

## Canadian/Chinese Cultural photo exhibit kicks off Canada 150 celebrations

A fascinating and poignant exhibit of archival photos covering 100 years of Canadian/Chinese relations will be launched by Halton Hills' Mayor Rick Bonnette on Saturday, January 14 at 2 p.m. at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre.

"Canadians in Chengdu (China)" is a gift to Canadians from a group of Chinese historians, artists, and corporate donors. They began collecting and curating these photographs in 2007 to retain a period lost in China's post-revolutionary history.

The collection tells the story of courageous Canadian missionaries in China from 1892 to 1952, and their role in founding the West China Union University in Chengdu. Modern for its day, the university included the first Faculty of Dentistry in China. These Canadians loved China and worked under harsh condi-

tions, contributing to the country's medical and educational modernization, and leaving a lasting footprint. Some are buried there, and many gave their children Chinese names out of deep respect.

Hundreds of Chinese graduates of the university helped develop a modern health care system in China after 1949 to present day. Today, West China Medical Centre at Sichuan University is one of the largest health care teaching centres in China.

The original display is now housed in a dedicated museum just outside the major city of Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province. It was honoured by two Canadian Governors General - Michaëlle Jean and David Johnston, and featured at the Canadian Embassy in Beijing.

The exhibit is timely for the Town of Halton Hills. In a special ceremony on June

17, 2016, Mayor Bonnette and Secretary Dao Ming of Wenjiang District signed a historic agreement linking the two regions as Sister Cities.

"How fitting for the Town of Halton Hills to kick off its year-long Canada 150 celebrations by hosting a cultural showpiece that celebrates not only our recent history with Wenjiang and Chengdu: but over 100 years of shared knowledge, skills and compassion," said Mayor Bonnette.

Keynote Speakers at the event: Mayor Rick Bonnette, Kevin Best, whose grandfather was the first Professor of Medicine at the University, and Marion Walker, event organizer who attended school in Chengdu.

Media and the general public are warmly welcomed to the launch.

The exhibit runs from January 11 - February 26.

## Town of Halton Hills appoints Canada 150 community leaders

Today the Town of Halton Hills announced its participation in the Canada 150 Community Leaders network. Mayor Rick Bonnette is pleased to name Laurent Thibault, Alex Hilson and Connie Karlsson as the local voices for Halton Hills throughout Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation.

This network will be comprised of community leaders from thousands of municipalities across Canada, ensuring the municipal voice is front-and-centre during the year-long celebrations.

Recognizing that community building is nation building, this unique national network of community leaders will ensure that municipalities are showcased as part of the Canada 150 celebrations and beyond.

"As Halton Hills gears up for Canada 150, I am very pleased that we have these three experienced, dedicated individuals advocating for our Town's participation in this year of celebration," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

The individuals chosen as representatives from Halton Hills include three exceptional community advocates who contribute significantly to a number of worthy organizations. Halton Hills has benefitted from their strong activism and

many years of service.

Laurent Thibault is involved in the Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable, the Georgetown Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, and the Halton Healthcare Board of Directors.

Connie Karlsson founded the Inuit Outreach Project, a non-profit organization about building connections, bridging communities, and helping Inuit communities enhance their quality of life and achieve social justice.

Alex Hilson works for many organizations including Pevnet National Youth Advisory Board, the Inspire Halton Board, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Halton, and Links2Care.

"While cities and towns across Canada identify community leaders for our sesquicentennial, I am thrilled to have such strong representation here in Halton Hills with Connie, Laurent and Alex as key supporters of our celebrations," said Councillor Clark Somerville, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

For more information on the Canada 150 Community Leaders network, please visit the FCM website. Follow this network of local leaders on Twitter using #Muni150 and on Facebook.

## Halton Regional Police releases 2016 impaired driving statistics

*Overall number charged with driving under the influence down from 2015, but totals from RIDE up*

The Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) has released its impaired driving statistics for 2016, including its annual December RIDE campaign and overall year-over-year totals.

Results from RIDE, a program held from December 1 to 31 in partnership with community agencies such as MADD Canada and funded in part by the Ministry of Community Safety, are as follows:

- 266 roadside tests conducted
- 51 impaired driving arrests (this compares to 31 arrests during the same

- period in 2015)
- 47 three-day suspensions issued
- 2 seven-day suspensions issued
- 5 24-hour suspensions issued (G1/G2 drivers)

Overall impaired driving arrests in Halton Region, however, decreased from 425 in 2015 to 404 in 2016.

"Impaired driving by drug or alcohol is a threat to community safety, and the reality is it isn't a holiday, weekend or night-time problem," said Nishan Duraiappah, Deputy Chief of Police. "As such, it is and will remain a top priority for our Service all day,

every day of the year. Enforcement alone isn't the answer, and we will continue to partner with other organizations to weave elements of prevention and social development into our work towards enhancing traffic safety in our community."

In addition to enforcement programs like RIDE, officers conducted preventative projects at licensed establishments throughout Halton to educate patrons on impairment. Volunteers had the opportunity to check their blood alcohol levels

on-the-spot by providing breath samples into roadside screening devices. 52 men and women participated. Of these, 29 registered a pass (under 0.05 mg alcohol/100 ml blood), 15 a warning (between 0.05 and 0.08 mg alcohol/100 ml blood), and eight failed (over 0.08 mg alcohol/100 ml blood).

To ensure that the impaired driving message was heard by all drivers of all ages, High School Liaison Officers attended several Halton high schools to deliver its annual RIDE 101 education program. RIDE

101 teaches students about the influence drugs and alcohol can have on a driver's perception and ability to complete simple tasks by enabling them to experience the world through the lens of goggles that mimic its effects.

These measures and others are part of the Service's broader Community First policing philosophy that focuses on incorporating the four pillars of (community) safety and

well-being into service priorities: Emergency Response, Risk Intervention, Prevention, and Social Development. More information can be found at [www.haltonpolice.ca](http://www.haltonpolice.ca) under Community or by following @HaltonPolice on Twitter or Facebook.

In the meantime, residents are reminded that impaired driving is a crime in progress and to report it immediately by calling 9-1-1.

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