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Local school population to maintain current levels accommodation plan shows

By **DOMINIK KUREK**
Metroland Media Group

Halton Hills's public school population is expected to stay near or below current levels, according to a report by the Halton District School Board.

In an effort to identify future capital project needs the school board has compiled a draft Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP).

The basis of the plan is to identify capital project initiatives for the school board between the academic years of 2012/13 to 2015/16 as required by the Ministry of Education.

According to the staff report, which will be approved by trustees at a future meeting, Halton Hills is remaining fairly level in the projection. According to the report, its elementary schools are currently at 98 per cent capacity and that number will dip slightly to 96 per cent in the year 2020.

Halton Hills high schools are trickier on the other hand.

Overall, the municipality currently has a 101 per cent utilization and its expected to fall to 96 per cent by the year 2020. However, utilization levels at its

two high schools don't follow those same trends.

Acton District is about 300 pupils under its capacity of 843. That trend is expected to continue until 2020.

But Georgetown District school is more than a hundred pupils over its capacity of 1,602 and growth is expected to peak in 2013 with 1,773 students. Afterwards, the numbers are expected to fall to be just over capacity in the year 2020.

Milton school populations will continue to grow and schools will be over-utilized. The other municipalities on the other hand will stay near their pupil places levels, or such as in Burlington's case, fall below current levels.

According to the staff report by Domenico Renzella, there currently is no provincial funding model for new educational capital projects. He added the LTAP report, which will be submitted to the province, will help determine future provincial capital funding.

The report has a complete breakdown of Elementary Review Areas and Secondary Review Areas and the expected enrollment numbers for each school.

For more information visit www.hdsb.ca.



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