

# COMMENT



As the first bank in Halton County, the Bank of Hamilton opened in December 1875 on Main St., opposite Knox Presbyterian Church. In 1890, it moved to the heart of Georgetown's downtown, 67 Main St., S. In this 1920 photo, it was located at the northwest corner of Mill and Main Sts. The Bank of Hamilton was taken over by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in 1923, which in turn, merged with Imperial Bank of Canada to become the present day CIBC in 1961.

*Text courtesy of Heritage Halton Hills/Photo courtesy of Esquesing Historical Society*

## From our readers



## A SPRING BEAUTY

Amateur Georgetown photographer Rein Pater sent in this photo of a Baltimore oriole. The bird received its name from the resemblance of the male's colours to those found on the coat-of-arms of Lord Baltimore. It is named after an unrelated, physically similar bird family found in Europe, the Oriolidae.

Got a photo you want to share? Email [cvernon@metroland.com](mailto:cvernon@metroland.com) with details.

## Growing Halton's economy

Halton Region is committed to supporting and sustaining a strong local economy.

When businesses locate in Halton, they are choosing one of the best places to do business in Canada. Businesses in our area benefit from a deep talent pool of professionals, proximity to leading educational institutions, easy access to major markets and a high quality of life that is second to none.

Recently, Halton presented the Economic Development Economic Review 2015 report which highlights the business investment in our region and shows how we are performing from an economic development standpoint. By working together with our local municipalities and key community partners, we have again accomplished impressive results.

In 2015, the unemployment rate in Halton averaged 5.3 per cent, significantly lower than both the provincial rate (6.8 per cent) and national rate (6.9 per cent). Halton's labour force participation rate was 70.4 per cent, well above the provincial and national averages.

Halton remains a hotspot for employment construction.

Halton's total building permit construction value was \$1.79 billion, an increase of 17.4 per cent over 2014 and nearly 33.5 per cent since 2011. We also saw nearly 5.07-million-sq.-ft. of employment development floor area construct-

ed in 2015, an increase of 89 per cent over 2014.

Halton's housing resale market also remained strong for the last decade with sales increasing 186 per cent since 2005, and resale house prices rising 68 per cent to just over \$665,000 on average in 2015.

There were also a number of major Halton-related business developments in 2015, including the new state-of-the-art 1.6-million-sq.-ft. Oakville hospital, the official opening of the new 1.3-million-sq.-ft. Lowe's Canada's Distribution Centre in Milton, a new \$12.8-million industrial development by Cogent Power in Burlington, and a \$26-million investment by Broccolini Construction Inc. for a new warehouse building in Halton Hills.

The 2015 Economic Review continues to be an important vehicle for documenting and explaining the significant economic and business investment activities that are taking place across our region. By planning for today and tomorrow, Halton Region will continue to support its vibrant and growing business community.

To download an electronic version of the full report, or to learn more about what makes Halton a great place to invest and do business, please visit [halton.ca/business](http://halton.ca/business).



GARY CARR

*Gary Carr is the chair of Halton Region*

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