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## REGION SAYS NO TO URBAN SPRAWL

### VOTES TO RESTRICT GROWTH TO EXISTING DESIGNATED AREAS

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Halton's future growth plan is a step closer to being accommodated within its existing urban boundaries until 2041.

The majority of regional council voted to move forward with this growth strategy during its Wednesday, June 15 meeting.

Halton Hills Coun. Jane Fogal said the plan encourages more compact urban form, more livability and more transit supportive housing.

"In the case of Georgetown, all we ever built was single family dwellings. We need more choices as our population ages," she said.

The decision was well re-

ceived by Oakville Mayor Rob Burton, who noted in a media release that the Draft Regional Official Plan Amendment 49 (RO-PA 49) will save local farmland.

"I want to thank the public for the way they turned out and participated in their thousands in our consultations on this RO-PA," said Burton.

The decision, which must still be approved by the minister of municipal affairs and housing, would see provincially mandated growth directed at build-up areas, strategic growth areas and areas with existing or planned transit and public service facilities.

The amendment supports accommodating 316,000 more people and 222,000 more jobs in Halton between 2021 and 2041, and supports a regional urban structure that will continue to accommodate a significant amount of growth to 2051 and beyond.

See ENVIRONMENTAL, page 3

### HEAVY DUTY



Graham Paine/Metroland

Matt Hand competes in the 18 lbs. stone putt event at the 47th annual Georgetown Highland Games and Scottish Festival at the fairgrounds. See more photos on page 49.

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