

# Discover the Land of Oz, it's worth the trip

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**T**o me, living in Australia was never a 'homey' experience.

Yes, I lived there, but there were seldom occasions where I would look around at the beautiful country I was in and say "This is my home."

I left about five years ago and this March we finally took the 19-hour flight all the way back to 'The Land Down Under.'

Boarding the plane, I was both excited and reluctant; after all 19 hours of travelling isn't exactly comfortable.

Thankfully, it was all worth it.

Australia is almost as if it's hiding at the bottom of the world just waiting to be discovered.

At the beginning of our journey, we were in Brisbane, which is along the Gold Coast.

The beach was spectacular, as is every beach in Australia. All are unique and diverse, but beautiful, all the same.

This may surprise you because many people picture Australia, as a dry desert land with random kangaroos jumping about; it is no such place.

After three days along



the Gold Coast, we flew down to Sydney, which was a completely different adventure.

On the first of two days there, we walked on top of the Sydney Harbor Bridge, yes, on top of it.

Though a petrifying experience, climbing it exposed us to a wonderful view; we were right on top of the surreal ocean, and more than 1,000 feet above all the city buildings and the Opera House.

Finally we made our way down to Melbourne, which is where I used to live.

Now Melbourne is one of my favourite places in the world; maybe that's a bit of a biased opinion,

but I'm sure if you ever went there you would agree with me.

You can drive 20 minutes north and find yourself in a rainforest with tropical birds and wild kangaroos.

We went up there to an old favourite spot, in the middle of the forest, where you can feed the birds with seeds.

You literally sprinkle some seeds in your hands and on your shoulders and all at once, the rosellas fly out of the trees and eat right out of your palms.

Melbourne is filled with gorgeous green fields and trees everywhere you look.

Seeing everything again was bittersweet; not much had changed, but it felt completely different to be there.

When it came to saying goodbye, I was actually filled with regret for going there because it never hit me that I'd have to leave again.

However, looking back on the two weeks I was in Australia, I've come to realize that though it was hard to leave, going there

was completely worth it.

There are so many amazing places in Australia and I was lucky just to be able to see it.

Even though I'm suffering severely from jet lag, (there's a 15-hour time difference) my trip made me realize something important.

Home may be a place that is familiar and within your comfort zone, but maybe it's more than that... maybe home is a place that you love, a place that will always be a part of your life.

Being in Australia was bittersweet,


but it opened my eyes to the fact that in one way or another, it was in fact my home.

I encourage you all — if you have the opportunity — to visit Australia, because it is a truly incredible place filled with fantastic people.

There is so much to see and it shouldn't be seen as that little place at the bottom of the earth.

Australia is an entertaining, friendly place, but most importantly of all... it is my home.

Well... one of them.



The Regional  
Municipality of Halton

www.halton.ca

## NOTICE OF STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING

**(Under Section 17 of the Planning Act)**  
**Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment to Update  
 Regional Development Phasing to 2031**

Halton Regional Council, through its Planning and Public Works Committee, has scheduled a Statutory Public Meeting to provide the public an opportunity to make presentations to the Planning and Public Works Committee with respect to the proposed amendment to the Halton Region Official Plan [2009], to update Regional Development Phasing to 2031, pursuant to Section 17 of the *Planning Act*.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 25, 2011  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Halton Regional Centre,  
 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville

Those wishing to address the Committee should contact the Regional Clerk's office at 905-825-6000 ext. 7405 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866, by **May 11, 2011** at 4:30 p.m. in order to be listed as a delegation in the agenda, or may register with the Clerk immediately prior to the Public Meeting.

**Purpose and Effect:** To update Regional Phasing policies to accommodate growth to 2031 in the Regional Official Plan (2009).

For more information about the proposed Official Plan Amendment contact Halton Region's Planning Services Division at 905-825-6000, ext. 7187 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866, or at [planning@halton.ca](mailto:planning@halton.ca). All information may be viewed at the Office of the Regional Clerk between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, or by contacting the Region's Planning Services Division, or by visiting the Region's website [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca). To submit comments, please send them in writing to Halton Region, Planning Services Division, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1.


**Note:** If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a Public Meeting or make written submissions to Halton Region before the proposed Official Plan Amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of Halton Regional Council to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make submissions at a Public Meeting or make written submissions to Halton Region before the proposed Official Plan Amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Official Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk at Halton Region, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1.

Dated at the Town of Oakville, **April 1, 2011**

Susan Lathan, Regional Clerk  
 The Regional Municipality of Halton



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Gary Carr  
Regional Chair

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Please let us know as soon as possible if you will have an accessibility or accommodation need at a Halton Region hosted event or meeting.

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