

LITERACY NORTH HALTON

2019-2020

ANNUAL REPORT







Literacy North Halton, which operates as the Adult Learning Centre, is a community based organization providing individualized and group tutoring for adults. We encourage community support and promote literacy awareness.

We continue to provide adults with local opportunities to improve their essential reading, writing, basic math, and digital literacy skills for employment, further education, and increased independence in daily life.

We offer a variety of part-time Literacy and Basic Skills programs for adults aged 19+ who require essential skills upgrading in reading, writing, basic math and basic computer skills for the workplace. In partnership with Sheridan College, we also offer the ACE – Academic and Career Entrance – upgrading program. Adults wishing to pursue college entrance or an apprenticeship can earn grade 12 equivalency in English, Math, and Science. In addition, GED test (high school equivalency) preparation is also available.

Why is adult literacy so important?

We often think of literacy as only the ability to read and write with ease. In reality, the modern definition of literacy is much broader. Reading, writing, and numeracy are part of a larger set of essential skills that we use every day at work, at home, and in the community. Literacy includes computer and digital technology skills, oral communication, and more. It involves understanding and being able to use the information required in today's society in order to achieve your goals, reach your potential and navigate more easily in daily life and at work.

(Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy (http://mtml.ca/about-literacy/))

Core Programs

Tutoring Program for Adults

Our Adult Tutoring Program offers 1:1 and small group tutoring for adults looking to improve their essential reading, writing, or math skills from the basics to the grade 9 level.

- Improve the ability to read and understand workplace and school materials
- Build the skills needed to communicate more effectively in writing
- Improve fundamental numeracy skills
- Online learning opportunities

Computer Skills for Work Program

Basic Skills for employment in a small, tutor-led, group setting.

- Introduction to computers, Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office Applications
- Business communication and numeracy skills
- Email
- Internet and the web for work
- File Management
- Online learning opportunities

Sheridan College ACE Program

In partnership with Sheridan College, our ACE – Academic and Career Entrance – program helps students with a goal of college admission, apprenticeship, or a better job.

- Earn grade 12 equivalency in Math, English, Biology, & Chemistry for admission to Ontario college programs
- Earn an ACE (grade 12 equivalency) Certificate recognized by Ontario colleges
- Prepare for Apprenticeship or Pre-Apprenticeship training
- Or, prepare to write the GED test (High School Equivalency Certificate)

ALNH.ca/programs/

Board of Directors

Literacy North Halton is governed by a Board of Directors, which is mandated to ensure the organization fulfills its mission. Acting in this capacity, the Board of Directors is responsible for:

- Upholding Literacy North Halton's Policies, Procedures and By-laws;
- Reviewing and monitoring applicable government grants;
- Supporting the recruitment of staff and volunteers, as required;
- Evaluating the delivery and success of all programs;
- Monitoring the financial and legal affairs;
- Securing sufficient funds for operation, including overseeing the development and implementation of a fundraising program;
- Establishing ad hoc Committees to support and promote Literacy North Halton as required;
- Reviewing the long term strategic plan on a regular basis.

President/Board Chair **Denise Dilbey** Vice Chair Sherri Norris Treasurer Selwyn Fernandes Secretary Kim Sopinka Patricia Waters Director Director Ami Gopal Director Sherry Farago Director Carolyn Capretta Dr. Oladapo Kavode Opasina Director

Bruce Catoen Director Director Jennifer McAleer

All members who served on the board during the 2019-2020 fiscal year are listed. (April 1/19 - March 31/20)



Contact us for more information and to book a free assessment

ALNH.CA

FREE TUITION









This Employment Ontario Service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario and through the Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement.

Improving lives locally

(905) 873-2200

READING, WRITING, MATH

- Reading, Writing, Basic Math (up to grade 9 level)
- 1:1 and small group tutoring

COMPUTER SKILLS FOR WORK

Learn basic computer skills for employment in a small group setting

SHERIDAN COLLEGE ACE

• English, Math & Science courses to prepare for college or apprenticeship

Sheridan Get Creativ

GED TEST PREPARATION

An alternative option for those looking to earn high school equivalency

Board Chair Report

Literacy North Halton's Board of Directors continue to be representative of the communities in which we serve. We have welcomed new board members who bring a range of skills and experience to fulfill our mandate of providing local and effective literacy and essential skills training in our communities of Georgetown, Milton, and Acton.

Strategic planning has always been an important part of our work to ensure that financial needs are adequately met and enabling us to progressively move forward in addressing community needs. This year, the Board of Directors focused on Board practices, responsibilities, and vision, and Directors participated in reviewing and updating LNH By-Laws to align with pending regulatory amendments and the ONCA.

Fiscal 2020 ended under the provincial State of Emergency, which was announced on March 17, 2020. Our staff and board diligently worked to ensure learners, often the most vulnerable during a crisis like this, continue to have access to programs and remain engaged. As the dynamic nature of COVID-19 continues to develop, we remain focused on revising processes to align with provincial guidelines, while protecting staff, instructors, tutors, and clients and learners.

LNH has been actively developing and delivering programs to serve and support the government vision for adult education. We are grateful for the tremendous support of our funders, local and regional agencies, and community partners, in the way of funding, and sharing of knowledge, experience, and resources throughout the year. Literacy North Halton has also recently been assigned, as part of the Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skills Development Corrections Literacy Initiative, LBS Service Delivery at the Maplehurst Correctional Complex in Milton.



It is with mixed emotions that LNH says goodbye to Patricia Waters who completes her term as Director. Since 2012, Patricia has provided unwavering, dedicated service to Literacy North Halton. Under her leadership and with her creativity, new fundraising events like our annual Scrabble® for Literacy has inspired more donors to become passionate champions of adult literacy and learning. Patricia has been an important contributor to the Board of Directors, and she shall be missed.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Executive Director, Staff, Instructors, and Tutors, for their hard work, dedication, and talent. Their energy, enthusiasm and efforts are instrumental to our organization in providing the highest standard of program and service delivery at our local Adult Learning Centres.

Financial Overview

Literacy North Halton remains financially strong and was able to invest in new program development in Fiscal 2020. Core LBS Service Delivery funding through the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development remained consistent year over year, and United Way Halton & Hamilton funding also remained at F2019 allocation levels.

Program Reserve Funds were budgeted for completion of a pilot project to identify the key entry level jobs and curriculum requirements for occupational warehouse job-ready digital literacy, essential and employment skills training. And at the end of the year, additional funds were budgeted for the preliminary program design work in advance of the assignment of the MLTSD Corrections Literacy Initiative in Milton.



We remain truly grateful to have passionate donors and supporters, and this year is no exception. Our Georgetown Scrabble° for Literacy fundraising event was well attended by a bubbly and enthusiastic group. I offer our sincere appreciation to our event title sponsor, the Maple Lodge Farms Foundation, local business sponsors, community participants and their pledges, and our hosts, Halton Hills Public Libraries and the Mississauga Scrabble® Club.

Literacy North Halton ended the year in a net deficit position due to the cancellation of a new fundraising event in the community of Milton, as we begin to explore alternatives to our long running Great Groan-Up Spelling Bee, and also a shortfall in anticipated donations. In partial offset, new revenue was generated from the temporary use of classroom space by a partner agency.

Denise Dilbey Board Chair

Executive Director Report

Building literacy, communication and essential skills for employment and further education continues to be a programming priority at the Adult Learning Centre-Literacy North Halton (ALC-LNH). News about shortages of workers in skilled trades, newcomers in the workplace, technology and the changing the nature of work, essential skills gaps, and precarious employment, continue to inform our work.

"To make our economy fit for the future, we need to support all Ontario workers," said Minister McNaughton. "Be it postsecondary education, apprenticeship, job training and retraining, employer-driven training, life-long learning, skilled immigration - we can't afford to leave any stone unturned if we want to make sure our economy remains competitive, and that Ontario workers are prepared for jobs and opportunities to come." The provincial government, following a competitive process, continues with the first phases of the 2019 plan to Transform Employment Ontario services. They have also recently announced a Workforce Development and Training Review to study how to improve existing skills training programs.

As an EO Literacy and Basic Skills service provider and through our work with the United Way Halton and Hamilton (UWHH) to "improve lives locally", our ALC-LNH staff work with EO service providers, community partners, agencies, schools, organizations, employers and our regional LBS support organization to build out programming to support the needs of adults in the North Halton communities.

Adults who are employed in or seeking to enter the skilled trades require literacy and essential skills support to finish high school or write equivalency tests, and at each structured learning phase within their apprenticeship. It is critical that those wishing to pursue an apprenticeship have the core skills needed (reading, math, and computer skills) to continue learning and to complete daily tasks at work. The pending results from the 2019 PHWDG Annual Employer Survey, "aims to identify whether and which jobs in the skilled trades are in demand in Peel and Halton Regions."

By improving essential skills, newcomers can improve employment opportunities, prepare for further training and education, and become more connected with local organizations to access services and supports. In key findings from the 2018 PHWDG Annual Employer Survey, employers recommended the strengthening of employment services for newcomers, including seeking employer input on program design, and more outreach to ensure newcomers make use of these services "so they have better understanding of employer expectations."

For adults who have never received formal computer skills training, becoming digitally literate can seem overwhelming. Technology affects all aspects of employment from how we find jobs, to how we do our jobs, to our ability to keep up with job requirements in a changing economy. It has become increasingly important to continue education after entering the workforce and digital literacy is one of the most valuable tools for lifelong learning. At ALC-LNH we like to ask adult learners, "What is your next step?"

Our goal at ALC-LNH is to continue to meet the needs of all clients, particularly those most in need of programs and services. This year our staff provided more targeted support to adults on social assistance or those living with a disability, to ensure they have essential and digital skills for employment. We also continue to reach out to youth 19-24 with literacy and essential skills building for employment and apprenticeship, or high school equivalency certification and college entrance through academic upgrading.



To all our ALC-LNH stakeholders – funders, donors, sponsors, community partners and agencies, members, and our dedicated volunteer tutors and board members, instructors, and staff – thank you for assisting adults in your North Halton communities in reaching their literacy and learning goals!

Respectfully, Michele Proud

Programming

Essential literacy skills play an important role in our home, school, work, and community lives. Over the past year, learners at the Adult Learning Centre-Literacy North Halton have achieved many positive outcomes through participation in our Adult Tutoring, Sheridan College ACE, and GED Test Preparation programs. With the continued support of our volunteer tutors and program instructors, learners improved their ability to find and use information, communicate ideas and information, and understand and use numbers.

Learners worked one on one with tutors to build essential skills to meet employment requirements such as writing notes and emails, completing customer requests, and counting inventory, or worked towards personal goals including filling in forms, reading for personal enjoyment, and improving their spelling skills.

In other programs, learners built the confidence and essential skills they needed for successful transition to educational opportunities including enrolling in high school credit courses, applying to college, writing the GED test, and pursuing apprenticeship training. For some, that meant learning their multiplication tables and conquering fractions and long division. For others, it meant improving their comprehension and writing skills, learning how to write paragraphs and short essays, and most importantly, learning how to learn.

Assessment plays a key role in the future success of learners. We participated as a member of our regional Adult Learning Network Common Assessment Task Team to update our intake assessment procedures and tools to reflect the skills and knowledge adults require for success in today's world.

In the Fall of 2019, we welcomed a new group of volunteer tutors who participated in the pilot of our updated Tutor Training Workshops. I also had the opportunity to be a United Way Impact Speaker where I was able to share learner and tutor success stories. Their challenges and successes continue to provide inspiration for others.



The past few months have been a time of great change. A huge thank you goes to our instructors, volunteer tutors, staff, partners, local agencies, and LBS support organizations whose ongoing support, creativity and unique skill sets have helped us to provide high quality learning options during these unprecedented times. I wish you all good health and success in the coming year.

Alyson Findlay Senior Program Coordinator

Congratulations to our Computer Skills for Work learners and dedicated tutors, it has been a busy year! We were able to assist many adult learners increase their digital literacy and business communication skills with the help of our volunteer tutors who contributed hundreds of hours of engaging and encouraging instruction. We continue to offer two robust levels of training in our Computer Skills for Work program, in three North Halton communities.

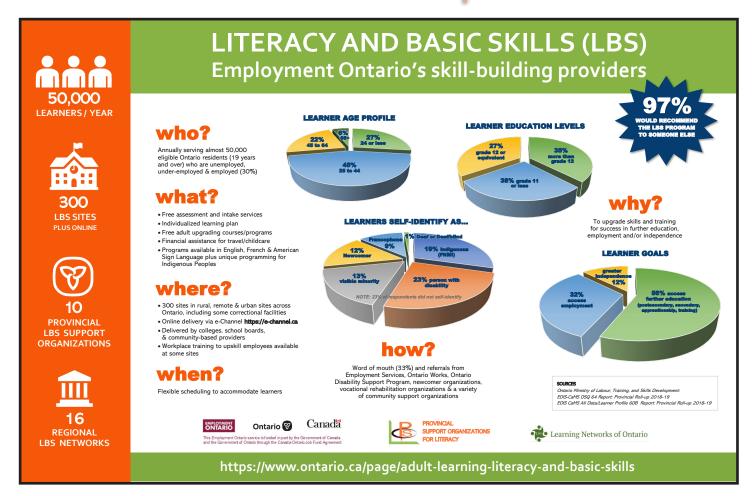
We continue to receive excellent feedback from learners and tutors regarding our new Computer Skills for Work 1 course. The pilot of our new Computer Skills for Work 2 course has been moved to self-study with tutor support during COVID-19 social distancing. This new CSW2 curriculum will help learners build their digital, numeracy, and communication skills using Excel and PowerPoint; essential skills needed for today's competitive employment market.

In partnership with the Centre for Skills Development-Newcomer Services, ALC-LNH piloted a CPA Financial Literacy for Newcomers program. Approximately 20 new Canadians participated in the 2-day workshop led by a local CPA volunteer tutor who engaged and empowered learners with knowledge about money management, credit, and taxes in Canada.

Although the COVID -19 health pandemic brought an abrupt end to our in-class programming, ALC-LNH and adult learners have adapted well to alternative learning formats. My heartfelt thanks to the staff, volunteer board members and tutors, and learners, for their dedication to adult education and lifelong learning.

Andrea Le Grand Program Coordinator, Digital Literacy Computer Skills
for Work
Small group,
instructor-led classes.
Adult Learning Centre
ALNH.CA
905-873-2200

Adult Learning Ontario



The Employment Ontario (EO) Service Promise:

"Ontario aims to have the best educated and skilled workforce in the world, to build the province's competitive advantage and enhance our quality of life. Employment Ontario (EO) is the province's one-stop service delivery system.

EO offers a range of employment, training and labour market programs and services, delivered by thirdparty service providers to over one million Ontarians.

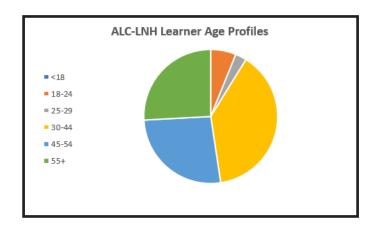
The EO Service Promise is to:

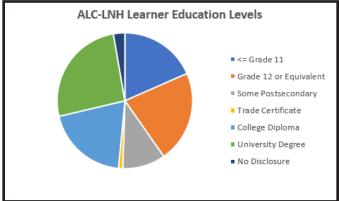
- Deliver the highest quality of services and supports to help individuals and employers meet career or
- Provide opportunities for individuals to improve their skills through education and training;
- Ensure that individuals get the help they need at every Employment Ontario office; and
- Work with employers and communities to build the highly skilled and educated workforce Ontario Ontario 🕅 needs to be competitive."

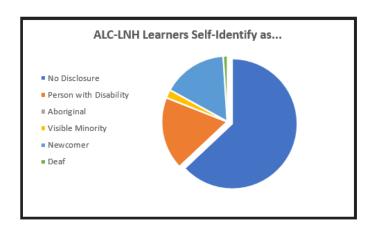


Adult Learning North Halton

Who engaged in programs at ALC-LNH?

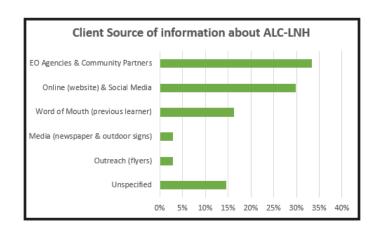








How did they find out about ALC-LNH?





ALNH.ca/information-session-request/





Independent auditor's report

To the Members of Literacy North Halton (Operating as Adult Learning Centre) Grant Thornton LLP 35 Main Street South Halton Hills, ON L7G 3G2

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Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Literacy North Halton operating as Adult Learning Centre ("the Organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020 and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2020, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Organization derives revenue from fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Organization. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2020 and 2019, current assets as at March 31, 2020 and 2019, and net assets as at April 1 and March 31 for both the 2020 and 2019 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2019 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Audit | Tax | Advisory

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Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud
 or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that
 is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material
 misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve
 collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that
 are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the
 effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the
 disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a
 manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Halton Hills, Canada June 8. 2020 Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Grant Thornton LLP

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Literacy North Halton (Operating as Adult Learning Centre) Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31		2020		2019
Revenue Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) Donations and fundrasing Interest and other income Other revenue Memberships	\$ 	247,682 29,968 2,180 3,550 210 283,590	\$	247,682 34,536 7,687 3,435 572 293,912
Expenditures Wages and benefits Rent Sheridan contract Professional fees Outreach Office supplies Computer hardware and software Resource materials Telephone and internet Travel Insurance Bank charges Fundrasing MCI	=	202,419 30,881 12,500 9,179 7,693 6,562 6,000 4,209 3,596 2,947 2,977 618 884		191,015 29,197 12,500 8,540 8,216 8,070 16,413 3,466 2,651 2,312 2,176 635 5,764 478 291,433
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures before items below		(6,875)		2,479
Surplus repaid to MLTSD		-		481
Program development project costs	_	(7,898)		
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures	\$_	(14,773)	\$_	1,998



Literacy North Halton (Operating as Adult Learning Centre) Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31		2020		2019
Assets Current Cash	\$	31,376	\$	45,565
Investments (Note 3) Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses	_	30,580 2,526 1,822	_	30,173 3,117 1,822
	\$	66,304	\$	80,677
Liabilities Current				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 5) Deferred revenue	\$ 	5,700 400 6,100	\$ 	5,100 600 5,700
Fund balances Unrestricted				
Operating fund Internally restricted		4,705		13,565
Programming reserve fund Relocation reserve fund		20,941		28,839
Contractual obligations reserve fund		3,979 22,698		2,400 22,385
Sucession planning reserve fund	_	7,881 60,204	_	7,788 74,977
	\$_	66,304	\$	80,677

Lease commitments (Note 4)

On Behalf of the Board

Funders

Adult Tutoring - 1:1 & Digital Literacy Programs funded by:

- Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development*
- United Way Halton and Hamilton

Sheridan Academic Upgrading Program (ACE) Partnership funded by:

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development*

MAIN DONORS & SPONSORS

Maple Lodge Farms Foundation

SUPPORTERS

- Kevin Campbell
- Dave and Dale Cox
- Denise Dilbey
- St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church
- Ami Gopal

- Austen & Noble Insurance Brokers
- Barry Cooper
- **Bronte Book Club**
- Joanne Gilewski
- Julie Rossall

We are grateful to the many businesses, service clubs and individuals who provided support through financial pledges, donations and material support. Your contributions are critical to our operation and greatly appreciated.









Clients/ Learners

Adult Learning Centre-Literacy North Halton

Staff &

Volunteer

Provincial

MTCII

Employment

Literacy

Organizations

United Way

Halton &

Hamilto

Donors/

Suppporters

Community

Partners

& Agencies

*These Employment Ontario programs are funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario, and through the Canada-Ontario Job Fund Agreement.

Improvina lives locally

lounteers



Thank you to our many volunteers who have given their valuable time, expertise, and effort to support our programming and adult learners over the past year. They continue to serve our organization in diverse ways.

- **Board Members**
- Volunteer Tutors
- Office Volunteers
- Fundraising Volunteers
- Poster Outreach
- **Special Events**

ALNH.ca/volunteers



Service Delivery Partners

We collaborate with the following partners to deliver programs and services in the communities of Georgetown, Milton and Acton. Their continued support and referrals are greatly appreciated.

- Centre for Skills Development Employment Services
- Centre for Skills Development Immigrant Services
- EO Peel-Halton-Dufferin Adult Learning Network
- EO Technology Support Organization, AlphaPlus
- Halton Hills Public Libraries
- HCDSB Thomas Merton Adult & Continuing Ed
- HDSB Gary Allan High School Adult, Continuing Ed
- Knox Presbyterian Church, Milton



SCRABBLE FOR LITERACY at the Halton Hills Public Library



CAREERS IN THE TRADES at Gellert Community Centre

- Milton Public Libraries
- ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program)
- Ontario Works Halton Region
- Sheridan College Continuing & Professional Studies
- STRIDE Supported Training & Rehabilitation
- VPI Working Solutions, Georgetown
- WSIB (Workplace Safety and Insurance Board)

Community Connections

Our community connections provide in-kind or other support for our work.

- Acton Community Hub
- Carafe Wine Georgetown
- Georgetown Independent
- Georgetown Marketplace Mall
- Milton Canadian Champion
- Sherwood Print and Copy
- The New Acton Tanner
- Town of Halton Hills
- Tyler Transport
- Your Local Coffee News Inc.

Proud Members of:

- Chamber of Commerce Halton Hills
- Chamber of Commerce Milton
- Community Literacy Ontario
- Community Development Halton/Volunteer Halton



IMPACT SPEAKER AT UWHH LEADERSHIP RECEPTION
Alyson Findlay, Sr. Program Coordinator

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Adult Learning North Halton

Contact Us

ALNH.ca/about-us/contact-us/