



The Town of Oakville

Department of Recreation & Culture

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

Minutes – Wednesday, June 24, 2026

In Attendance: Darlene Cox, Pat Moore, Bev Cathro, Ruth Sheridan, Micheline Wheeler, Julie Pennal, Margaret Kirwin, Michele Cleary, Pierre Wong, Michelle Nichols, Councillor Duddeck, Ted Lambert.

Regrets: Brent Copeland

Minutes: Kelly Meeussen

Guests: **Stephen Crawford, Ontario Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement, Zahra Javaid, Legislative Assistant.**

Minister Crawford's thoughts on senior issues and programs available to assist seniors.

- Home and vehicle modification program: funded by province and administered by the March of Dimes Canada. Provides up to \$15,000 in a lifetime for essential home accessibility renovations and up to \$15,000 every 10 years for vehicle modifications. This program is for low income seniors.
- Ontario Seniors Care at Home Tax Credit: A refundable personal income tax credit designed to help low-to-moderate income seniors cover eligible medical and in-home care expenses.
- Property Tax Grant: Is an annual payment of up to \$500 that helps low-to-moderate-income senior homeowners offset their property taxes.
- Income Supplement: Guaranteed Annual Income System for Ontario seniors, provides a monthly, non-taxable payment to low-income residents aged 65 and older.
- Ontario Trillium Benefit: Is a tax-free, monthly payment that helps low-to-moderate-income residents offset the costs of energy, sales tax, and property taxes. It combines three separate tax credits into one convenient payment: the

Ontario Sales Tax Credit, the Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit, and the Northern Ontario Energy Credit.

SWAG concerns on senior issues

Ontario Health At Home: <https://ontariohealthathome.ca/> SWAG is concerned with what personal caregiving services will be available to them in the future so they can stay in their homes and age in place. Currently, sufficient services are not available.

- SWAG inquired about Nursing Homes Without Walls which is a very successful program in New Brunswick. It is a community-based program run by existing Long-Term Care facilities that provide vital support services to older adults. It allows seniors to safely "age in place" in their own homes for as long as possible. MP Crawford and Zahra will investigate a speaker for this topic.
- Minister Crawford will investigate Ontario supporting Hearing Aids that are ear buds and don't require an Audiologist or prescription.
- The Midtown Development as it is currently proposed is very concerning to all age groups in Oakville, but it will be particularly damaging to seniors or those disabled as it will make them isolated with very limited services available to them. This can lead to many serious health issues resulting from this isolation especially Dementia.
- Bill 97, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act was passed in April 2026. The Committee expressed their concerns about this Bill and the threat to the Freedom of Speech for news publishers.
- Removing the elected Chair of Halton Region and the Ontario Government appointing someone was very concerning to SWAG. It was felt that this was not necessary and a threat to our Democracy.

Call to Order

- Darlene Cox – 1:30 p.m.

Attendance / Regrets

Regrets as noted.

Acceptance of previous Minutes / Agenda

Margaret Kirwin, seconded by Michele Cleary, Carried.

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

Standing Items:

Councillor update: - Cathy Duddeck

- Rebecca Street will be closed from Third Line to Fourth Line from July 2nd to August 14th. Wastewater and infrastructure improvements.
- Notice has gone out to the community about the regional new wheeled cart program. Some areas in town have already commenced (pilot areas) and the remainder will be carried out prior to April 2027.
- Reminder that the Halton Regional Waste site will be no longer open on Sundays after the end of June. They open for the months of May and June for Sunday mornings only to assist with spring clean ups.
- Canada Day will take place in Bronte again this year and there are road closures for the area in anticipation of that day's festivities. Spectators are reminded to carpool or take public transit to and from the Bronte Waterfront Park. Increased municipal enforcement and police patrols will be in effect to hopefully prevent any problems with crowd dispersal.
- Heritage News:
- Metro Marina (the large building directly on the harbour's edge) is currently designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The town is considering reorienting the building to facilitate use of the building for community access and entertainment (food concession and seating).
- The former Oakville Trafalgar High School was the focus of discussion at Monday night's Council meeting. Council is pursuing the adaptive reuse of the site as an engineering report has confirmed that the building is structurally sound. We had a gentleman, Mr. Dan Chalykoff, present an excellent history of the site and the importance of its conservation. Click on the link below for more information.
[Watch the Dan Chalykoff Video.](#)
- Council recently approved a new development on Sixth Line (south of Upper Middle Road) for a six-storey mixed use building with 190 affordable housing units with office and daycare on the first floor.

Meals on Wheels – Michelle Nichols

- For five decades, Oakville Meals on Wheels has been supported by incredible volunteers, donors, and community members who have helped us deliver more than just meals, they've delivered care, connection, and compassion. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we're inviting you to be part of our story by making a one-time \$50 donation through our \$50 for 50 Years of Caring campaign. Your support helps continue to provide nutritious meals, friendly

visits, and informal wellness checks for those who rely on our services every day. <https://www.oakvillemealsonwheels.com/>

- 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.
- 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.
- MBA students from McMaster will be working with us this summer. They will be presenting work on financial stability to OMoW and their class.

Senior Connector Update – Pat Moore

- Pat shared information about Canada Strong Pass: a nationwide summer initiative offering free and discounted travel, park entry, and museum admission. Running from June 19 to September 7, 2026, the pass is completely automatic (no physical ticket or prior registration is required.)

enVISION Oakville Update – Ruth Sheridan

- Olivia announced a group walk event on June 28th in the Royal Botanical Garden.
- We booked 2 dates, Tuesday July 28th at 12 noon and Tuesday August 25th at 10:30 am. To cruise 16-mile Creek using the Charter Ability pontoon boats.
- Members look forward to attending the Oakville Wind Orchestra Sounds of Summer Concerts. Will start up soon. 6 performances are scheduled: July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4 and 11th at Bronte Park by the waterfront. The concerts start at 7:00 pm and are free.

OAAC - Darlene Cox

- Did not attend the meeting

Older Adult Isolation Table - Julie Pennal

- Attended workshop: Isolation and Loneliness by GenWell, Canada's Human Connection Movement, a registered charity dedicated to educating people on the health impacts of isolation and loneliness. They highlight that social disconnection is as detrimental to long-term health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, significantly increasing the risk of dementia, heart disease, and premature death.
- Darlene to reach out to see if we can arrange for a guest speaker.

Links2Wellbeing – Kelly Meeussen

- No report

Business Arising – Future Guest Speakers

- Upcoming presentations: AI with Chris Bint – September 22, 1-3 p.m. at SJC (ask for questions ahead of time) and Downsizing Divas – November 17, 1-3 p.m. at SJC.
- Seniors Services Open House – September 15, 9:30 a.m. Invite Region of Halton to display the new bins and answer questions.

Information sharing

Date of next meeting

Wednesday, August 26 at 1:30 p.m. at QEPCCC MP 1& 2 - Older Adult Strategy Engagement meeting.

Adjournment

3:30 p.m.