



Simply Halton

Your Halton Connection
April '07

The Provincial Places to Grow Plan – Is this Fair for Halton?



by **Regional Chair, Gary Carr**

Halton residents may have seen recent media coverage about the launch of a “fairness campaign”. Halton Region along with our four Local Municipalities – the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, and the Town of Oakville – are raising our

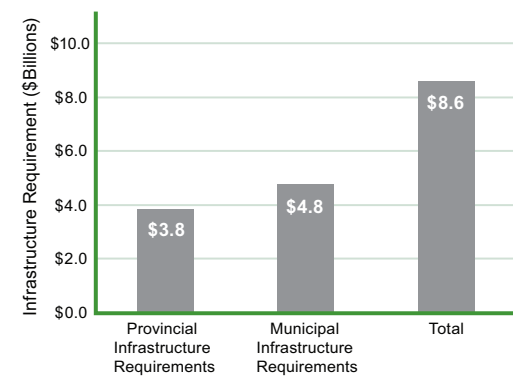
concerns about the Provincial Places to Grow Plan directly with the Provincial Government. In fact, Halton’s Regional Council adopted a resolution to press the case for fairness at Regional Council on March 7.

The Places to Grow Plan requires Halton and its Local Municipalities to grow, but the Province has not delivered the necessary financial tools and Provincial funding commitments to allow the Region to achieve these requirements. We strongly feel that the quality of life, character and the values of each community in Halton must be preserved through the Province’s Places to Grow Plan, but without the financial tools and funding, we cannot meet the objectives of the Province’s Plan.

The Provincial Places to Grow Plan requires Halton to grow its population by 68% (to 780,000 people) over the next 25 years. Accommodating this growth will require over \$8.6 billion in infrastructure, which include such things as:

- 1100 hospital beds
- 50 new elementary schools and 14 new secondary schools
- 25 community centres, 8 libraries and 1650 acres of parkland development
- 22 fire halls, 4 ambulance stations and 6 police stations
- 2000 lane kms of major municipal roadways plus expansions to highways, bridges, interchanges
- 11 local transit facilities and 175 buses
- Additional police and court infrastructure
- Expansion of the inter-regional transit capacity including GO Transit
- Expansion of electrical power facilities
- Landfill/waste disposal capacity.

Over \$8.6 billion required to fund Provincial Places to Grow Plan in Halton



Halton taxpayers are urged to visit Halton’s website at www.halton.ca to find out more about the Fairness for Halton campaign. On-line you will find a postcard that you can forward to your local MPP and MP to advocate for Fairness for Halton, or you can contact Halton Region at 905-825-6000, toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866), TTY 905-827-9833 for more information.

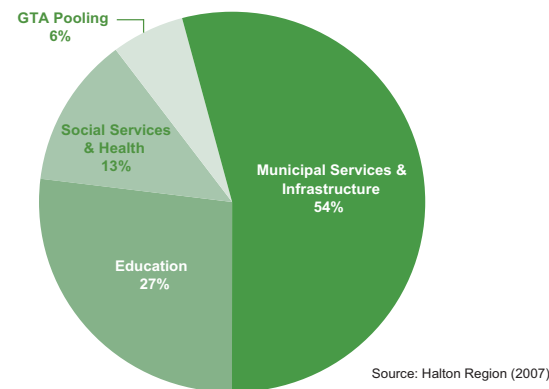
Currently Halton’s public infrastructure and services are not keeping pace with our current growth in the community. Highways and roads have become increasingly congested; hospital emergency rooms cannot accommodate demand; children are being bussed to schools outside their neighbourhoods or accommodated in an increasing number of portables; and community centres and recreational facilities are not available in many neighbourhoods.

To address the shortfalls, we are asking the Province to:

- **Provide an enhanced municipal infrastructure funding program**
Existing funding models have resulted in an infrastructure deficit in Halton of over \$300 million as of January 1, 2007.
- **Make immediate changes to the Development Charges Act**
Restrictions in the Provincial Development Charges Act limit the recovery of costs from development charges. It is estimated that these restrictions currently cost Halton property taxpayers \$32 million per year.
- **Address provincial cost sharing requirements and GTA pooling inequities**

Ontario is the only province that requires municipal property taxes to pay for social and health programs. As a result only 54% of property taxes in Halton are available to fund municipal infrastructure and services. Also, provincial funding for health and social services programs is not distributed equitably across the province. Halton and other GTA Regions receive \$200 less per capita in health and social services funding than the provincial average. Lastly, Halton is required to pay over \$40 million per year to support social services costs in the City of Toronto through GTA Pooling.

Only 54% of Halton’s property taxes fund Municipal services & infrastructure



Although the Province is engaged in a Municipal Fiscal Services Review, this review is not timely enough. We are calling for immediate action to allow Halton to address the current infrastructure deficits and respond to the objectives in the Places to Grow Plan.

“We’re going to be saying to the public ‘here are the facts’ and we want them to very clearly articulate that to all the local candidates.”

– Regional Chair, Gary Carr

“We sit ready, as a region and municipalities, to sit down with the government to better manage the pace of change and to make sure we can afford it.”

– Burlington Mayor, Cam Jackson

“Add another 20,000, 40,000 or 60,000 people to the population growth that has occurred (in Halton Hills) so far, without that needed fully funded financial plan, we will have, without exaggeration, a crisis of very serious proportions. We would have a bankrupt region and town.”

– Halton Hills Mayor, Rick Bonnette

“Say and pay, in my opinion, goes hand-in-hand. I want a commitment, regardless of who forms the next government.”

– Milton Mayor Gord Krantz

“We want to remind them there’s still time to keep their promise from the 2003 election to make growth pay for itself.”

– Oakville Mayor, Rob Burton

April Meetings at Halton Region Headquarters

- April 6**
Offices closed for Good Friday
- April 10, 9:30 a.m.**
Health & Social Services Committee
- April 11, 9:30 a.m.**
Planning & Public Works Committee
- April 11, 1:30 p.m.**
Administration & Finance Committee
- April 18, 9:30 a.m.**
Regional Council Meeting

We welcome your feedback. Contact Halton Region at accesshalton@halton.ca
905-825-6000 • Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON • TTY: 905-827-9833 • www.halton.ca
The Regional Municipality of Halton • 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1

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