

Still no government pot shops planned for Halton Hills

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While recreational marijuana is set to be legalized across Canada on July 1, residents in Halton Hills looking to legally purchase the drug from government-run stores may have to do a little driving.

On Dec. 12, the government announced 15 more municipalities to receive the LCBO-like marijuana shops in addition to the 14 announced earlier - Halton Hills did not make the list.

The announcement of the most recent locations was made on the LCBO Cannabis Updates website. The closest planned locations in Halton Region announced so far will be in Oakville and Burlington.

The most recent announcement brings the total number of municipalities slated for standalone cannabis stores next Canada Day to 29.

The province announced earlier in the year



Susie Kockerscheidt/Metroland

Halton Hills may not be getting a LCBO-run cannabis store come July 1, 2018. The closest locations in Halton to buy legal marijuana so far will be in Oakville and Burlington.

it plans to open 40 locations by July 1 of next year, but it is unclear how many of those would be earmarked for multiple locations in

larger markets like Toronto in the initial launch.

While still possible, with only 11 possible locations left to be allocated in

the first round of stores, there is a good chance Halton Hills may not be getting a store of its own for some time yet.

Those hoping for a location in Georgetown or Acton may have to wait until at least July 1, 2019, when the government intends to

increase the number of locations to 80 across the province. If the town misses out there as well, the next opportunity would come in 2020, when the government plans to expand to 150 locations.

The government will continue to list new planned location on the update website and area residents for each are allowed to comment and offer input as new locations are posted.

The most recent list of locations was announced the same day the province passed the Cannabis Control Act.

The legislation essentially gives the government a monopoly over cannabis and cannabis product sales, and includes strict fines for violators.

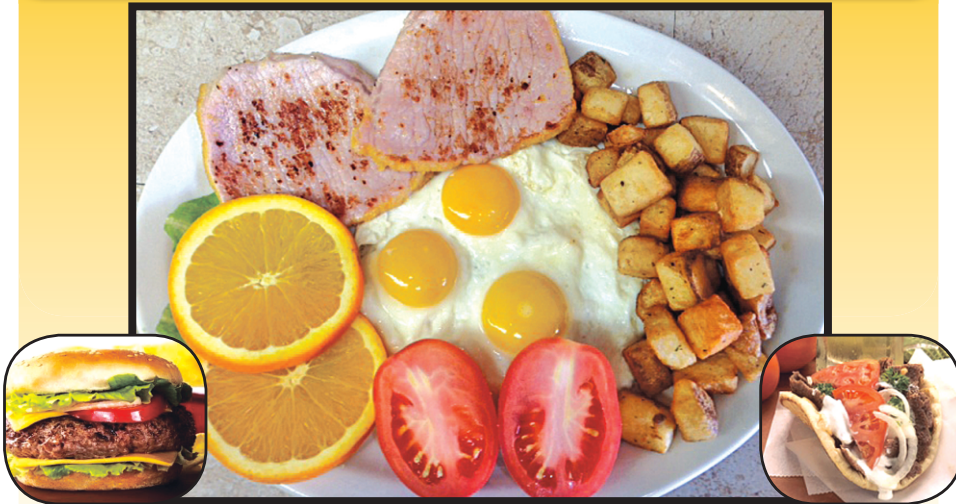
The legislation also prohibits cannabis use in public and in vehicles and sets the legal age of purchase at 19. According to the province, no stores will be located near schools.

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