

CATHOLIC BOARD EDUCATION DIRECTOR REFLECTS ON PAST SCHOOL YEAR

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This was a school year like no other.

The 2020 to 2021 year introduced a full implementation of some never-before-tried ideas and a complete overhaul of how education is delivered in the region. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic created problems and controversies teachers had never before had to deal with.

To learn more about how it went and what was learned, we thought it was the right time to sit down with Pat Daly, the current director of education of the Halton Catholic District School Board.



Graham Paine/Metroland

Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB)'s director of education, Pat Daly.

How would you describe the 2020 to 2021 school year?

"It was a challenging year and one filled with a lot of learning. It was certainly a different year than any I've experienced in my 30 years in education, and that was certainly true for schools around the province and around the world."

How do you feel staff and students handled all the upheaval caused by the pandemic?

"We put a lot on their plate this year and then kind of kept adding to it as the year went on. Our staff certainly rose to the challenge. It was a reminder for us, if we talk about the centrality of teaching, also the importance of professional development for our staff and ongoing training. We were able to do it in a little bit different way this year. Many of our teachers were teaching from home. Some of those challenges parents had with students at home and everything going on in the background, it was a similar challenge for our teachers. They certainly rose to the challenge, in my mind, and had to develop different ways to approach the curriculum."

What was learned as a result of the remote learning?

"We know that some students really excelled in that delivery format, so that's something that will continue. I think there's a real desire among students and staff to get that face-to-face personal connection when they get back in the buildings. I'm hoping we just don't migrate away from some of those teaching advances we made in terms of use of technology. I hope we're able to leverage it and incorporate it into our day-to-day practice."

There have been some who labelled this a lost year for students. How do you

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- Pat Daly

respond to that, and do you feel it was a successful school year?

"I think it was a successful year. There's no doubt some students struggled with remote learning with the amount of time we were mandated to provide that face-to-face learning. I think in some of our younger grades it was challenging for students. I think teachers and parents and students as well probably adapted to it more as the year went on. I think the second time we went back to remote learning in the spring, I think there was lots of things we learned both from a teaching and learning perspective our first time around. So I think that made the transition smoother. Essentially, we did it in a day. So, I certainly wouldn't say it's a lost year."

When will parents know exactly how the next school year will look?

"We're looking at the public health information like everybody does. Knowing that vaccine rates continue to go up for that 12-and-up age range, that COVID numbers in our area have really gone down from last spring, we still are waiting on return-to-school direction, more specific direction from the ministry, and we're hoping that comes shortly — end of July, beginning of August. We are certainly planning already for a reopening."

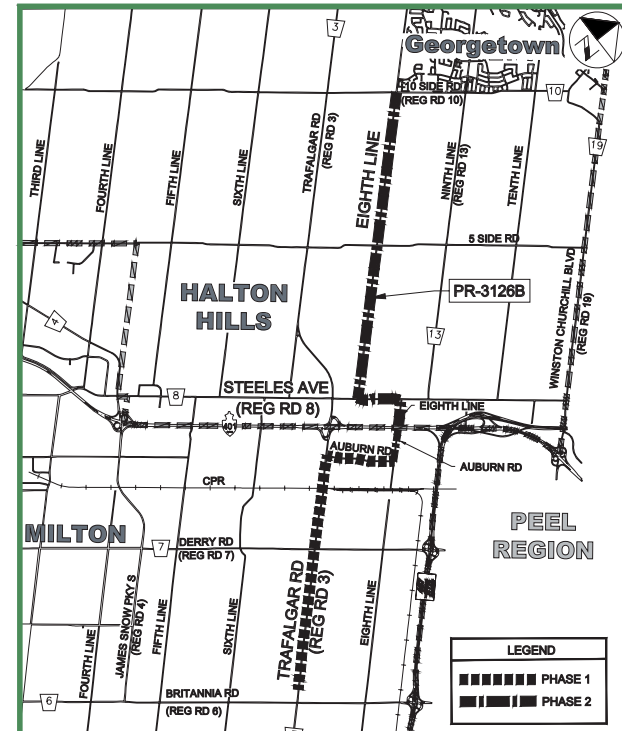


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NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION

Wastewater Main Servicing South Georgetown Eighth Line and Trafalgar Road Town of Halton Hills and Milton



Project number: PR-3126B
Scheduled Start Date: July 2021
Scheduled Completion Date: December 2025

To support future growth in south Georgetown, Halton Region is installing a wastewater main on Trafalgar Road (Reg. Rd. 3), Auburn Road, Steeles Avenue (Reg. Rd. 8) and Eighth Line.

For more information about Regional improvement projects:

- visit halton.ca
- sign up to receive email notice and updates
- email accesshalton@halton.ca or call 311



Stay connected on Regional improvements in your community

As our community grows, the Region continues to invest in infrastructure and build complete communities that maintain our high quality of life. We are widening roads to improve traffic flow, building new water mains to provide high-quality drinking water and installing stormwater mains to prevent flooding along our roadways. To help you plan ahead for construction happening in your community, you can:

- view our interactive online map;
- sign up for email updates; or
- follow Halton Region on social media.

Learn more about Regional improvement projects at halton.ca. As always, thank you for your patience as we build a better Halton.

Meetings at Halton Region

Regional Council meetings are taking place through web conferencing until further notice. Videos will be posted to halton.ca.



Please contact us, as soon as possible, if you have any accessibility needs at Halton Region events or meetings.



Gary Carr
Regional Chair