



The Halton HomeShare Program

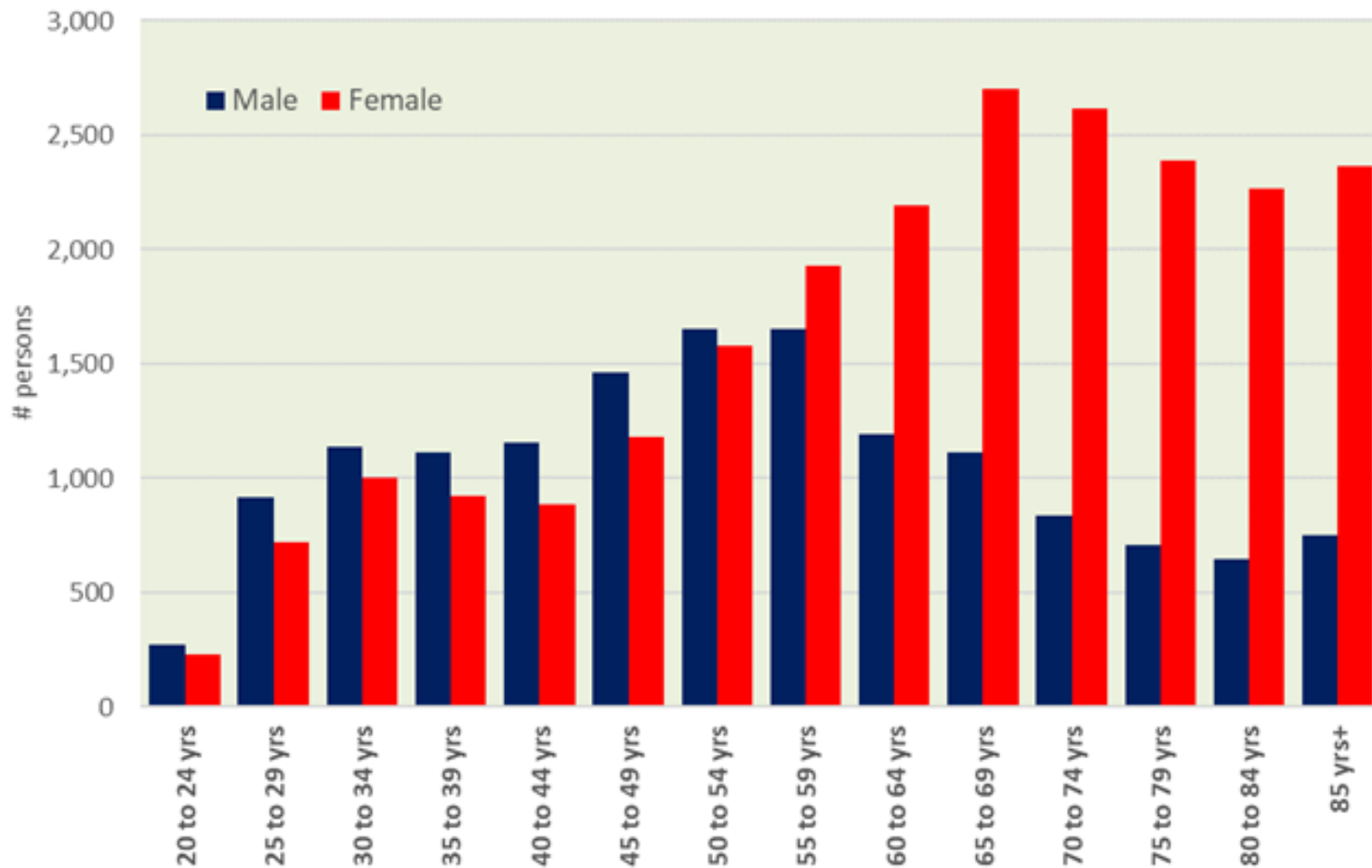


Demographics of Senior Population in Halton

Municipality	Population	65 +
Milton	110,128	10,145 (9.2%)
Halton Hills	61,161	8,180 (13.4%)
Oakville	193,832	28,170 (14.5%)
Burlington	183,314	35,320 (19.3%)

Stats Canada 2016 Census Subdivision Municipalities

Living Alone Individuals by Age Group and Sex Halton Region, 2016



Researching HomeShare

- Four HomeShare programs in Canada; Red Deer, Alberta, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, and two in Quebec, in Gatineau (Hull) and Jonquiere
- Communicated with Calgary HomeShare; Calgary housed over 150 people in 2013
- Communicated with HomeShare Vermont (over 35 years of experience)
- Many HomeShare programs throughout the United States and Europe
- International Congress on HomeShare in Spain, 2017

HomeShare Canada www.homesharecanada.org

What we Learned

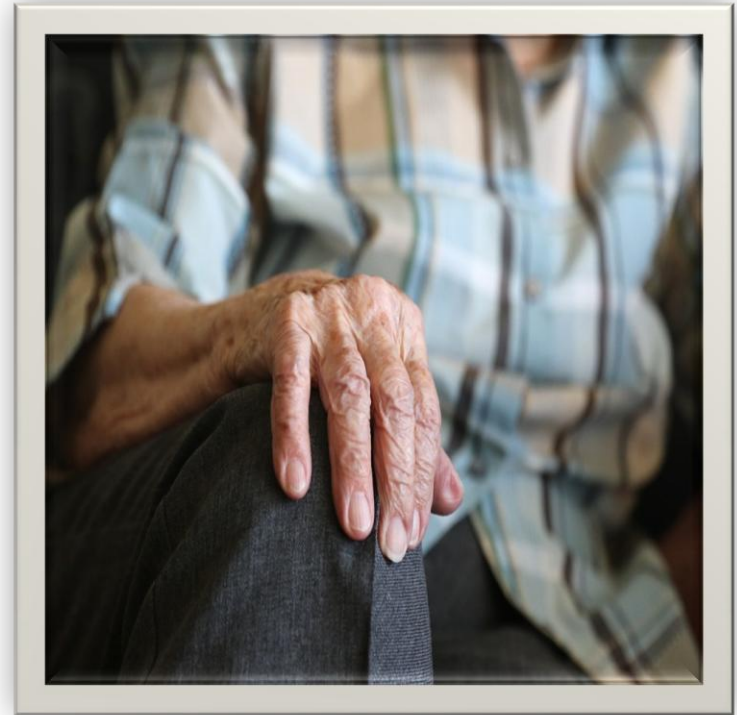
What is HomeShare?

HomeShare is considered a living arrangement between 2 or more people who reside together in the same dwelling

- Each person has his/her own private space
- Share common areas, such as the kitchen or living room
- Household responsibilities can be shared, or services exchanged for reduced accommodation expenses

Profile of Seniors Considering HomeShare

- Seniors who live alone
- Family and friends live too far away
- Struggling to stay in their home because they do not want to go into a care facility
- Lonely and would like companionship
- Difficulty maintaining household responsibilities




Seniors' Requests for Help

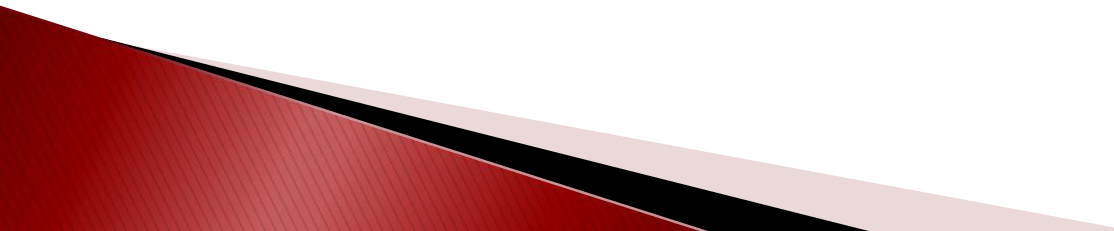
- Security – someone in the home at night
- Shopping
- Gardening and snow shoveling
- Caring for pets
- Cooking
- Cleaning
- Laundry
- Companionship



Benefits for Home Seeker

- Low cost of rent, in exchange for service. This is determined by the Home Provider. The average amount is generally between 5-10 hours a week
 - Opportunity to save
 - Accommodation
 - Companionship
 - Newcomers practice English
- 

Why Homeshare?

- Most seniors want to remain in their homes and communities, to be with their friends and social network
 - Many could remain at home if they had some support
 - HomeShare can offer companionship, reduce isolation and provide security
 - Cost effective and affordable for the Home Provider and Home Seeker
- 

HomeShare can be Flexible for Many Family Situations



Couple



Single Parent Family

The Halton HomeShare Toolkit

- The Burlington Age-Friendly Housing Committee created a toolkit to provide a resource to individuals who are interested in learning more about HomeShare as a housing alternative
- A comprehensive self-resource tool that anyone can use



HomeShare

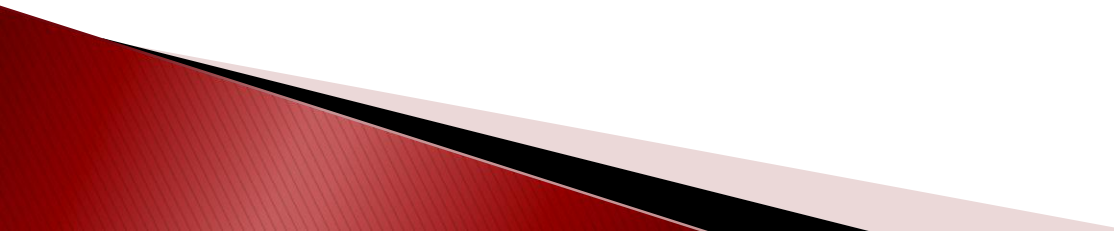
“Good for some but not good for everyone”



HomeShare Vision

“HomeShare empowers Home Providers and Home Seekers the ability to live in affordable, shared accommodation inclusive of respect, choice, dignity and is of mutual benefit to all.”

Burlington Age-Friendly Council





World Health Organization

The Halton HomeShare Program is on the World Health Organization's database of Age-Friendly Practices



Moving Forward in Partnership

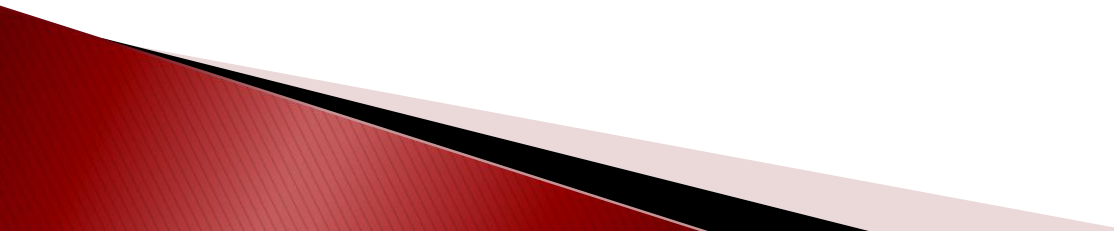
- Halton Region has adopted the Halton HomeShare Program and works in partnership with Burlington Age-Friendly Council and Halton Housing Help to implement the program in all of Halton; Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills (Georgetown and Acton)
- Burlington Age-Friendly Council's Housing Committee is particularly involved in the promotion, outreach and education, acts as an advisory

Getting Started

Halton Region:

- Establishment of procedures/processes
- HomeShare Provider and Home Seeker registry
- Application form
- Interview form
- Home environmental safety scan
- Background checks: Police check & references on the Home Provider and Home Seeker
- Orientation

Matches

- Potential matches from the registry
 - Home Provider is provided the opportunity to meet with potential Home Seekers that meet criteria
 - Decision of match is a mutual agreement between Home Provider and Home Seeker
- 

What is a HomeShare Agreement?


- Outlines the expectations and responsibilities of each party
- Each agreement is unique to each living arrangement
- Services exchanges and costs involved will vary depending on the needs of the respective parties



Monitor HomeShare Arrangements

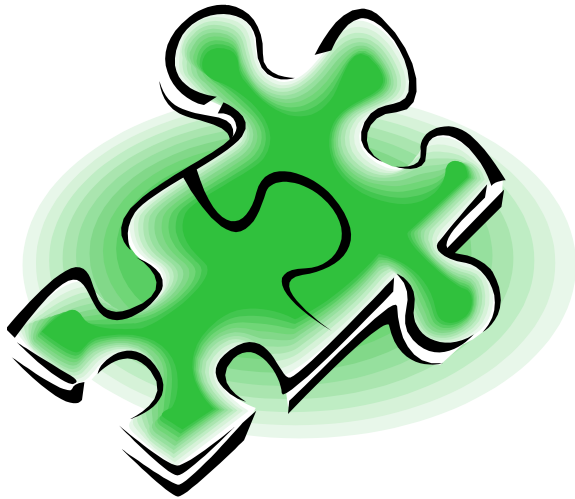
- Initial monitoring and then ongoing
- Face to face visits by staff with Home Provider and Home Seeker (separately as well as together). This is to identify if there are any issues of power imbalance within the relationship
- Regular reports
- Identify the level of participant satisfaction
- Assess changes
- Share information about additional resources that may be needed

Lessons Learned From Other HomeShare Programs

- HomeShare is about mutual benefit and building relationship rather than just affordable accommodation
 - Focus on quality of matches and HomeShare arrangements rather than quantity
 - HomeShare is not for everyone
 - Family support is important
 - Matches take time
 - Provide good information to help people make the right decisions for themselves
- 

Homeshare

A great alternative of housing that can meet the needs of many individuals!



Contact Information

Heather Thompson

Manager, Age-Friendly Initiatives

Project Coordinator, Burlington Age-Friendly Council

Community Development Halton

hthompson@cdhalton.ca

289-348-1503 or toll free at 1-855-395-8807 ext. 3