



Town of Halton Hills

**Presentation for the Authentic Youth Engagement
Workshop hosted by the Halton Youth Initiative**



_HHYouth

www.haltonhills.ca/youth

We have been involved with the Halton Youth Initiative in two different environments in person and virtually. I am excited to be able to connect with all of you today and share my experience with the Halton Youth Initiative



Halton Hills Youth Centres

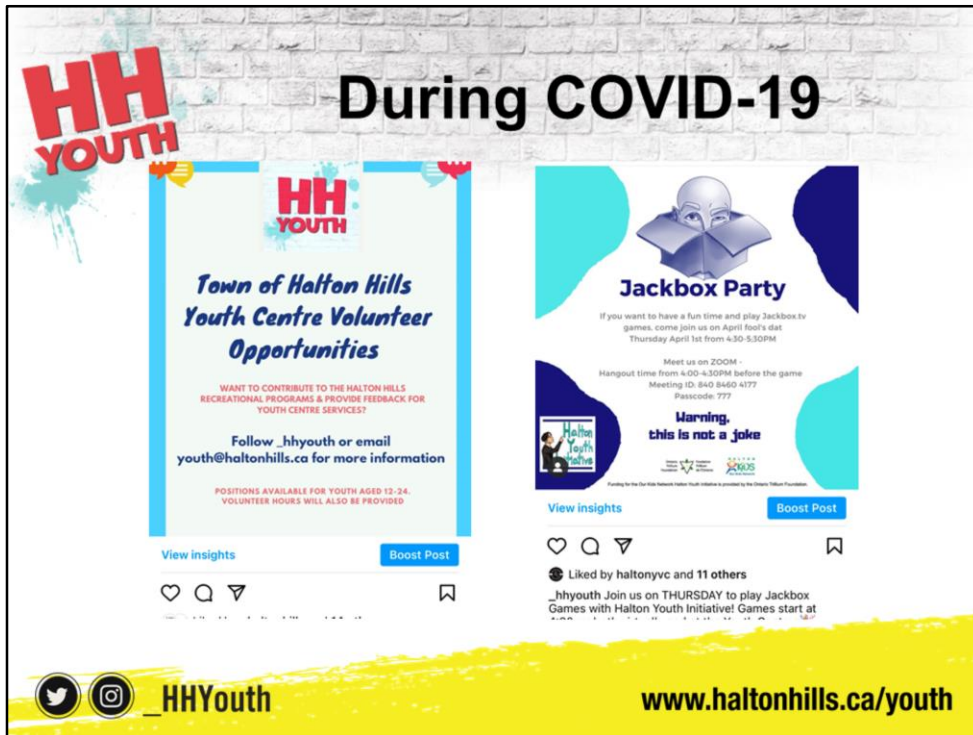


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We have two youth centre locations, one in Georgetown and one in Acton. The Seven Somebodies utilized space in Acton to meet on a regular basis with a group of youth. Meeting in a youth friendly space with an amazing group of youth, youth could meet, collaborate and work together on different initiatives that supported the community. The group would share the space with drop in programming, engage in different projects, opportunities for feedback and other initiatives.

During the pandemic, the group came back in smaller form to connect, plan and work together to support the initiatives of the project. In addition, Lily and a youth representative came to visit our Youth Leadership Camp last summer to provide information on volunteerism, highlights of the Halton Youth Initiative and they shared information on their experiences and relatable ways youth can get involved in their community.



We were honoured to be involved on the virtual end of this project during the pandemic. I was able to connect with the youth through virtual projects such as our community partner interview series, my youth centre staff collaborated with Team Goose for online games played with Youth Centre folks over Zoom which we promoted as part of our weekly programming.

Youth from the HYI also prepared social media posts to help support our online programming. These activities were things youth could do at home such as themed cookies and health granola bars.

In addition, we were a partner agency for the “Deep Dive: Youth Organizing for the Greater Good” which involved youth volunteers creating a survey via our social media that we had youth complete related to youth leadership, youth voice and how to get more youth involved in our programming and program programs. Through this online engagement we started an in person peer leadership program that meets regular and ongoing youth engagement methods within our Youth Centre spaces.



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We have moved back to in person programming but continue to share messages, posts and information virtually throughout social media. We will be continuing on with our peer leadership and youth voice opportunities and continuing to offer our Youth Leadership program to help foster volunteerism and youth voice within Halton Hills.