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(NOTE: All notes inserted by Summit Organizers)

When first asked to attend Bike Summit was puzzled because didn't know why Halton was invited to speak.

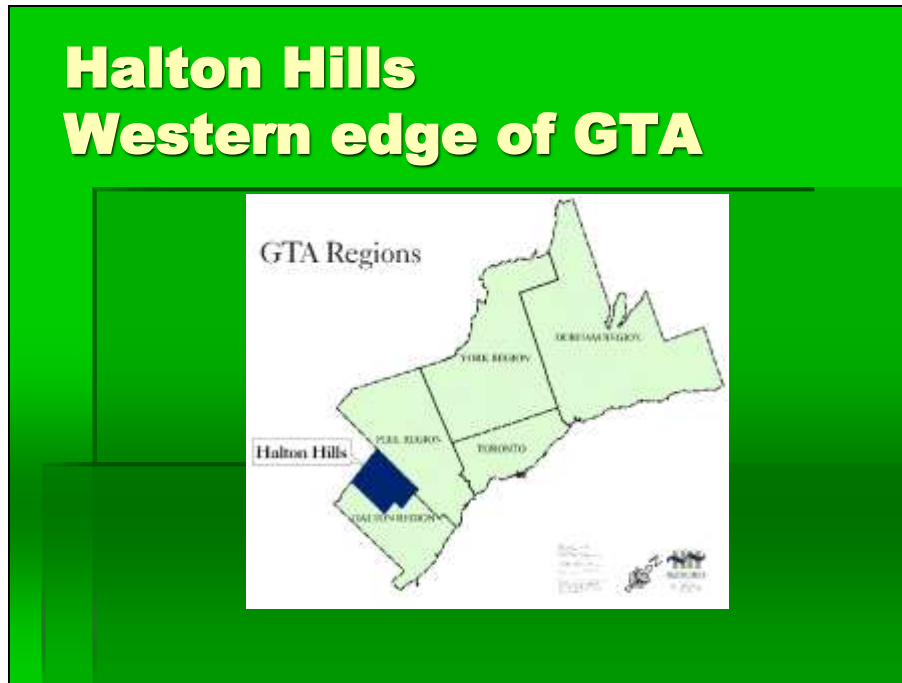
Allowed her to look at what they had done → sometimes we forget to reflect on our achievements because we are always looking forward.

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Welcome to Halton Hills



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Aerial view of Halton Hills an amalgamated town Georgetown, Acton and Rural Area



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Halton Hills 60,000



The Halton Hills Civic Centre is located at
1 Halton Hills Dr, L7G-5G2

Town Hall

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2005 Local Attitude

- Council indifferent to cycling interests and safety
- Maple Avenue
- Removal of Cycling Lanes
- Message to Cyclists
- What changed and why?

Originally, Halton council indifferent to cyclists and cycling safety in 2005.

Now have a cycling plan with \$15 million dollars assigned/granted to it.

Lots of similarities to Peterborough, except with addition of escarpment → natural areas, beautiful landscape, rolling hills, small towns and villages.

Located at western end of the GTA → Oakville, Milton and Burlington and Georgetown, Acton and rural area (Halton Hills amalgamated town).

Niagara escarpment, lots of greenbelt and 401 in south, farmers fields.

Eleanor came to town council and they were completely indifferent.

Issue: Maple Avenue (Georgetown) arterial road, only way to get to a local sports arena, would be a good road for cycling facilities → had painted lines for bikes provided some refuge from gravel trucks.

The final approved redesign *removed* cyclist area and covered it in grass → message to cyclists → we don't care → local doctor said, we have to do this for the children.

9 to 2 vote Council to remove bike lanes.

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#1 The Mayor's Green Plan

- Process more important than product
- Awakening of councillor interest
- Acceptance of environmental interest

Mayors green action plan → when current mayor was first elected, he said it was time to look at the environment → set up a green plan task force that had a mix of councillors and residents → couldn't tell councillors were interested in environment on the surface but in fact they actually were interested in but never talked about → this gave them permission to talk about.

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#2 Success of Trails developments

- Worst decision ever – Rail Trail- 15 years ago
- Purchase Valley Lands
- Trails Advisory Committee
- Hungry Hollow Management Plan
- Ban on Cyclists avoided

Success of trails development → worst decision was not to purchase rail line → Council had decided it was too much trouble → however, about 10 years ago had opportunity to acquire valley lands, now have great trails system → Council recognizing that people value trails (not just about sports arenas).

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Hungry Hollows Management Plan → ban bikes from trails in valley → environmentalists came out to help with this decision but not those that lived there → councillors thought cyclists were all young people hell bent on being destructive → gave allowing bikes a trial run and there has never been a problem → council again learning.

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#3 Active and Safe Routes to School

- Halton Regional Health Department
- Halton School Boards
- Staff look at streets from point of view of pedestrians and cyclists
- First time encouraging walking and cycling

Active and Safe Routes to School → too many kids being driven to school → shouldn't these kids be walking? → staff was forced, under this program, to focus on the walkers/cyclists perspective on all of the streets, not just the intersections → safe cycling was finally being recognized as a transportation issue, not just recreation.

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#4 Places to Grow - Mandate

- Official Plan conformity
- Transportation Plan – Active transportation
- Halton Hills today
- Halton Hills of the future

Places to Grow (Province of Ontario) → Official Plan conformity (provinces vision is to have sustainable development) → Halton Hills is typical urban sprawl → have changed our Official Plan and have great plans for the future due to Places to Grow.

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#5 Public Demand

- Traffic Calming
- Safety for pedestrians and cyclists
- Political shift

Public Demand → Public demand asking for traffic calming in many neighbourhoods → take back from exclusive use of drivers and give to safety of pedestrians and cyclists → shift in thinking by politicians where they courageously take back rights of cars (recognize that it is drivers of the road in general, not those drivers living in the identified area).

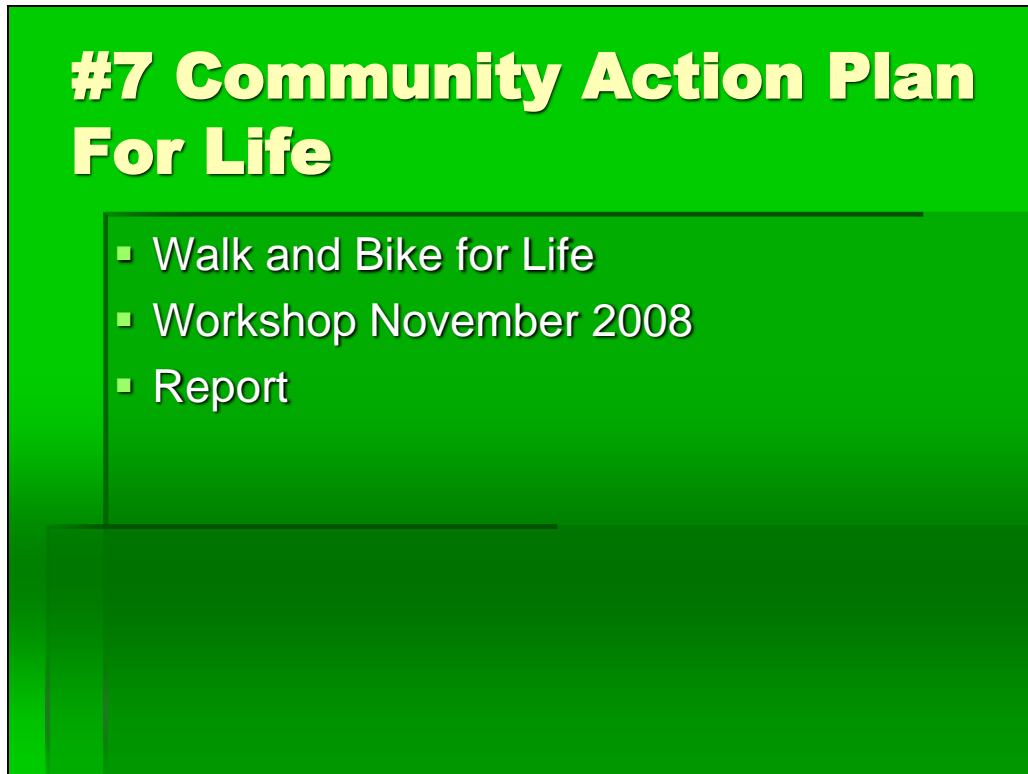
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#6 Local Champion with a constant message

- Be relentless
- Be strategic
- Cycling Advisory Committee
- The new message to staff – permission to move forward

Local champion with a constant message → be relentless → cycling should be a much more important part of our communities → this *is* going to happen → getting council to buy into this future isn't easy → raise cycling issues and needs at every single opportunity even if it isn't relevant → upgrading road, new development, over and over again → get council to agree that we need a cycling advisory committee → this was very important because it was a signal that cycling is on the agenda → said to staff that we are prepared to look at cycling infrastructure and that staff could consider it.

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#7 Community Action Plan For Life

- Walk and Bike for Life
- Workshop November 2008
- Report

Community Action Plan for life → 8:80 Cities www.8-80cities.org (non-profit), was Walk and Bike for Life → Through them, Halton Hills held first cycling workshop in November 2008 with Gil Penalosa who is a huge advocate for sustainable transportation, pushes for infrastructure that makes communities safe for everyone → world class athletes to interested citizens → created a report for community.

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#8 The Budget

- Budget process
- Key person
- Engineering Department
- Council approval

The Budget → Find out how things get in the budget → getting the mayor on side was critical → engineering staff on side → CAO and mayor knew full well that Jane was going to explode if she didn't get it into the budget → once it is in the budget you have to be careful too because when cuts come, it is often a target → this is an easy target but councillors may have been afraid of Jane!

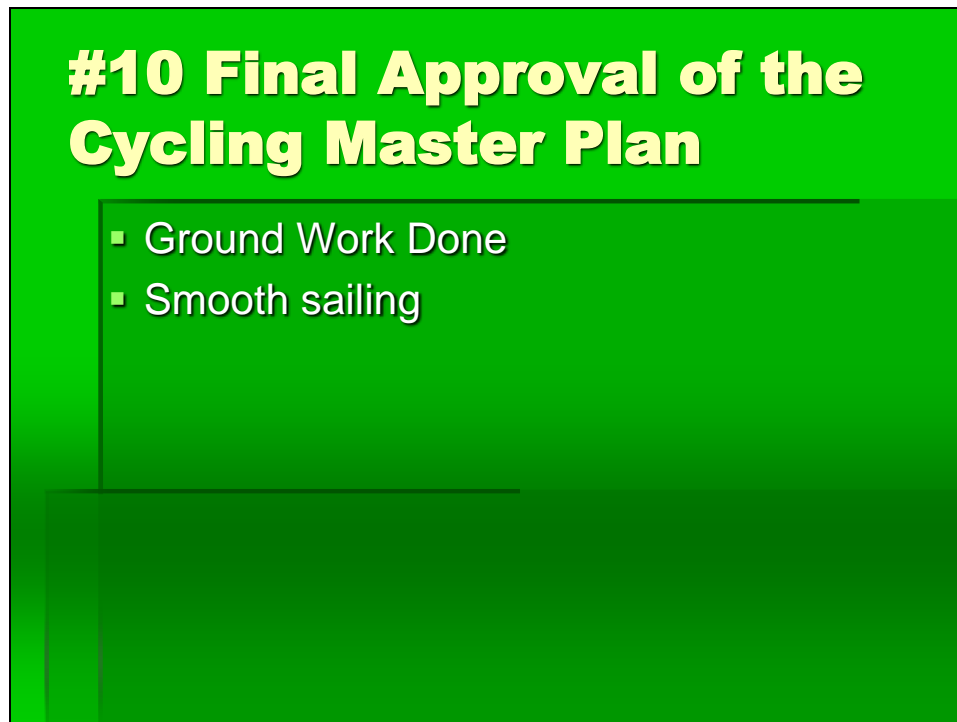
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#9 Council Involvement Public Consultation Importance to community



Council Involvement → public consultation → brought councillors out so that they could see how much people were interested in this, brought them to farmers market, and many other cycling/pedestrian-related events.

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#10 Final Approval of the Cycling Master Plan

- Ground Work Done
- Smooth sailing

Final Approval of Cycling Master Plan → ground work done → was approved unanimously → \$15 million committed → two road projects approved.

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Why is the Plan important?

- Direction to Staff
- Permission to Staff

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New bike lanes

Separate lanes for bikes on less busy area.

One Halton Hills cycling lane has separate parking area for cars (see above).

Town of Halton Hills Cycling Master Plan → get the Cycling Master Plan together so when grants are made available you have everything in place

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Ready for Opportunities



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Conclusion

- Need a champion
- Identify the Goal
- Recognize the political process
- Take advantage of every opportunity to move forward
- Keep going – the stars are aligned