



TR.A.C.K. volunteers erecting an accessible garden at Acton's Community Garden. - Goretti Almada photos



## HDSB student trustees return for second term

## T.R.A.C.K. volunteers get dirty helping

The Halton District School Board is pleased to welcome back secondary school students Jovan Sahi and Sophie Schneider as the Board's Student Trustees for the 2015-16 school year.

Schneider, a Grade 11 student at Abbey Park High School, and Sahi, a Grade 11 student at Iroquois Ridge High School, were re-elected in their roles by Student Senate. The Board of Trustees unanimously ratified their appointments May 20.

Schneider and Sahi were first appointed to the role in 2014-15 and, in addition to bringing student voice to the Board table, they also served on the Ontario Student Trustees' Association during their first year.

"I'm incredibly honoured to be re-elected as a Student Trustee as the role is empowering, impactful, and truly life changing," says Schneider. "In the past year, I have witnessed and been a part of changes at the Board that contribute to the betterment of education for all students.

Being re-elected is a privilege and I will continue to work to improve the student voice."

"I am extremely humbled and honoured to serve the students of the Halton District School Board," says Sahi. "I will strive to bring forth the collective student perspective on all issues that impact students and their learning. The student voice is an important part of all decision making in Halton, and I will carry forward my responsibility to seek and share the voice of my fellow students."

Schneider's says her goals for the upcoming year include expanding the reach of Student Senate and continuing to strengthen the Halton Youth Leadership Symposium; Sahi's goals include ensuring schools are a place where students enjoy themselves and that students are continually empowered to be leaders.

The Trustees of the Halton District School Board would like to congratulate Schneider and Sahi on their re-election as Student Trustees.

"The Halton District School Board recognizes the importance of a student voice in the Board's decision-making process and is committed to providing that opportunity through the appointment of Student Trustees to the Board of Trustees," says Kelly Amos, Chair of the Halton District School Board. "Schneider's and Sahi's focus on bringing the student voice to the Board table and making use of Student Senate as a tool for learning and dialogue for the Ambassadors from all schools in Halton is a credit to their passion for making sure the students are represented. We look forward to the opportunity to work with them for another year."

By: Goretti Almada

The Acton Community Garden received some helping hands from teen volunteers from the T.R.A.C.K. program run by the Halton Regional Police. T.R.A.C.K. stands for Teen Random Acts of Community Kindness and was created by Constable Jody Dugas. She felt there was a need to help youth who needed extra-curricular activities, those in need of volunteer hours, or any youth ages 13 - 18 who want to work with police to make a difference in their community.

The youth work alongside volunteer police officers. Through this community work they build relationships, self-esteem, leadership, diversity, kindness, respect, trust and responsibility while completing fun and meaningful acts of kindness. The T.R.A.C.K. team meets monthly to help members of the community with events rotating throughout the region.

The belief is the every child has a special skill and something to contribute and sometimes it only takes one person to take an interest in a child to make them feel cared for and safe. It shows them there are people rooting for them and helps in forming intergenerational ties to the community.

The outcome is to leave every child feeling positive and thinking about the next act they can do whether it is helping a senior in their community or checking in on a neighbour.

This month's event was to help at the Acton Community Garden planting and building an accessible garden for the community. Constable Jody Dugas worked alongside the volunteers and encouraged them to participate incorporating all their abilities and skills.

The volunteers worked hard planting milkweed seedlings and seeds in the Butterfly Garden for monarch butterflies and bees.

The main event was the

building of the T-shaped accessible garden consisting of 4 pedestals and 3 tables. The volunteers did all the heavy digging, back filling with stone for drainage and soil for planting. The structure allows for people with mobility issues to stand while gardening and wheelchairs to roll under the tables to plant.

It looked fabulous when completed and the happy, smiling faces confirmed the feeling of pride and accomplishment.

Constable Jody Dugas is always looking for new ideas for meaningful acts. T.R.A.C.K. has other events coming up such as Habitat for Humanity event in August. You find further information at [www.haltonpolice.ca](http://www.haltonpolice.ca) under the tab Community Policing - Youth - TRACK or contact her at Cst. Jody Dugas 905-825-4747 ext. 5240 or 905-510-2843 Jody.Dugas@haltonpolice.ca

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