

Supporting skilled newcomers 'wise investment': Mulvale

By Howard Mozel
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

The Halton Multicultural Council (HMC) has the programs in place and immigrants possess the job skills. Now it's up to area businesses to step up and help these internationally trained professionals realize their potential.

By doing so, said Mayor Ann Mulvale, local firms will not only allow newcomers to be all they can be and become true "nation-builders," there are also competitive advantages that can be gained by investing in their skills and experience.

"Particularly with the predicted skills shortage, businesses are recognizing the benefits of the skills and experience that these individuals bring," said Mulvale.

"Creating opportunities like work placements, mentoring and jobs provides numerous mutual advantages. Often the skill sets of these individuals reflect your customer base, meaning service options can be enhanced by adding an internationally trained professional to your workforce. Additional language skills are just one example."

Mulvale made her comments as keynote speaker during the recent HMC luncheon at

Homewood Suites by Hilton Oakville. There she impressed upon her audience that it's a "wise investment" to support skilled newcomers and the positive contributions they can make.

In a growing global economy, doing so can only help increase a company's customer mix because their workforce will actually better represent that potential base, visually, culturally, linguistically and more.

"It makes good business sense," added Mulvale.

HMC President Laila Eiriksson said the agency is working hard to secure training partnerships and encourages any and all

businesses to contact them.

"We would love to engage in meaningful dialogue with you," she said.

Each year thousands of immigrants select Ontario as their new home and more than 70 per cent of adult newcomers are considered highly skilled with post-secondary education or training.

Many, however, get by with what HMC Managing Director Joanna Matthews calls "survival jobs" and need an extra boost to move them into more meaningful employment.

"We often find that many employers are
• see HMC on page B7



The Regional Municipality of Halton

NOTICE OF FILING OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REPORT

Steeles Avenue (Regional Road 8) Transportation Corridor Improvements James Snow Parkway (Regional Road 4) to 250 metres West of Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3), Town of Halton Hills Class Environmental Assessment Study

The Regional Municipality of Halton has carried out a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) to address future travel demands on Steeles Avenue (Regional Road 8) from James Snow Parkway (Regional Road 4) to 250 m west of Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3) (see map below). The study was conducted in compliance with Schedule C of the Municipal Class Environment Assessment (June 2000), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act.

Following the April 6, 2006 Public Information Centre, the preferred alternative was reviewed in light of comments received and modified as required. Taking into consideration the comments that were received from the Town of Halton Hills, regulatory agencies and the public, the recommended alternative includes:

- The widening of Steeles Avenue (Regional Road 8) from two to four lanes from James Snow Parkway (Regional Road 4) to 250 m west of Trafalgar Road (Regional Road 3) including intersection improvements.

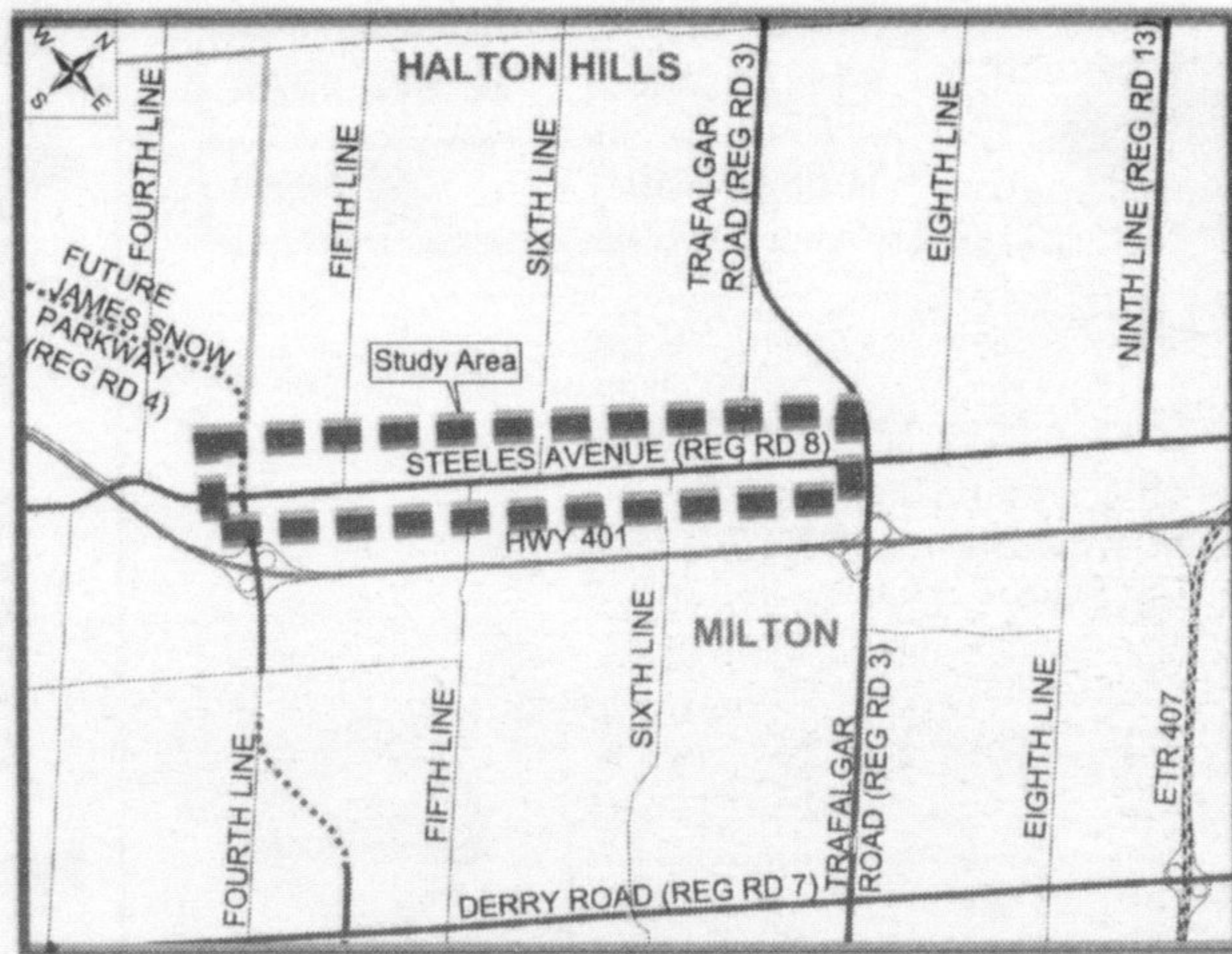
The Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been prepared to document the planning and decision making process undertaken for this study. By this Notice, the ESR is being placed on the public record for a 30-day review period in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Class EA. Subject to comments received as a result of this Notice and the receipt of necessary approvals, Halton Region intends to proceed with the detail design and construction as documented in the ESR. The ESR is available for review at the following locations:

Clerk's Department Regional Municipality of Halton 1151 Bronte Road Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1 Tel: 905-825-6000 Mon.-Fri.: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Clerk's Department Town of Halton Hills (Town Hall) 1 Halton Hills Drive Georgetown, Ontario L7G 5G2 Tel: 905-873-2601 Mon.-Fri.: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Halton Hills Public Library – Georgetown Branch 9 Church Street Georgetown, Ontario L7G 2A3 Tel: 905-873-2681 Tues.- Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fri.- Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sun. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Oct. to May)
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Further information may be obtained from **Ms. Lisa Zinkewich, B.E.S.; Project Manager, Halton Region, 905-825-6000 ext. 7556**. Please provide any written comments to Halton Region by Monday, October 23, 2006 (within 30 days from the date of this Notice). If concerns regarding this project cannot be resolved in discussion with Halton Region, a person or party may request that the Minister of Environment make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (referred to as a Part II Order). Requests for a Part II Order must be received by the Minister, at the address below by Monday, October 23, 2006.

A copy of the request must also be sent to the Region's Project Manager. If no request is received by Monday, October 23, 2006, Halton Region intends to proceed with detailed design and construction as outlined in the ESR.

Minister of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West
12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5



This Notice first issued on September 22, 2006.

www.halton.ca/currentEAprojects

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1

20 Side Road (Regional Road 34) Improvements from Milborough Line to First Line, Town of Milton Class Environmental Assessment Study

The Regional Municipality of Halton is initiating a Class Environmental Assessment to consider safety and traffic operational options for transportation corridor improvements on 20 Side Road (Regional Road 34) from east of Milborough Line to west of First Line, in the Town of Milton (see map below). In order to best address operational deficiencies along the 20 Side Road (Regional Road 34) corridor, a number of road improvement alternatives will be examined as part of the study including realignment of the roadway, cross-sectional elements, driveway improvements, and over-all traffic operations, as well as the impact of such improvements on the social and natural environments.

A key component of the study will be consultation with interested stakeholders (public and regulatory agencies) at two Public Information Centres. The first Public Information Centre has been arranged for:

Date: Thursday, October 5, 2006
Time: 6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Drop-In Centre
7:00 p.m. Presentation followed by question and answer session
Location: Nassagaweya Community Centre – 1164 Guelph Line, Milton

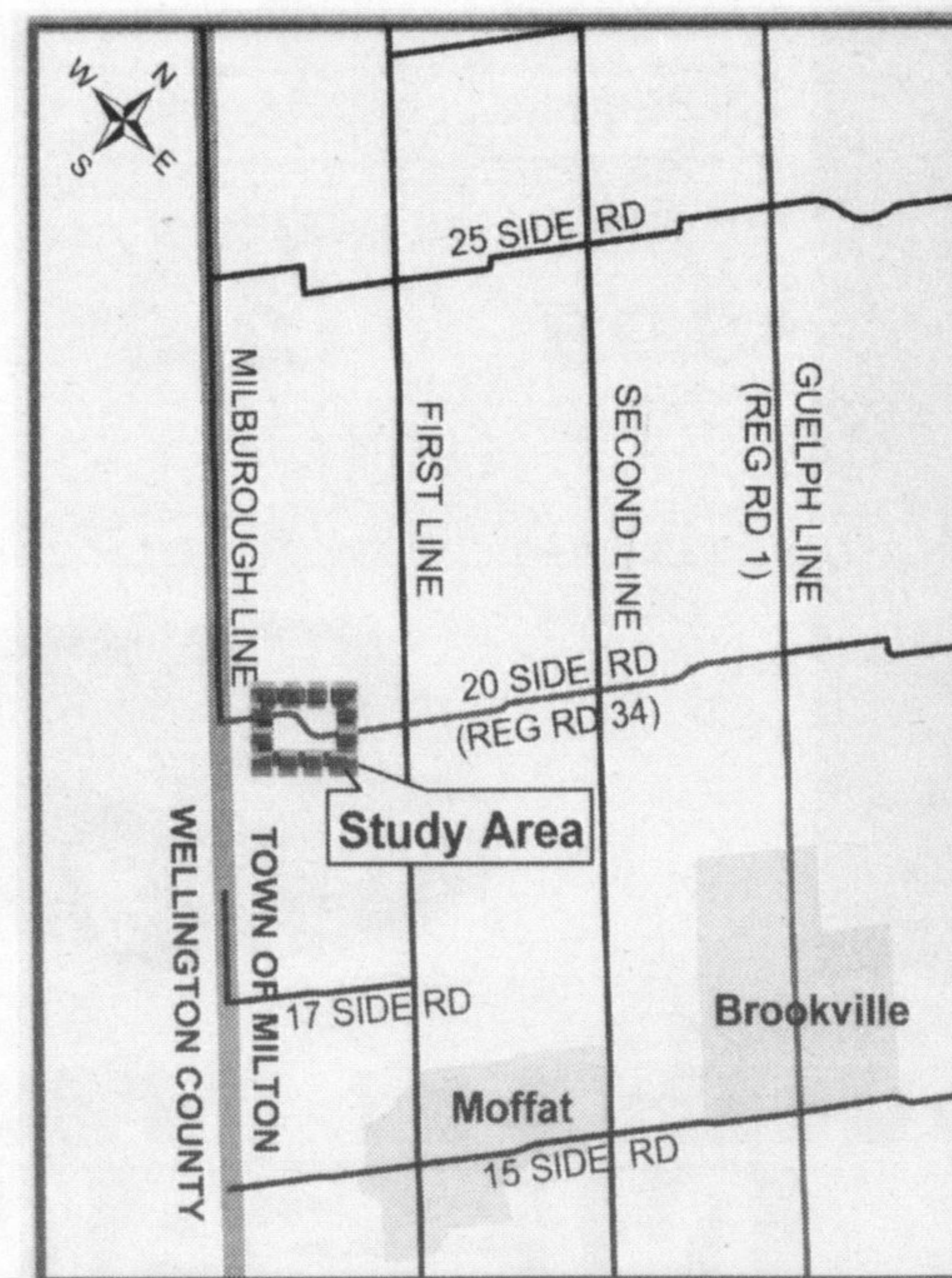
The purpose of the Information Centre is to review and obtain public input on the problem being addressed, background information and the alternatives being considered. Anyone with an interest in the study is invited to attend and participate. If you cannot attend and would like to provide comments, please forward them by October 20, 2006 to the Regional Municipality of Halton at the address below. Following the Information Centre, the study findings will be reviewed in light of comments received and the preferred alternative will be determined. A second Information Centre is tentatively planned for February 2007.

Information requests or questions may be directed to:

Mr. Jeffrey Reid, C.E.T.
Project Manager
Regional Municipality of Halton
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario L6M 3L1
Phone: 905-825-6000, Ext. 7170
Toll Free: 1-866-4HALTON
(1-866-442-5866)
Fax: 905-825-8822
Email: jeffrey.reid@halton.ca

Mr. Michael Wilson, C.E.T.
Project Manager
Chisholm, Fleming and Associates
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The map below shows the approximate limits of the study area.



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