



Special Council

Minutes

Date: October 21, 2025
Time: 6:34 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, City Hall, second floor

Members Present: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward
Councillor Kelvin Galbraith
Councillor Lisa Kearns
Councillor Rory Nisan
Councillor Shawna Stolte
Councillor Paul Sharman
Councillor Angelo Bentivegna

Staff Present: Richard Bellemare, Specialist, Digital Communications
Lisa Palermo, Manager, Committee Services/Deputy Clerk

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Land Acknowledgement**
- 3. National Anthem**
- 4. Roll Call**
- 5. Declarations of Interest**

None

6. Civic Recognition

6.1 Anne and Arnold Koopman

Anne and Arnold Koopman are long-standing members of the Mundialization Committee and Apeldoorn subcommittee. Over the last 19 years, they have been instrumental in the success of building Burlington's twin city relationship with Apeldoorn The Netherlands, each serving in the

role of Committee Chair and fostering resident exchanges, education, and events like Canada Netherlands Friendship Day.

Arnold generously volunteers his time to share personal remembrances about the liberation of the Netherlands with the community to help younger generations understand its lasting impact.

From 1975 to 2000, Anne volunteered at two Burlington elementary schools, and for more than 20 years she volunteered as a fundraiser with the Canadian Cancer Society. Since 2017, Anne has been on the Board of Directors with Bethel Memorial Chapel and in 2024, the Rotary Club of Burlington North presented Anne with a 'Paul Harris Fellowship' for her advocacy of world peace and international understanding.

6.2 Burlington Teen Tour Band Boosters

The Teen Tour Band Boosters are a dedicated volunteer group of passionate parents and supporters who have been supporting the Band since the late 1960s. Officially incorporated in 1974, they play a vital role in fundraising, event coordination, and behind-the-scenes support. Their contributions include chaperoning events and tours, organizing the annual Spring Concert, supporting Band Camp, and running year-round fundraisers. Their commitment enables the Band to proudly represent Burlington both locally and around the world.

Steve Butterworth and Kerry Brown were present to accept the civic recognition award.

6.3 Colton Roberts

For over 12 years, Colton has been a dedicated volunteer supporting community well-being. At the North Burlington Community Dinner Night Out, he ensures smooth operations by setting up and cleaning. During the COVID lockdown, he delivered "Food for Life" hampers to vulnerable residents and continues this work through Meals of Hope at Bethany House. As a greeter at Next-door Social Space and active member of Compass Point Church, Colton's volunteerism enriches the life of his neighbours, always lending a caring and inclusive ear.

6.4 Jamie Kozub

For over a decade, Jamie has been a pillar of community spirit in Burlington. As co-founder of Burlington Dads, he plays a vital role in supporting local fathers and fostering connections that benefit both families and the broader community. Through this organization, he's helped raise over \$1 million for local charities through inclusive, family-

focused events. His leadership extends to serving on the Carpenter Hospice Board and co-hosting the global podcast Stuff (Sh*t) My Dad Taught Me. Through the podcast, Jamie amplifies Burlington's spirit of family and community to a global audience, sparking conversations that inspire dads, parents, and families everywhere. In the words of his nominator – Jamie is hometown proud and is a shining example of how one individual can make his hometown stronger and brighter for all

6.5 Kai Ruhl

Since 2021, Kai has been a passionate advocate for ending gender-based violence, beginning with organizing a high school walkout to protest mishandled sexual assault allegations. Kai's activism helped spark change within the Halton District School Board, including the creation of ConsentEd. A member of SAFE (Survivor Advocates for Empowerment) since 2023, Kai has participated in numerous local and regional events and previously served with Women's Place and Karina Gould's Youth Council. In 2024, Kai received the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her advocacy work.

6.6 Restorations Second Stage Home

Restorations Second Stage Homes operates Nancy's House, Burlington's only specialized home for survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Located at a confidential address, it provides safe housing, stability, and holistic care for vulnerable residents. Through programs like survivor-led peer advocacy, Restorations bridges the gap between crisis shelters and independent living, promoting healing and reducing the risk of re-exploitation. Their work addresses a critical, often hidden, local issue with dignity and impact.

Jennifer Lucking accepted the award on behalf of Restorations Second Stage Home.

6.7 Sahaja Yoga Meditation Network

For over 20 years, the volunteer-led Sahaja Yoga Meditation Network has fostered strong mental health in the Burlington community. Through their "100 Seeds of Joy" initiative, they hosted over 487 free events in 2024, offering inclusive meditation and creative sessions. The Network creates a welcoming, supportive space for people of all backgrounds to connect, heal, and find inner peace.

The following people were present to accept the award on behalf of Sahaja Yoga Meditation Network; Ioana Popa and the following members

from the volunteer team: Shivangna, Paula, Kathleen, Gratiela, Carmela, Isabelle, Anjali, Kruti, Rajinee and Anabianca.

7. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Councillor Sharman

Seconded by: Councillor Stolte

Adjourn this Council now to meet again at the call of the Mayor.

7:06 p.m.

CARRIED

Lisa Palermo

Deputy Clerk

Marianne Meed Ward

Mayor