



The State of Culture Report focuses on accomplishments and developments in advancing Halton Hills' cultural vibrancy through: Town-led; Library-led; and Community-led initiatives. This is an overview of the second annual report.

View the full report at [haltonhills.ca/culture](http://haltonhills.ca/culture)

## Cultural Services at the Town of Halton Hills

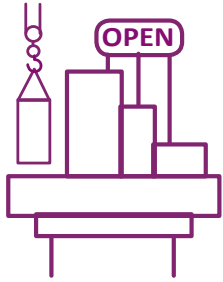
**Mission Statement:** To implement the Cultural Master Plan by working collaboratively with a wide variety of internal and external partners to coordinate the delivery of cultural services, build strong cultural institutions, complete communities, support economic development and grow the Town's creative capital.

## Key Policies

- Cultural Master Plan (2013) & Cultural Master Plan Action Plan (2015)
- Public Art Policy (2016) & Public Art Master Plan (2018)
- Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy (2013)
- Economic Development Strategy (2012)
- Tourism Strategy (2014)

The relationship between culture, tourism and economic development helps to raise quality of life and make Halton Hills an attractive location for investment.

## Arts and Culture Profile

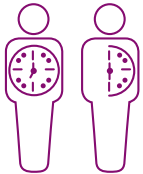


WITH OVER  
**30**  
BUSINESSES

Arts & Culture is a diverse and growing sector in Halton Hills

## EMPLOYMENT

**15%** of Arts & Culture employment is located in the public sector and **85%** in the private sector

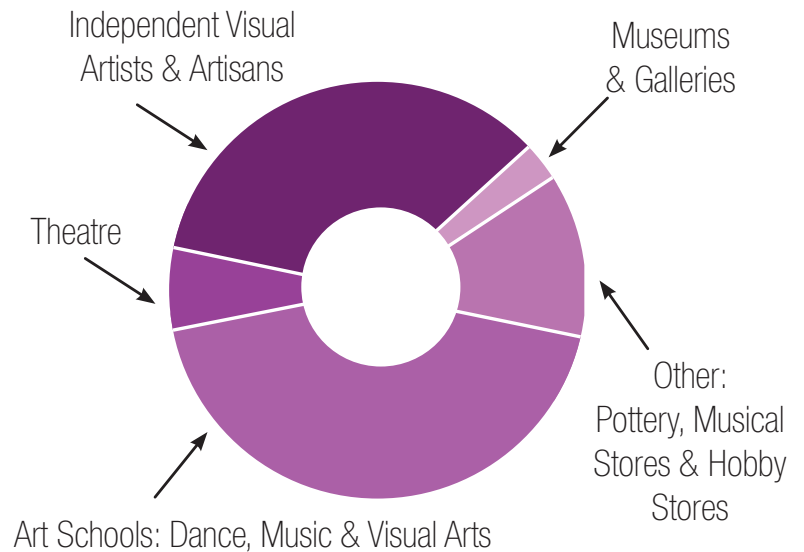


**59** Full-time  
**93** Part-time

**TALENT** **60%** of the sector's workforce has post-secondary education



## BREAKDOWN BY DISCIPLINE



## 2018 Arts and Culture Highlights

### Town-led Initiatives

#### Public Art Master Plan

- The Public Art Advisory Board, made up of Town staff and community members, was formed. It is the driving force behind developing and implementing the Public Art Master Plan.
- The Public Art Master Plan was approved by Council in June.

#### New! Arts and Culture Webpage - [haltonhills.ca/culture](http://haltonhills.ca/culture)

- One-stop location for all things culture in Halton Hills
- Includes: Community Cultural Catalogue, Festivals and Events, Cultural Facilities, Volunteer Opportunities, Resources for the Arts and Culture Sector and more!

## Culture Days

Culture Days aims to increase public participation in arts and culture year-round through an annual three day event of free arts and cultural activities.

Halton Hills received national and provincial acclaim for its third installment of the annual Culture Days event:

- Ranked sixth on the Culture Days National Top Ten list (mid-sized communities).
- The Norval KAIROS Blanket Exercise won the Ontario Culture Days Spotlight People's Choice Award.
- The Downtown Georgetown Corridor was the runner-up for the Best Corridor Award by Ontario Culture Days.
- OnBeat in the Hills! Presented by the Halton Hills Concert Band, Georgetown Choral Society and Gaudeamus Choir, was the runner-up for Best Exemplification of the OnBeat Theme by Ontario Culture Days.



Over 1900  
Participants



170% Increase in  
Activities from 2017



62 Activities



Sixth Largest Culture Days  
Event in Canada  
(mid-sized community)



Over 200k  
Marketing  
Impressions



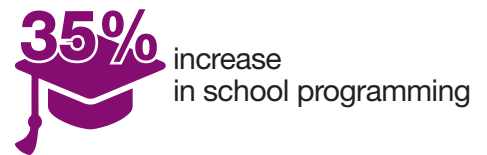
96 Artists

## Cultural Coordination

- The Cultural Services Coordination Committee - ensures the integration of culture across Town departments.
- Regional Cultural Working Group - shares best practices, coordinates regional cultural offerings and leverages culture for regional tourism.
- Credit Valley Trail: Arts, Culture and Tourism Working Group - develops cultural tourism offerings along the proposed route of the trail.

## Helson Gallery Highlights

Six Gallery Exhibits and eleven Lobby exhibits were organized in 2018



## Cultural Services and Helson Gallery SWAG

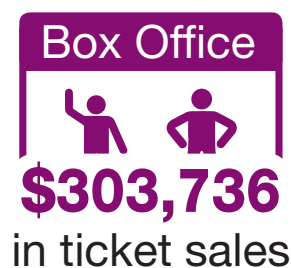
SWAG packages composed of a tote bag and print items featuring works from the Helson collection were created. These materials will:

- Raise the profile of the Helson Gallery and the Helson Collection
- Raise the profile of the Cultural Services section
- Commemorate Fred Helson
- Be distributed at special events & conferences



## John Elliott Theatre

Halton Hills' only purpose built, fixed seating performance venue.



## Halton Hills Public Library-led Initiatives

The Halton Hills Public Library enriches the community with extensive cultural programming throughout the year, often in coordination with community partners.

### New Sustainability Programming

- **Repair Cafés** - Volunteers taught people how to repair and reuse their possessions.
- **Seed Libraries** - Launched at both branches with associated programming including seed saving, an herb workshop and growing native plants. Financial support from the Downtown Georgetown Farmer's Market and the Town of Halton Hills Office of Sustainability.



### Halton Hills Lecture Series – Second Season!

- Supported by the Friends of the Halton Hills Public Library and the Town of Halton Hills.
- The 2018-2019 season began with two lectures: “Bringing Lucy Maud Montgomery Home to Norval” and “The Role of Music & Emotion in Celebration”

### Skills Exchange

Cultural programming for seniors and youth to teach each other. Program support from the New Horizons for Seniors Grant and community partners. Activities included:

- Skills Expo - featured origami, jump rope, weaving, sewing & robotics
- Teen Paint Nights
- Cupcake Decorating
- Quilting
- Sew & Silk Screen a Tote Bag
- Design & make Cosplay outfits
- Temari Balls (Japanese thread balls)
- Pottery Painting
- Glass Fusing

## One Book One Halton Hills (OBOHH) 2018 – Eighth Year!

- Featured “A Stranger in the House” by Shari Lapena
- Related programming included an escape room, a Murder Mystery Night Masquerade and Guest speakers from Crime Writers of Canada.

## STEAM Programming

Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programming included Lego Robotics, Robo-Geek, and Mini-Makers and STEAM Storytime for younger children.

## Virtual Reality (VR) Programming

- VR programming for all ages was offered in library branches and the community.
- Nearly 1,000 children, youth and adults used VR in 2018.

## Additional Cultural Programming

- Horticultural workshops
- Board Game Nights
- Wines & Spines
- Culture Days activities
- Ink Writing Project – annual writing contest for children & youth



## Community-led Initiatives

Highlights of some of the community-led initiatives that are contributing to the Cultural Vibrancy of Halton Hills:

### Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable (HHCR)

- Presented the 2018 Cultural Symposium with a focus on Innovation.
- Participated in community initiatives including the Norval Steering Committee and the Public Art Advisory Board.
- The HHCR dissolved as an organization after 10 successful years having achieved their main goals.

### Ambition Performing Arts Centre

- New multi-discipline performing arts facility had its grand opening in Acton in August, 2018.
- Offers classes in dance, singing, music, theatre and stage and screen acting for all ability levels, ages 3 to 18.



### Doors Open

- Welcomed 350 visitors to six heritage sites and two walking tours in downtown Georgetown.

### Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Society (LMMHS)

- Applied for a federal National Heritage designation for the Manse.
- Awarded an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant of \$75,000
- Hosted events including: 25th anniversary of Montgomery Christmas, and Anne of Green Gables Day.

### Norval Community Association (NCA)

- Installed the Pollinator Canoe in McNab Park and unveiled it in partnership with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.
- Hosted numerous special events including: Norval-on-the-Credit, Pioneer Days, and Norval's first Hot Dog Day.
- Presented The KAIROS Blanket Exercise (KBE) twice. The KBE educates and creates understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

### Credit Valley Artisans (CVA)

- **Norval Plein Air Competition** (4th Annual) - Competition judged by Helson Gallery Curator.
- **Culture Days / Doors Open:** 100 visitors took part in hands-on art activities and viewed demonstrations.
- **Classes:** Over 100 people participated in classes including: Pottery both on the Wheel & Handbuilding, Stained Glass, Weaving, Oil Painting, Watercolour, and Plein Air Painting.



## ThatGoodLife

ThatGoodLife, new to Acton in 2018, produced music focused events including:

- **Our House:** Ten family-focused community nights. This ongoing event is held the last Saturday of each month.
- **LFTD:** Youth-focused live DJ party nights that highlight local acts and provide the opportunity to share the stage with professionals.
- **Culture Days:** Special presentation of Our House and LFTD along with DJ/Production/Beat-Making Workshops with DJ Lagit and Lord Quest.
- Presented local artists at **Leathertown Festival** and **Acton Fall Fair**.



## Halton Hills Concert Band (HHCB) - Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2018/19!

- Performs a variety of music and creates custom programs for any occasion.
- 27 volunteer members rehearse weekly.
- 11 performances in 2018 and 89 performances since 2009.
- **With Glowing Hearts Musical Tribute to the Armed Forces** (6th Annual) - A unique show bringing the military tattoo to a concert setting.



## The Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild (GRHG)

- Celebrated 50 years with exhibitions at the Helson Gallery and the Cultural Centre and a lecture by Canadian textile artist Michelle Sirois-Silver.
- Promotes rug hooking through exhibitions, classes and advocacy.
- Is comprised of 80 members and is a Branch of Ontario Craft Guild.

## Halton Hills Chinese Association (HHCA)

- Incorporated as a not-for-profit in 2018 with over 100 members
- Mission: Promote multiculturalism, help new Chinese immigrants, and build a wonderful community in Halton Hills.
- Activities included: Chinese New Year celebrations, Saturday Chinese School, a Q&A with Municipal election candidates and Chinese language workshops and Culture Days activities in coordination with Halton Hills Public Library.