

Prominent Humanists

June Callwood [1924-2007]	Canadian Journalist, Philanthropist, Member of Order of Canada.
Dr. Brock Chisholm [1896-1971]	Canadian physician. Promoted intellectual freedom, First Director of the World Health Organization
Sir Francis Crick [1916-2004] Dr. James Watson [1928]	Dynamic duo of British scientists who co-discovered DNA. Nobel prize laureates.
Marie Curie [1867-1934]	Polish Scientist. Nobel Prize laureate. Discovered radium.
Charles Darwin [1809-1882]	English naturalist. Originated theory of evolution based on natural selection.
Frederick Douglas [1818-1985]	African-American writer, orator and abolitionist. Abraham Lincoln's advisor.
Thomas Edison [1847-1931]	Prolific American inventor. Inventions include light bulb and phonograph.
Albert Einstein [1879-1955]	German scientist. Originated theory of relativity. Nobel Prize laureate.
Robert Geldof [1954]	Irish musician and philanthropist. Leads concerts for world famine relief.
Helen Keller [1880-1968]	American writer and world's leading activist for the blind and deaf.
John Lennon [1940-1980]	English singer/songwriter and founding member of The Beatles. Peace activist.
Dr. Henry Morgentaler [1923]	Polish physician. Holocaust survivor. Women's reproductive rights activist.
Farley Mowat [1921]	Canadian author, focusing on Native cultures. Member of the Order of Canada.
Taslima Nasrin [1962]	Bengali physician, author, poet and outspoken women's rights activist.
Gene Roddenberry [1921-1991]	American author, screenwriter and creator of famous "Star Trek" series.
Carl Sagan [1934-1996]	American astronomer, author and critical thinking advocate.
Gloria Steinem [1934]	American journalist and women's rights activist. Coined the term Ms.
Ted Turner [1938]	American media mogul and philanthropist. Founded CNN
Mark Twain [1835-1910]	(Samuel Clemens) American author, satirist, orator and civil rights activist.

Introduction to Humanism

Humanism originated in ancient Greece more than two thousand years ago. This philosophy looked to human beings rather than gods to solve human problems.

Democritus (460-351 BCE), a progressive thinker, atomic theorist and Greek philosopher asserted that human beings can set higher standards of personal integrity and social responsibility by guiding their lives by the principles of reason, logic, science, law, and ethics, rather than by invoking any supernatural sanctions.

Over the centuries, there have been several interpretations of Humanism. By the 20th century, Humanism primarily meant SECULAR Humanism, i.e. that human beings can lead meaningful and moral lives without religious doctrines or texts.

The Humanist philosophy advocates using rational and scientific approaches to addressing the wide range of issues important to us all and promotes respect, compassion, fairness and equality.



www.h-phc.ca info@h-phc.ca

Halton-Peel Humanist Community



Humanism is a dynamic life stance that is guided by rational thoughts, scientific inquiry, responsibility, ethics, compassion, fairness, and equality.

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What is the Halton-Peel Humanist Community?

Founded in 2005, the Halton-Peel Humanist Community (H-PHC) is a non-profit, community organization that advocates separation of government and religion. We support the search for meaning in a non-supernatural world. Science, reason and compassion are at the heart of this secular world view. We work toward secular and rational approaches to law, ethics, and social welfare.

“Mission Statement”

The Halton-Peel Humanist Community's objectives are

- to promote a secular society in which civil affairs are free from religious influence
- to promote rational dialogue and critical thinking in the formation of public policy
- to protect the rights of Humanists, Secularists, Atheists and Freethinkers and to oppose any attempts to impose religious-based laws and beliefs on the general population
- to respect the right of individuals to decide their own futures and their belief systems without interference from, or fear of, dogma, mythology, socioreligious stigma or persecution.

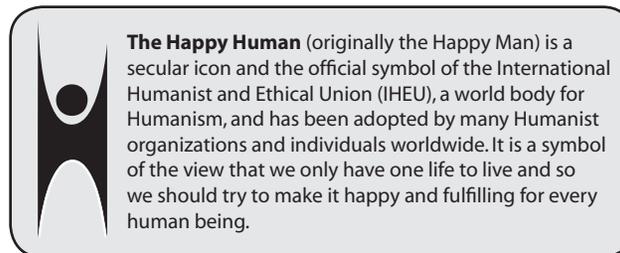
We are fully affiliated with Humanist Canada (HAC) and support the Ontario Humanist Society.”



Humanist Association of Canada

Core Principles of Humanism

1. That we can live full, meaningful lives, without religious doctrines, by relying on our capacities for rationality, honesty, cooperation, fairness, and respect for each other.
2. That we use democratic principles, logic, and scientific inquiry to find realistic solutions to problems.
3. That we foster good ethics, virtues and critical thinking in our children to help them grow to be decent, responsible and active members of society.
4. That we protect and improve the Earth for future generations by supporting scientific breakthroughs in medicine and technology and by not inflicting needless suffering on other species.
5. That separation of religion and state is upheld in all levels of government to ensure equality and fairness for all.



Why join us?

The Halton-Peel Humanist Community and affiliated regional Humanist groups provide Atheists/Agnostics and other freethinkers with an extensive network of people who share their philosophy and support their way of life. This includes monthly discussions, socializing, officiant services for weddings and funerals, and outreach programs such as non-religious support for agnostic hospital patients.

By mobilizing our human resource network, skills and funds, we are an effective vehicles for initiating socio-political reform in Ontario. We actively campaign for civil rights issues dealing with marriage, health, employment, education and social welfare. For example, we are actively involved with the One School System Network in Ontario seeking to eliminate the public funding of religious education.

You can join our online discussion group by sending a blank message to:
h-phc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



www.h-phc.ca info@h-phc.ca

H-PHC meetings are generally the 21st of each month in recognition of many seasonal celebrations such as Equinoxes and Solstices. Locations vary.

Other significant Humanist dates include Darwin's birthday, February 12th, Earth Day on April 22nd and HumanLight on December 23rd.

Please register with our **Meetup.com** group for regular updates: <http://www.meetup.com/HaltonPeelHumanists/>