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Volunteers wanted: Help culture grow in Halton Hills

By **CHRIS MACEWAN**
HHCR Chair

Rock the Hills. The Red Door Gallery. The Big Daddy Festival. The Halton Hills Cultural Master Plan. Our new Community Brand, "Small Town Living at its Best".

Most residents of Halton Hills have heard of at least one (and hopefully more than one) of these initiatives. What, you might ask, do they have in common? The answer is: the Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable (HHCR).

Since 2009, the Board of the HHCR, consisting of a group of dedicated and diverse community volunteers and a part time executive director, has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to promote cultural activities here.

How does culture enhance your daily life? If you are involved in any of the arts, heritage, recreation or sports, then culture has an impact on you. The vision of the HHCR is to focus on the uniqueness of the region to facilitate the development of a culturally vibrant community where culture is integrated with our economic, social and environmental lives. Our goal is to make this happen in an exceptional way through partnerships with the Town of Halton Hills, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and the over 250 businesses, organizations and groups in Halton Hills that are already focused on culture.

The HHCR has, over the last few years, brought in over \$1 million in grant funds related to cultural activities in Halton Hills. These funds have gone to directly support the thousands of volunteer hours that have successfully driven the many events that the Roundtable is associated with.

As members of the board, we have to say that it is a pleasure to work for our community in this way. The opportunity to make positive changes to the community is a reward in itself, but meeting and working with all

the varied groups and individuals has given us insight into what a terrific community we live in and are a part of.

Interested? A first step could be to attend our next symposium in January 2015. It will be held Friday evening Jan. 30 and Saturday, Jan. 31 at the fabulously restored Acton Town Hall. The symposium offers a fun environment where people can listen to a thought provoking keynote address on Friday and participate in hands on workshops that address contemporary cultural issues on Saturday. Networking is a key element across the two days. For more information or to sign up to attend, please contact Don Ablett.

A second, extremely important way to become involved is through sponsorship. Many local businesses and individuals are already partners with us at the Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum levels. We would be delighted to discuss with you how you, too, can contribute. Please contact Beatrice Sharkey.

The third way is to volunteer. It is extremely satisfying to be a part of your local community at the volunteer level. It is a chance to get to know your community and to make positive change. This can be either at the Board level or through any of the many activities that we promote.

The HHCR also produces an electronic newsletter that informs people of cultural news and activities. If you are interested in receiving this, or would like to learn more about the Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable, please drop a line to Beatrice.

HHCR contacts:

- Executive Director Beatrice Sharkey, sharkey@look.ca
- Symposium Don Ablett, donablett@cogeco.ca
- HHCR Chair Chris Macewan, amacewan@cogeco.ca



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Thanks to the generous support of our many sponsors, the first annual Georgetown Soccer Club rep banquet was a tremendous success.

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- Georgetown Bowl	- La Vita Bakery	- Town of Halton Hills
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	- Living Lighting	- Wild Wing

Join us at our Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Night Thursday October 23rd 7:00pm, Devereaux House (11494 Trafalgar Rd)



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