



Simply Halton

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 Sept. 2012

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Sustainable Halton: How does Halton get there?



by Regional Chair Gary Carr

From the world of rural & urban planning

Halton continues to work toward becoming a sustainable region. That means ensuring that our quality of life is maintained for our children and grandchildren. It means keeping our natural environment healthy, our infrastructure efficient and our social institutions relevant.

In the world of urban and rural planning, how do we get there? In Halton, our policies and guidelines are set out in a key document called the **Halton Region Official Plan**. Our Plan helps us create the land use foundation for the social, economic and environmental considerations that are important to the region. The Official Plan contains guidelines that give direction to local governments, developers and residents in relation to land use applications, and provide the assurance that what they are building is in sync with our sustainability goals.

What is an official plan?

An Official Plan is like a road map, providing policy direction on how land should be used. Prepared with input from residents, our government partners and others in the community, the Official Plan helps to ensure that future planning and development will meet our vision for a sustainable future. Official Plans must be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement issued under the *Planning Act* and conform to, or not conflict with, any applicable Provincial plans.

What is a guideline?

Halton Region has prepared draft guidelines that will help with the implementation of our Official Plan policies. The guidelines do two things:

- They provide a clear and predictable process for the review of land use development applications; and
- They identify supporting studies or analyses that should be undertaken and that are useful for Regional staff in reviewing the impacts of a new or expanding land use or building.

Who needs guidelines?

Not only do staff in Regional and Local Municipal government offices need guidelines, so do landowners, developers, farmers, mineral aggregate operators and even golf course owners. They need guidelines to:

- clarify land use application processes and identify submission requirements
- identify septic and well water systems' design standards for specific lot sizes and soil conditions

- identify all of the information that should be provided with subdivision plans, multi-unit development site plans and even road construction projects
- determine appropriate locations where expansions to livestock operations should occur on properties, and
- provide best management practices for new or expanding golf course operators.

Guidelines also help to provide consistent direction to all land use applicants throughout the region, whether they plan to build in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton or Oakville.

Draft guidelines to help with implementation of Halton Region's Official Plan policies

The new draft Guidelines are grouped into five themes:

Agricultural/Rural Guidelines

- Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Livestock Facilities
- On-Farm Business
- Golf Course and Recreational Best Management

Health-Based Guidelines

- Air Quality Impact Assessment
- Land Use Compatibility
- Healthy Communities
- Noise Abatement
- Reviewing Development Applications with Respect to Contaminated or Potentially Contaminated Sites

Infrastructure Guidelines

- Development Design for Source Separation of Solid Waste
- Highway Dedication
- Hydrogeological Studies and Best Practices
- Preparing Community Infrastructure
- Urban Services

Resource Guidelines/Manual

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Aggregate Reference Manual

Consultation Guidelines/Protocols

- Co-ordinated Municipal Responses to Renewable Energy Proposals
- Consulting with First Nations

The draft Guidelines are being posted on www.halton.ca/ropa as they are developed. To encourage discussion, the page includes an online feedback form. We will take your feedback into consideration as we finalize the Guidelines, which we anticipate will be later in 2012.

How can you get involved?

You can take part by:

- visiting www.halton.ca/ropa to learn more about the Guidelines and their purpose
- giving your opinions through the online feedback form.

To be added to a mailing list for updates, email ropa@halton.ca.

Let's continue to work together to build a prosperous and sustainable future for the residents of Halton Region. Together we can ensure that Halton remains a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.



Halton Region Meeting Schedule

Sept. 3	Offices closed for Labour Day
Sept. 4, 9:30 a.m.	Health & Social Services Cte
Sept. 5, 9:30 a.m.	Planning & Public Works Cte
Sept. 5, 1:30 p.m.	Administration & Finance Cte
Sept. 12, 9:30 a.m.	Regional Council
Sept. 25, 9:30 a.m.	Health & Social Services Cte
Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m.	Planning & Public Works
Sept. 26, 1:30 p.m.	Administration & Finance

Meetings can be viewed at www.halton.ca. Please contact us, as soon as possible, if you have any accessibility needs at Halton Region events or meetings.

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