

# POSSIBILITIES

OAKVILLE'S

2009

# VitalSigns

Presented by



OAKVILLE  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
**all for community.**

## Building Community Vitality

*Community Vitality: that unique spirit that flourishes when people believe that their community holds possibilities for everyone. It's put into action by:*

- people coming together
- getting involved in community issues
- providing volunteer and financial support for local causes and organizations

## Oakville Community Foundation

Building Community Vitality is the purpose, promise and passion of the Oakville Community Foundation (OCF). Over the past 15 years, the OCF has brought people together, connected donors to community needs and opportunities and helped build strong and resilient places to live, learn, work and play.

- We help build long-term solutions. We work with caring people to build endowments that ensure vital futures for our community. Together we have given grants of over \$12 Million to support community needs and assets.
- Vitality comes from all corners of our community; we grant funds to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives. The OCF has supported over 145 local charities.
- Vitality needs leadership; we bring people together throughout our town to stimulate new ideas, build participation and strengthen community philanthropy.

For more information about the Oakville Community Foundation or the Oakville Vital Signs Report please go to [www.theocf.org](http://www.theocf.org) or [www.oakvillesvitalsigns.ca](http://www.oakvillesvitalsigns.ca)

## Community Survey - Grading the Indicators:

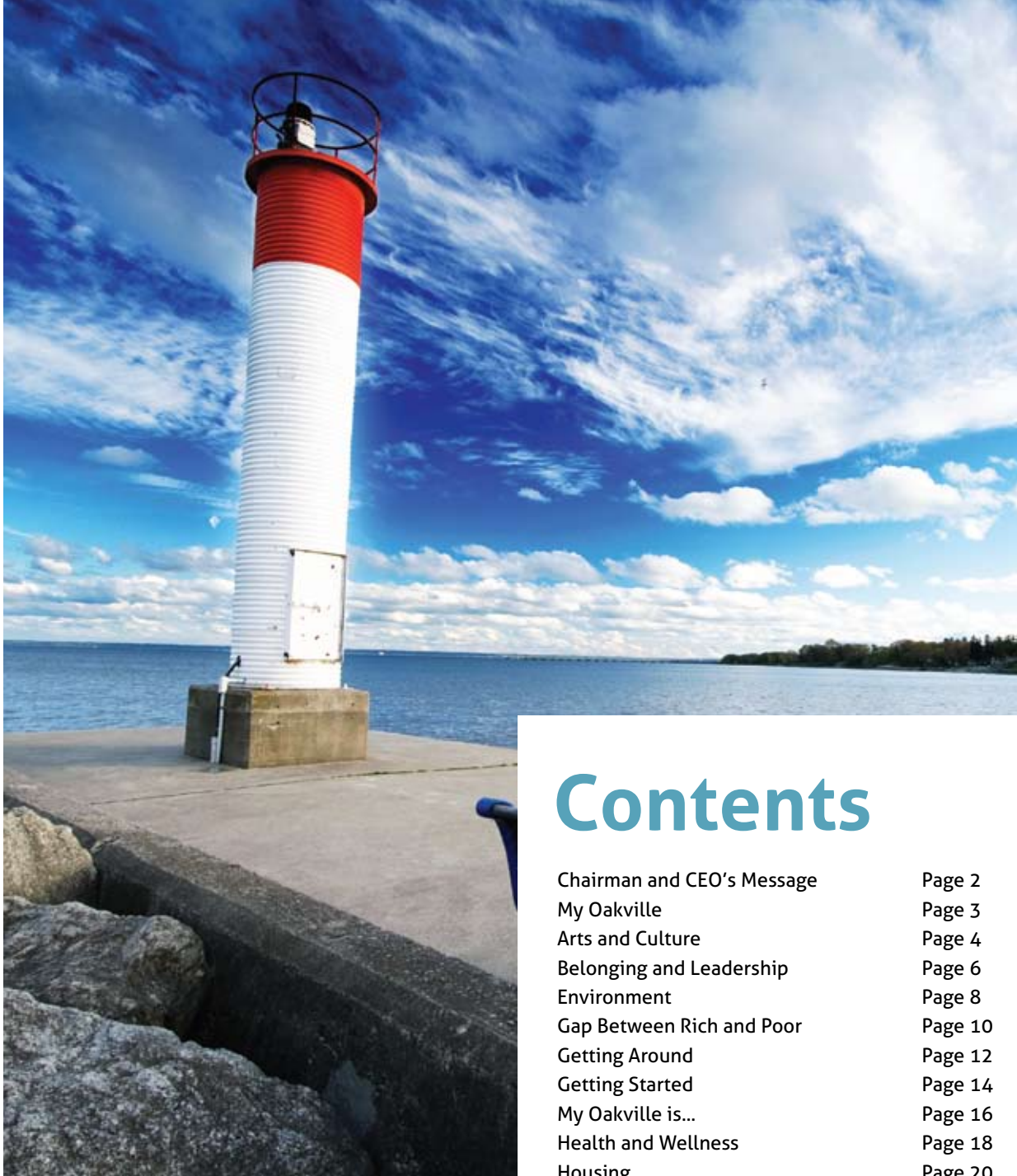
We invited and engaged as many members of the Oakville community as we could, both at the professional and citizen level, to help us grade how Oakville is doing on each of the indicators. The survey is not scientific. Its intention is to spark discussion. The grading survey was completed online and, with 100's of respondents, we believe it is a meaningful representation of people's opinions. The graders were asked to evaluate each indicator using the following grades:

- A: Oakville is doing great! Keep up the good work.
- B: We're doing well, but we still have some improvements to make.
- C: Satisfactory, but there is a need for more attention to this issue.
- D: It's a concern, and we need to do something about it right away.
- F: We're doing very poorly, and the situation is critical.

## What the Grades Mean. {B, 36%}

**B** - Grade given by community grader  
**36%** - Percentage of people giving it this grade  
In this case **36%** of the community graders gave the indicator a **B**.

For more information on the report, please see Methodology on page 32



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## Vital Signs 2009

"The obvious is that which is never seen until someone expresses it simply."

*Kahlil Gibran*

**Vital Signs 2009** helps identify some of the gaps that exist in our community as well as the assets which make our community strong and healthy. It is a "snapshot" of our Town - its purpose is to stimulate discussion of local issues and to find community solutions for the challenges that were identified.

## How you can use Vital Signs

**READ:** Find out about our community by reading **Vital Signs**. See where the gaps are, what assets we have and identify the trends.

**DISCUSS:** Reading the report is the first step, but we can't keep the knowledge to ourselves. Talk about the issues that are most important to you with your neighbours, co-workers, family, and friends.

**LEARN:** Pick out the issues in the report that you feel strongest about and learn more. Research on the internet, call local agencies, and take the time to understand as much of the issue as possible.

**REFLECT:** No asset or issue exists in isolation - all have an impact on each other. Your support of an issue creates new possibilities throughout our community.

**CONTACT:** Give us a call or send us an email. We know what's going on in the community and we can help you get connected with the appropriate organizations.

**ACT:** Advocate, initiate, and participate. There are plenty of things we can do in our own lives to affect change, and plenty more that we can do and/or speak up about. Here, in this report, you will find small, tangible things that we all can do as individuals and families to make a difference.

**SHARE:** Help spread the word. Give a copy of **Oakville's Vital Signs** to your neighbours and help them get involved.

**Dear members of our community:**

The Oakville Community Foundation (OCF) is all for community! This means we are all for a community which holds possibilities for everyone. We believe that by people coming together, getting involved in community issues and supporting local charities we can build a strong and resilient Oakville.

The OCF first undertook **Vital Signs** in 2008 to deepen our understanding and to raise urgent and critical awareness of key areas in our community. From housing to learning, from health to the environment, we looked at the gaps and trends which affect our citizens. **Vital Signs 2008** was used as a tool by a number of organizations throughout our Town – from budget and strategic planning, to building a case for support for local charities. Individuals also used **Vital Signs** as a conversation starter and to plan for their family’s charitable priorities.

As we introduce **Vital Signs 2009** many of the issues remain and new ones have been identified. Our goal this year is not only to raise awareness of local issues, but also to highlight some of the wonderful assets in our community.

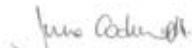
Our **Vital Signs** “community snap shot” seeks to inspire people – to create a sense of purpose and hope. By working together, we can build that community which holds possibilities for all. We can ensure people’s needs are met, from our most basic needs – sustenance and shelter – to those that give quality to life, such as places and opportunities to play, learn and create.

You can make a tangible difference in our Town. Join us and the over 95 families and organizations that have become a part of the OCF community in providing sustainable improvements to Oakville now and for future generations. Contact us to explore how you can leave your mark on your community.

The OCF is proud to present “**Possibilities – 2009 Vital Signs Oakville**”. Read it, use it, think about it, share it, discuss it and act on it.



Rusty Baillie  
CEO  
Oakville Community  
Foundation



June Cockwell  
Chair - Board of Directors  
Oakville Community  
Foundation



“Our thoughts and imagination are the only real limits to our possibilities.”

*Orison Marden*

**MY OAKVILLE IS**

**Total Census Families = 46,920**

- 2 Person = 17,630
- 3 Person = 10,570
- 4 Person = 13,120
- 5 Person = 5,600

**Children at Home (age)**

- <6 = 12,395
- 6 - 14 = 21,755
- 15 - 17 = 7,535
- 18 - 24 = 12,630
- >24 = 6,005

**Average number of children living at home = 1.30**

**Immigrants (defined as not born in Canada) = 50,250**

**Age Groups**

M		F
(17,535)	0 - 14	(16,715)
(11,255)	15 - 24	(10,860)
(8,245)	25 - 34	(9,390)
(13,470)	35 - 44	(14,915)
(12,995)	45 - 54	(13,380)
(8,300)	55 - 64	(8,775)
(8,535)	65+	(10,825)

**Economy**

Largest Employment Groups

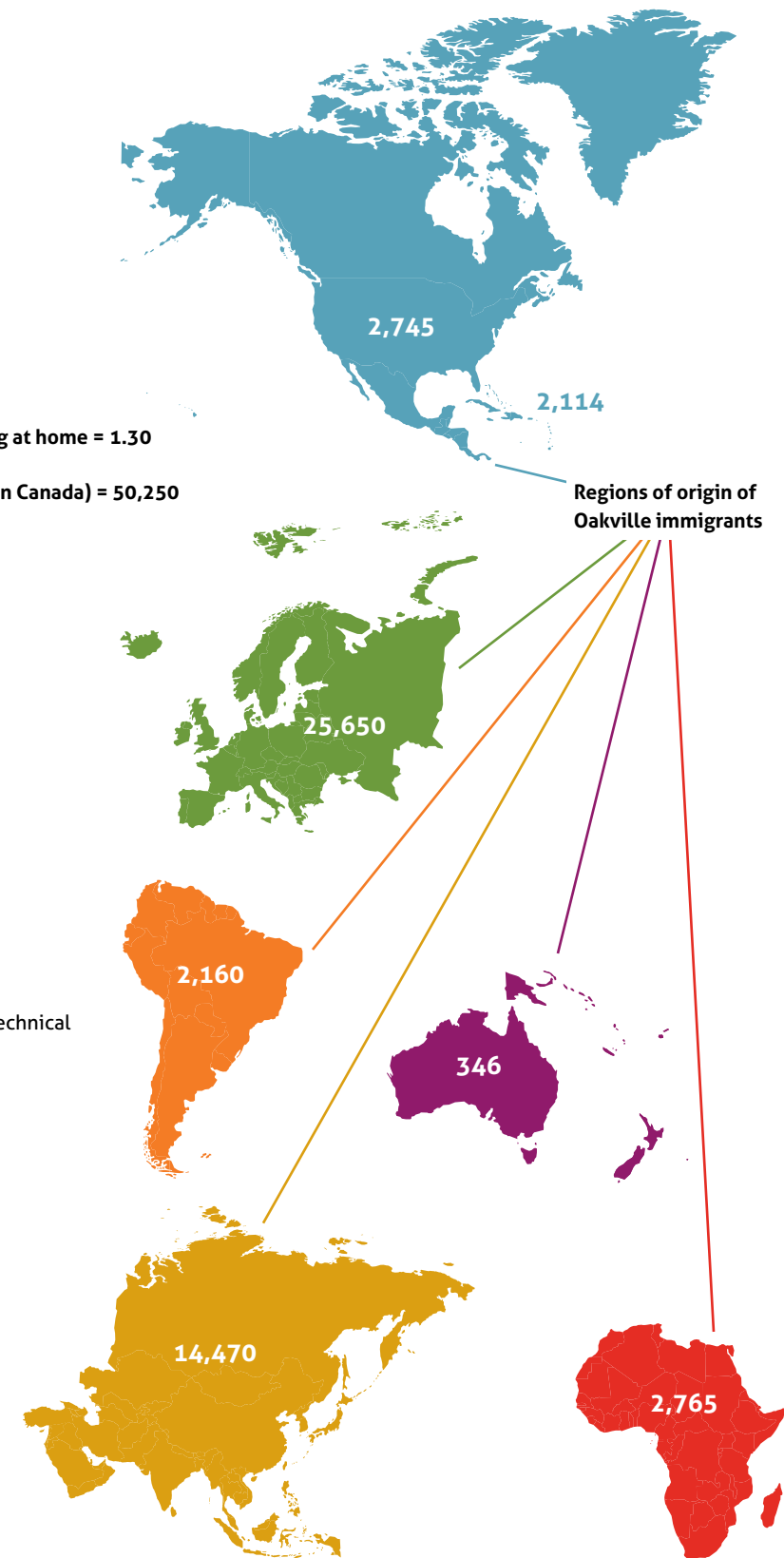
1. Sales & Service
2. Business & Finance
3. Management

Three Largest Industries

1. Professional, Scientific and Technical
2. Manufacturing
3. Retail Trade

**Most Common Mother Tongues**

1. Italian
2. Spanish
3. Portuguese
4. German
5. Polish
6. Punjabi
7. Hindi





# Arts and Culture (B)

*All people should have access to and support flourishing arts, culture, and heritage.*

## What Can I Do?

- Support local productions and cultural events
- Lobby local Boards of Education to keep and widen their arts programmes
- Share your skills and heritage with your family and community

“Studies have found that youth involvement in arts programs decreases delinquent behaviours, improves academic achievement, and improves attitudes towards self and community.”

## Library Use as Circulations Per Capita {B, 36%}

In 2007, the number of books, CD's, and DVD's circulated per capita in the Oakville Public Library System was 12.41. This represents a 9.3% decrease in circulations per capita from 2005. This decrease could be attributed to the increased online presence of library patrons, particularly among students.

## Attendance at Oakville Galleries {B, 38%}

In 2008, there were 23,249 attendees to gallery exhibitions and programmes at the Oakville Galleries, an increase of 0.3% from 2007.  
[www.oakvillegalleries.com](http://www.oakvillegalleries.com)

## Oakville Center for The Performing Arts {B, 39%}

In 2008, 74% of tickets to the Oakville Center for the Performing Arts events were sold out, a decrease of 9.8% from 2007. Performing Arts Centres in other municipalities reported larger decreases in attendance between 2007 and 2008.  
[www.oakvillecentre.ca](http://www.oakvillecentre.ca)

## Five Year Olds Participating in Arts Programs {B, 32%}

In 2006, 41% of 5 year olds in Oakville had participated in a music, arts, or dance program in the past 12 months, compared to 45% of 5 year olds in 2003.

## Graders' Priority - Volunteers with Organizations Which Received Cultural Grants {Tie: A, 36%; B, 36%}

In 2008, the first year of measurement, a total of 45,517 volunteer hours were devoted to Oakville organizations that received cultural grants.



Oakville Public Library

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Oakville Public Libraries - *Bringing people and ideas together*

The Oakville Public Library provides opportunities for residents to meet each other and experience new ideas - in one of their welcoming and friendly branches, at one of their many programs, or online through their interactive and innovative website. The Library also serves the changing needs of our community as it reaches out to youth, seniors, job seekers, entrepreneurs and newcomers to Canada. The library is truly for everyone!

To find out more, go to [www.opl.on.ca](http://www.opl.on.ca)



# Belonging and Leadership (B)

*All residents should feel a part of the community, and should be able to actively participate in community life.*

## What Can I Do?

- Be a volunteer. Contact the Volunteer Centre at [www.volunteerhalton.ca](http://www.volunteerhalton.ca)
- Read the local newspaper to know the issues
- Ask questions of our politicians

“In Halton, over two-thirds of the population aged 15 and older volunteer in their community, averaging 3 volunteer hours per week.”

## Change in the Proportion of Visible Minorities {B, 34%}

In 2006, 18% of Oakville's population was made up of visible minorities, an increase of 38.5% since 2001. The largest visible minority groups are South Asian and Chinese.

## Five Year Growth in Youth {A, 31%}

Between 2001 and 2006, the number of youth aged 13 to 19 in Oakville increased 23%. Over the same time period, the number of youth aged 13 to 19 in Ontario increased 8%.

## Generational Status {B, 33%}

In 2006, 37.5% of Oakville residents over the age of 15 were first generation Canadians, 25.0% were second generation Canadians, and 37.5% were third generation or more. Halton, by comparison, was made up of 30.2% first generation, 24.8% second generation, and 45.0% third generation.

## Graders' Priority - Charitable Donors as Proportion of Tax Filers {C, 31%}

In 2007, 31.2% of Oakville tax filers reported giving charitable donations, a decrease of 9.6% since 2000.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Halton Multicultural Council - *Fostering mutual respect and understanding*

The Halton Multicultural Council is dedicated to enabling every individual, regardless of race or ethnic origin, to participate as full and active members of the community through fostering mutual respect and understanding of one another. Halton Multicultural Council assists the settlement and integration of newcomers by providing free services including settlement services, language training, housing, employment, interpretation, translation, anti-discrimination, youth training and organizational diversity training in the community.

**For more information, go to:**  
[www.halton-multicultural.org](http://www.halton-multicultural.org)





# Environment (C+)

*People and the environment should coexist to the benefit of both and the detriment of neither.*

## What Can I Do?

- Take part in community tree-planting days
- Minimize use of non-renewable resources
- Walk or use public transit whenever possible



“Oakville was named the Canadian Forest Capital of the Year in 2007 by the Canadian Forestry Association.”

## Suspended Solids in Waterways {B, 36%}

Between 2006 and 2007, suspended sediment concentration in 16 Mile Creek decreased 15.3% (from 7.2 mg/L to 6.1 mg/L). The suspended sediment concentration should remain below 25 mg/L to maintain healthy aquatic life.

## Waste Per Capita {C, 38%}

Between 2003 and 2007, Oakville's waste diverted from landfills into recycling or re-use programs increased 1.7% (130 kg/person to 132.2 kg/person), while waste ending up in landfills decreased 6.8% (248.6 kg/person to 231.8 kg/person). Halton Region mandates that 60% of waste should be diverted from landfills. Based on the above numbers, the 2007 diversion rate was 57%.

## Trails Per Capita {A, 49%}

Oakville has an average of 0.845 km of trails per 1,000 residents. Southern Ontario municipalities have an average of 0.4 km per 1,000 residents.

## Beach Closings {D, 61%}

In 2007, Bronte Park Beach was closed due to poor water quality for 46% of the summer season, compared to no closings in 2005.

## Graders' Priority - Chloride Levels {D, 35%}

Between 2006 and 2007, chloride levels in 16 Mile Creek increased 57% (to 157 mg/L). This was below the provincial guideline of 250 mg/L. Phosphorus and chloride at elevated levels can be toxic to freshwater organisms and prevent the proper growth of aquatic communities.

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## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Town of Oakville: Department of Environment - Protecting, restoring and enhancing Oakville's environment

The Town of Oakville has developed an Environmental Strategic Plan to help protect and enhance the environment in Oakville. In 2008, the Department was directly involved in implementing over a 100 community awareness and outreach activities promoting the environment and stewardship. For more information, visit the Town of Oakville's website at [www.oakville.ca](http://www.oakville.ca)



# Gap Between Rich and Poor (D)

Everyone should have a healthy standard of living.

## What Can I Do?

- Support local charities and/or get involved in local issues



“Between 2001 and 2006 in Halton, there was a 44 % increase in the number of families living below the poverty line. During this same time, Ontario saw a 7 % increase, and Canada saw a 4 % decrease.”

## 90th / 10th Percentile Income Ratio {D, 41%}

In 2006, 10% of Oakville's lowest income residents made \$28,400 or less, and 10% of highest income residents made \$259,400 or more per year. This is the third highest gap between the rich and poor in the country among Vital Signs communities, after Toronto and Vancouver.

## Prevalence of Low Income Among Physically Limited Population Group {D, 57%}

In 2006, 15% of the 22,140 people in Oakville who reported having physical difficulties or limitations in their daily activities were also living below the poverty line. Halton, by comparison, had 12.7% of residents with activity limitations living below the poverty line.

## Prevalence of Low Income Among Immigrants {D, 48%}

In 2006, 13.7% of Oakville immigrants lived below the poverty line, compared to 9.7% of the total Oakville population.

## Prevalence of Low Income by Population Group {D, 51%}

In 2005, 29.1% of people in Oakville who lived either alone or with unrelated roommates were earning below the poverty line, compared to 24.4% in Burlington and 17.6% in Milton.

## Graders' Priority - {D, 52%}

In 2005, 9.4% of seniors in Oakville were living below the poverty line, compared to 10.9% in Burlington and 5.7% in Milton.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### United Way of Oakville (UWO) - *Strengthening our community*

For more than 50 years, United Way of Oakville (UWO) has helped bring people and resources together to strengthen our community. UWO funds a network of over 30 human and social service agencies serving more than 30,000 people right here in our community. In addition, UWO's Training & Consulting Program provides staff and volunteers throughout the non-profit sector with low-cost professional development workshops and online e-learning. To find out more about the United Way of Oakville please visit [www.uwoakville.org](http://www.uwoakville.org)



# Getting Around



*People should be able to get to where they need to go in a timely, accessible, and environmentally-friendly manner.*

#### What Can I Do?

- Encourage businesses to install bicycle lock-ups for customers
- Use public transit whenever possible

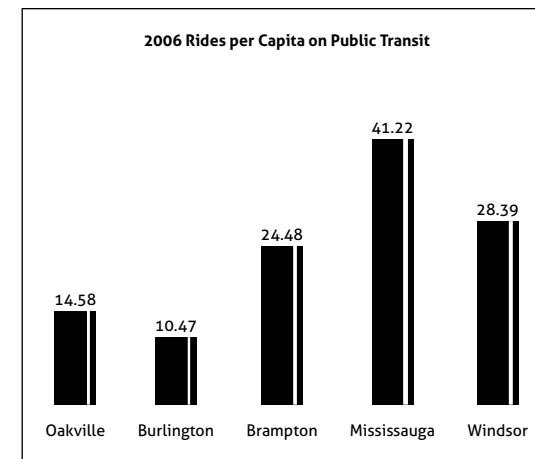


**“Oakville’s beautiful Heritage Trails, a joint project of the Oakville Community Foundation and Town of Oakville, covers 57 kilometers and are accessible to walkers, joggers and cyclists. Information stations also tell stories about our land and people.”**

#### Rides Per Capita on Public Transit {D, 45%}

Between 2005 and 2007 there was a decrease of 8.9% in the number of rides per capita (to 14.22) on Oakville Transit buses. As total boardings have increased since 2005, the decrease in rides per capita means that transit use has not kept pace with Oakville’s population growth.

2006 Rides per capita: Oakville = 14.58; Burlington = 10.47; Brampton = 24.48; Mississauga = 41.22; Windsor = 28.39



#### Graders’ Priority - Activity Limitation by Age Group {D, 52%}

In 2006, 48.5% of Oakville residents 65 or older faced difficulties or limitations in their daily activities.

#### COMMUNITY PROFILE

**Oakville Transit - To be the transportation means of choice through innovative, creative, responsive and customer focused service delivery**

In September 2009, a new grid system service design was introduced to provide riders with more convenience, more choice and more connections than ever before. Other improvements include continuing to purchase low floor buses to make transit more accessible and use of bike racks on all the buses. New bus stop signs, new shelters and the completion of the Uptown Core Terminal will be introduced. A new terminal at Sheridan College, constructed in partnership with GO Transit and Sheridan, will improve connection opportunities and passenger amenities. **Want to know more? Go to [www.oakvilletransit.com/serviceplan.htm](http://www.oakvilletransit.com/serviceplan.htm)**



# Getting Started (D+)

*Everyone should have a successful start in life as a child, adult, or newcomer to Oakville.*

## What Can I Do?

- Get involved, support agencies helping our newcomers and our youth
- Help young people get jobs - hire a student
- Welcome newcomers in your neighbourhood



**“42% of Oakville schools have implemented a breakfast program.”**

## Older Children Living at Home {C, 40%}

Between 1996 and 2006, the number of adult children 25 years or older who were living at home with their parents increased by 58% in Oakville, compared to an increase of 44% across Halton.

## Median Income for Recent Immigrants {D, 46%}

In 2006 in Oakville, the median individual income for a recent immigrant (someone who arrived in Canada between 2001 and 2006) was \$17,393, compared to \$37,702 for the general population. This compares to \$29,335 for the general population in Ontario.

## Youth Unemployment {D, 59%}

In 2006, 14.8% of youth aged 15 to 24 were unemployed, an increase of 25.4% since 2001.

## Recent Immigrant Youth and Children {C, 43%}

In 2006 in Oakville, 42.2% of the 6,820 recent immigrants (arriving between 2001 and 2006) were under the age of 25, compared to 36.4% in the rest of Halton.

## Graders' Priority - Recent Immigrant Poverty Level {D, 51%}

In 2006, 29.4% of recent immigrants in Oakville lived below the poverty line. The percentage of low-income immigrants becomes more pronounced as the period of immigration becomes more recent.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

**Oak Park Moms and Tots Neighbourhood Centre - Connecting parents, grandparents, newcomers, caregivers and children within their own neighbourhood - for their own neighbourhood**

Last year, Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre served 430 families and 570 children. Thanks to support from the local community, Oak Park has created an inviting, barrier-free space for families to participate in a variety of programs. It has become a place where people gather to meet and support each other. The Centre is a reflection of the needs, talents and gifts of neighbours and friends so that it is relevant and inviting to the whole community.

**For more information about Oak Parks Moms and Tots Neighbourhood Centre visit their website at: [www.oakparkmomsandtots.ca](http://www.oakparkmomsandtots.ca)**





**“My Oakville is a safe and inclusive community.”**

Insp. Jackie Gordon

**“My Oakville is Home Suite Hope.”**

RB

**“My Oakville is a different town than the one I grew up in 30 years ago, but one that I am still glad to call home.”**

Sue Vernon-Smith

**“My Oakville is where people help one another without expecting anything in return, where people welcome and embrace diversity with open arms.”**

Michelle Braida  
Principal, St. James School

**“My Oakville is constantly changing.”**

Dave Stringer

**“My Oakville is the ideal community to raise my family.”**

Deb Thompson

**“My Oakville is an unexpected gem. It’s welcoming, friendly and open to minority groups.”**

Rabbi Stephen Wise  
Shaarei-Beth El Synagogue

**“My Oakville is caring and compassionate.”**

Daryl Hall  
Executive Director - Halton Trauma

**“My Oakville is always working to be a better community.”**

Kevin Flynn  
M.P.P.

**“My Oakville is a digital media and creative hub.”**

Sylvia Teichtmeister

**“My Oakville is solid gold.”**

RP- Age 15

**“My Oakville is my new home.”**

PP - New Canadian

**“My Oakville is green space.”**

Angela B.



# Health and Wellness (C-)

*All residents should have the ability to attain complete physical, mental, and social well-being.*

## What Can I Do?

- Model responsible drinking for your children
- Learn positive ways of coping with stress: meditate, exercise, socialize
- Take a CPR or First Aid course
- Get regular check-ups



**“While illicit drug use in Canada has generally been declining, the prevalence of heavy drinking has been increasing, particularly among young people aged 15 to 25.”**

## Smoking Rates {B, 37%}

In 2007 in Halton, 18.3% of residents aged 12 and older reported being current smokers, a decrease of 12% since 2003. Oakville residents were statistically similar to Halton residents in this regard.

## Binge Drinking {D, 39%}

Binge drinking is defined as having 5 or more drinks on one occasion, and applies equally to teenagers as well as adults. In 2005 in Oakville, 13.6% of individuals 12 years of age and older reported binge drinking once a month or more. In Halton by comparison, 16.8% of individuals said they binge drink once a month or more.

## Regular Physician {D, 33%}

Between 2003 and 2007, there was a 20% increase in the proportion of Oakville residents over the age of 12 who did not have a regular physician. During the same time period, Ontario and Canada had increases in their proportions of regular physicians of 16.6% and 7% respectively.

*Good news: statistics released after the Vital Signs survey reveal that between 2007 and 2008 there was a 46% decrease in the proportion of Oakville residents who did not have a regular physician.*

## Graders' Priority - Dental Insurance Rates {D, 42%}

In 2005 in Oakville, 22.5% of individuals had no insurance for dental expenses. This compares to Halton overall, where 24.2% of individuals had no dental coverage. Dental coverage rates experience large drops for young adults who are students or who are no longer covered under their parents' plan and for retired seniors.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### YMCA of Oakville - Building a stronger, more caring community

The YMCA is committed to providing an inclusive and engaging environment that provides all members with life-long opportunities for health enhancement and personal growth. Regardless of the program or service they are engaged in, members, whether children, families or adults, can feel involved and connected. Last year the YMCA extended over \$613,000 in member subsidies for low-income families and individuals. **For more information, go to: [www.ymcaofokville.com](http://www.ymcaofokville.com)**

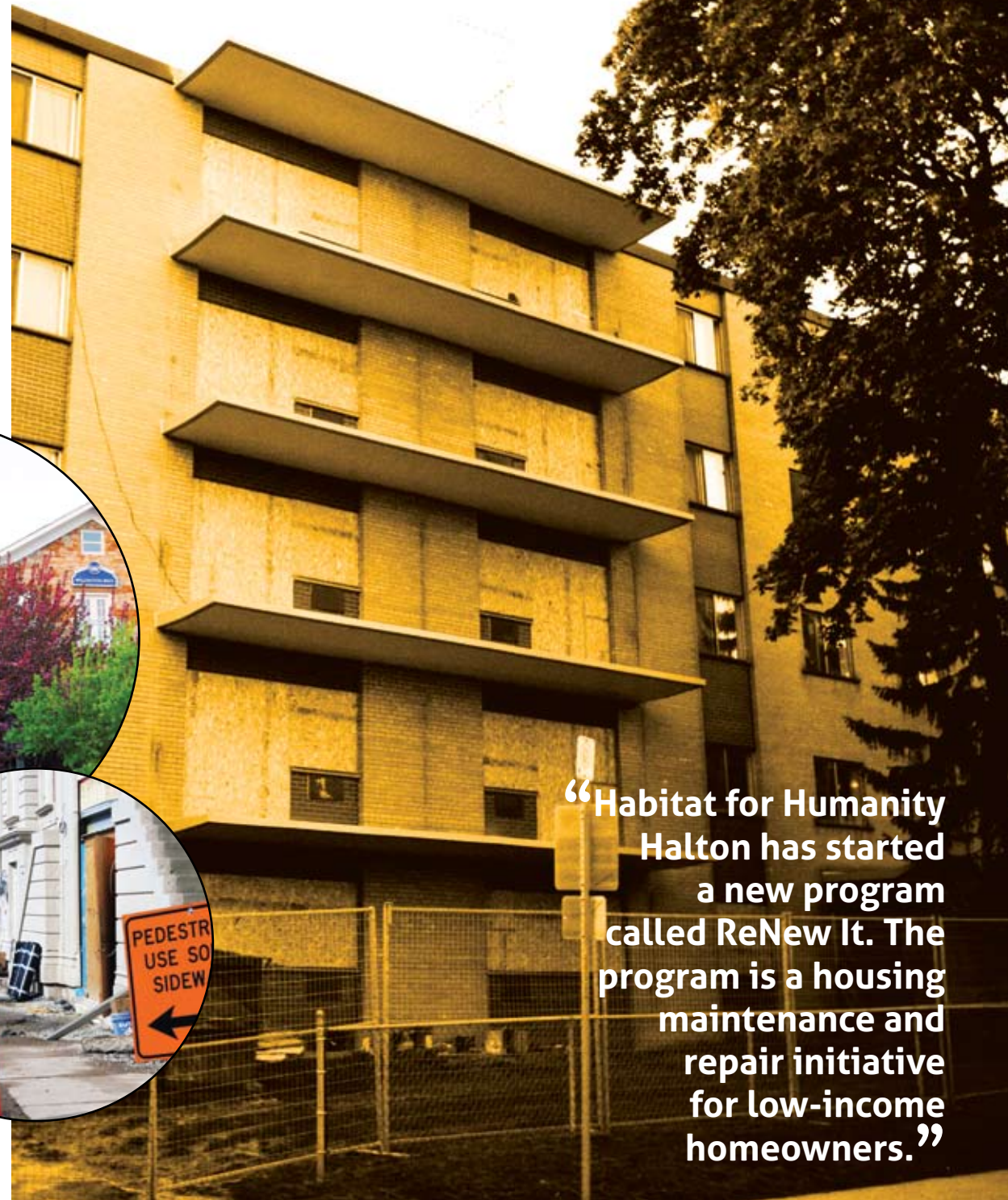


# Housing (B-)

*Everyone should have access to affordable, comfortable, and safe housing.*

## What Can I Do?

- Lobby for more affordable housing
- Support local agencies working to reduce homelessness



**“Habitat for Humanity Halton has started a new program called ReNew It. The program is a housing maintenance and repair initiative for low-income homeowners.”**

## Mobility From 2001-2006 {B, 36%}

Between 2001 and 2006, 25.1% of Oakville residents were newcomers. In Halton, only Milton (at 47%) had a higher percentage of newcomers.

## Owned Home Value {A, 32%}

In 2006 in Oakville, the average value of an owned home was \$472,244, compared to \$297,479 provincially.

## Cost of a Starter Home {C, 36%}

Between 2007 and 2008 in Oakville, the cost of a three bedroom, single-storey home decreased from \$300,000 to \$267,000. In Halton during this time, there was a corresponding decrease from \$317,462 to \$302,374.

## Graders' Priority - Major Home Payments Among Senior Citizens {D, 38%}

In 2006, 20.9% of Oakville seniors who owned a home were making major house payments greater than 30% of their monthly income. By comparison, 18.6% of Burlington seniors were making major house payments greater than 30% of their monthly income.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Home Suite Hope - *Providing local solutions to local homelessness*

Home Suite Hope (HSH) is an innovative local homeless initiative that provides shared living accommodation and develops life skills for local individuals and families. The registered charity's mission is to provide innovative affordable accommodation; offer options to achieve individual potential; create shared community; and inspire hope. HSH responds to Halton residents who are homeless or in a housing crisis (being evicted) by providing stable, affordable transitional housing. To learn more, go to [www.homesuitehope.org](http://www.homesuitehope.org)



# Learning (B)

*Everyone should have the opportunity to realize their learning potential at all stages of life.*

## What Can I Do?

- Lobby for more support for early intervention services for children with special needs
- Read with and to your child
- Help a senior citizen learn to use the Internet



**“As of July, 2009 ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development has 691 children on the wait list for services in Halton. This includes programs for Preschool Speech and Language, Child and Youth Rehabilitation, and Autism Intervention Services.”**

## Post-Secondary Education Rate {B, 41%}

In 2006 in Oakville, 61.7% of residents had completed post-secondary education, compared to 51.0% across Ontario.

## Composite Learning Index Scores {B, 42%}

The Composite Learning Index (CLI) measures, through a variety of indicators, how communities learn, both as children and as adults. In 2009, Oakville scored 80 on the CLI, compared to 74 in 2006, and the 2009 Ontario score of 78.

## Aboriginal Population with High School Diploma {B, 43%}

In 2006, 80.2% of the 665 aboriginal residents in Oakville had completed high school. This compares to the Ontario average of 62.4%.

## Graders' Priority - Grade 10's passing Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) {B, 39%}

In 2006 in Oakville, 91% of grade 10 students passed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, compared to 92% in 2003.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### HIPPY Oakville - *Helping our community, help parents to help their children*

HIPPY sends Home Visitors into the homes of vulnerable families to present a 30 week curriculum which prepares 3, 4 and 5 year olds for success in Kindergarten. HIPPY is an international program started in 1968 which is presently offered in 8 countries around the world. HIPPY helps 3 constituents: the mothers who develop confidence in their skills, and improve their own literacy while they develop a better relationship with their children; the children who enter school ready to learn and the home visitors who obtain job training. For more information, go to [www.hippoakville.org](http://www.hippoakville.org)

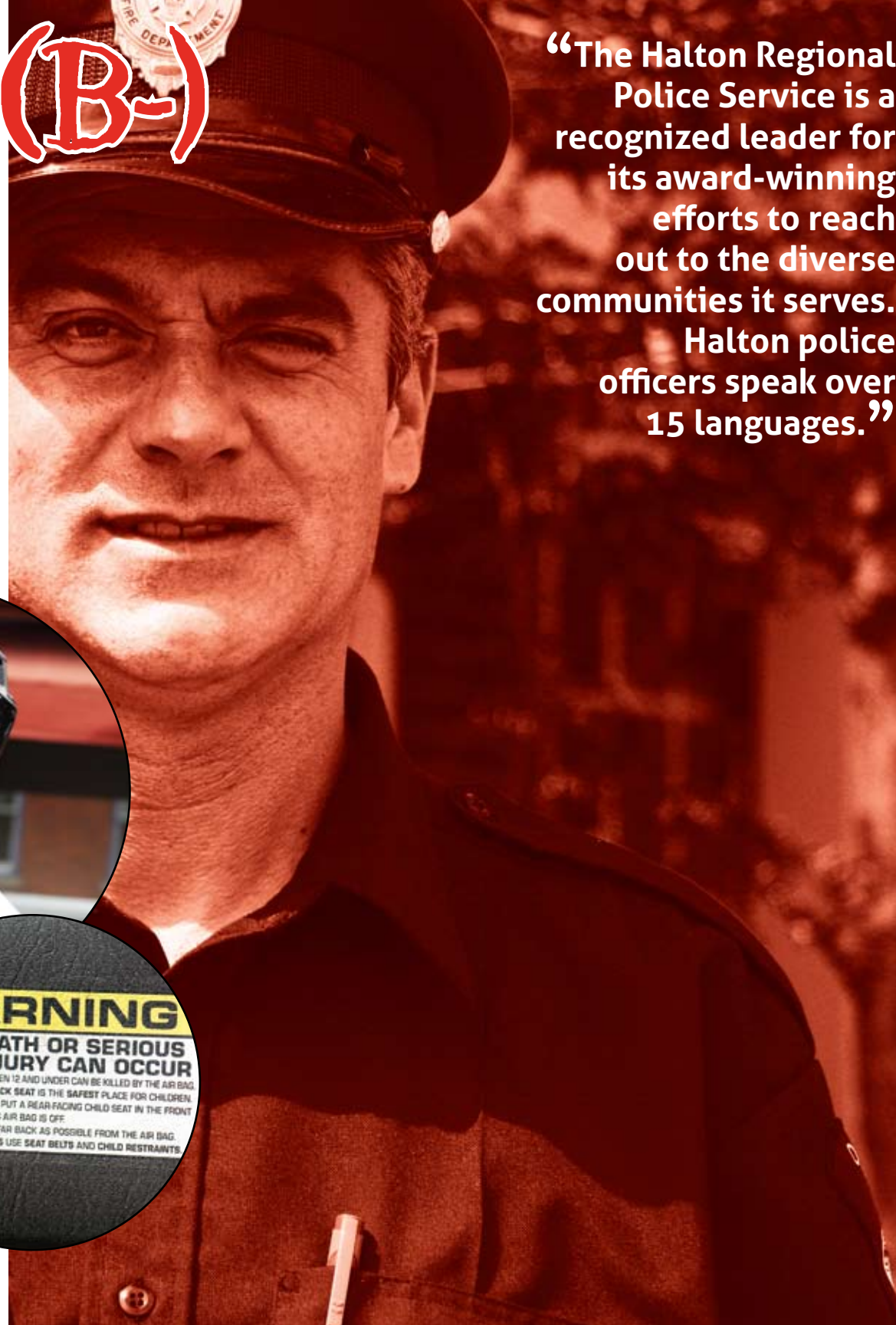


# Safety (B-)

*Everyone should feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods.*

## What Can I Do?

- Report crimes
- Follow fire prevention rules
- Report hazards such as burnt out street lights, sidewalks which are uneven
- Clear ice and snow from your walks and driveway



“The Halton Regional Police Service is a recognized leader for its award-winning efforts to reach out to the diverse communities it serves. Halton police officers speak over 15 languages.”

## Adult Males and Females Charged {C, 40%}

Between 2001 and 2007 in Oakville, the number of adult males charged with a crime decreased 12% (2,774 to 2,455), while the number of adult females charged with a crime increased 12% (588 to 657).

## Youth Charged {B, 41%}

In 2007, 668 youth were charged with a crime in Oakville, compared to 862 in 2001, a decrease of 23%.

Adult Males, Females and Youth Charged with a Crime

Year	Adult Males	Adult Females	Youth
2007	2455	657	688
2006	2415	590	651
2005	2535	709	738
2004	2727	605	703

## Graders' Priority - Violent, Property, and Other Crimes {B, 50%}

Between 2007 and 2008 in Oakville, violent crimes decreased by 7.1%, property crime decreased 4.7%, and other crimes decreased 17.9%.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Oakville Fire Department - *Protecting the lives and property of the inhabitants of Oakville*

The Oakville Fire Department accomplishes its mission through prevention, education, fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services and other related activities. They effectively and efficiently utilize all of the necessary resources at their command to provide a product deemed excellent by our citizens. This year a second rescue truck will be placed in service to meet the growing need for additional on-scene firefighting personnel and for an improved method of providing specialized rescue services. A new computer aided dispatch and records management system will be implemented by 2010.

To find out more, visit [www.oakvillefire.ca](http://www.oakvillefire.ca)

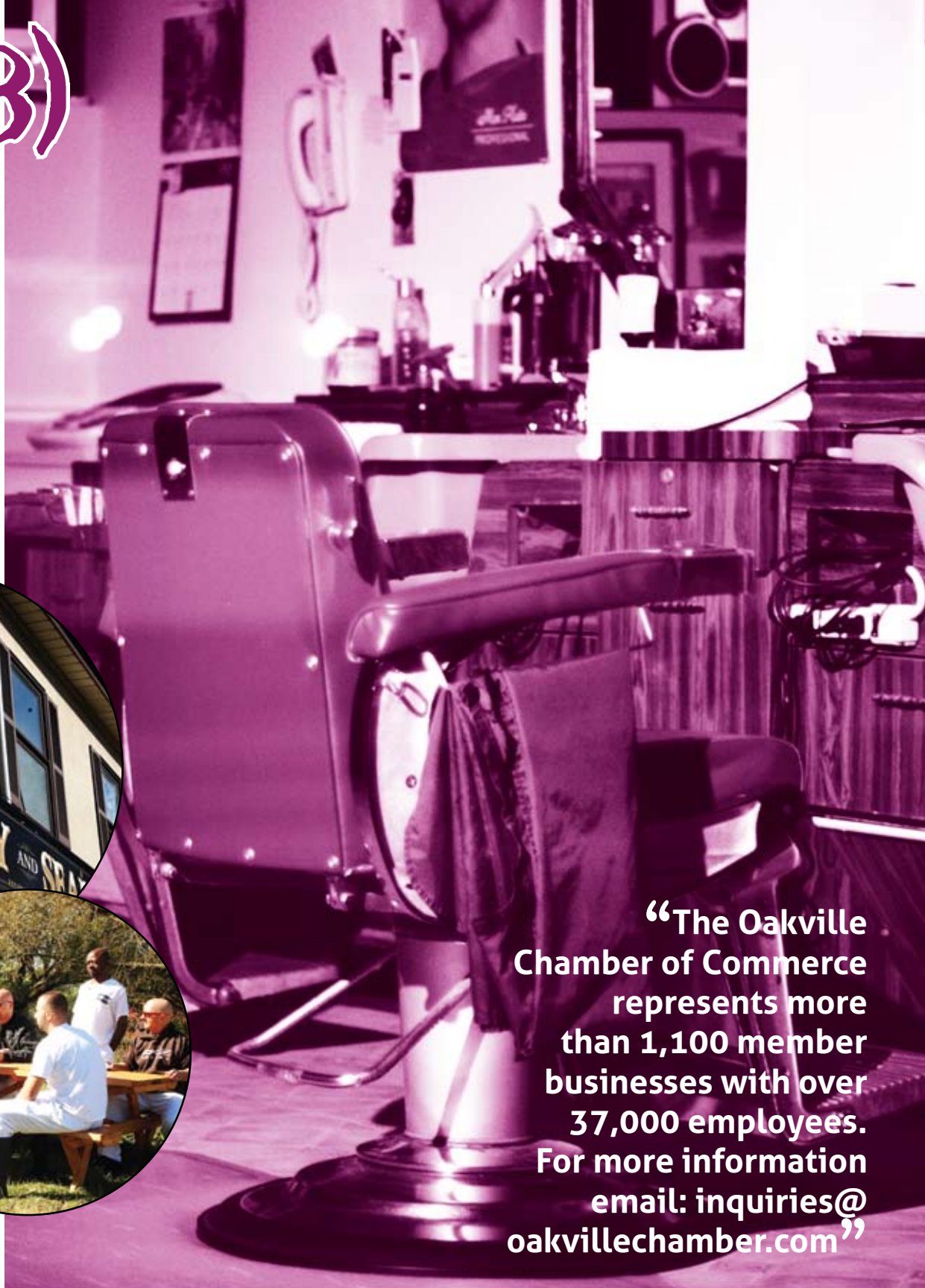


# Work (B)

*All people and employers should work, live, and thrive in Oakville.*

## What Can I Do?

- Support local businesses - Shop Oakville
- Hire a student



**“The Oakville Chamber of Commerce represents more than 1,100 member businesses with over 37,000 employees. For more information email: [inquiries@oakvillechamber.com](mailto:inquiries@oakvillechamber.com)”**

## GDP Growth {B, 51%}

Between 2001 and 2007, Oakville's share of the national gross domestic product (GDP) increased from 0.53% to 0.55%. Out of all the Vital Signs communities in Ontario, Oakville and Toronto are the only communities that experienced growth in GDP. All others saw a decrease or stayed the same. GDP is a general indicator of economic health.

## Discretionary Income {A, 40%}

In 2009, MoneySense Magazine found that the average discretionary income in Oakville households was 31% of total household income. Oakville ranked fourth in this category of the 154 communities surveyed by the magazine.

## Graders' Priority - Employment Rate {C, 39%}

Between 2001 and 2006, the employment rate in Oakville decreased 1.6% (from 68.7% to 67.1%). This statistic does not reflect the employment environment in recent economic conditions, due to a lack of current data.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

**Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning - *Providing students of all ages with the knowledge and skills to thrive in a rapidly changing world***

Sheridan College aims to help students develop to their full potential; to be a destination of choice for applicants, employees and businesses; and to benefit the community socially and economically. Sheridan delivers career-focused education and training in the arts, business, technology and community service fields to 15,000 full-time students each year. They serve the diverse needs of their student body by offering a wide range of credentials, including apprenticeships, one-year certificates, two and three-year diplomas, 4-year bachelor's degrees, and one-year post-graduate programs. Their School of Continuing Education offers classes, workshops and programs, plus over 200 online courses, to 34,000 adult learners.

**For more information, please visit: [www.sheridaninstitute.ca](http://www.sheridaninstitute.ca)**



# Community Voices



*What do people in Oakville think about their Town? What do local citizens see as the gaps, the needs and the assets of life in Oakville? We interviewed over 100 individuals from teens to seniors, long-term residents to new Canadians. Here are some of their thoughts and opinions.*

## COMMUNITY NEEDS IN OAKVILLE

The following are the top 5 local needs identified by those participating in the interviews.

**TRANSPORTATION:** the transit system provided by the Town was not effective and did not meet the needs of local residents. It was time consuming and difficult to get around. The two groups finding local transit ineffective were teens (often not able to drive or without a car) and older adults (who may have been parents having to drive their children/teens). Note that as of September, 2009 new transit routes were introduced in Oakville. For more information go to [www.oakvilletransit.com/serviceplan.htm](http://www.oakvilletransit.com/serviceplan.htm)

**LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH:** there is a distinct lack of opportunities and services for youth in Oakville, forcing many to leave and go to neighbouring communities.

**LACK OF ACCESSIBLE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:** the Town's services are not accessible either by means of knowledge (lack of awareness of what's available), cost or transportation. The highest percentage of participants who expressed this were aged 21 to 35.

**NEED FOR ANOTHER COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL CENTRE:** especially in the area north of the QEW and west of 16 Mile Creek.

**AWARENESS OF POVERTY IN OAKVILLE:** the community is not aware of the poverty that exists in Oakville.

## COMMUNITY ASSETS IN OAKVILLE

The following are the top 6 assets identified by those participating in the interviews.

**SENSE OF COMMUNITY:** there is a strong sense of community within the Town of Oakville. Residents are friendly and willing to give back to their community.

**SAFETY:** Oakville is a very safe town in which to live. As a result, people are more likely to reach out to others and be more involved without fear of harm.

**WATERFRONT:** the waterfront is a great place to live or to have community events. Oakville's waterfront area is seen as well organized and easily accessible.

**RECENT GROWTH:** even with its growth, Oakville has been able to retain its "small town" feel. We have effective organizations and services that are focused on improving the Town. Interestingly, of those interviewed, the ones least concerned about the "small town" feel were our youth. Seniors who were interviewed indicated that this feeling has been lost and that growth has had a negative effect on the Town.

**OAKVILLE'S PARKS:** Oakville is seen as having great parks - especially by our youth and young families.

**TOWN SERVICES:** the Town and local agencies provide an abundance of useful services to local citizens. The highest percentage of people who felt services were an asset were citizens 65 and over, which suggests that the services provided to seniors is effective. However, it is important to note that the lowest proportion of interviewees who felt that services are an asset are citizens aged 13 to 20 and 21 to 35.

Oakville Community Foundation thanks the many organizations and individuals who took the time to participate in the survey and tell us about "their Oakville". For the complete list of participants, go to [www.theocf.org](http://www.theocf.org) or [www.oakvillesvitalsigns.ca](http://www.oakvillesvitalsigns.ca)



**POSSIBILITIES... What we can do for our community, our neighbours, ourselves**

Here are some things we can do to help our community, our neighbours and ourselves. There's something for everyone.

Thank you to all those who became Community Graders and who gave us these great suggestions!

If you want to find out more about how you can get involved in your community – or want more information about any of the following ideas please visit the Oakville Community Foundation's **Vital Signs** website at [www.theocf.org](http://www.theocf.org) or call our office at (905) 845-5547.

1. Talk about this report with other people, explore possibilities
2. Eat a healthy diet
3. Tell our politicians we need affordable arts, cultural and recreation programs
4. Exercise - join a program, take a walk, play a sport
5. Donate healthy foods to local food banks
6. Speak out for better biking lanes - make streets friendly for bicycles
7. Display a Breast-feeding Friendly sign in your business
8. Shop Oakville - and support the local economy
9. Cultivate and grow native species of plants
10. Visit someone else's place of worship
11. Live in mixed neighbourhoods; mixed income, mixed languages, mixed ethnicities, mixed ages
12. Be careful and considerate when you drive
13. Learn about Oakville's local history - visit Oakville's museums and heritage sites
14. Start and/or support healthy school lunch and snack programs

15. Read with your children
16. Ride public transit - try the new bus routes
17. Volunteer with your family on a regular basis
18. Help a youth put together a good resume or hire a student for the summer
19. Read your community newspaper, you might come across something that affects you
20. Advocate for more safe and "cool" places for our teens
21. Ask a senior citizen what life was like 'back then'
22. Participate in and tell people about the Halton Fresh Food Box program
23. Pack your lunch in reusable containers to reduce waste

24. Take used batteries to drop-off locations
25. Turn off your car - don't idle
26. Explore the Heritage Trails in our Town
27. Share a meal with someone from a different culture
28. Walk your kids to school, or let them walk or bicycle on their own
29. Give clothes and basic necessities to those who need them most
30. Get a rain barrel and use it to water your lawn to reduce water usage and your water bill
31. Support kids who want to do something different
32. Conserve energy - use fans in the summer and sweaters in the winter

33. Visit Oakville's art galleries
34. Make sure every child has a library card, they're free
35. Buy local produce
36. Unplug for a day
37. Have a medical checkup. Women - get a mammogram regularly; men - have a prostate exam
38. Drink tap water or get a good water filter
39. Visit your local community centre to find out what's happening around Town
40. Take the stairs instead of riding the elevator
41. Attend the annual Community Arts Festival
42. Vote
43. Promote and support your local arts and culture scene
44. Try a new activity or learn a new skill at adult education classes
45. Call 211 if you need information or a referral to community health or social services agencies in Halton
46. Visit a senior citizen
47. Join a Town committee and make Oakville yours
48. Donate blood or put your name on the bone marrow or organ donors list
49. Get to know and support your children's teachers
50. Share your snow blower or shovel someone's walk
51. Join a non-profit board of directors
52. Come out of our cars and homes and into the neighbourhood





## METHODOLOGY

### Background:

**Vital Signs** is an annual community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and assigns grades in 11 areas critical to our quality of life. **Vital Signs** is coordinated nationally by Community Foundations of Canada. The purpose of **Vital Signs** is to start community dialogues to deal with issues and to make the most of opportunities. **Oakville's Vital Signs 2009** is a call to action.

### Collecting the data:

Data was provided by the Town of Oakville, Halton Region, Community Foundations of Canada, and local organizations. A great deal of the data was obtained from Statistics Canada through the Census and other national surveys. In addition, membership in a data-sharing consortium in Halton provided us with a deeper level of data from Statistics Canada than is available to the general public. Sometimes data that was specific to Oakville was hard to find, or we felt it was more relevant to include Regional information. In these cases, Halton level data is included and identified as such.

This report, while useful in comparing Oakville to other towns and cities, was not written with that intent. Rather, we have established a baseline upon which we can compare Oakville then to Oakville now and identify significant trends. **For links to data sources please go to the online report at [www.theocf.org](http://www.theocf.org) or [www.oakvillesvitalsigns.ca](http://www.oakvillesvitalsigns.ca)**

### Picking indicators

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) provided all the communities publishing **Vital Signs** reports with a list of suggested indicators and applicable data, as well as one core indicator per interest area that each Community Foundation was required to include in the report. Due to Oakville's statistical uniqueness, we, along with the CFC, had to be resourceful in finding data relevant to Oakville.

Indicators were selected based upon the following set of guidelines:

- Does it affect the well-being of the population?
- Is it an outcome or an input? Outcomes are preferable because they show the result of actions.
- Is it relevant to a large proportion of the population?
- Is it well-defined and measurable? Does it get measured with enough frequency to be useful?
- Can it be easily understood?
- Is the data available?
- Would people be interested to know it?

**Thank you to the many hundreds of Oakville citizens who took the time to participate in our survey. The following is a breakdown of survey respondents.**

- 58% female
- 29% age 45-54
- 4% under the age of 24
- 16% seniors
- 40% lived in Oakville more than 20 years
- 13% new Oakville residents (last five years)
- 38% have household income greater than \$150,000
- 2% under \$25,000
- 48% live South of QEW
- 89% white
- 62% had heard of Vital Signs before

Total comments submitted by survey respondents: 692

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COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION



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*all for community.*

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