

The Town of Oakville

Department of Recreation & Culture

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

Minutes – November 22, 2023 via ZOOM

In Attendance: Darlene Cox, Julie Pennal, Ruth Sheridan, Jennifer McPetrie, Pat Moore, Margaret Kirwin, Michelle Nichols, Ted Lambert, Ruth Sheridan, Pierre Wong, Shahzi Yasmin Bokhari

Regrets: Beth Robertson, Councillor Duddeck

Guest: Shahzi Yasmin Bokhari – Connection in Action

Minutes: Kelly Meeussen

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

2. **Guest: Shahzi Yasmin Bokhari**

About Connection in Action

Connection in Action supports adults aged 55+ who live in Halton and want to increase their social connections to help prevent or reduce social isolation and loneliness. We offer two services:

1. Our Connection Specialist supports older adults one-on-one by sharing information about existing programs and services across Halton and will also help get them connected with the organizations and groups providing those programs and services.
2. Our LITE Education (Loneliness, Isolation to Empowerment) is a 3-hour education for all community members and service providers. Participants learn about risk factors and health impacts of isolation and loneliness, elder abuse, ageism, and age-friendly communities. Participants will gain the tools and skills to strengthen their support for older adults in our communities.

Learn more about Connection in Action on our website: www.ConnectionInAction.ca

About the Older Adult Isolation Action Table (OAI AT)

The OAI AT oversees the work of Connection in Action. This group has over 20 cross-sectors members including Acclaim Health, Links2Care, all 4 municipalities, Oakville Public Library, Oakville Meals on Wheels, Ontario Health Central, Public Health, and many more.

There are two Co-Chairs of the OAI AT:

1. Patricia Blakeley, Acclaim Health
2. Samantha Howard, Town of Halton Hills / Halton Hills Active Living Centre

The OAI AT meets quarterly as a large group. Members of the OAI AT also participate in one of our Working Groups. Our Working Groups meet monthly or as needed. All our meetings take place over Zoom. Currently, we have two active Working Groups, which are:

1. Referral and Connection

- This group supports the role of the Connection Specialist and helps to improve system navigation

2. Community Knowledge and Mobilization

- This group supports the role of the Community Engagement Lead and helps to plan our outreach and engagement strategy.

See the Halton NORC Google map here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1f6s4Y8Zn2rnGwn-eAizScvPiWQU57HU&ll=43.510027852998434%2C-79.92057872258772&z=10>

NORC stands for Naturally Occurring Retirement Community. Two requirements are necessary for a building to be considered a NORC:

- a building has at least 30% of its residents aged 65 and older
- **and** has at least 50 older adults living in the building.

NORC buildings include communities that **were** and **were not** intentionally designed for older adults. Note that long-term care and retirement homes are not considered NORCs.

Total number of NORC properties in Halton = 126

Burlington = 71

Oakville = 35

Milton = 11

Halton Hills = 9

Conducting a search using the NORC map

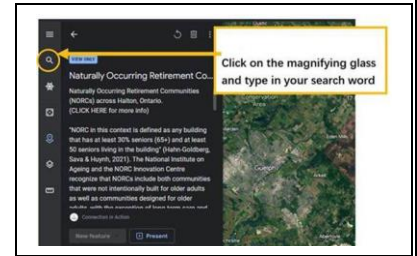
If you want to conduct a search using the NORC map, for example if you want to search for libraries closest to a NORC location, you can do so in **Google Earth**. Please note that Google Earth is not ideal and it may not be accessible for many users.

1. To conduct a search, first open this link:

<https://earth.google.com/web/@43.5104175,-79.8930985,201.25879077a,86846.39978511d,30y,0h,0t,0r/data=MigKJgokCiAxZjZzNEk4Wm4ycm5Hd24tZUFpelNjdIBpV1FVNTdIVSACOGMKATA>

2. Click on the magnifying glass located on the upper left-hand side (see image below).
3. Then, type in your search word and hit 'enter' on your keyboard. If the search results are not showing up on the area you desire, try moving the map around and click on the search button again.

- NORC Google map:
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1f6s4Y8Zn2rnGwn-eAizScvPiWQU57HU&ll=43.510027852998434%2C-79.92057872258772&z=10>



Request for SWAG representation on Halton’s Older Adult Isolation Action Table (OAI AT)

3. **Attendance / Regrets –** Regrets as noted.

4. **Acceptance of previous Minutes / Agenda**
 Pat Moore, seconded by Ted Lambert. Carried.

5. **Update from Jen McPetrie**

- Strike ended with a total of 11 days closure.
 - A collective agreement has been made and is in place for the next 4 years.
 - 2024 budget is in final review and a press release sent out today.
- 6.
- 4.38% tax increase
 - Public feedback is still welcome
 - Santa Claus parade last week and well attended.
 - Midtown workshops/engagement sessions coming up. Jennifer to share dates.
 - Jennifer can share link to transportation master plan.
 - Museum has a number of Christmas programs.
 - Hockey Canada team practice at 16 mile Community Centre.

Standing Agenda Items

- **Halton Age Friendly:** – no report provided.
- **Councillor update: Cathy Duddeck –**

Police have charged an individual who targeted 2 churches with vandalism/graffiti.

Midtown – Public Information meeting is tonight at Town Hall 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Budget 2024 process – we are currently looking at a 4.28% increase which is considerably lower than neighbouring municipalities.

Single Tier Government – there are discussions that are in the preliminary stages to explore the possibility of Oakville/Burlington/Milton/Halton Hills to separate from Halton Region and be a single municipality (versus the existing 2 tier municipalities)

Provincial changes – greenbelt has been reversed and now the urban boundary decision has also been reversed thereby preserving farmlands from expansion (previously Halton Region’s Official Plan to intensify without expanding our urban boundaries which was

overruled by the provincial government and sites such as Rattlesnake Point Golf Club could be residential development)

Regional portal for COVID booster and your pharmacy for High Dose Flu Vaccine for Seniors.

- **Oakville Meals on Wheels – Michelle Nichols**

- Successful Fall cookie fundraiser with a 34% increase in sales.
- Proud to be included in the Give Oakville catalogue.
- On November 20th we launched our Purdy's Chocolate holiday fundraiser please check out our website for more information.
- Celebrating Giving Tuesday on Nov 28 requesting community support to purchase a gift bag of chocolate to help fill our holiday gift bag for all our clients.
- OMoW presently have 147 active clients on the service and 35 subsidized clients.
- OMoW are honoured to be chosen as the charity of choice for a holiday house light show at 306 Leacock Ave. Stop by and check out the amazing lights!

The Ontario NonProfit Network released their 2023 State of the Sector: A Tipping Point report in mid-October. Here is a link to the report

<https://theonnc.ca/topics/advocacy/nonprofit-sector-surveys/>

ONN analysis and forecasting focused on demand for services, nonprofit sustainability, costs, and closures shows that by 2026:

- Every single nonprofit in Ontario will be experiencing an increase in demand for service.
- Only 17% of nonprofits will forecast financial sustainability for 12 months or more.
- Nonprofits will see a 131% increase in costs.
- There will be 63% of nonprofits knowing of similar organizations closing down and ceasing operations.

The loss of nonprofits and the benefits they provide will lead to less economically viable, less socially vibrant, and less connected communities. - ONN, 2023

Many of the Halton Nonprofits will come together on **Friday November 24, 2023** for an in-person discussion at St. Christopher's Anglican Church, 662 Guelph Line, Burlington to hear guest speaker Pamela Uppal-Sandu, Director of Policy, ONN who will share:

- Details on the provincial four-year trends on the state of the nonprofit sector in Ontario;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Halton-specific data from this years' ONN survey; and ○ ONNs policy recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senior Connector Update – Pat Moore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Congratulate Pam Damoff for 20 years as an Oakville Councillor. ○ Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. McMaster webinar. ○ Jude Soleman to connect with 2 volunteers suggested by Darlene. ○ Visit World of Threads at QEPCC. ● enVISION Oakville Update – Ruth Sheridan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The CNIB Mobile Hub will be held at Glenn Abbey Library, 1415 Third Line. The event will go from 11 AM to 2:30 PM. We will learn about the latest Smart Life gadgets and aids. <p>There will be a presentation about the Vision Mate program</p> <p>* Note - This event replaces our virtual zoom meeting originally scheduled for Nov. 27</p> <p><u>December 1</u></p> <p>enVision Oakville Christmas lunch at Mo's Family Diner, 467 Speers Road.</p> <p>13 members have signed up so far</p> <p><u>December 5</u></p> <p>In Person meeting #179 at Walton Memorial United Church, 2489 Lakeshore Rd. in Bronte held in the Bronte Hall room 10 AM to noon. Vera Orsini has arranged for guest speakers from the Halton Central Registry. This is a group that connects, high-risk adults, seniors, and their caregivers to the services they need. They will introduce themselves and tell us who they are, and what they do.</p> <p>OAAC – Darlene Cox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ no report provided
7.	<p>New Business Arising/Information Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SSU is getting requests for groups to offer services at the centre, such as home care, mobile eye care etc. Julie will be the initial contact to streamline the process. Offer option to advertise in our senior services newsletter, share posters and information.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CRA presentation – Thursday, January 18 via Zoom○ POA with Andrea Parliament in person presentation at the Colborne Centre on Tuesday, March 5 at 1 p.m.○ Other topics of interest: Death Café, North Star Mediation, Advance Care Planning.
8.	Date of next meeting – Wednesday, January 24, at 1:30 p.m. on Zoom