



HALTON
LEARNING
FOUNDATION

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

*Halton Learning Foundation
exists to acquire and allocate
resources to enrich the
educational opportunities
and eliminate barriers to
learning for Halton
District School Board
students.*

Supporting students.

Strengthening schools.



BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on another year of growth and success for the Halton Learning Foundation, I would like to thank our many donors, sponsors and volunteers. It is with your ongoing support that the great work, which is done each and every day to benefit students and their educational experience is made possible.

It is particularly inspiring to see the outpouring of support for the Foundation's mandate despite the lingering effects of a major economic downturn, experienced by both companies and individuals. Donations have increased this year, at a time when so many other charitable organizations are struggling—this fact is both remarkable and timely. The need has never been greater to ensure a level playing field for all students. Each dollar granted provides assistance to our most vulnerable students at such a critical time in their lives.

When you choose to help students have the best possible learning experiences, you enrich their lives, prepare them to become independent adults and help them to create and build their future. Whether your donation helps with

emergency funding, improving a student's reading skills or you take the time to volunteer at a breakfast program, you are providing them with a gift, which will last a lifetime. Through the enrichment funding you are also giving students the opportunity to learn using resources and creative, innovative techniques offered within their schools.

Halton students benefit from your generosity. Thank you for sharing in the vision of the Halton Learning Foundation.

Sincerely,

Mike Shepherd
Board Chair



Halton Learning Foundation Board of Directors at Aug 2010

Michael Shepherd, Chair, CEO Prosperity One

Susan Busby, Past Chair, Retired Principal

Bryn Davies, Retired Principal

David Grant, Strategic Planning & Marketing Leader Honeywell Energy Solutions

Yvette Holt, VP Commercial Financial Services, RBC

Robert Kulik, Director Market Access, EMD Serono

Rob Loney, Manager Patient Access & Health, Pfizer Canada

Greg Nelson, Town Councillor Town of Milton

James Schumacker, Senior Manager B2B Trust

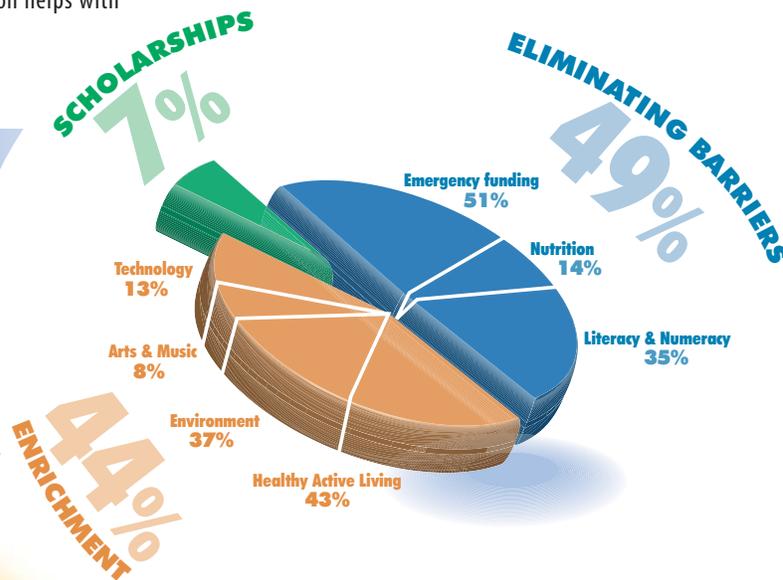
Mary Elizabeth Dilly, Trustee Halton District School Board

Hattie Farrell, Principal, Halton District School Board

Wayne Joudrie, Director of Education, Halton District School Board

Steven Parfeniuk, Superintendent of Business, Halton District School Board

Halton Learning Foundation Funding Support Breakdown



Chudleigh's Gives Back to their Childhood School

Students at JM Denyes Public School in Milton are benefiting from a \$10,000 grant made by Chudleigh's. Chudleigh's donation enabled the school to acquire new reading materials for the classrooms and the library in order to accommodate the wide variety of reading abilities in addition to sports equipment and support for their breakfast program.

"JM Denyes holds a special place in the hearts of our family," shares Dean Chudleigh, President. "My brothers and I attended the school from 1969 to 1975. JM Denyes gave us a great start in life. It is very rewarding giving back to the school that gave us so much."

"The leveled readers have made a world of difference for students in grades one through five. The engaging materials are excellent resources to integrate across subjects. Just listening to the students you can hear their interest in the materials." said Lois Dickson, Principal.

Oakville Community Foundation Focuses on Literacy

Literacy programs were enhanced to meet the individualized needs of students in four schools this year as a result of Oakville Community Foundation grants. The growing number of struggling learners, the increase in English as a Second Language students and challenges to engage boys in reading were addressed with grants that led to a high level of student engagement and achievement. Students were "sticking with" their reading materials and activities longer.

"The ability to read and write is the basis for all other education and we are so pleased to support programs in our local schools that address issues of literacy for those students who struggle with these fundamental skills."

Marlene Sibett, Manager, Grants & Fundholder Community Initiatives.

Supporting



Burlington Community Foundation Supports Youth Leadership on the Environment

The Burlington Community Foundation supported the first Youth Environment Symposium through the Mayor's Green Fund with a \$9,500 grant. More than 450 students attended a one-day youth led symposium featuring guest speaker Robert Bateman. This interactive day resulted in eco discovery, inspiration and action in all Burlington schools.

"The Burlington Community Foundation was proud to support the efforts of Burlington's students who demonstrated extraordinary leadership with their environmental conference; Imprints: Make Your Mark, Leave No Trace. Together, change can happen and we can all enjoy a brighter, healthier future," commented Cheryl Taylor, Executive Director, Burlington Community Foundation.

RBC Continues to Support Teens

While students strive to do well and to achieve in school, their personal circumstances often frustrate their success. For example, a decrease in family income can impact a student's ability to access basic personal and school related necessities. RBC's support of the Barriers Fund lends a hand to financially disadvantaged high school students with emergency bursaries.

"Supporting education and keeping youth in school is one of RBC's top priorities," says Yvette Holt, Vice-President of Commercial Financial Services at RBC, Halton. *"Education is an investment not only in our youth, but in the future of our communities and the establishment of the RBC Bursary Fund goes a long way towards helping these students stay in school,"* added Holt.

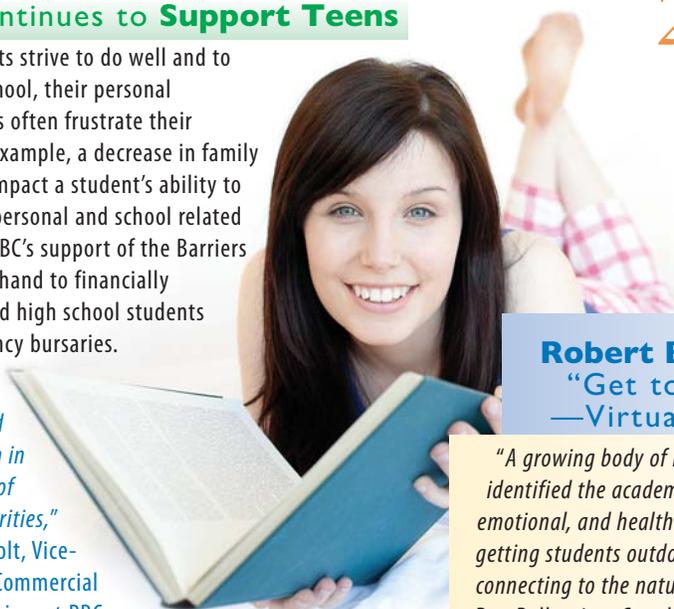
RBC's annual contributions, totaling \$170,000 over the past five years, have assisted the Halton Learning Foundation in building awareness of the Barriers Fund with corporations and service clubs in Halton. It is with their leadership gift that the Foundation is seeing a growing support from the corporate community.

Catalyst Funding Students' Dreams

Since 2009, more than a dozen graduating students who are orienting their lives towards dreams of serving others have shared in scholarships totalling just over \$30,000 from the Catalyst Award through the Halton Learning Foundation.

"In addition to the funding we have continued mentoring relationships with the recipients and have been inspired by their commitment and desire. They have shared the excitement of new chapters of their lives and the challenges of transition, all while maintaining a passion for those in need in our community and around the world," shares Chris Wignall, Executive Director, Catalyst Foundation.

The students are encouraged to have someone support them in their dreams, particularly through the mentoring during the change-filled first year post-secondary. Being reminded of their dreams gives the students the extra motivation to push forward in challenges and to keep clarity on what is important to them amidst distractions.



Robert Bateman "Get to Know —Virtual Hike"

"A growing body of research has identified the academic, social, emotional, and health benefits of getting students outdoors and connecting to the natural world," says Ron Ballentine, Coordinator of Environmental Education at Halton District School Board. *"Robert Bateman's 'Get to Know' program is truly inspirational in encouraging outdoor experiential education".* The Robert Bateman **"Get to Know"** program has been inspiring connections between children and nature in the outdoors for over a decade. Mr. Bateman believes that having students learn local species' names and characteristics will create increased awareness and understanding of wildlife, which in turn will instill increased empathy for the wellbeing of their "wild neighbours".

Halton Learning Foundation in partnership with the Burlington Community Foundation and the Mayor's Green Fund, TD Friends of the Environment and MTE (More Than Engineering) started a new program, the **"Get to Know - Virtual Hike"**, for Burlington schools.

"Giving back to our communities is a source of pride and differentiation for us at TD," adds Ruth Lee, TD Branch Manager. *"It is incredibly important to us that we do our part to strengthen communities and positively impact the lives of the people who live in them."*

"We are proud to be supporting 'Get to Know' as it will provide the Burlington area with a valuable program for many years to come." says MTE's John Goodwin, Manager of Environmental Services.





EMD Serono Celebrates Award

In celebration of Mediacorp Canada Inc.'s recognition of EMD Serono as one of Toronto's Top 90 Employers for 2010, EMDS made a \$30,000 donation to Halton Learning Foundation.

"To mark that honour we felt that it was important to support HLF in its efforts to remove economic and social barriers to student achievements." Deborah Brown, President and Managing Director of EMD Serono.

"With the \$500 grants to each of our program locations we have been able to purchase milk, cereals, fruit and other healthy breakfast choices. Many of our students come to the program without having had any breakfast. One of our students often had not had dinner the night before and his huge bowls of cereal were his only sustenance." School Social Worker

In addition to enhancing music programs with new instruments, providing literacy resources and assisting with breakfast programs EMD Serono was involved in Career Day presentations and co-op placement opportunities focusing on the biotechnology field.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Halton District School Board is known in the province for its' new initiatives and entrepreneurial approach to introducing rich learning opportunities for students. As teaching staff develop creative approaches to reaching and meeting individual student needs, the Halton Learning Foundation is working to match new ideas for projects and funding requests with donors' philanthropic objectives.

Another great challenge is to continue to meet the ongoing financial needs facing Halton youth. Ironically, the more we support young people in need, the greater the need becomes. Awareness of the Barriers fund continues to grow amongst school staff and students. With HLF's direct link to schools and student needs, we are able to channel financial support immediately and efficiently.

We, at the Halton Learning Foundation welcome the opportunity to meet with you to see how we can work together in order to benefit students.

Supporting Students, Strengthening Schools

Halton District School Board Profile

Elementary students	33,505
Secondary students	17,803
# of elementary schools	80
# of high schools	17
# of elementary teachers	2,275
# of secondary teachers	1,225

Schools located in Halton Region: Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Georgetown, Acton



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