

## Catholic school board projects steady enrolment increase

The Halton Catholic District School Board can expect a steady increase in enrolment over the next four years, according to Ministry of Education-mandated yearly projections, presented at a recent board meeting.

Despite enrolment declines in Burlington and more mature areas of Oakville, strong growth in Milton, north Oakville and Halton Hills will provide an average yearly growth rate of approximately 218 students over the four-year period from 2016-17 to 2019-20.

In Burlington, the trend is a declining student population in most neighbourhoods with the exception of the northeast Alton community, which has experienced "significant new enrolment growth."

Although there was a "sizable" increase in junior kindergarten students in 2015, it is not in keeping with recent trends and may just be an anomaly, stated the report.

The total enrolment in Burlington is currently 8,515 students — 5,633 elementary and 2,882 secondary students. The city's population is expected to increase to 193,000 — from 175,779 — by 2031.

By comparison, Milton's population is projected to increase to 164,000 residents by 2021 and 238,000 by 2031. The town will see "a very

high rate of growth in its student population" over the next four years, stated the report. Current student numbers for Milton Catholic schools are 5,970 elementary and 2,459 secondary students for a total of 8,429 students. New subdivisions, located west of Tremaine Road, south of Derry Road and east of Thompson Road, "are rapidly filling its schools."

Despite growth in the north, Oakville's student population will show "a slow decline" over the next four years. Current student population numbers in Oakville are 11,469 — 7,615 elementary and 3,854 secondary students. Oakville's population is expected to jump to 258,000 by 2031 from the current 182,520.

Halton Hills' student population is 4,283 — 2,723 elementary and 1,560 secondary students. The town's anticipated population by 2031 is 94,000, up from 59,008.

New subdivisions in south Georgetown and intensification are offsetting declines in schools within mature neighbourhoods, according to the report.

Enrolment projections are used by the education ministry for budget forecasting, and by the board, for budgets, staffing and short-term facility needs, such as portables.



The eastbound lanes of Hwy. 401 were closed at Hwy. 25 following a multi-vehicle collision during Monday's evening rush hour. Three people suffered varying degrees of injuries. *Justin Greaves / Canadian Champion*

## Motorist airlifted to hospital

By Catherine O'Hara  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

A woman was airlifted to hospital following a multi-vehicle crash on Hwy. 401 near James Snow Parkway Monday evening.

The collision, involving two cars and a transport truck, occurred after 5 p.m.

The woman, determined to have suffered critical injuries, was airlifted to a trauma centre, while another motorist with serious

injuries was transported to hospital via land ambulance. A third person suffered minor injuries in the crash.

The eastbound lanes of Hwy. 401 at Hwy. 25 were closed for several hours.

According to Ontario Provincial Police Sergeant Kerry Schmidt, officers had to work on getting vehicles off the highway to allow members of the Collision Reconstruction Unit the opportunity to map the scene and investigate the cause of the collision.

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