attending our OTMH research program webinar. I was pleased you were able to attend and thought you may wish to view the [Clinical Research Webinar Recording](#) and/or share it with your friends. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Deborah Bauder, Senior Director, Gift & Estate Planning, 289-218-0715

OAAC & Halton Age Friendly (HAFN)- Darlene Cox

Attached documents are from the Housing information that was presented at the May OAAC meeting. I hope you will take the time to read all of them as it is great information. If you want to discuss the reports, we could have an 'online 'meeting as we won't have time at our Wednesday SWAG meeting with two guest speakers. Of particular interest is the Burlington report. They will allow 3 additional modifications to the property of the already existing building. Because of this, they were given the Housing Incentive Grant from the Federal Government. Burlington set aside \$ 7,000,000 in the budget from this Program for Financial Incentives. It is a very aggressive look at Housing needs in Burlington and they have offered Financial Incentives to people wanting to extend their housing capabilities. Burlington is also unique in that it has virtually no more property left to build on. This could be an interesting discussion if anyone is interested. Please review all of them before responding.

Older Adult Isolation Table – Julie Pennal

No report this month.

	<p>Links2Wellbeing – Kelly Meeussen</p> <p>Currently we have had seven more Links2Wellbeing referrals from the hospital Older Adult Mental Health Clinic & two referrals from a community agency since the beginning of March. Jolaine will be connecting with them to find out what programs they would like to be involved in. There are a few Links2wellbeing clients that have recently been involved in programs which is encouraging.</p>
6.	<p>New Business Arising/Information Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder: June is Senior's Month Housing Symposium – Tuesday, June 17 from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Sir John Colborne Centre. Volunteers required day of. Please contact Julie Pennal at 905-815-5960. • Upcoming SWAG presents ideas? • Future guest speakers: June: Jennifer Vanlinkthout, Intake Coordinator CMHA, Halton Branch. September: Nancy Beddoe, The Death Café, Home Hospice Association. October: MPP Stephen Crawford Senior Healthcare.
7.	<p>NOTE: Next meeting is Wednesday, June 25 at 1:30 pm. This meeting will be hybrid (offered on Zoom and in-person) at the Colborne Centre.</p>
8.	<p>Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.</p>