To:
Chair and Members
Emergency and Community Services Committee

From: ______________________ (Co-chair)  ______________________
Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee (to be signed by the Co-Chair)

____________________ (Co-chair)  ______________________
Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee (to be signed by the Co-Chair)

Date: December 10, 2012

Re: 2012 Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee Summary (HYAC12-001)

Recommendation:
That Report HYAC12-001, Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee - 2012 Committee Summary, be received.

Background:
The purpose of the following report to the Emergency and Community Services Committee is to:

- Provide a summary of the City of Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee’s (HYAC) achievements since the last report (Report HYAC11-001) December 7th, 2011 to December 10th, 2012.
- Outline upcoming HYAC initiatives, activities and/or events

The Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee (HYAC) is comprised of a diverse group of engaged leaders 14-24 years of age who are passionate about making positive change in their community. Ensuring youth involvement in the decisions made within the City of Hamilton and in the community that affects young people, their families and friends is HYAC’s mandate. HYAC provides a youth perspective and advises Council, through
reports to the Emergency & Community Services Committee, on municipal issues to be considered by the Mayor, Council and City staff. Striving to address issues facing youth, enhancing opportunities for youth and providing a youth voice are the goals of the committee. In addition to fostering positive collaborative relationships between youth and adults and by supporting youth oriented events and programs, HYAC aims to lead by example with integrity, respect and innovation.

Summary of 2012 Activities and Achievements for HYAC (in reverse chronological order):

Since its inception in 2007, HYAC continues to make significant strides as an advisory committee, and also as a conduit between youth and youth organizations in the community.

Much of HYAC's work in 2012 focused on youth-led initiatives, networking and forming sustainable collaborative partnerships. In HYAC's December 2011 report to Council, the committee identified 13 key initiatives it hoped to accomplish in 2012. Through their combined efforts, HYAC managed to initiate, complete and/or maintain 8 of those initiatives.

HYAC members supported and participated in community initiatives such as:

- **Unfiltered Facts Summit 2012**: HYAC members attended the “Soundtrack for Change” Summit which featured youth artists, arts-based programing, youth facilitators, school sharing/networking, and tons of fun! The Summit armed participants with information and tools they need to tackle youth health issues in their school community.

- **Raising the Roof Campaign**: HYAC is once again “stepping-up” to help Wesley Urban Ministries put a cap on youth homelessness in our community! Hamilton is home to over 72,000 youth or 14% of Hamilton’s entire population. Unfortunately, some of these same youth are at-risk-of or experiencing homelessness. HYAC members believe this is unacceptable and are supporting the 2012-2013 Raising the Roof Campaign and Toque Tuesday on February 5th. Get yourself a toque today and help a youth experiencing homelessness tomorrow.

- **CBC Hamilton’s Town Hall Event – Mental Health 101: Youth and the Hidden Crisis in our Community**: Members of HYAC collaborated on the topic with CBC producer Karin Chykaliuk and reporter Samantha Craggs, and participated in a town hall meeting October 24, 2012. Open to the public, this town hall examined the hidden crisis of youth mental health in our community. Attendees heard from young people and their parents, youth counsellors, health care professionals, educators, and the police. They shared their personal stories, discussed ways to break down the stigma of mental illness, and suggested solutions for change.

- **New Member Orientation**: In September 2012, HYAC welcomed 17 new members to the committee. HYAC’s membership now stands at 26 and represents a diverse group of young leaders.
‘The 5th Annual ChangeTheWorld - Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge’, ran from April 15 to May 6, 2012. HYAC members, along with over 1,300 other Hamilton youth participated in the challenge and surpassed Volunteer Hamilton’s goal of 3,000 community hours by over 7,000 hours!

Youth Week Hamilton, April 30th to May 6th 2012: Members of HYAC made local history by organizing and hosting Hamilton’s first ever Youth Week celebration! Youth Week Hamilton brought youth of different ages, cultures and areas of the city together to celebrate achievements and contributions while recognizing the importance of young people to the community. Some of the youth-serving organizations and groups that participated by offering free or low priced activities or entertainment were: YWCA, Hamilton Recreation Department, Living Rock, Hamilton Public Library, The Young Parent Network, YMCA, Youth Net Hamilton, the Vanier Cup winning McMaster Marauders, and students from Cardinal Newman and Bishop Tonnos Secondary Schools.


Leadership Quest V: Leadership Quest, an initiative of Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS), is a unique hands-on experiential learning opportunity that goes above and beyond traditional classroom walls. Designed to augment the secondary school curriculum, Leadership Quest gives youth an advantage by promoting positive youth engagement, critical thinking, positive networking activities and greater self-awareness. Hamilton Crew for Action Against Tobacco Peer Leaders (PHS), youth leaders from area secondary schools and community groups and trained supporting adults came together to enhance their skills, knowledge and motivation to take action on issues important to youth and positively impact the community. The event took place on March 10-12 at Medeba Adventure Camp in Haliburton Ontario.

Team-building: HYAC began the New Year with a committee meeting and team-building adventure at Lazer Mania in January 2012. Youth engaged in initial planning discussions for the coming year. Youth and supporting adults also had the opportunity to team-build, while honing communication and strategizing skills during spirited games of laser tag.

The newly formed committee will continue to familiarize itself with the City of Hamilton and local government, as well as identify priorities and initiatives they wish to focus on during the rest of their term. One priority is to host Hamilton Youth Week 2013 - May 4-11.
Recruitment of 17 new members took place in May and June 2012. Currently, there are 26 HYAC members. Twelve to 15 members attend monthly meetings and various events/activities on a consistent basis. HYAC is experiencing success inviting friends of current members to attend meetings and events. Committee meetings are open to the public. Welcoming youth who are non-members continues to infuse meetings with new energy and fresh perspectives while building interest in joining HYAC.

- The age range of HYAC members is from 14 to 24 years.
- Membership reflects a diverse group of young people from East, Central and West Hamilton, Hamilton Mountain, Dundas, Ancaster, Waterdown and Stoney Creek.
- Members include students in secondary and post-secondary school.

City of Hamilton Support to HYAC

HYAC continues to be supported by one part-time Youth Advisor in consultation with a Senior Policy Analyst, both from Social Development and Early Childhood Services Division. Other support has been provided through Councillor Jackson’s office and the Mayor’s Office.

Up-coming HYAC Projects/Events:

Building on the learnings and accomplishments of HYAC members and staff to date, a list of possible initiatives has been developed for future consideration.

1. Continue to utilize best practices and Hart’s Ladder of Young People’s Participation\(^1\), specifically rungs 6-8, as a guide to gauge and continue to ensure meaningful opportunities for young people to participate, lead and succeed.

\[\text{Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation}\]

- Rung 8: Young people and adults share decision-making
- Rung 7: Young people lead & initiate action
- Rung 6: Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people
- Rung 5: Young people consulted and informed
- Rung 4: Young people assigned and informed
- Rung 3: Young people \textit{tokenized}
- Rung 2: Young people are \textit{decoration}
- Rung 1: Young people are \textit{manipulated}

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2. Continue to increase physical presence in the community and cultivate more of a 'grass roots' approach to advocacy and youth-related issues. Youth have identified HYAC’s profile in the community is starting to gain momentum. Youth have identified the public is slowly becoming aware of HYAC and their mandate. Currently in discussion is another HYAC initiated & hosted city wide Youth-Week collaboration and celebration May 4-11, 2013.

3. Revise HYAC’s current Terms of Reference and implement more volunteer management practices and procedures i.e. job descriptions and checkpoints/evaluations.

4. Maintain an up-to-date and informative youth-friendly website that acts as the ‘hub’ of everything ‘youth’ in the City of Hamilton. Create ‘buzz’ by designing an innovative promotional strategy by youth for youth.

5. Increase the number of reports to ECS the coming year.

6. Pursue linkages with other City wide initiatives such as the Neighbourhood Strategy, the Recreation Department and the Pan Am Games Initiative.

7. Develop a Youth Consultation Policy (internal) that would ensure timely, meaningful and accessible consultations with youth.

9. Develop a series of comprehensive pre/post evaluations and surveys to assist youth in identifying the needs and opinions of their peers and to help supporting adults with planning future initiatives and addressing committee challenges. This information would then enable more reports and recommendations to be brought forward to council.

10. Identify and develop a series of training and skill development opportunities for HYAC members. Some examples of trainings that would be of value to the youth include; message development, how to work with the media, advocacy and various leadership building activities/initiatives.

11. Continue to look for ways to network, collaborate and partner with other adult allies and youth groups.

12. Develop a scale of recognition and celebration of achievement.
Item 7.1, E&CS Meeting December 10, 2012
Soundtrack for Change Summit
Buy a toque!

AND HELP PUT A CAP ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA!

Minimum donation $10
Did you know…

- 20 per cent of Canadian youth have a mental illness or disorder.

- 3.2 Million aged 12 to 19 are at risk for developing depression.

- Canada’s youth suicide rate is the third highest in the industrialized world.
EVERY NINE DAYS,
someone in Hamilton dies by suicide. 
Sadly, some are young.

Mental Health 101:
Youth and the Hidden Crisis in our Community.
New HYAC Members!
CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
Presented to:

Hamilton Youth Advisory Council

for participating in the 5th annual
ChangeTheWorld: Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge.

Thank you for joining this youth movement and for making a positive change in your community.

K. Dunlop
Youth Challenge Coordinator
Volunteer Hamilton

Honourable Charles Sousa
Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

Ontario
YouthWeek Hamilton ‘12
Whassup?

Celebrate
Inspire
Showcase
Promote
Include

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY APRIL 30
Youth Week Kick-off Event

Join the Hamilton Youth Advisory Committee (HYAC) as they launch the Youth Week campaign in front of St. John’s Bread & Honey in downtown Hamilton. The event will feature a performance by the Hamilton Street Performers and a rebranding of the HYAC logo.

WEDNESDAY MAY 2
Tips for Your First Interview

Learn tips for effectively researching a summer job, creating a strong resume, and preparing for an interview. Job Development Centre, 2nd Floor, 499 James St. North. 1:30-2:30 p.m. TEL: 905-547-4300 ext. 2220

FRIDAY MAY 4
A Call to Action: Working Together for a Safer Hamilton

The Young People Network in Leading Issues Conference. A Young People-led conference for Young People, at the Hamilton Public Library. Program is in English and Spanish. Call 905-547-4300 ext. 1200 or 905-386-3060 for info.

TUESDAY MAY 1
Bless the Meating House

To celebrate Youth Week, and to partner with the Meating House and using black youth, a clean-up of the back storage areas. St. John’s, 111 James St. North.

SATURDAY MAY 5
The Rememberer Youth Centre is FREE

SUNDAY MAY 6
Join Bishop’s Secondary School in its upcoming events

The City of Hamilton is not responsible for the posting or taking part in any participating organizations, nor is it responsible for links to, or information available from, the websites. The City of Hamilton is not responsible for the contents of external websites.
Hamilton Youth Week 2012
‘Moving Forward: Navigating Your Own Success’
Support
Future Focus

- Youth engagement and participation
- Raise HYAC’s profile in the community
- Continue to reflect, revise and develop
- Reach out to other youth in the community
- Advise
- Skill development
- Acknowledgement
Thank you.