



March 01, 2008

Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy

Stage 2 Consultation Report: September 2007 to January 2008



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Forward

Planning for new development over the next 25 years means balancing priorities and making tough decisions—these decisions must be made with the people who live, work and play in Halton. The Sustainable Halton Phase 2 Consultation Report documents *who* was consulted by the Project Team in the early stages of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy. It discusses *how* people became engaged in developing and refining a set of principles and priorities necessary to direct growth and balance competing agendas. This report recounts *what we heard* from multiple levels of government, several advisory committees, many stakeholder groups, and hundreds of people who live in Halton...and it identifies how we have *responded* to this feedback.

Protect agricultural lands; increase intensification to protect greenlands; enhance natural heritage system; allow for growth in Milton and Halton Hills; need the infrastructure before the growth; new development near existing; developers have already bought up the best farmland; fill in the gap between Oakville and Burlington; no more growth; no more pits and quarries; farming in the greenbelt has far too many restrictions; there are intensification opportunities along Speers Road and Aldershot; the land nearest the lake has the best microclimatic conditions for agriculture; need a greater mix of uses and housing types for youth and seniors; people come to Halton for the lifestyle; make transit a preferred choice not just for those without a choice

... What we heard

1.0 Overview of the Phase Two Consultation Program

At the start of Phase Two of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy in August 2007, a detailed Consultation Plan was developed to continue the extensive consultation approach applied in Phase One of the project. The Consultation Program for Phase Two is grounded in the Region's commitment to generating community awareness about the Sustainable Halton Plan and obtaining, at each stage of the planning process, community and stakeholder involvement for a "Made in Halton" Growth Management Strategy.

The Phase Two Consultation Program is specifically designed to dovetail into the work program, which is focused on two key elements: The Principles and Evaluation Framework; and the Growth Scenarios and Options. The following report details the consultation surrounding the first of these elements: The Principles and Evaluation Framework. The principles are representative of healthy, complete, sustainable communities and the translation of these principles into measurable evaluation criteria will be used to develop and appraise various scenarios for future growth in Halton.

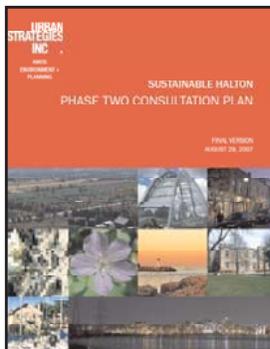
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1.1 The Challenge

A key conclusion resulting from the technical background studies completed in Phase One of the project, is that a set of principles and priorities are necessary to direct growth and balance the often competing objectives of housing, economic development, agriculture, natural heritage and infrastructure. Accordingly, the challenge in Phase Two is to identify these principles and create an Evaluation Framework to balance and respond to a full range of objectives (see Appendix A). The Phase Two Consultation Program is designed to meaningfully engage diverse interests and communities in setting priorities for managing long-term growth in Halton.

In order to create a “Made in Halton” Growth Management Strategy, the Project Team needed to understand local priorities, critical issues and areas of tension. The key challenge was to cultivate within the community an understanding of the key elements of a complete and healthy community, as well as an understanding of the land use factors that affect decision-making (i.e. natural and cultural heritage systems, transportation and servicing infrastructure, agriculture and aggregate resource areas, etc.). The community learning process was made even more complex by the changing policy context, particularly the new directions from the Provincial Growth Plan (2006), the Provincial Policy Statement (2006) and the Greenbelt Plan (2005).

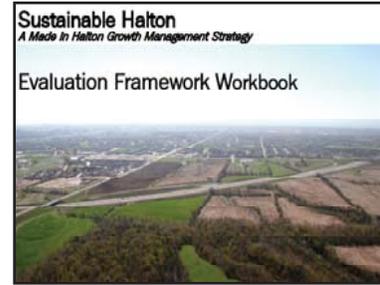


To address these challenges, the Phase Two Consultation Program was developed as an extensive, iterative and interactive process that uses multi-media approaches to inform, educate and obtain feedback to guide decision-making. The Project Team used a combination of small working groups, interactive workshops, presentations, facilitated breakout sessions, public open houses, and web-based outreach to engage as many people as possible. Meetings were held in each Local Municipality to ensure representation from across the Region.

In the first round of consultations with stakeholders, the Project Team led small groups in an exercise to allocate Halton’s new urban land requirement to 2031. Participants used scaled representations of the land requirement to locate new residential and new employment areas on a base map of the Region. The exercise provided a dynamic way of illustrating the challenges and potential trade-offs involved in growth plan decision-making. Throughout the exercise, each group developed a list of priorities and objectives that formed the foundation of the Evaluation Framework. Many participants noted that the exercise was effective at illustrating the Region’s growth planning challenge; and, it provided a fun and engaging way of tackling complex concepts and issues.

The second round of consultations with stakeholders and the general public focused on developing and refining the Evaluation Framework. The Project Team used a combination of PowerPoint presentations, highly-illustrated open house display panels, and facilitated breakout group discussions to assist participants in understanding the Evaluation Framework and to assist the Project Team to gather feedback.

A participant workbook was created to encourage detailed input and commentary on the draft Evaluation Framework. To date, 15 workbooks have been submitted to the Region, in addition to the extensive feedback received during the breakout sessions and general comments received on the overall Growth Management Strategy. One of the key successes of this approach was the opportunity for the Project Team to speak directly with members of the public. One-on-one and small group discussions allowed the Project Team to clarify issues, provide additional information and get detailed comments. While there was not always consensus around the issues, several participants remarked that they appreciated the level of detailed information provided and were pleased to be directly involved in the planning process.



1.2 Target Audiences

The Project Team was in daily contact with the Client Group; they also met and held discussions on a regular basis with Regional staff of various departments, including: Planning, Health, and Housing. The approach to consultation employed in Phase Two is to confer with an increasingly broader audience base, while refining the presentation elements throughout. The target audience was consulted in the following sequence:

1. Client Group: Region of Halton, Long Range Planning;
2. Project Team and Technical Advisory Committees: Inter-Municipal Technical Committee (IMTC), and Core Technical Committee (CTC);
3. Inter-Municipal Liaison Committee (IMLC);
4. Municipalities: Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Halton Hills.
5. Local Stakeholder Groups, including Community and Resident Associations, Environmental, Housing, Agricultural, Transportation, Developers, and Local Business Associations
6. Regional Advisory Committees, including: Lake Ontario Shoreline Algae. Environmental, Housing, Agriculture, Youth, Elder Services; and,
7. General Public

1.5 Outcomes

The Sustainable Halton Phase Two Consultation Program was extensive and comprehensive. The Project Team committed substantial time and effort to ensure that the process captured local priorities and concerns as much as possible. During the period between September 2007 and February 2008, the Project Team facilitated over 49 meetings with staff and elected officials at all levels of government, and stakeholders; and, more than 400 people from the general public participated in setting the objectives for the Evaluation Framework.

Feedback on the Consultation Program has been positive and many people have expressed an interest in continuing to be involved. The outcomes from the process have provided the Project Team with a greater understanding of community priorities and concerns, as well as identifying local opportunities and issues to be addressed. Interactive dialogue through the consultation program has resulted in a broader community-level understanding of the project and the challenges ahead.

The feedback received from each of the consultations in Phase Two has fed directly into the goals, objectives and Evaluation Framework that will guide the development of potential growth scenarios and the “Made in Halton” Growth Management Strategy. For example, a key message from the Public Information Centres (PICs) on the Evaluation Framework was that it needed to protect Halton’s tradition of distinct local communities. A new objective was added to the Framework to reflect that feedback. Many similar changes to the Framework were made throughout the process. As the Growth Management Strategy moves into next stage of work—developing the growth scenarios—the Project Team will be continuing to consult on a regular basis with all those who have participated in the process to date, as well as maintaining efforts to engage others.

The following report summarizes the Phase Two Consultation Program to date, including meeting agendas, presentation materials and the feedback received. It covers extensive consultation outreach with the target audiences throughout the period of September 2007 through to mid February 2008. This report concludes with a summary of the PICs held in each of the Local Municipalities regarding the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy: Principles and Evaluation Framework.



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2.0 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Since August 2007, a series of meetings were held with the Project Team, the Core Technical Team (CTC), and the Inter-Municipal Technical Committee (IMTC) as part of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy Phase Two Consultation Program. These advisory committees are made up of staff from the Ontario Growth Secretariat (MPIR), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), the Region, Local Municipalities, Conservation Authorities, School Boards and consultant teams. The Project Team also met on a regular basis with the Inter-Municipal Liaison Committee (IMLC), which is comprised of Regional Councillors and Chief Executive Officers from the Local Municipalities. Included in Appendix C (Summary of Discussion Items & Outcomes: Technical Advisory Committee) are the meeting dates, agenda items and major points of discussion for the working committee meetings pertaining to the Evaluation Framework.

2.1 What We Heard

For the Project Team, CTC and IMTC meetings, the agendas and presentations by the consultant team were similar, if not identical. The staff- and consultant-based meetings provided a forum for presenting work in progress and gaining invaluable feedback and information on the direction of the study. At key junctures in the study process, the input from the advisory committees identified a need for greater clarity of the roles and responsibilities of various levels of government in implementing policies for healthy communities.

The Growth Management Strategy concentrates on high-level Regional growth-related issues, such as population and employment allocations, servicing systems, transportation corridors, etc., as directed by Provincial and Regional policy. The implementation of a Growth Management Strategy requires a partnership between all levels of government (Federal, Provincial, Regional and Local), government agencies (School Boards, Conservation Authorities) and the community. Accordingly, not all growth-related elements are addressed directly through the Regional Growth Management Strategy.

As an example, the direction to plan for more complete and transit friendly communities originates with Regional and Provincial Policies; but it is the finer grain elements, such as schools, parks or creating a neighbourhood layout that is connected to the surrounding street network, which are determined at the secondary plan and development approvals stage, and they are the purview of the Local Municipalities as illustrated in Figure 1. The Region and the Local Municipalities are also dependent on provincial funding and infrastructure (Hospitals, GO Transit) to implement the Strategy.

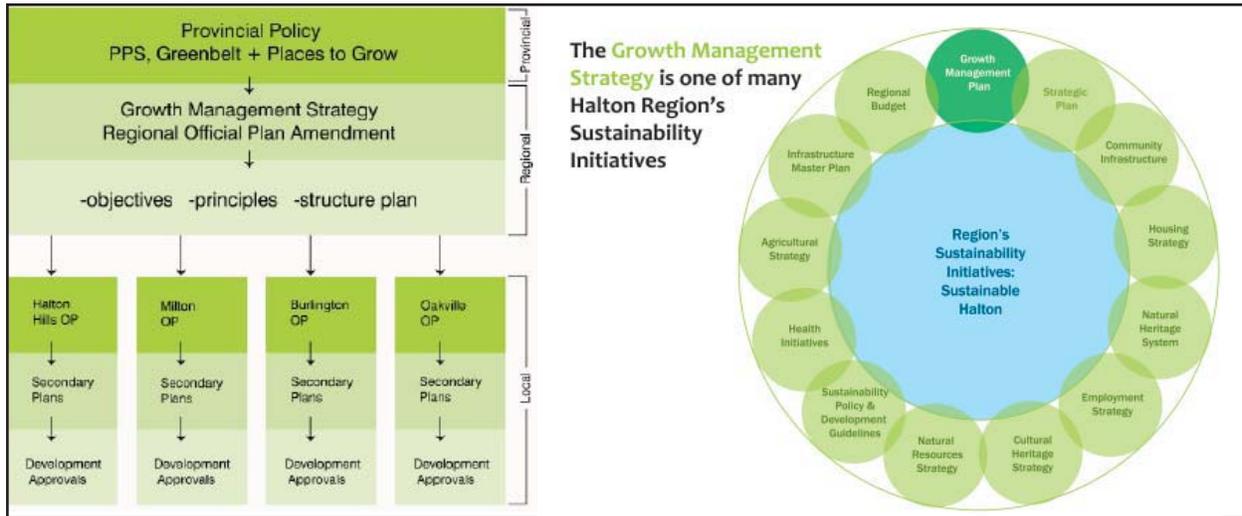
2.2 Outcome: The Role of the Growth Management Strategy

A graphic approach was taken by the Project Team to assist in explaining the role of the Growth Management Strategy within the Region's overall approach to sustainability. These diagrams proved to be invaluable as they facilitated focused dialogue on the Growth Management Strategy. Figure 1 on page seven, illustrates key outcomes of our consultations with the Technical Advisory Committees. The first diagram demonstrates the role of a Growth Management Strategy within a provincial policy context; it was designed to illustrate the various levels of government and their corresponding role within a policy context. The second image or the "flower" diagram was designed to illustrate the role of the present Growth Management Strategy within the context of other Halton Region Sustainability Initiatives.

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Figure 1: The Role of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy



The Evaluation Framework recognizes and fundamentally addresses those goals and objectives that can be dealt with at the Regional level, while at the same time recognizing important principles for inclusion in appropriate policy or design frameworks at the Municipal level.

3.0 INTER-MUNICIPAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

To date the Project Team has met with the IMLC on two occasions; and, at each meeting the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy was discussed, specifically related to the Consultation Program and Principles and Evaluation Framework. Members of the IMLC are also regularly provided with materials prepared for the Public Informations Centres (PICs) to ensure that messages are communicated consistently and effectively and that consultation activities yield the best possible outcomes.

Table 2: What We Heard from the IMLC

Date	Sustainable Halton Agenda Items	Discussion Items
Sept.26, 2007	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wrap up of Phase One 2. Introduction of New Consultant Team 	Population targets, intensification scenarios, costs and financial implications of future growth options
Nov. 21, 2007	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amendments to Phase One Reports 2. Regional Official Plan policies (Sustainability) 3. Presentation of Synthesis of Phase One work, feedback from Key Stakeholder Workshops, and elaboration of Principles for the Growth Management Strategy 	<p>Discussion of creation of a framework, which is the spatial allocation of growth;</p> <p>Acknowledgement that there will be overlapping objectives (agriculture, aggregates, Natural Heritage System) to be addressed in any growth option</p> <p>Direction to include the more robust Natural Heritage System Option 3 from Phase One as a base for all growth options.</p>

3.1 What We Heard

The IMLC members understood the complexity of the Growth Management Strategy and recognized the importance of the principles and the Evaluation Framework. In fact, some members asked for an IMLC workshop on the Principles and the Evaluation Framework. The IMLC emphasized the need to ensure a full and complete consultation process, that would include both the public and technical committees. The “Fairness for Halton” campaign was also brought up by members given that the Region anticipates that the required infrastructure necessary to accommodate the forecast of people and jobs will be quite expensive. The IMLC also provided the direction to include the most robust Natural Heritage System (NHS3), as recommended in the Phase One report “Options for a Natural Heritage System in Halton.”

3.2 Outcome: Enhancing the Natural Heritage System

Consistent with Provincial greenspace initiatives, the Region is taking a comprehensive and proactive approach to the management of Halton’s Natural Heritage System by expanding conservation lands and increasing connectivity with existing protective areas. As directed by the IMLC, the Project Team has incorporated the NHS3 (which includes the Provincial Greenbelt, the Niagara Escarpment Plan area, and the Regional Natural Heritage System) as a natural heritage baseline for all growth options.

4.0 LOCAL MUNICIPAL MEETINGS

A series of meetings were held with each of the Planning, Public Works, and Transportation staff of the four Local Municipalities to gather information on such issues as: opportunities and constraints to new development; infrastructure issues; transportation and transit initiatives; new potential development areas and intensification sites. Meetings were held as follows: Town of Milton September 11, 2007; City of Burlington, September 12, 2007; Town of Halton Hills, September 17, 2007; and, Town of Oakville, September 21, 2007.

4.1 What We Heard

The meetings with the Local Municipalities were invaluable in terms of developing a greater understanding of local planning issues and ongoing initiatives, and in understanding information resources available to the Growth Management Strategy team. In general, it was agreed that planning for the future would be a joint Municipal/Regional exercise, and that planning would be from the local level up. Halton Hills informed the Project Team that they were seeking Council direction on growth options and would provide more information upon completion of a upcoming Council retreat (October 20, 2007).

4.2 Outcome: More Municipal Involvement

Developing a sustainable Growth Management Strategy requires the consideration of both ‘where it is feasible for development and expansion to occur’ and ‘how much additional growth a given municipality is able to support.’ In this way, municipal participation is crucial to a comprehensive Growth Management Strategy. Subsequent to the initial information gathering sessions with Local Municipalities, the Project Team had scheduled a number of additional focused discussions with each of the Local Municipalities in order to specifically address local issues and discuss intensification within existing built areas. Built into the Consultation Program is a process that ensures that the Local Municipalities are involved—every step of the way.

Upon receipt of the Halton Hills recommended parameters for growth, the Project Team designed a series of growth scenarios that responded to Council's direction and included these scenarios in the long-list of potential growth scenarios. All potential growth scenarios will be judged against the Evaluation Framework in order to identify a short-list of growth scenarios.

5.0 ADVISORY COMMITTEE & AGENCY WORKING SESSIONS

Several dozen meetings were held at the outset of Phase Two in order to first to apprise stakeholders of the process, and secondly to develop an understanding of what is important—from the committees perspective—for the Project Team to consider as the study progresses. The following is a list of the Regional Advisory Committees that the Project Team met with:

- Halton Elder Services Advisory Committee (ESAC);
- Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC);
- Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC);
- Halton Housing Advisory Committee (HAAC); and,
- Halton Regional Youth Advisory Committee (HRYAC).

A workshop was also held with a number of agencies and government ministries, including: Credit Valley and the Halton Conservation Authorities; Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing; and, Ministry of Natural Resources. In addition, the Project Team conducted working sessions with various Regional staff, including Long Range Planning and the Health Department, in order to identify challenges and competing objectives early on in the Growth Management Strategy process. Participants of these sessions were asked to share their priorities for managing growth in the Region. The outcomes from these discussions were used in developing the Evaluation Framework.

The agenda for these meetings included:

- Presentation on the Synthesis of Phase One physical mapping analysis and its implications on directions for growth.
- Preliminary discussion on Principles and how they would be used to guide the development of growth options and the future evaluation of alternative growth options.
- Opportunities for synergies and integration with future work.
- For the Agencies Workshop, a further item for discussion was tabled: the elaboration of Natural Heritage System scenarios, based on the results of the Phase One work.

5.1 What We Heard: Comments Specific to Each Advisory Committee

The following provides an overview of the discussion and suggestions made at each of the advisory committee meetings.

Halton Elder Services Advisory Committee (ESAC): October 9, 2007

There was general discussion about how ESAC felt the Region should grow. Equity and inclusion were themes that emerged throughout the discussion, particularly when this group was envisioning complete communities. ESAC members wanted to ensure that the Growth Management Strategy included complete communities that are composed of elements such as: community areas (recreation, sports, churches, schools, etc) that are located in proximity to residential areas and to transit; communities that are mixed in terms of age and income, also in terms of use—where residential units are built above commercial spaces—and, communities that are safe and walkable for all.



Not surprisingly, ESAC members were strong advocates for “ageing in place”, which ensures the provision of appropriate housing, medical and recreational facilities that are clustered together to enable people to “live, work, play” in the same community throughout their lives. The notion of “place” and “identity” also emerged in the discussions. Members expressed concern that the identity of Local Municipalities and the Region should be maintained, even in the face of growth —people’s sense of “belonging” should be retained.

Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC): October 10, 2007

There was general discussion about the implications of the Growth Management Strategy on the future of agriculture in Halton. Most participants agreed that the designation of “farmland” had serious connotations for farmers, both positive and negative, such as: Open space designations lead to increased wildlife and associated crop damage; and, Greenbelt designations place restrictions on farming practices and land uses. Participants wanted to ensure that the Growth Management Strategy and process will be “OMB proof”, and suggested that local food security should be one of the principles in the Evaluation Framework.

HAAC members raised concerns regarding the slow decline of productive farmland in the Region. With an aging farming population and the challenge of making agriculture a viable economic activity, some rural landowners are selling their lands to developers. It was noted that much of the farmland north of Oakville and Burlington had already been bought up by developers and the land was being farmed solely as an interim condition. Consequently, the appropriate level of investment has not been made to ensure the long-term productivity of the land. According to HAAC members, soil productivity is in decline in Halton as rural land owned by developers is cropped without caring for the soil, and Class 1 soil (the best) cannot be maintained without investment in soil productivity. Participants felt that it would be helpful to prepare an inventory to document land owned and farmed by Halton farmers as well as land owned by developers but farmed by others.

HAAC members wanted to ensure that the LEAR Study would be made available before any land is qualified or disqualified. In their view, a priority for preservation should go to Class 1 and Class 2 soils in a concentrated area to provide a critical mass for agriculture. It was noted that productivity statistics should be considered for different areas, as land Classification is but one consideration. For example, Class 1 land around Milton is more difficult to farm than Class 1 land around Guelph, Kitchener, or Brantford given that they have higher crop yields.



Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC): October 10, 2007

There was general discussion on the population targets allocated to Halton by the Province, and the amount of flexibility that the Region might exercise. Further discussions were centered on the intensification and density targets established by the Province. Issues were raised about the contribution of other municipalities to accommodate growth, and whether in fact Halton could anticipate and plan for infrastructure beyond 2031.

EEAC members felt that intensification and preservation of maximum greenspace is preferable, even though this would require a substantial cultural shift given that the current residential market demand is for single family dwellings. The notion of complete communities/mixed land use was explored to the extent that members appreciated the inclusion of employment lands and transit opportunities within the context of complete communities. Members suggested promoting energy efficiency of new developments through LEED certification. Similarly, members felt that the opportunity to reduce the Region's carbon footprint through use of local produce should be maintained. Accordingly, they wanted to ensure that "the retention of some agriculture land" be included as a principle in the Evaluation Framework, despite the current economic challenges to the agricultural industry.

Halton Housing Advisory Committee (HHAC): October 17, 2007

There was general discussion about the implication of the Growth Management Strategy on the future of communities in Halton. Most participants agreed that the Framework objectives should be to build "living communities", to develop tools, and to have a long-term vision. The discussion with HHAC members provided very useful input into the principles and the Evaluation Framework, as did the Region's Housing Directions Report.

HHAC members concerns were centered on ensuring that sufficient Human Services are planned and available to the community as a whole. Members wanted to make certain that the Growth Management Strategy would include affordable and different types of housing for a variety of groups (families, youth, children, seniors, and singles), along with better transit opportunities.

Operating from a holistic perspective, members also expressed the necessity for: Preserving natural habitats, agricultural lands, mineral resources and the Greenbelt; and, making good use of grayfields, brownfields, and bluefields for intensification. The relationship of air quality, climate

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change, minimizing usage of fossil fuels and usage of other forms of energy was also noted. HHAC members expressed a great interest in the implementation process, including: How are conflicting interests resolved, and are there precedents in other Regions which might be useful?

Environmental Agencies Workshop: October 17, 2007

There was general discussion on environmental issues within the Halton Region. This meeting provided for an exchange of information on the status of various Conservation Authority and Ministry initiatives and how these initiatives could be integrated into the Phase Two Evaluation Framework and growth options. Provincial Ministry representatives identified future transportation initiatives, as indicated very generally in the *Places to Grow* plan. It was suggested that future growth options not preclude the realization of future transportation corridors.

There was general agreement that a robust Natural Heritage System should be considered to provide linkages, corridors and cores for wildlife. Agricultural areas should also be thought of as part of that linked system. Recognition of the Parkway Belt provincial designation was suggested by Provincial representatives for the base drawings and it was noted that some of these lands might also be considered for open space, in addition to the transportation and utility functions normally attributed.

Halton Regional Youth Advisory Committee (HRYAC): October 23, 2007

There was general discussion on the implications of the Growth Management Strategy on the future of communities in Halton. HRYAC members felt that protecting community character and uniqueness was an important element that should be reflected in the Evaluation Framework. Accordingly, they suggested that growth be distributed equitably across the Region, with the assurance that the Escarpment views will be protected and that the preservation of the natural environment and wildlife will also be a priority. This group was concerned for long-term sustainability of the water systems (well and lake use), and for that reason they suggested that the Region protect the lakeshore for ecosystem benefit and for public enjoyment/recreation.

HRYAC members felt that by focusing development in urban areas, it will decrease the demand for Greenlands and assist in protecting agricultural lands. With this in mind, members wanted to direct higher density developments to appropriate locations, such as near transportation services, around the lake, and in areas with adequate infrastructure. Development, according to HRYAC, should include a mix of uses with housing options for all, such as options for rental housing that account for affordability issues, particularly for youth and seniors. In order to reduce sprawl and conserve land, this group felt that creative solutions are necessary: By making it attractive to innovate, older building can be reused; more multistory parking development can conserve land; and, providing new green spaces on rooftops can maximize and diversify the use of space.

It was important to HRYAC members to reduce car use and to have transit as the preferred choice of travel—not just for the marginalized. Utilizing intensification (residential and employment) in order to make it more profitable to run transit, this group wanted to see an increase in access and convenience. Infrastructure to this group not only included transit, but also planning for more human services by integrating new services with the corresponding growth; and more recreational opportunities for youth, such as skate parks, theaters and malls.

5.2 What We Heard: Advisory Committee Shared Comments

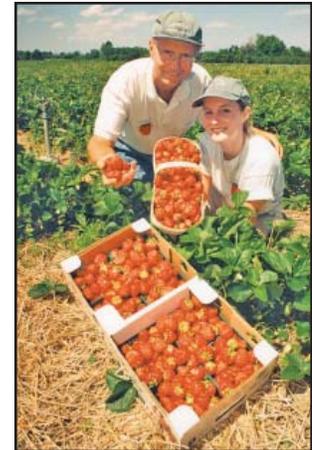
While each of the advisory groups is sector based, there was considerable commonality between groups. Common themes of the discussion included:

We Must Plan for Complete, Healthy Communities

At each of the advisory committee meetings, the Project Team presented the challenges in identifying areas for new urban development and participants were asked to talk about their priorities. Though the discussion it became evident that prioritizing one objective for the Region's future over another would not achieve the overall vision for the Region. Participants wanted to protect and enhance Halton's distinctive urban/rural character, its high quality of life, economic prosperity and rich natural heritage. In general we heard an overall vision for the Region that results in a complete community-region with diverse employment opportunities, housing for all, local food production that is beneficial for farmers and consumers, and a mix of uses that provide economic, social and recreational community activities. The advisory committees also talked about working toward a sustainable Region—one that reduces the Region's ecological footprint and that promotes ecosystem and human health.

Adopt a Holistic Approach

The discussions emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to the growth management. There was strong recognition that the local economy; the well-being of Halton's communities; and the rich natural and agricultural resources in Halton are inherently inter-dependant. In other words, the choices that are made in the growth management process in any one of these areas will have a direct impact on the others.



There are many challenges to be addressed

Each committee identified a number of critical issues to be addressed, and they acknowledged the challenges facing the Region in implementing a Growth Management Strategy. For example at the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting, some members expressed the need for more to be done to protect agricultural land in the Region; while others noted that agricultural operations in some areas no longer seem to be viable due to lack of water, disinvestment, and conflicts with surrounding uses.

Members of the Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee noted that achieving the vision for a healthy and sustainable community will require a substantial social/ lifestyle shift and a dramatic change to current development patterns. Both the Halton Regional Youth Advisory Committee and the Halton Housing Advisory Committee noted the challenges of ensuring affordable housing options in the Region. Concerns were expressed that rising housing costs and the current form of development are making it difficult for youth, seniors and young families to afford to live in Halton.

5.3 Outcome: Changes to the Framework

The majority of comments received from the first Advisory Committee Meeting Working Sessions, supported many of the principles developed to date. Yet a number of very compelling suggestions were put forward by several of the committees, which were refined and eventually incorporated into the Evaluation Framework. For example:

The Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC) proposed that a priority for agricultural preservation should go to Class 1 and Class 2 soils in a *concentrated area* to provide a critical mass for agriculture. In mid-October the principles looked to “Protect clusters of farmland to ensure critical mass”. The language has since evolved to reflect HAAC’s suggestion:

2.4 Maximize opportunities to protect agricultural land and promote agricultural local food production	a. Protect a contiguous agricultural land base to ensure critical mass.
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The Halton Housing Advisory Committee (HHAC) argued that Human Services are essential to the well being of residents in all communities and that these facilities should be planned for in conjunction with Growth Management Strategy. At this early juncture, the principles the looked to “Promote the wise use of existing community and health services; (a) to locate new residential areas where there is good access to existing services; and to (b) use urban intensification to make better use of existing health, education and community infrastructure.” The language has since evolved to reflect HHAC priorities:

3.3 Make best use of existing human services infrastructure to minimize the need for major new infrastructure	a. Ensure intensification growth is supported by human services infrastructure
	b. Ensure new residential areas are supported by locally delivered, responsive human services infrastructure.
	c. Ensure growth is supported by a locally delivered, responsive human services infrastructure.

The Halton Regional Youth Advisory Committee (HRYAC) wanted assurance in the that Escarpment views will be protected. At this point in the evolution of the Evaluation Framework it did included the goal to “protect and promote Halton’s rural culture, landscape and recreational opportunities (minimize impact on vistas and panoramas)”; however, in later iterations of the Framework this goal was removed. By stepping back and reviewing committee notes and the examining the multiple revisions of the Framework, the Project Team noticed the absence of cultural heritage, and once again included it within the Evaluation Framework:

2.1 Ensure protection of significant cultural heritage resources	a. Conserve cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources.
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In addition to the refinement of the Evaluation Framework, the Project Team has now included the Parkway Belt designation on all relevant base maps, as requested by the participants of the Environmental Agencies Workshop.

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6.0 Fall Stakeholder Workshops: September/October 2007

Key stakeholder workshops were held in each of the municipalities of Halton Hills, Oakville, Burlington and Milton. Invitations were sent out to approximately 90 groups in each municipality, including local business associations, residents' groups, environmental, housing groups, as well as large landowners and development interests (see Appendix D). While the number of participants at each of the meeting varied, there was a good cross-section of the population at each, providing a great opportunity to gather a diversity of opinions and have more detailed discussions.



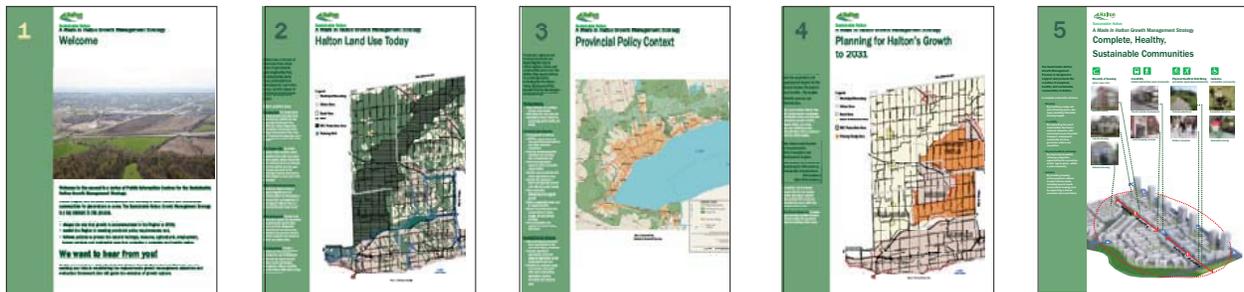
Table 3: Schedule of Sustainable Halton Phase 2 Stakeholder Workshops

Date	Location	Number of Participants
Sept. 25, 2007	Town of Halton Hills Mold-Masters SportsPlex, Hall, 221 Guelph Street, Georgetown	12
Sept. 27, 2007	City of Burlington Central Recreation Centre Auditorium, 519 Drury Lane	5
Oct. 1, 2007	Town of Oakville 1151 Bronte Road, N/S Auditorium	20
Oct. 3, 2007	Town of Milton Milton Sports Centre, Banquet Hall, 605 Santa Maria Blvd	18

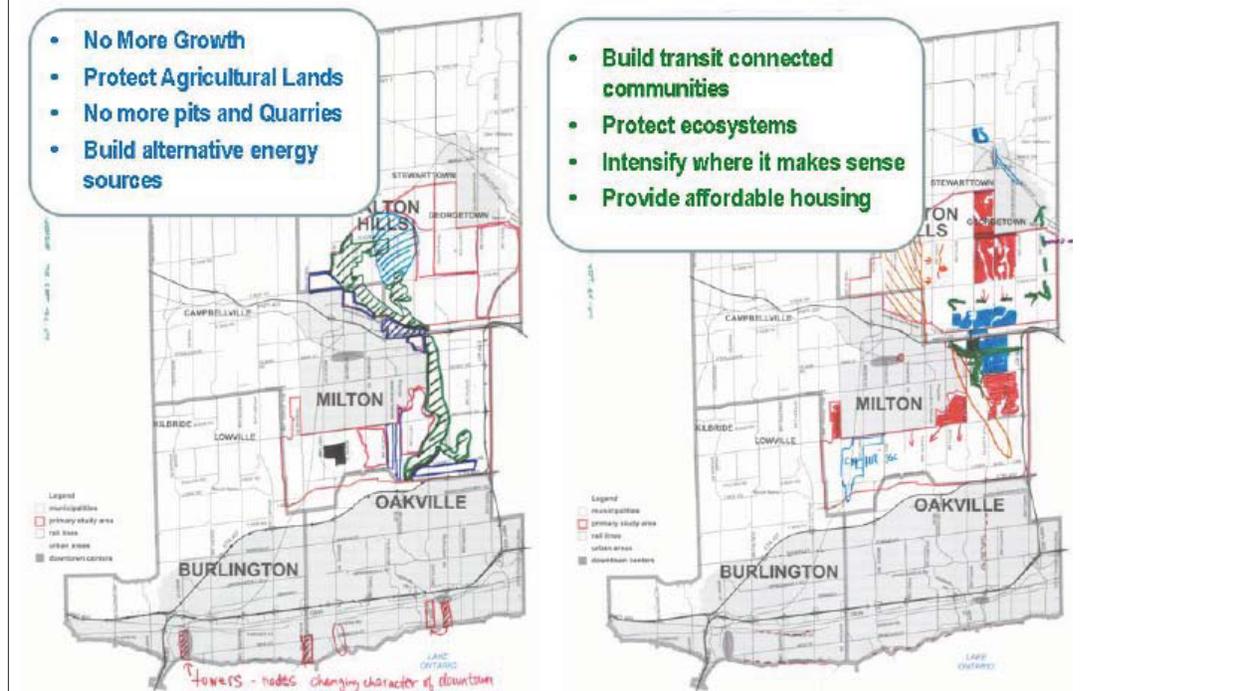
Agenda & Format

Stakeholders were given a presentation on the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process to date, key Phase One conclusions, and the process for moving forward in Phase Two, with emphasis on the current stage: The development of Principles and the Evaluation Framework.

Following the presentation, stakeholders were divided into break-out groups, where facilitators from the Project Team led a growth allocation exercise intended to elicit discussion on local priorities and trade-offs. Participants were asked to place squares representing the projected quantum of new employment and new residential growth required to meet Halton's population targets on a base map of the Region. Throughout the exercise participants identified and recorded the principles and issues they felt were most important.



Halton Hills Stakeholder Workshop



Map 1: Halton Hills Stakeholder Workshop Map

6.1 Town of Halton Hills Stakeholder Workshop, September 25, 2007

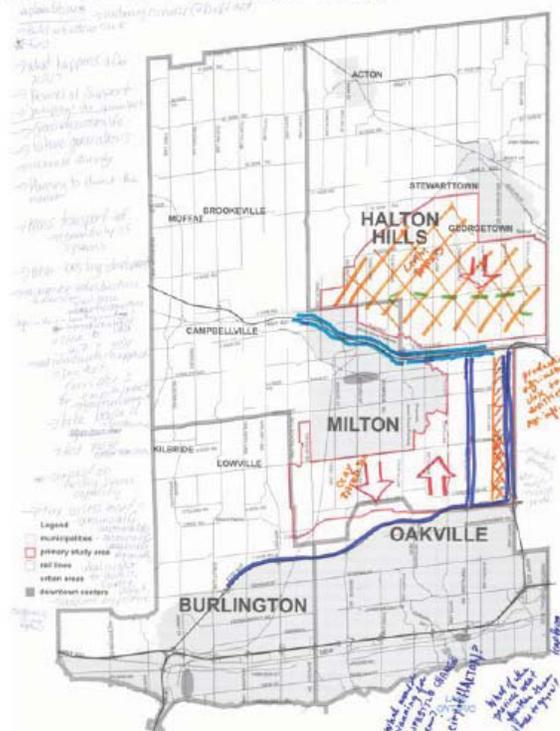
In working through the growth allocation exercise participants clearly expressed their reluctance to see Halton Hills grow; in fact, they did not want to see this area change radically. While not opposed to intensification within existing urban areas, Workshop participants articulated the importance of locating new development in areas that could accommodate growth without fundamentally changing the character of the town. Action and Georgetown were identified as places that could accommodate such intensification, specifically along Guelph Street.

Infrastructure and servicing played an important role for participants at this Workshop, while discussing where people and jobs should be located within the Region. Some participants expressed satisfaction with regards to their current levels of servicing and did not want to see that change. Accordingly, this group felt that the new developments to the area could be serviced from Peel Region.

The Workshop group highlighted the success of Milton's market gardens coexisting with residential development (i.e. Britannia Road) an example of compatible uses. Participants expressed their desire that new employment to the area should also respect this compatibility, both in terms of high quality design and low environmental impact. It was noted that the Region should consider designating an agriculture reserve in close proximity to the Greenbelt area.

Burlington Stakeholder Workshop

- Build infrastructure first
- Anticipate/plan for growth needs beyond 2031
- Prioritize most productive agricultural lands in South Georgetown
- Protecting greenlands may just 'leapfrog' development to other regions
- Consider impact of protecting natural areas on agriculture
- Consider what is best for Halton, Ontario, Canada, Planet



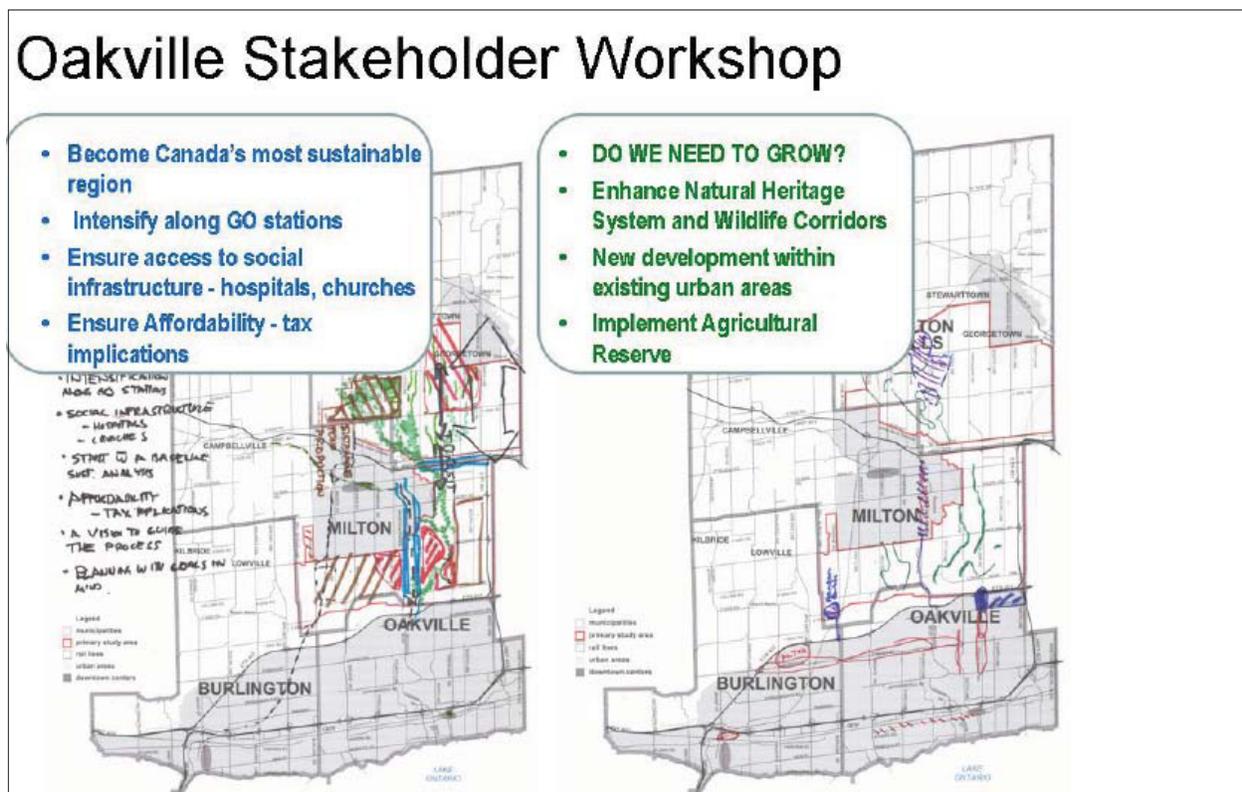
Map 2: Burlington Stakeholder Workshop Map

6.2 City of Burlington Stakeholder Workshop, September 27, 2007

Throughout the exercise, discussions relating to sustainability often emerged for Burlington participants. This group was concerned with the amount residential and employment growth as it related to the Region's economic, social and environmental health.

In working through the growth allocation exercise workshop participants identified key priorities for directing growth that included ensuring that areas of intensification are well supported by extensive human services (schools, hospitals, etc), enhanced transit (including routes to designation areas), effective transportation (goods movement) and servicing infrastructure.

Members of the Burlington farming community also attended the workshop and highlighted the challenge of maintaining farming operations in the Burlington/South Milton area, such as issues of fragmentation and encroachment. Similar to the suggestion received from the Halton Hills' workshop participants two nights previous, it was noted that agricultural lands in Halton Hills should be protected to ensure agriculture remain part of Halton.



Map 3: Oakville Stakeholder Workshop Map

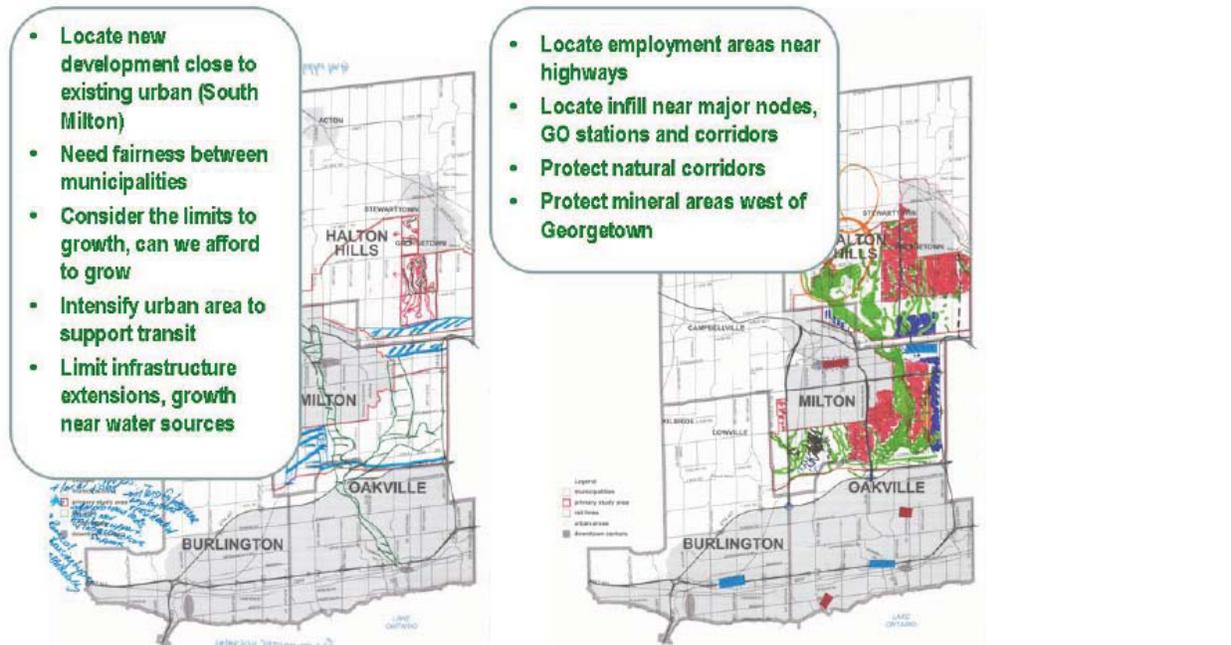
6.3 Town of Oakville PIC Stakeholder Workshop, September 30, 2007

In Oakville, the focus of discussion was on the big picture, concerning the need to manage growth based on an “aspirational” vision for the area to guide the process. In addition, significant unease was expressed with respect to the provincial growth targets for Halton and the implications of increased residential and employment growth to the economic, social and environmental health of the Region.

In working through the growth allocation exercise, stakeholders in Oakville put forward several key priorities with regards to designing more transit-supportive communities, which include intensification around transit hubs, and ensuring that transit is provided “for those who would like to take transit, not just those who must take transit.” Participants also expressed that intensification must be directed to appropriate locations (in terms of compatibility), and make certain that this new development is well supported by human services (schools, hospitals, churches.)

The Natural Heritage System (NHS) was very clearly important to these Workshop participants. This group made every effort to ensure that the NHS was minimally impacted by growth by: minimizing the number of street crossings to maintain the integrity of wildlife; and, ensuring that the wildlife corridors have enough space to create biological cores—in short, to create a robust NHS system in Halton.

Milton Stakeholder Workshop



Map 4: Milton Stakeholder Workshop Map

6.5 Town of Milton Stakeholder Workshop, October 3, 2007

Milton was the fastest growing municipality in Canada, according to the last census; it is therefore not surprising that some participants expressed concern for their current level of growth and that the Region should be working to be self-sustaining. In working through the growth allocation exercise a number of people suggested that the Region should prioritize intensification and exceed the provincial intensification targets. To this end, participants recommended: directing more growth to the built boundary; encouraging mixed use development; and, promoting an overall density increase within the urban areas—all with the caveat of compatible uses. Stakeholders would like to see a range of housing types to ensure affordability, more compact housing forms for new development, for reduced ecological footprint, and an accessible and comprehensive transit system.

Making the best use of existing Infrastructure was also a key discussion point for workshop participants, particularly around the importance of the lake-based system. It was noted that Milton's distance from the Lake, and the availability of water highlighted a significant consideration with regards to allocating growth.

In contemplating the employment component of the growth allocation exercise, participants felt that employment lands should also be intensified, for better use of these lands. These lands should also be located along existing highway corridors, for greater access to markets, and be accessible to residential areas, for greater live/work opportunities. Workshop participants expressed their concerns regarding the economic viability of agricultural lands; nevertheless, Milton stakeholders recommended preserving a concentration of agricultural lands that prioritizes Class 1 agricultural lands, crops and dairy production.

6.5 Fall Stakeholder Workshop Shared Comments

The stakeholders in each municipality were thoughtful and concerned about the future of their local and regional communities. Some questioned why there should be any growth at all, and others wondered whether or not we were planning for too much growth. In all of the workshops, there was a strong emphasis on conservation of natural heritage resources, a desire to curtail sprawl, and a need to maintain and enhance their existing quality of life.

Locating new development means balancing priorities and making tough decisions. The growth allocation exercise portion of each stakeholder workshop proved to be both an education tool, demonstrating the difficult choices involved in identifying new urban areas; as well as, a facilitation tool, designed to elicit discussion on local priorities. In many cases, participants were not able to come to a consensus on specific priorities. However, the diversity of representation around the table encouraged debate, discussion and understanding of the range of local perspectives. The process of having to physically locate growth brought out, in a tangible way, the tough decisions facing the Region and emphasized the importance of intensification and curtailing urban sprawl.

In many ways, the maps resulting from each discussion (maps 1-to-4 on the preceding pages) provided less definitive direction than the principles and priorities that resulted from trying to allocate new urban development across the Region. The maps do not necessarily represent a consensus on where new development should be located in the Region, but they do illustrate the distinct issues and ideas that were raised in each community.

6.6 Outcome: Changes to the Framework

Greenspace considerations have become a more intricate component of the Region's policies and procedures. As demonstrated by the Workshop participants, there is a greater awareness of the intrinsic value of these greenspace areas, given the direct and indirect benefits to the community as a whole. Several suggestions from the Workshops related to the Natural Heritage System (NHS) were brought forward by the Project Team to the natural heritage consultants and the Inter-Municipal Technical Committee. Many of these suggestions refined and eventually incorporated into the Evaluation Framework. For example:

The Oakville participants wanted assurance that the number of street crossings the NHS would be held to a minimum in order to maintain the integrity of wildlife. One group in particular discussed the impact of roads on the killing of wildlife. At this early stage of development the Evaluation Framework did not include this important objective. The Framework has since evolved to include this suggestion:

<p>2.2 Protect a resilient and self-sustaining Natural Heritage System (NHS) integrating an 'ecosystem-based' approach that encompasses a connected system of cores of sufficient size to maintain or improve biological diversity and ecological function</p>	<p>d. Provide ecologically functional connections between Halton's NHS and the greater landscape in which the Region is situated.</p>
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7.0 HALTON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Sustainable Halton Team approached both school boards in Halton Region and partnered with three (3) high schools—in Milton, Burlington and Halton Hills—to produce documentaries about the impact of, and planning for, growth in their communities. The objectives for the project were to:

- 1 Engage youth in a two-way dialogue about planning for growth in Halton Region;
- 2 Connect youth with the Growth Management Strategy using media to capture their thoughts on their communities;
- 3 Encourage youth to engage their friends and peers in discussions about growth and the Sustainable Halton Plan to expand the amount and diversity of information collected through the program; and,
- 4 Incorporate youth priorities and ideas into the preparation of growth scenarios and the preferred growth option.

Within each school, members of the Project Team worked with teachers from a variety of disciplines (English, Media, Art, Drama) to integrate the Sustainable Halton project into their curriculum. At the start of the project, the Project Team presented an overview of the Growth Management Strategy process and facilitated a discussion around growth issues that concerned the students. Different forms of media, including video clips, display panels and maps were used to inspire discussion. The following summarizes the documentaries developed by the students.

Town of Milton

E.C. Drury High School: Grade 11 Communications & Technology

Students produced a series of short films, similar to *32 Short Films About Glenn Gould*. Small groups of students each took one perspective of development and made a 3-5 minute film short. The films are connected by a common introduction and format so that each episode stands alone or can be watched together. Overall, the message the students are delivering is to encourage young people to “Get Involved, get talking about HOW you want Milton/Halton to change”.

City of Burlington

Robert Bateman High School: Grade 12 Communications & Grade 11 Media English Class

Robert Bateman Students prepared three individual segments for their video on growth management. The Grade 11 Media English class did the storyboarding and scripting. The Grade 12 Communications Class executed the production and editing phase of the video based on the script. Teachers at Robert Bateman have noted that the project has “become an excellent cross curricular exercise with an emphasis on the need for careful planning and communication skills”.

Town of Halton Hills

Georgetown District High School- Grade 12 Media and Drama Classes

Students in Georgetown produced a 10 minute film that cleverly examines the fear of “growth” using a 1950’s sitcom style. Interspersed throughout the film are interviews with young people sharing their opinions on topics such as: Water, housing, and employment.

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What We Heard: Multi-media

Feedback from teachers and students on the program was enthusiastic. Teachers were excited to bring something relevant into the classrooms, and students expressed interest and excitement about the opportunity to present their opinions to local leaders. Many noted that they were glad that the Region was making an effort to get a youth perspective.

Next Steps

The documentaries will be presented in a variety of formats to highlight youth priorities and concerns, as well as to encourage youth to become more involved in the Growth Management Strategy process. To display the documentaries, the Region is planning to host a screening of the videos where staff and local officials will be invited to participate.

8.0 Winter Public Information Centres: January 2008

The Sustainable Halton Project Team held five Public Information Centres (PIC's) on the Growth Management Strategy Evaluation Framework, which will guide the development and assessment of potential growth options. The PIC's were held on the following dates:

Table 4: Schedule of Sustainable Halton Phase 2 Winter PICs

Date	Location	Number of Participants
January 15, 2008	City of Burlington Central Recreation Centre Auditorium, 519 Drury Lane	45
January 16, 2008	Town of Oakville 1151 Bronte Road, N/S Auditorium	40
January 24, 2008	Town of Halton Hills Mold-Masters SportsPlex, Hall, 221 Guelph Street, Georgetown	175
January 30, 2008	Town of Milton Milton Sports Centre, Banquet Hall, 605 Santa Maria Blvd	70
January 31, 2008	Town of Oakville – Daytime Open House 1151 Bronte Road, N/S Auditorium	40



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The PICs were advertised in local papers, on the Region's website and through the Winter 2007/2008 Sustainable Halton newsletter which was mailed out to the Sustainable Halton mailing list. A multi-media format was used to encourage as much community input as possible including:

- Open house with display panels illustrating the Evaluation Framework. The Project Team members and Regional staff were on hand to speak one-on-one with participants to explain the process, answer questions, and collect feedback.
- A formal presentation was delivered by the Project Team that provided the background on the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process and an explanation of the purpose and structure of the Evaluation Framework.
- An open question and answer period provided opportunities for participants to ask general questions and provide high-level comments.
- The Workshop sessions were facilitated by the Project Team and other Regional staff; these sessions focused on collecting detailed comments from participants related to the Evaluation Framework. The Workshop sessions also provided participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and debate key issues.
- Take-home workbooks were made available to participants so that they could reflect on key issues and provide more detailed feedback.

For those that were unable to attend the PICs, all of the materials, including the feedback forms, were available on the Region's website. Visitors to the site were encouraged to review the Evaluation Framework and send in their comments.

Nearly 400 people participated from each of the four Local Municipalities. Many of the participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about the Growth Management Strategy process and to contribute their perspectives. Participants also noted they would like to continue to actively participate in the process. There were also many questions about the growth planning process, new Provincial policies and the role of the Region, Local Municipalities and other agencies. A key element of each discussion was focused on trying to understand the context and drivers for growth, and how planning policy can help to direct growth.



Comments Specific to Each PIC

A full range of issues were discussed at each of the PICs, in most cases the comments were similar across the Region. However, in each municipality, specific local issues were also raised.

8.1 City of Burlington

A number of questions were raised about the Greenbelt Policies. Participants wanted to ensure that the urban boundary would not be extended into the Greenbelt lands. The need to ensure the health of downtown areas through intensification and good design was highlighted. Concerns were expressed by participants that transit service and access to GO stations must be enhanced to support growth. It was also noted that the areas around GO stations should be developed at higher densities and concerns were expressed over recent low-density housing and big box stores in these areas. Several people also expressed concern about schools closing in older urban areas; these areas are being developed and will not be available for future school needs and the community ultimately loses valuable urban greenspace. Members of Burlington Green were interested in having regulation and incentives to encourage use of new environmental technologies, or public / private projects and buildings (i.e. solar panels).

8.2 Town of Oakville

Sustainability issues were one of the focal points of discussion, particularly related to the environmental carrying capacity of the Region. Many people questioned the need for any growth in Halton. Several participants noted that the focus needs to be on: minimizing extraction of resources, minimizing waste, not degrading our lands, and ensuring a just and equitable society. The increasing cost of housing was also a key issue raised; several people noted the need to ensure affordable options for young people and seniors.

8.3 Town of Halton Hills

Water availability and water quality was the primary concern for participants in Halton Hills. Many people questioned the municipality's capacity to grow when there is already very significant water supply issues. Participants noted that recent growth permitted in Hornby has also created significant water supply and quality issues; they are concerned that this situation could be repeated with additional growth. Many people noted that even if there is no growth in Halton Hills, that investment in local infrastructure is still presently required. Several participants noted that there is a lack of employment growth in Halton Hills and they did not want to see it become a bedroom community. Participants also discussed the need to consider the implications of growth in Brampton on the area.

8.4 Town of Milton

One of the key themes in Milton was the need to change the current pattern of growth, particularly residential growth. Many people suggested that Milton's current form of growth is not sustainable; as it lacks a sufficient mix of uses and requires travel by car to access daily services and employment areas. Several people noted that Milton does not want to become an extension of growth in Mississauga—they don't want to become "Miltissauga". Several people also noted that growth has brought new investment and community benefits to the community and that effort should be made to capture the benefits of growth.

8.5 Common Themes among All PICs

The following is a brief summary of key issues raised at the workshops, including issues raised that were specific to each Local Municipality. Detailed comments from each PIC are provided in Appendix F

How Much Growth is Right for Halton

One of the most common comments related to concerns over the scale of population growth projected to come to Halton over the next 25 years. Concerns were expressed around the impact of projected levels of growth on Halton's distinct character, quality of life and the health of environment. Many people asked whether the Region was required to meet the provincial growth targets. Some people questioned whether the anticipated level of growth is sustainable and expressed concerned about growth exceeding the Region's carrying capacity.

Focus on Intensification

Many participants expressed support for the new provincial intensification targets, and even encouraged the Region to aim for higher levels of intensification to reduce the new urban land requirement. To the extent possible, many people would prefer to reduce the amount of land being converted to urban use in order to protect agricultural land, rural lands and the natural heritage system. Several people suggested that there should be no expansion of the urban boundary. Others expressed concern around the potential impact of intensification on the character of existing urban areas, traffic congestion and air quality.

Need Infrastructure to Support Growth

A common theme in all of the municipalities was the need for sufficient infrastructure to support growth, including roads, transit, community services, water and wastewater. Concerns were expressed that existing infrastructure is not meeting current needs and additional growth would further degrade services. People wanted to have assurance that the infrastructure to serve growth would be in place from the outset. The question of who pays for growth was often raised in relation to infrastructure. In Oakville and Burlington, the need for enhanced local and inter-regional transit to reduce traffic impact was a frequent comment. In Milton and Georgetown, the need to ensure adequate water infrastructure and protect groundwater sources were critical issues.

Implementation: We Need to Get It Right



Whether supportive of growth or not, nearly all participants expressed the need to ensure that growth is well-designed, managed and phased. Several people noted that the impact of growth needs to be monitored to ensure that quality of life objectives are being met. Many people noted that the current pattern of growth does not reflect their vision for a sustainable community. They want to see a greater emphasis on creating complete communities with a mix of uses, an interconnected greenspace system, diverse housing options, convenient access to good transit, stronger live-work opportunities and local food production. They called on Regional and Local Councils to ensure that new development meets the objectives in the evaluation framework and broader objectives for a complete community. They

also noted that local residents and businesses have a role to play in achieving the objectives for the future. Some scepticism was expressed as to whether there is sufficient political will at all levels to implement a truly Made in Halton Growth Management Strategy.

8.6 Outcome: Changes to the Framework

Emerging public health issues, such as obesity, heart disease, mental health, social isolation, nutrition, and air quality, can begin to be addressed through the built environment and how space is organized. Oakville participants addressed the issue of air quality by focusing on expanding greenspace in the Region, while Burlington participants approached the concern by promoting new environmental technologies; nevertheless, both Workshop groups raised the complex issue of air quality. In the evolution of the Evaluation Framework, the Project Team’s regard for minimizing air pollution included several Growth Management Strategy components such as:

- increasing neighbourhood, development and regional density;
- incorporating different land uses within a development or neighbourhood;
- locating transit near high-density locations by working with the local transit authorities;
- encouraging pedestrian-friendly designs;
- centralizing or clustering activities within the Region and incorporating transit development and,
- maintaining/increasing vegetative and forest cover.

However, given the prominence the issue of air quality has in the Region, the Evaluation Framework has been refined to accommodate the public’s concern for air quality. The Framework now explicitly calls out the issue of air quality:

2.7 Improve Halton Region’s air quality and reduce impact on the climate	a. Minimize emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases associated with transportation.
	b. Minimize emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases associated with energy use in buildings.
	c. Use open space, the natural heritage system and agricultural land to reduce emissions of air pollutants and the “urban heat island effect”.
	d. Preserve agricultural land and the natural heritage system to reduce the impacts associated with extreme weather events.
	e. Preserve the natural heritage system as a carbon sink for greenhouse gases.

It is important to note that addressing Regional air pollution through a Growth Management Strategy is only part of the solution, policy support must also be implemented through Regional and Local Official Plans, Secondary Plans and Regional Guidelines.

9.0 Additional Consultations by Halton Region Staff

In addition to the consultation activities that were set out in the Consultation Plan, Regional staff conducted additional meetings with internal and external stakeholders to ensure that the Project Team captured as much input as possible, particularly on the Evaluation Framework. Staff also conducted a second round of consultations with the Regional Advisory Committees to present and receive additional feedback on the Framework. Outcomes of all discussions fed directly into the Evaluation Framework and will inform forthcoming growth scenarios. The following is a summary of additional consultations on the Evaluation Framework.

Comprehensive Housing Strategy Staff Resources Group: October 11, 2007

The presentation provided an overview of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process and work plan, and the integration of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy into the Sustainable Halton process.

Developer's Liaison Sub-Committee: October 16, 2007

The purpose of this meeting was to provide a status update on the progress of the revised background reports and an update on Phase Two, specifically the process of creating draft principles. The discussion that ensued mainly dealt with points of clarification and questions regarding next steps. One committee member reiterated that the land requirement determined for other urban land uses as a percentage of the total urban land needs was not appropriate. There were questions surrounding the type of weighting criteria that may be employed to evaluate growth options with comments that such criteria can be value laden and subjective.

Joint Municipal Regional Waste Management Committee: October 24, 2007

The purpose of the presentation was to inform the committee of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process, to provide a status update, and to discuss how waste management issues fit into the process. Members noted that energy from waste (EFW) was not an option in Halton Region at this time (this issue was tabled by Council for five years).

Planning Technicians Conference: October 26, 2007

Region staff presented an overview of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process and took participants through a mapping exercise that required participants to identify where growth should be accommodated. Participants were also invited to provide input into the key principles to guide the Evaluation Framework.

Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER): November 9, 2007

Regional staff operated a booth at the Youth Environmental Conference on Climate Change. Students from participating high schools were able to pick up information related to the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process.



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Lake Ontario Shoreline Algae Action Advisory Committee (LOSAAAC): Nov. 16, 2007

Regional staff presented an overview of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process (background/context, work plan) and discussed the Evaluation Framework themes and the main areas of focus with respect to principles. The focus of discussion was on ensuring that the Evaluation Framework incorporated source water protection goals. The advisory committee noted that urban lands produce more phosphorous than rural lands, and that source water ends up in the lake regardless of where the growth is located.

Halton Accessibility Advisory Committee: November 19, 2007

The purpose of the presentation was to inform the committee of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process, to provide a status update, to outline key themes within the Evaluation Framework, and to inform the committee how issues of accessibility would be addressed through a Community Infrastructure Plan. The committee reiterated the importance of accessibility, with specific reference to building standards and the need for an interconnected regional transit system.

Developer's Liaison Committee: December 14, 2007

Building upon the outcomes of the previous meeting (October 16, 2007), Regional staff met with members of the Developer Liaison Committee to present and get additional feedback on the Framework. Outcomes from all of the discussions fed directly into the Evaluation Framework and will inform forthcoming growth scenarios.

Elder Services Advisory Committee (ESAC): January 8, 2008

Subsequent to previous discussions (October 09, 2007), Regional staff met with members of the ESAC to present and get additional feedback on the Evaluation Framework. ESAC members suggested that a background study should be conducted to determine the carrying capacity and ecological footprint of Halton Region. In addition, this group was concerned that future power generation was not being considered within the context of the Growth Management Strategy; they felt that service requirements should be established in order to allocate sufficient space for such infrastructure. Participants also expressed the importance of ensuring that infrastructure exists in communities for a mature state. In general, ESAC members felt that seniors should have a more prominent role in the Evaluation Framework.



Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC): January 8, 2008

Subsequent to previous discussions (October 02, 2007), Regional staff met with members of the HAAC to present and get additional feedback on the Evaluation Framework and provided an update on the LEAR study. Discussions ensued about the form of development that is currently being built within Halton and the lack of housing mix. It was noted that the development currently being constructed was approved a number of years ago, prior to the implementation of the Growth Plan. Planning for future neighbourhoods and communities will incorporate the planning principles that are found in both the Growth Plan and the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy Evaluation Framework.

With respect to the growth forecasts to 2031, HAAC members discussed that there are a number of variables that could impact population forecasts, such as a recession, which could change the projected population for Halton. Finally, with respect to the principles themselves, one member stated that Theme 4: promote health for all, is missing the biggest factor: food.

Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC): January 9, 2008

Subsequent to previous discussions (October 10, 2007), Regional staff met with members of the EEAC to present and get additional feedback on the Evaluation Framework. The following questions were posed by committee members: How is sustainability defined? How will growth be integrated with the transportation network? Is the Region going beyond the PPS requirements with respect to the NHS?

211 Halton Citizen Advisory Committee: January 11, 2008

Regional staff met with 211 Halton Citizen Advisory Committee and gave a presentation and provided an overview of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process, as well as a summary of the key themes of the Evaluation Framework in order to ensure that the Project Team has captured as much input as possible.

Halton Housing Advisory Committee (HHAC): January 16, 2008

Subsequent to previous discussions (October 17, 2007), Regional staff met with members of HHAC to present and get additional feedback on the Evaluation Framework. Participants recognized that the Growth Management Strategy process provides a significant opportunity to advocate for key



priorities. The forecasted growth for Halton Region by 2031 concerned HHAC members due to its implications on infrastructure both hard—responding to increase demand of transit, including a north/south transit line—and soft, or human services. Members provided the example of the Milton hospital, which cannot meet the present demand for this rapidly growing area, to demonstrate the importance of including human services in the Growth Management Strategy.

In Mississauga, according to participants, there are live/work developments in the City Centre; with this in mind, HHAC members felt that there should be a variety of uses in downtown and other intensification areas. In addition to mixed use, members were concerned that differing levels of affordability also be included in order to, for example, provide housing for people with low paying jobs and reduce commuting.

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HHAC members also advocated for the inclusion of market gardens, which represent an intensive use in agricultural land. It was noted that 60% of agricultural land is for non-food production, and as people care about local sources of food, participants expressed the need to ensure that food production is protected. A resource promoted by HHAC is the book, *The Deep Economy* by Bill McKibben, about small scale urban agriculture examples in Vermont.

Halton Regional Youth Advisory Committee (HRYAC): January 22, 2008

Members were provided with a handout containing all the goals of the evaluation framework and were asked to rank each goal on a scale of one-to-five. The handouts that were returned to Regional staff reveal that many of the goals in the Evaluation Framework are considered extremely important by members of this committee. In particular, the goals of Theme 2: Protecting What Is Valuable, and Theme 4: Promoting Health For All, were consistently ranked highly.

Milton Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MMYAC): February 12, 2008

Regional staff met with the Milton Mayor's Youth Advisory Council to give a presentation and provide an overview of the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy process, as well as a summary of the key themes of the Evaluation Framework in order to ensure that the Project Team has captured as much input as possible. This group was curious about the type of intensification, and what the built form will eventually look like. It was noted that there are as many people driving into Milton to work as there are leaving Milton for jobs in other towns. With this in mind, participants expressed a need to focus on attracting jobs and post-secondary institutions to the area.

9.1 What We Heard

The Lake Ontario Shoreline Algae Action Advisory Committee (LOSAAAC) discussion related to incorporating source water protection into the Evaluation Framework was tremendously helpful. This group brought up an important point that, until that point, had been considered but had yet to be incorporated into the Framework. The Framework has since evolved to include LOSAAAC's suggestion:

3.2 Ensure the long-term reliability and security of essential systems	c. Ensure source water protection.
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10.0 Next Steps

The process of developing the Growth Management Strategy and Evaluation Framework has sparked spirited and insightful dialogue among various stakeholders. The feedback received from the consultations in Phase Two has fed directly into confirming, developing and/or refining the goals and objectives in the Sustainable Halton Growth Management Strategy Evaluation Framework. This Framework will guide the development of potential growth scenarios and the "Made in Halton" Growth Management Strategy; therefore, getting it right now is essential.

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With the help of the Evaluation Framework, the Project Team is now in the process of developing a short-list of 3 to 4 growth scenarios. An internal due diligence is about to be conducted to identify potential issues and prepare preliminary cost/value estimates with respect to each of the short-listed growth scenarios. The scenarios will then be refined to reflect the outcome of the internal audit, and to reflect stakeholder feedback. The next round of consultations are just being planned; and, given the importance of this next round of consultations, an equally or even more extensive consultation process will be applied.