



Simply Halton

Your Halton
Connection
June '05

Halton in History

How has the face of Halton changed? In 1961, the Census showed the following population figures: Acton, 4,144; Burlington, 47,008; Georgetown, 10,298; Milton, 5,629 and Oakville with 10,366. Today, Halton's population stands at 427,500 with a projected population increase of 165,000 in 16 years.

In the 1966 Census, over 153,195 acres of land were farmed, with the largest acreage devoted to hay, followed by oats, mixed grain and winter wheat. Total cattle on hand in 1966 was 28,300 followed by 19,900 pigs and 5,500 sheep. Over 787 commercial farms were in existence.



Farm and Residence of Robert F. Bessey, Georgetown
(The Historical Atlas of Halton County, 1877)

On January 1, 1974, the County of Halton officially became the Regional Municipality of Halton. Prior to 1974, Council was composed of a reeve and a deputy reeve from each of the municipalities: Town(s) of Acton, Burlington, Georgetown, Milton, Oakville and the townships of Esquesing, Nassagaweya, Nelson and Trafalgar. Under Bill 151, the boundaries were changed and the Regional Municipality of Halton is now composed of Mayors and Regional Councillors representing the City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton and Town of Oakville. The first Chairman of Halton Region was Allan Mason, Reeve of Oakville who was appointed on July 31, 1973 by Premier William Davis.



Ocean House, The "Long Branch" of Canada (Burlington Beach)
(The Historical Atlas of Halton County, 1877)

Halton Meetings & Events

June Meetings at Regional Headquarters

Tuesday, June 13

9:30 a.m. Health & Social Services Committee

Wednesday, June 15

9:30 a.m. Planning & Public Works Committee

1:30 p.m. Administration & Finance Committee

Wednesday, June 22

9:30 a.m. Regional Council Meeting

Planning for Our Future



Joyce Savoline
Regional Chairman

Planning for the future was the impetus behind the Province's decision in 1974, to form Regional Governments as a means to maximize service efficiencies. And central to good planning is good partnerships. Halton Region works collaboratively with our member

municipalities and all orders of government and is pleased to see the Province re-engaging in the planning process.

Last year, the Provincial Greenbelt Protection Plan was released; a plan that provides a broad band of permanently protected land for agricultural, natural heritage and rural uses. The year 2004 also saw the release of the Provincial Growth Management Strategy, otherwise known as the 'Places to Grow' draft plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. In keeping with Halton's practice, we consulted with our residents to gauge your thoughts and solicit your comments on these provincial plans. The Region held two meetings on the Province's Growth Forum, received delegations at Committee meetings and provided various other options for input. This feedback was then incorporated into Regional Council's submission to the Province, prepared jointly by Regional and local municipal Planning staff. The added value of including feedback

from the local municipalities, citizens and businesses in one submission is a good example of how together, we're engaging with the Province to plan Halton's future.

Many people are already aware that the Province finalized the Greenbelt Plan and that Halton will be undertaking an exercise to ensure our Official Plan conforms with all aspects of the Provincial direction. When the Provincial Growth Plan has been finalized, the Region will undertake a similar exercise to ensure conformity while preserving our vision for Halton's landscape.

Halton was well positioned for coordinating our current policies with the new Provincial legislation, primarily through the extensive work that went into the development of the Halton Urban Structure Plan. This plan, adopted by Regional Council in 1994 and widely recognized as one of the most comprehensive growth management plans in Ontario, included a highly extensive public consultation process, taking over 13 years to be developed. Our existing planning policies reflect many of the issues raised in the Provincial plans including understanding the implications of employment and population growth, firm urban boundaries, intensification, as well as protection of the environment and agricultural lands.

Information about the Province's planning initiatives and the work Halton is engaged in will continue to be available on our website, via mailing lists to subscribers and through media updates. Please contact Halton's Planning and Public Works Department if you have any questions.

Halton's Proactive Planning Process



A. Brent Marshall
Chief Administrative Officer

Halton Region has always taken a proactive approach regarding responsible planning for Halton's future. Even before the recent re-entry by the Provincial government into the planning sphere, Halton was looking ahead and creating a comprehensive planning process for

our community's growth. Regional Council and staff have been engaged in a number of planning initiatives that set out a blueprint for how Halton will evolve now, and in the future.

In the 1980's, Halton Region, recognizing pending population and development pressures, took steps to proactively and realistically plan for urban development. Through the Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP), Halton undertook a comprehensive study of population and employment needs, agricultural preservation, greenspace protection, transportation and servicing needs. Completed in 1994, the Halton Urban Structure Review is the foundation of Halton's growth management strategy and is recognized as the most effective tool to address population growth pressures. Incorporated into Halton's Official Plan, adherence to the review process is a required step before any future urban expansion can be considered.

The Halton Urban Structure Plan (HUSP) focuses on five areas that form the basis for the Region's growth management strategy. These five principles are intensification within existing communities; completing development of land already designated for urban development based on transit-supportive design; development of high quality employment areas along Halton's major highways; the preservation and enhancement of a strong agricultural industry and the implementation of a system of urban separators incorporating and supporting the Greenlands system.

Building upon HUSP, Official Plan Amendment 25 (OPA 25) outlines a new planning vision that sets firm urban boundaries to guide and accommodate growth to the year 2021. OPA 25 addresses a number of issues important to residents: affordable housing, enhancing Halton's farming community, protecting the Greenlands system, continually working to improve air and water quality and promoting alternative methods of transportation such as public transit, cycling and walking.

HUSP and OPA25 set the direction of land use planning in Halton and are currently being implemented through more detailed planning activities. The principles that guide Halton's growth management strategy have been tested and confirmed and have been incorporated into the work currently being undertaken by the Province to establish a growth management strategy for Ontario. Planning for the future is not new to Halton Region and will continue to be a priority as we look to preserve the quality of life of our community.

We welcome your feedback. Contact Access Halton at accesshalton@region.halton.on.ca
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