

HMC honours Allison at anniversary gala

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The Halton Multicultural Council (HMC) will honour its first president with the launch of the Bill Allison Community Leadership Award for outstanding efforts in support of diversity.

The award will be introduced at HMC's 30th anniversary fundraising gala on Saturday, April 25.

"The purpose of the award is to recognize the outstanding efforts of local businesses, agencies or organizations in the Region of Halton that have demonstrated leadership in response to our diverse community," said Trivi Mehendale, HMC president.

"The award will also recognize the outstanding efforts of Halton businesses, agencies or organizations' as champions in diversity, equity and inclusiveness."

"It is fitting to name the award after our first president," said Joanna Matthews, executive director of HMC.

"He has participated in various leadership roles that have not only promoted diversity and inclusion, but civic engagement and community partnership as well."

Allison is a long-standing community volunteer. He has been involved in the Oakville Lions Club since 1993 and is currently the vice district governor for District A711 encompassing Greater Toronto and beyond Hamilton.

He has also served on the Mayor of Oakville's Traffic Advisory Committee.

"I consider it an honour to have my name associated with this prestigious award," said Allison, noting, "As founding president, I served from 1978 to 1983 and partnered with leaders from various cultural groups in Oakville in the formation of the council. We recognized the need to provide better access to services for new immigrants and their families in Halton Region."

"We are in a unique position to ensure inclusion and representation of all our citizens from various backgrounds to hold their rightful places in the community," he said.

The award will be presented at HMC's gala, featuring guests and performances representing its founding member groups including, the Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton Community Band, Croatian Folklore Ensemble and Oakville Portuguese Folklore Group. It will also feature keynote speaker Joey Edwardh of Community Development Halton.

The fundraising gala will be held at Le Dome Banquet Hall, 1173 North Service Rd. E.



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Doors open at 6 p. m. with appetizers, cocktails and cultural performances. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p. m., followed by the keynote address, entertainment and dancing.

Formerly known as the Oakville Multicultural Council, HMC is a community agency dedicated to enabling every individual, regardless of race or ethnic origin, to participate as full and active members of the community through fostering mutual respect and understanding of one another.

HMC was first organized by the Oakville Social Planning Council.

HMC welcomes nominations from Halton businesses, agencies or organizations that have championed diversity, equity, and inclusiveness. For information, contact Susan Crawford, HMC at 905-842-2486, ext. 227 or scrawford@halton-multicultural.org .

For more information about the gala, contact Heather Hogan at HMC at 905-842-2486, ext. 248 or hhogan@halton-multicultural.org or visit www.halton-multicultural.org .

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