

With population growing the gap could widen Study shows more people living here but fewer jobs

By CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

Halton Hills's population is growing, and that could widen the current gap between people living here, but working elsewhere.

That's according to the newly-released Employment Report from Halton Hills planning department.

The report was developed to assist planning staff in understanding who is working where and at what and how to plan for long-term employment and transportation needs in the town. It will also help the business community and future investors in the town understand the workforce here.

Much of the information comes from Statistics Canada 1996 census and place of work data, as well as the town's own industrial strategy report.

According to the report by town planner Kristin Sainsbury, Halton Hills has experienced higher growth than many municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area. Its population has jumped by 15 per cent between 1991 and 1996 and the number of homes increased by 17 per cent.

But the number of jobs in town during 1991 and 1996 actually dropped by two per cent which Sainsbury attributes to the recession at that time. The town's industrial strategy study released earlier this year, predicts an 18 per cent growth in jobs every five years.

However, Sainsbury cautions that the Ontario Municipal Board's decision to convert industrial lands in Georgetown South to homes for about 8,000 people may negatively skew that prediction.

"In 1996, there were 13,950 jobs for an employed labor

force of 24,020 people," said Sainsbury. "You can see from these numbers there is gap between our labor force and the number of jobs."

'In 1996, there were 13,950 jobs for an employed labor force of 24,020 people...and that results in many people leaving our community for employment.'

—Town planner
Kristin Sainsbury

"As our population continues to increase it will become important to provide future employment opportunities to assist in improving the residential to non-residential tax ratio and to reduce the tax burden on our residents," she said.

Additional population growth resulting from the proposed developments including Georgetown South will also have major traffic implications for the town, she said. Already more than half the town's working residents commute to other communities. Similarly more than half (52 per cent) the people who work in Halton Hills live elsewhere.

Sainsbury said this demonstrates the importance on planning for future transportation needs as well as providing jobs for Halton Hills residents to reduce the need for commuting.

The average income for a person working in Halton Hills is \$26,843, while the average income for a Halton Hills resident is about \$400 less. This is higher than the provincial and national averages, but is the lowest income level in the region.

Fifty-one per cent of the labor force working here are

male, with 40 per cent under the age of 34—68 per cent are under the age of 44. There are 350 people working that are over the age of 65. Almost 1,500 people are unemployed. The labor force is defined as residents over the age of 15.

The largest employment sector in Halton Hills is the manufacturing industry which employs about 30 per cent of the workers. The second and third largest sectors are retail and education, health and social services. This is followed by the hotel and food industry.

Sales and service is the most common job of Halton Hills workers, followed by occupations in the manufacturing field.

About 11 per cent (1,560) of workers work at home and the report says working at home suggests "an entrepreneurial activity and often serves as a means for new businesses to become established."

ON SALE SAT. NOVEMBER 13 TO FRI. NOVEMBER 19, 1999

bulk barn

Guaranteed Quality!

up to 1/3 OFF SPECIALS

Sultana Raisins 2.65 kg 1.20 lb	California Walnut Pieces or Crumbs 6.97 kg 3.16 lb
regular or jumbo Pure Chocolate Chips 3.36 kg 1.52 lb	red or green Whole or Broken Cherries 4.79 kg 2.17 lb
natural or red Pistachios 7.85 kg 3.56 lb	Pure Chocolate Covered Almonds 7.30 kg 3.31 lb

PLUS 25 IN STORE SPECIALS EVERY WEEK

ON WEDNESDAY SENIORS SAVE 10% ON THEIR TOTAL SHOPPING BILL, EXCLUDING SPECIALS.

While supplies last. On advertised items we reserve the right to limit quantities. No dealers please. 1/3 off refers to Bulk Barn everyday low prices.

Milton Mall 55 Ontario St. S. (905) 693-9207

WATCH FOR OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS IN THIS NEWSPAPER

Bulk Barn Head Office (905) 886-6756

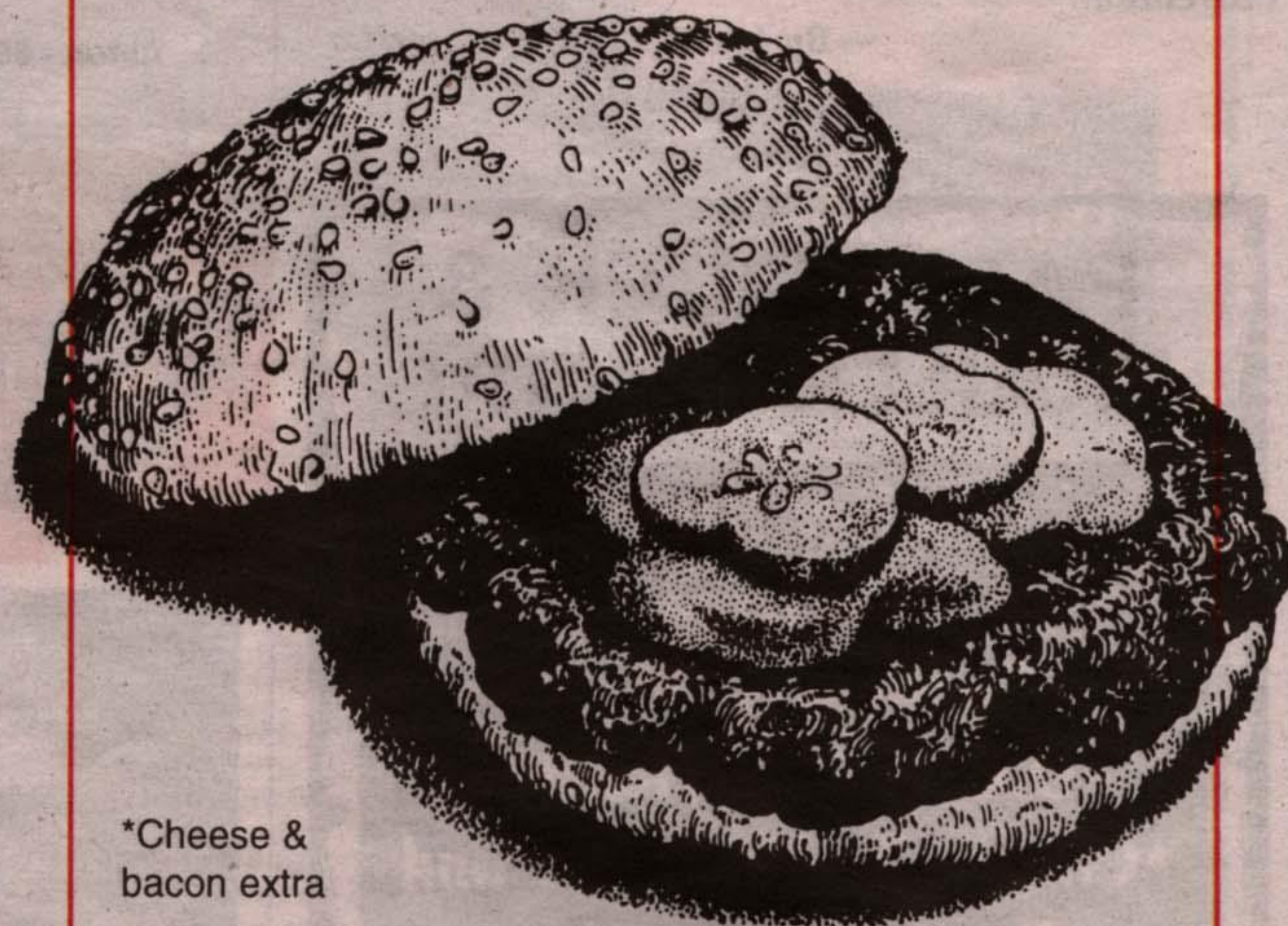


99¢

HAMBURGERS

No other purchase required but recommended

* For The Month of NOVEMBER



*Cheese & bacon extra

188 Guelph Street •
Georgetown •
877-2586 •

meet me at



KIDS GET ARTHRITIS TOO.

THE ARTHRITIS SOCIETY
Ontario Division



Please help us find the cure! To donate, or for more information, call
1-800-321-1433