



Hamilton & Burlington Chapter

December 2022 Newsletter



Last 2022 rides

On a sunny autumn day, pilot Lois Corey took long-time family friend, Ina Vrugtman, on a ride along the waterfront, accompanied by care worker Tracey Schlosser. Formerly a highly respected and internationally recognized scientist at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Ina now suffers from advanced stage Parkinson's. She spends most of her days within four walls of an assisted-living home in Dundas. Several failed attempts to arrange for DARTS transportation spurred CWA volunteers and others to finally arrange a ride for Ina. She was able to experience the "wind in her hair" and the sounds of nature once again. Ironically her ride occurred across the lake from RBG, where she worked so long ago. Lois says, "It was a gratifying moment."

Volunteer Appreciation Event



John and Geoffrey acted as the welcoming committee for our Oct 21st event at Williams Café. (Where else?) We enjoyed stories, snacks, and connecting with each other in a social setting. Our special guests included colleagues from new CWA chapters in Mississauga and Markham. Kevin and Alfred are working hard to get them underway. There was swag for our draws that Allan brought from his visit to Denmark and Tammy brought from New Hope. The grandchildren of Trainer John and pilot Sharon were among the lucky winners. Trainer Adam, as master of ceremonies, kept us laughing and singing in anticipation of future karaoke at Tracie's. (See next page).



Wheelchair Trishaw and Fundraising



Thanks to the efforts of pilot Irene Peters, we had our first 50/50 Draws at [Tracie's Place](#) on November 15. To date, we have compiled almost \$1,000 in donations. Please join us at our next fun evening on FRIDAY January 20, 2023 from 6pm to “?”. You will find our table in the back.

535 passengers! 331 trips!

Hampered by COVID in 2021, we had only 22 rides and 5 active pilots. We came a long way this year.

Here's how it ended....

30-Nov-22	Trips	Passengers
Hamilton	254	393
Burlington	65	122
Markham	12	20
Totals	331	535

In 2022, we had 30 active pilots, and another 13 who were trained but unable to participate due to injury, travel, or other circumstances. We hope to welcome them back in 2023!

Planning ahead for 2023

Fundraising is currently underway for a wheelchair trishaw (Velo Plus). Earlier this month, our Advisory Team met and reviewed

suggestions made by pilots at our Volunteer Appreciation Event. The Team worked on generating additional ideas and developing a workplan to ensure our 3rd year is as successful (or exceeds!) our 2nd year.

Topics covered included:

- Brainstorming about potential partnerships with other seniors' residences in Burlington
- Considering additional weekday rides in Burlington
- Strengthening our fundraising and public relations initiatives
- Arranging more 'come to us events' for LTC and Retirement Homes
- Recruiting and retaining pilots
- Offering more Community Trishaw Rides to allow caregivers in the community to bring their family & friends

We've also submitted applications for two different grants: a federal grant (New Horizons for Seniors Program) in conjunction with New Hope Community Bikes and a regional grant (Halton Region Community Investment Fund Grant).

Volunteers needed.....

We will need to recruit additional pilots in 2023, especially in Burlington. We also need someone to manage our social media accounts as Nancy K has resigned. Our site coordinators (Sharon, Lorraine, Val, Scott and Allan) are still keen to continue in 2023, but we will need a coordinator for the Community Trishaw Rides. If you are interested, please send an email to cwahamilton@gmail.com

Giving people a link to [Our Videos](#) is a great way to drum up interest and to let someone know about our program. The videos tell three wonderful short stories about CWA through interviews and testimonials. Happy Holidays and see you in the spring!