Sustainable Halton

Effect of Demographic Change on Halton Region

May 2007

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HEMSON
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Sustainable Halton

This is a draft final background report for the Sustainable Halton planning process. As the project continues and as we receive public feedback, there may be slight adjustments made to the content of this report.

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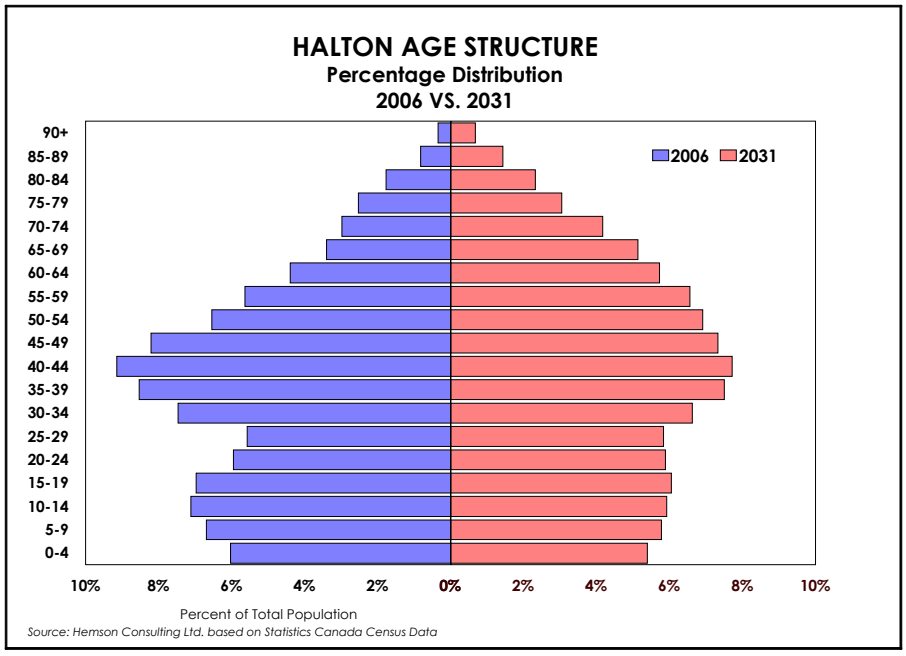
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to assess the effects of long-term demographic change on Sustainable Halton and the delivery of municipal services. For the key demographic attributes for regional planning — age structure being by far the most important — the report considers how demographic change is already embodied in the foundations of Sustainable Halton's growth outlook for population, housing, employment and the economy; and considers how demographic change might affect municipal and agency service delivery over the next 25 years.

CONTEXT

The anticipated growth in Halton Region over the period to 2031 is provided through the *Growth Plan* and its background document, *The Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The background work included significant analysis of anticipated effects of demographic change in the metropolitan area. That analysis also included specific forecasts for Halton, including the anticipated age structure of the population, shown in the chart below.



As indicated in the chart, the growth outlook in Halton is that the Region will remain dominated by adults in the family age groups and their children, and, notably for service delivery, there will be significant growth in the elderly population.

FINDINGS

1. Outlook for Demographic Change

For the purposes of considering the need for future municipal and agency service delivery needs, it is important to consider not just the proportions in the age structure,

but also the absolute numbers in each age group. After all, it is the numbers that produce the service demands. The age profile of the Region is shown in the table below, organized according to key age groups for service delivery:

Halton Region Population Age Profile 2006 to 2031							
Age Group		**2006 Population**		**2031 Population**		**Change 2006 to 2031**	
Name	Age	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	% Change
Pre-School	0–4	27,500	6.0%	42,100	5.4%	14,600	53.1%
School Age	5–19	94,900	20.8%	138,300	17.8%	43,400	45.7%
Young Adult	20–29	52,700	11.5%	91,400	11.7%	38,700	73.4%
Family Formation	30–44	114,800	25.1%	170,100	21.8%	55,300	48.2%
Middle Age	45–64	113,200	24.8%	206,700	26.5%	93,500	82.6%
Retirees	65–75	29,100	6.4%	72,500	9.3%	43,400	149.1%
Elderly	75+	24,800	5.4%	58,300	7.5%	33,500	135.1%
Total		457,000	100.0%	779,400	100.0%	322,400	70.5%

Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.

Notes: Population is total population including Census undercoverage. The Halton Official Plan population figures are in Census population. In order to compare the two sources, the official plan population figures need to account for a 4% Census undercoverage. The 457,000 total population including undercoverage is consistent with the recently released Census population figure of 439,000 which does not include the Census undercoverage.

The first release of 2006 Census results in March of 2007 only included Census population and occupied dwelling units. While the total here is consistent with the new data, the 2006 age distribution remains an estimate of 2006 until further Census information is released.

Age

Within the Region, the age profile will differ significantly between communities and will depend, in part, on the allocation of growth finally recommended through the Sustainable Halton process. Most of Halton's growth is generated by movers into new homes, primarily in the "family formation" group along with their children. Areas with the most growth will remain youngest, those with the least growth will age. Milton is likely to have the youngest age profile. Burlington already has the oldest average age of any urban municipality in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton (GTAH). This position, and its attendant service needs, is likely to continue.

Diversity

Population diversity is difficult to define and depends on what purpose the information is sought. However, by most common measures Halton has much less diverse population than the GTAH overall and its neighbouring communities of Hamilton and Peel. For example, in 2001 Halton's visible minority population was 8.7% versus 32.5% in the GTAH. Also, Halton's share of population who are immigrants was 22.9% versus 41.3% in the GTAH with over one-third of Halton's immigrant population being from the U.S.A. or U.K. As Halton grows and matures, it is likely to become somewhat more diverse in its population profile. However, due to its location and income profile, among other factors, Halton is not likely to become a major reception location for new immigrants over the next 25 years.

Income

In terms of income, Halton has by far the highest average income in the GTAH, a position not likely to change significantly over 25 years. However, with an older population a reduced share of income will be from employment sources. Despite the high average income, poverty does exist in Halton, albeit at lower rates than in other parts of the GTAH. As the community matures some increase in low income population can be expected.

Other Variables

Other demographic variables in Halton, such as household type, household size and income structure will be most influenced by the rapid growth in the elderly population. This will mean increased numbers of empty nester households and single person households (many will be widows — the 75+ population in 2031 being 62% female).

2. Implications of Demographic Change for Regional Land Use Planning

Demographic change is already incorporated into the Regional planning process through the extensive demographic analysis underlying the growth forecasts in the *Growth Plan* (and other forecast work undertaken for the Region and local municipalities). Among the key factors are the following:

- Age structure has a significant influence on housing demand. Higher density housing tends to be occupied by smaller households either in their 20s or among the elderly (in the GTAH occupancy of apartments exceeds occupancy of single a semi-detached only for those under 29 and 85 and over). Age groups in between have a much greater preference for ground-related housing — Halton's population will remain dominated by this group, making attempts to achieve a policy-based shift to higher density housing a very significant challenge.

- With an increasing proportion of the population over 65 in the GTAH and within Halton, the proportion of population employed will decline over time and the growth in the labour force will slow. This has a number of effects on potential for

employment growth and its characteristics in terms of land, building space and economic activity.

- Other demographic changes are considered and incorporated into the growth forecasts, including changes arising from continued immigration and increased population diversity. In general, however, after an initial settlement period immigrants display very similar characteristics to the overall population in terms of fertility, family size, housing and labour force activity.

3. Implications of Long-Term Demographic Change for Other Municipal Services

Regional and local municipal service delivery departments and agencies as well as the school boards know their own client groups and are best equipped to determine the impacts of the forecast demographic change. The following are a few examples of the types of changes that might need to be considered:

- Transportation: a growing elderly population is likely to affect transit demand and the need for special services, such as kneeling busses on regular routes and increased demand for disabled transportation services.

- Health and Social Services: shifts in services will occur as demand for all elderly related services grow at a significantly faster rate than the overall population, while services for children will be growing at a slower rate.

- Parks and Recreation: services will have a similar demand shift as noted for health and social services.

- Policing: Changes in age structure may affect the number or type of crimes in Halton (males aged 15 to 24 commit a disproportionate amount of crime, but males 20 to 24 will be declining slightly as a share of total population) while other demands will likely increase with growth, such as traffic-related matters.

- Schools: In an overall demand sense, school demands in these forecasts are simply age related. However, the school board will be increasingly challenged by very high demand in growth areas and declining enrolment in mature communities.

INTRODUCTION

In June of 2006 the Province of Ontario released the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The document, *Places to Grow — Better Choices, Brighter Future*, provides a framework for implementing the Provincial vision for managing growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) to 2031. The *Growth Plan* sets out Provincial interests and directions on many issues including: the distribution of population and employment growth; where and how that growth will be accommodated; infrastructure requirements; and the protection of key heritage and natural resources.

Municipal official plans are required to conform to the *Growth Plan* within three years of its final release, as stipulated in both the Greenbelt Act (2005) and the *Places to Grow Act (2005)*.In response, the Region of Halton has initiated *The Sustainable Halton Plan*. Building upon the updated *Regional Official Plan*, *Sustainable Halton* is to be Halton's long-term growth management strategy to address the forecast growth in the Region — a near-doubling of existing population and employment by 2031.

This report is one of a series that are being prepared as part of Sustainable Halton, in order to conform to the Provincial *Growth Plan* and *Provincial Policy Statements* and also to meet current *Regional Official Plan* directions. The purpose of this report is to assess the effects of long-term demographic change, as presented in the *Growth Plan*, on Sustainable Halton and the delivery of municipal services.

The anticipated growth in Halton Region over the period to 2031 is provided through the *Growth Plan* and its background document, *The Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The background work included significant analysis of anticipated effects of demographic change in the GGH as well as specifically for Halton Region. This report, for key demographic attributes for regional planning, considers how demographic change is already embodied in the foundations of Sustainable Halton's growth outlook for population, housing, employment and the economy; and considers how demographic change might affect municipal and agency service delivery over the next 25 years.

The report provides a link between the growth being planned through the Sustainable Halton process and the planning information needs of the service delivery departments in the Region and at the local municipalities. The typical demographic and land analyses undertaken in growth management, such as those directly described in the *Growth Plan*, are those required for land use and public works planning, but may not be as helpful for long-term planning in areas such as social services and health. The information presented here is intended to describe the demographic foundations of Sustainable Halton in a useful way for these other departments. However, the nature of many of the demographic changes and their implications for service delivery can only be considered here in a brief and generalised fashion. Each department has a specific client group with its own detailed characteristics of interest. This report provides a foundation for the departments to undertake the more detailed analysis appropriate to their own activities.

This report is focused on future demographic change and its implications. It does provide some base information from the Census and other sources, where necessary for the discussion. However, for a detailed compendium of data on social and demographic characteristics the interested reader is encouraged to refer to the Region of Halton's report *Landscape by the Numbers: A Social Atlas of Halton* published in 2006. The *Social Atlas* describes a wide range of characteristics of Halton's population and

economy for the Region, the local municipalities and planning districts within these areas.

The remainder of this report is organized into two sections. The first provides the outlook for key demographic statistics, while the second provides a discussion of some of the key implications for the structure and growth of the Region, particularly as it relates to housing, employment, as well as service delivery in Regional and local departments.

II DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF REGION WILL NOT CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY TO 2031

Age structure, immigration, diversity and income levels are identified as the key influencing demographic variables on growth and development in Halton and, ultimately, on services and service delivery in the Region. This section, based on the *Growth Plan* growth outlook assesses the current situation in Halton and the anticipated outlook for these key variables.

A. BACKGROUND WORK TO *GROWTH PLAN* INCLUDED SIGNIFICANT ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN HALTON

Halton Region is anticipated to grow from a 2001 population of 390,000 to a population of 780,000 over the period to 2031 as determined through the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. These forecasts were based on the *Growth Plan* background document, *The Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The background work included significant analysis of anticipated effects of demographic change in the metropolitan area. That analysis also included specific forecasts for Halton, including the anticipated age structure of the population.

The forecasts are based on extensive research undertaken for a committee that included representatives of the Region of Halton, the other three region and two single-tier cities in the GTAH, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal (MPIR) and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Representatives of some municipalities in the “Outer Ring” (the area of the GGH beyond the GTAH from Niagara through Waterloo and Simcoe around to Northumberland County) were also involved. The forecasts and background research were documented in the *Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, published in January 2005.

In the almost two-year process of preparing the forecasts, the committee considered a wide range of influences on the growth outlook including economic, demographic, policy and development, and planning. Those readers interested in gaining a better understanding of what underlies the forecasts are encouraged to review the background report. *The Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* is available at the following direct web link: www.hemson.com/news/04.html. The MPIR website also links to this location.

The outlooks for the key variables and their expected effects in Halton presented in this Sustainable Halton report are prepared to be fully consistent with the economic, social and demographic views underlying *The Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*.

B. REGION WILL REMAIN DOMINATED BY ADULTS IN THE FAMILY AGE GROUPS

The age structure of the population is one of the most important demographic factors in considering the effects of growth on Halton Region. Age is a primary determinant of such critical planning matters as household size, housing unit type choices, and participation in the labour force. The age structure also directly influences the demand and delivery of a range of municipal services.

1. Ontario Population Will Age Significantly Over the Next 25 Years

As a starting point to understanding changes in the age structure of Halton it is instructive to step back and look at the future age structure of Ontario. The age structure tree for Ontario is shown in Figure 1.

In Ontario for 2006, the notable features of the graph are:

- The large population bulge of people in their 40s is the result both of the baby boom and the relatively high level of immigration experienced over the last 15 to 20 years. The peak birthing years of Canada's baby boom were in the late 1950s and early 1960s, making this group in their 40s in 2006. The baby boom bulge is exaggerated by relatively high levels of immigration experienced since the late 1980s because most adult immigrants are in their 20s and 30s (the age structure of immigrants is shown in a graphic in the discussion of immigration later in this section).

- The baby boom echo — the children of the baby boom — peaked in the early 1990s. By 2006, there is an identifiable baby boom echo bulge in the population now in their teens. The population younger than the echo, those under 5 years, is a significantly smaller age cohort.

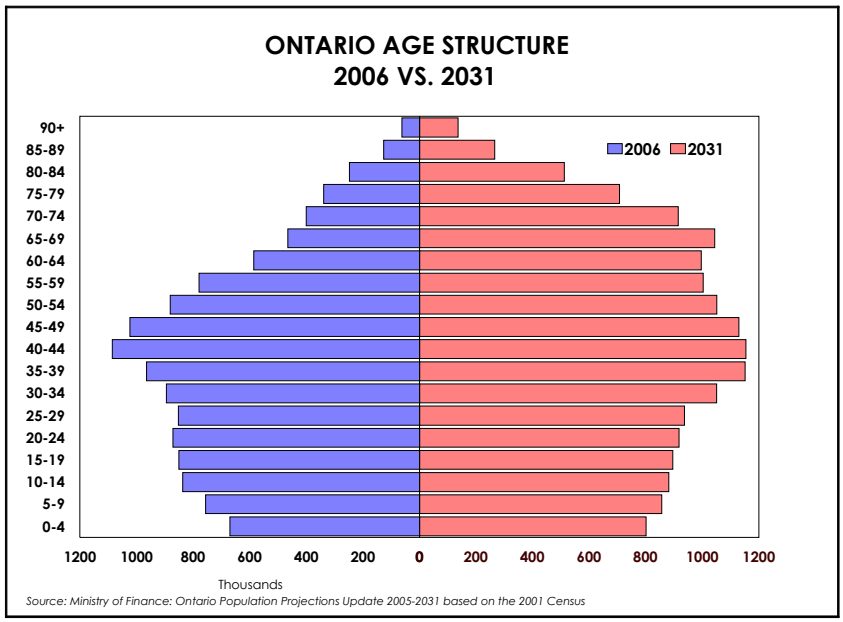


Figure 1

In 25 years, by 2031, these same age phenomena take on quite different characteristics:

- The baby boom bulge that was in their 40s in 2006 will be between 65 and 75 years of age.

- The baby boom echo will be identifiable as those in their late 30s and in their 40s.

- Less obvious, but of great importance, is the enormous proportionate increase in the elderly population, those over 75, who were the leading edge of the baby boom.

2. Halton's Age Profile Will Remain Relatively Young as the Region Continues to Attract Young Families to Occupy New Housing

The forecast age structure of Halton Region over the next 25 years, as provided in *The Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* reflects some of the phenomena at work in the Ontario age structure, but there are also some very significant differences:

- The age structure in 2031 does not change as significantly from 2006 in Halton as it does in Ontario. This is because Halton is expected to grow very rapidly through migration. Given its location and character the age structure of the migrants will be predominately those in their 30s, just as it has been in recent decades. This continued migration assures that the age groups from late 30s through early 50s remain very dominant in Halton's age structure.

- What is less obvious in the graph is a relatively significant shift in the proportions of the population from the younger to the older age groups. The population 19 and under falls from 26.8% to 23.2% and those 65 and over rise from a current 11.8% of the population to 16.8% over the next 25 years. While not as dramatic as the shifts seen province wide, in demographic terms these are still quite significant shifts in Halton's age structure.

Figures 2 and 3 compare Halton's age structure as estimated for 2006 and forecast for 2031. The first graph provides the distribution of population among the age groups in percentage terms and the second provides the distribution of actual population count in each age group.

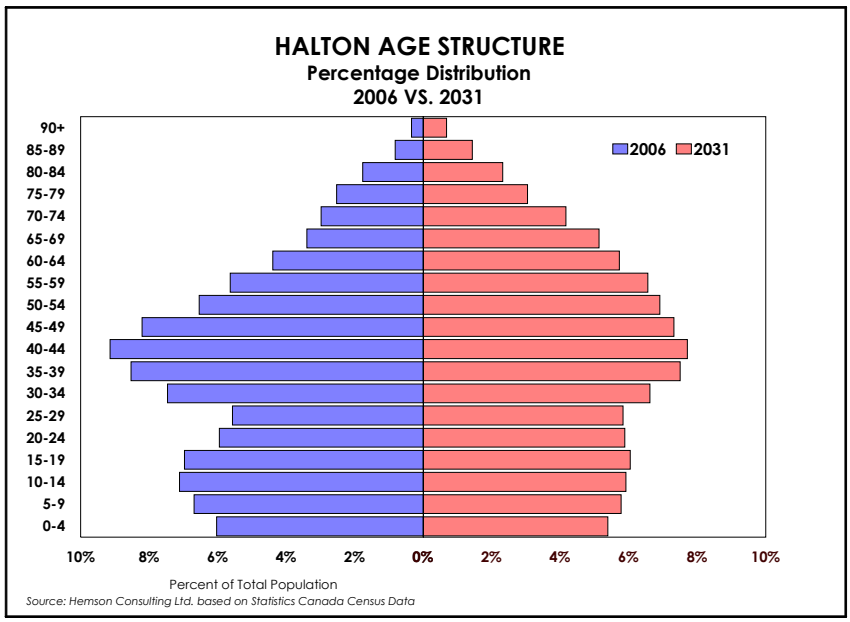


Figure 2

Halton's forecast growth over the next 25 year, some 70% in total over the time, is generated predominantly by migration. Most of these migrants are young families — parents in their 30s and early 40s and their children. The age structure is shown in Figure 4 for the forecast period to 2031.

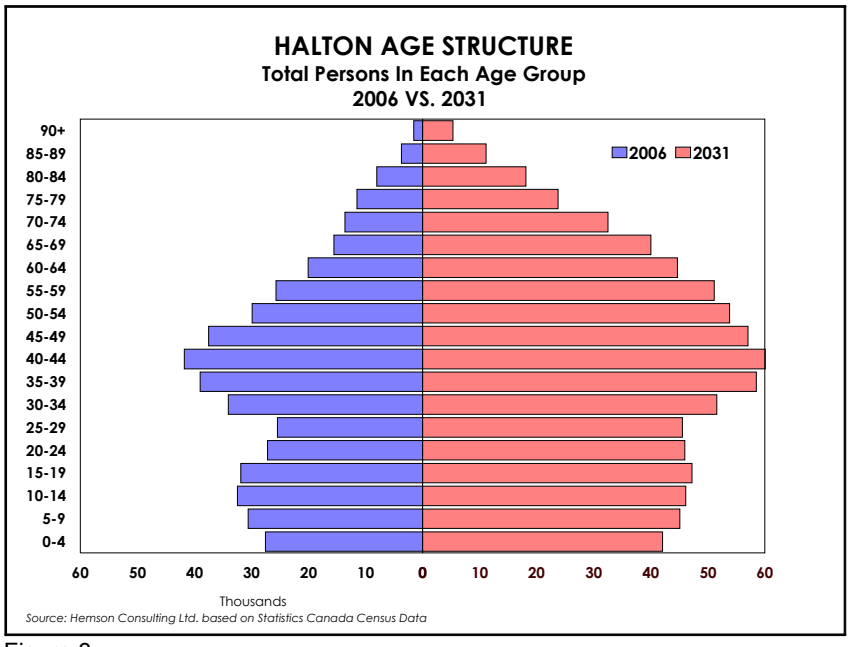


Figure 3

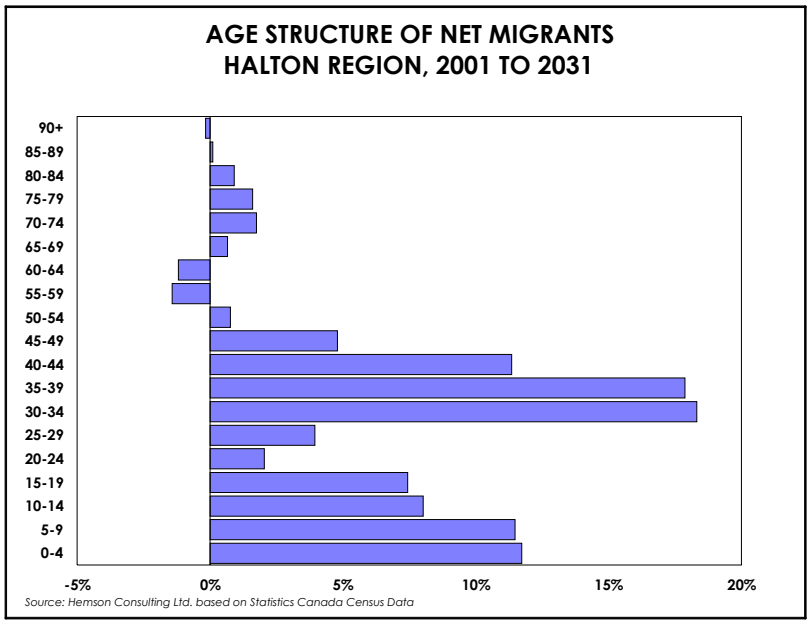


Figure 4

These migrants are moving to Halton primarily to occupy the new housing and are mostly from Toronto and Peel Region (as very few immigrants or inter-provincial migrants choose Halton on initial arrival). The net migration for those 50 and over (either positive or negative) are considered negligible in the context of the total population of the Region.

3. Changes in the Absolute Numbers Within Age Groups Is Important for Planning Municipal and Community Services

The discussion of the age structure, above, was focused on the proportions of each age group in the population. This indicates whether the community is relatively older or younger and where the bulges in the profile occur. For many agencies for planning purposes, the actual change in the numbers in each age group are important.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 below provide the same age structure data as the graphs above, but are provided in absolute numbers and have been grouped into convenient age categories for municipalities and agencies. Table 1 provides the changes over the next ten years, 2006–2016, Table 2 provides the following 15 years of the planning period 2016–2031 and Table 3 provides the total for all 25 years, 2006–2031.

The tables indicate that every age group grows in absolute numbers in both time periods, if only because of the relatively large growth in total population. The most striking change revealed in these tables is the growth in the population over 65 in both time periods, far exceeding the overall population growth rate.

Table 1 Halton Region Population Age Profile 2006 to 2016							
Age Group		**2006 Population**		**2016 Population**		**Change 2006 to 2016**	
Name	Age	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	% Change
Pre-School	0–4	27,500	6.0%	32,900	5.6%	5,300	19.3%
School Age	5–19	94,900	20.8%	114,200	19.4%	19,300	20.3%
Young Adult	20–29	52,700	11.5%	72,900	12.4%	20,200	38.4%
Family Formation	30–44	114,800	25.1%	134,900	23.0%	20,100	17.5%
Middle Age	45–64	113,200	24.8%	155,300	26.4%	42,100	37.2%
Retirees	65–75	29,100	6.4%	42,700	7.3%	13,600	46.6%
Elderly	75+	24,800	5.4%	35,000	5.9%	10,100	40.9%
Total		457,000	100.0 %	587,700	100.0%	130,700	28.6%

Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.
Notes: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Population is total population including Census undercoverage. The Halton Official Plan population figures are in Census population. In order to compare the two sources, the official plan population figures need to account for a 4% Census undercoverage. The 457,000 total population including undercoverage is consistent with the recently released Census population figure of 439,000 which does not include the Census undercoverage.
The first release of 2006 Census results in March of 2007 only included Census population and occupied dwelling units. While the total here is consistent with the new data, the 2006 age distribution remains an estimate of 2006 until further Census information is released.

Table 2 Halton Region Population Age Profile 2016 to 2031							
Age Group		**2016 Population**		**2031 Population**		**Change 2016 to 2031**	
Name	Age	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	% Change
Pre-School	0–4	32,900	5.6%	42,100	5.4%	9,200	28.0%
School Age	5–19	114,200	19.4%	138,300	17.8%	24,200	21.2%
Young Adult	20–29	72,900	12.4%	91,400	11.7%	18,600	25.5%
Family Formation	30–44	134,900	23.0%	170,100	21.8%	35,200	26.1%
Middle Age	45–64	155,300	26.4%	206,700	26.5%	51,400	33.1%
Retirees	65–75	42,700	7.3%	72,500	9.3%	29,800	69.8%
Elderly	75+	35,000	5.9%	58,300	7.5%	23,300	66.7%
Total		587,700	100.0%	779,400	100.0%	191,700	32.6%

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.
Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.

Table 3 Halton Region Population Age Profile 2006 to 2031							
Age Group		**2006 Population**		**2031 Population**		**Change 2006 to 2031**	
Name	Age	Number	Share	Number	Share	Number	% Change
Pre-School	0–4	27,500	6.0%	42,100	5.4%	14,600	53.1%
School Age	5–19	94,900	20.8%	138,300	17.8%	43,400	45.7%
Young Adult	20–29	52,700	11.5%	91,400	11.7%	38,700	73.4%
Family Formation	30–44	114,800	25.1%	170,100	21.8%	55,300	48.2%
Middle Age	45–64	113,200	24.8%	206,700	26.5%	93,500	82.6%
Retirees	65–75	29,100	6.4%	72,500	9.3%	43,400	149.1%
Elderly	75+	24,800	5.4%	58,300	7.5%	33,500	135.1%
Total		457,000	100.0%	779,400	100.0%	322,400	70.5%

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.
Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd.

4. Age Profile Will Continue to Differ Significantly Between Communities

The age profile of the different communities in Halton does vary, depending largely on the time when most development occurred, recognising the typical age profile for most of the Region's migrants. The average ages in 2001 for each of the local municipalities in Halton is shown Table 4. The forecast for the total Region is also provided. The increasing average age for the Region reflects the shifting age structure discussed above.

Table 4 Average Age by Local Municipality in Halton 2001–2031					
	Burlington	**Oakville**	**Milton**	**Halton Hills**	**Halton Region**
2001	38.1	35.9	37.0	34.9	36.7
2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	36.8
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	38.1
2031	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	40.1

Source: Hemson Consulting Ltd. based on Statistics Canada, Census of Canada (2001)

At this point in the Sustainable Halton process, forecasts cannot be prepared for the age structure of local municipalities. These can only be completed once decisions are made about the amount of growth to be accommodated through intensification and to what community that intensification is assigned as well as the determination of the location(s) of any new urban residential land designations. However, some commentary can be provided:

- Burlington has the highest average age in the Region at 38.1 years. In 2001, Burlington had one of the highest average age of any urban municipality in the

GTA (second only to King Township in York Region). Burlington is likely to continue to have a higher average age and greater proportion of older people as it has relatively little remaining land for new greenfield development (relative to the size of the existing community), but will continue to accommodate growth through intensification.

- Oakville is younger than Burlington reflecting the larger proportion of newer population in the community relative to the existing base. Oakville will remain relatively younger as North Oakville develops and new population continues to move into the community.

- Milton, in 2001, had an average age higher than the overall Region. In 2001, little new housing had been built in Milton in about 20 years, meaning that the young families that had moved into Milton in the 1970s and who remained there had aged without there being new influx of younger families. The first new housing units in the Milton HUSP expansion area were occupied just after Census Day in 2001. The 2006 Census is expected to show a doubling of the population with an average age likely to have declined from 2001. As rapid development continues in Milton it will not, overall, age at the same rate as the Region in total.

- Halton Hills is currently the youngest community in the Region. Since the Georgetown area has limited additional development capacity, the future of the age structure of Halton Hills will depend on the decisions made in Sustainable Halton. Should no significant new urban growth be accommodated in Halton Hills, it will take on the characteristics of pre-expansion Milton, that is, a largely fixed total population aging in place. However, if significant new development were to occur new younger families would tend to put downward pressure on the average age.

Within all of these communities there will be increased numbers of elderly people, reflecting the total Regional trend. At the other end of the age scale, however, the growth in school age population will be highly concentrated in the faster growing areas where new development is occurring and is likely to decline significantly in the older parts of the Region.

C. IMMIGRATION, POPULATION DIVERSITY AND INCOME WILL ALSO REMAIN RELATIVELY CONSTANT TO 2031

Other key identified characteristics of Halton's population are immigrants, population diversity and income levels. In general, Halton has a low proportion of immigrants, a less diverse population than the rest of the GTA and has a higher average income.

1. Halton Has a Smaller Immigrant Population That Has Been in Canada Longer Compared to the Rest of the GTAH

The most instructive way to consider the existing and future immigrant population in Halton Region and its local municipalities is in comparison to the GTAH. Immigration is a national and metropolitan phenomena with little reference to municipal matters. Typically immigrants to Canada are attracted to the largest cities — Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver — and within those metropolitan areas to more central locations. However, in

the Toronto area, with its very large immigrant base and its very large metropolitan population, immigrant communities have become more dispersed beyond the central city.

Table 5 shows the immigrant population as a share of the total population. It indicates a concentration of immigrant communities in Toronto, Peel and York and a much reduced number in Halton, Hamilton and Durham. There is a similar pattern in microcosm within Halton, where the immigrant population is concentrated in the older larger urban communities of Burlington and Oakville.

Between 1991 and 2001, the overall proportion of immigrants in the GTAH population grew from 35% to 40%, a quite significant increase in a 10 year period. The pattern of settlement has shown all of this increase to be concentrated Toronto, Peel and York. Halton, Durham and Hamilton were all stable in shares of immigrants, despite both Halton and Durham experiencing significant population growth. Halton's share of all GTAH immigrants fell during this period from 4.3% of the total to 3.7%.

Table 5 Immigrant Population in Halton and the GTAH

	1991			**2001**		
	Immigrants	Census Population	Share	Immigrants	Census Population	Share
Region of Halton	70,900	313,000	22.7%	83,200	375,000	22.2%
Oakville	31,700	115,000	27.6%	39,600	128,000	27.4%
Burlington	27,300	130,000	21.0%	31,300	137,000	20.7%
Milton	5,700	32,000	17.8%	5,000	32,000	15.7%
Halton Hills	6,300	37,000	17.0%	7,400	42,000	15.4%
City of Toronto	957,400	2,276,000	42.1%	1,214,600	2,482,000	48.9%
Region of Peel	264,200	733,000	36.1%	424,800	989,000	43.0%
Region of York	161,000	505,000	31.9%	283,800	729,000	38.9%
Region of Durham	77,000	409,000	18.8%	94,900	507,000	18.7%
City of Hamilton	108,700	452,000	24.1%	119,800	490,000	24.5%
Total GTAH	1,639,200	4,688,000	35.0%	2,221,100	5,572,000	39.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Also instructive in considering the nature of the immigration population in Halton is the date of immigration. Tables 6 and 7 indicate that areas where immigrant populations are lowest (Halton, Durham and Hamilton), are also the areas dominated by those who have been in Canada the longest. The central locations with the largest immigrant populations also have the most recent immigrants. In short, this indicates what we also know from immigrant landing data that new arrivals still concentrate in central locations and, as they become more established, have a greater tendency to disperse, i.e. taking on similar geographic characteristics to the Canadian-born population.

Halton's role in accommodating new immigrants in the GTAH is extremely small. Halton is home to about 6.7% of the GTAH's total population, but in terms of immigrant population Halton accommodates just 3.7% of the GTAH immigrant population. In terms of new immigrants the share is smaller still, with Halton accommodating only about 1.9% of recent immigrants to the GTAH.

Table 6	Immigrant Population in Halton by Date of Immigration GTAH and Halton Communities					
	Before 1961	**1961-1970**	**1971-1980**	**1981-1990**	**1991-2001**	**Total**
Region of Halton	20,400	17,200	15,600	13,800	16,200	83,200
Oakville	7,600	7,800	7,400	7,600	9,200	39,600
Burlington	8,900	6,600	5,700	4,700	5,400	31,300
Milton	1,600	1,100	1,100	500	700	5,000
Halton Hills	2,300	1,700	1,400	1,100	900	7,400
Region of Peel	34,800	52,800	80,700	97,500	159,000	424,800
City of Toronto	132,200	135,200	187,700	242,900	516,600	1,214,600
Region of York	35,300	41,400	50,300	61,900	94,900	283,800
Region of Durham	20,400	19,200	22,100	17,300	15,900	94,900
City of Hamilton	30,900	22,900	17,600	18,700	29,700	119,800
Total GTAH	273,900	288,600	374,100	452,100	832,400	2,221,200

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 7	Percentage of Total Immigrant Population by Date of Immigration GTAH and Halton Communities					
	Before 1961	**1961-1970**	**1971-1980**	**1981-1990**	**1991-2001**	**Total**
Region of Halton	24%	21%	19%	17%	19%	100%
Oakville	19%	20%	19%	19%	23%	100%
Burlington	29%	21%	18%	15%	17%	100%
Milton	32%	22%	22%	10%	15%	100%
Halton Hills	31%	23%	19%	15%	12%	100%
Region of Peel	8%	12%	19%	23%	37%	100%
City of Toronto	11%	11%	15%	20%	42%	100%
Region of York	12%	15%	18%	22%	33%	100%
Region of Durham	21%	20%	23%	18%	17%	100%
City of Hamilton	26%	19%	15%	16%	25%	100%
Total GTAH	12%	13%	17%	20%	38%	100%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Finally, the country of origin of immigrants is likely to be of interest to many municipal and agency services as they may choose to tailor some programs to specific communities. Table 8 provides country of origin data from the 2001 Census for Halton and the GTAH. Consistent with the date of immigration data, the locations where immigrants have been in Canada longest, Halton, Durham and Hamilton, have by far the highest proportion of immigrants from Europe and the U.S.A. Those areas with the most recent immigrants, Toronto, Peel and York, have a distinct concentration of origin in Asia, as the predominant origin of recent immigrants to Canada.

Table 8 Origin of Immigrant Population - GTAH, 2001						
	Born in the Top 50 Countries of Origin of Canadian Immigrants					Born in Other Countries
	U.K. and U.S.A.	Rest of Europe	Rest of Americas	Asia	Africa	
Region of Halton	35%	31%	5%	15%	4%	10%
Oakville	27%	33%	6%	18%	5%	12%
Burlington	42%	28%	4%	13%	3%	10%
Milton	45%	35%	5%	5%	3%	7%
Halton Hills	43%	36%	3%	8%	1%	9%
City of Toronto	7%	25%	11%	41%	2%	14%
Region of Peel	9%	25%	13%	39%	3%	11%
Region of York	9%	28%	18%	43%	4%	11%
Region of Durham	29%	26%	18%	15%	2%	11%
City of Hamilton	19%	48%	5%	18%	2%	10%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Note: The standard reporting of country of origin in Census data is based on the top 50 countries reported. Most of the largest countries in Europe and Asia are in the top 50, while few countries in Africa or the rest of the Americas are in the top 50. As a result, it is expected that a disproportionate amount of the "born in other countries" immigrants would be from Africa and Rest of Americas.

Based on these background data, what is the outlook for these indicators of immigration in Halton over the next 25 years? We have not undertaken a specific forecast of these characteristics over the next 25 years, as such a numeric forecast would be highly speculative and difficult to rely upon for any specific analysis. Rather, the outlook is considered in terms of understanding the key factors that will lead to changing characteristics:

- At a metropolitan level, the share of immigrants in the total population will continue to rise gradually over the period to 2031. The current population in the GTAH is about 40% immigrant and 60% Canadian born. Over the next 25 years, the population growth in the GTAH will be about 35% natural increase and 65% net migrants (mostly immigration).

- Notwithstanding its very small role in accommodating immigrant populations in the GTAH, as Halton grows and matures it can also expect to have an increasing proportion of immigrants in the population. This change, by its nature, will be slow and gradual, among the influencing factors will be:

- Recent immigrant populations tend to be accommodated in like communities with an established base. For example the established south Asian community in Peel and the Chinese community in York will continue to expand as long as Asia remains one of Canada's primary sources of immigrants.

- Halton's primary role in housing immigrants will likely continue to be to accommodate more established households rather than new arrivals. This also reflects the high income profile of Halton.

- One of the factors which may act to change Halton's role in accommodating the GTAH immigrant communities is the growth in the Milton area. The new development in Milton is perceived to have a much wider range of income levels than, say, recent development in Oakville or the established community in Milton. This may allow for a broader selection of groups to be accommodated in Milton. Also, the Milton area, from a market perspective, can be seen as a western extension of the Mississauga housing market.

Overall future expectations for Halton likely include gradually growing immigrant communities in the Region as continued growth and development occurs. From a municipal and agencies services perspective there will be growth in demand for immigrant settlement services over time, but this shift will be gradual and will not in total become a large part of service provision (as it has become in Toronto and Peel, for example).

The distribution within the Region, however, will continue to demonstrate concentrations of immigrant populations in some parts of the community. In general, according to the data quoted in the Landscape by the Numbers: A Social Atlas of Halton, recent immigrants are concentrated in two types of areas:

- Newer neighbourhoods, such as those on the south side of Dundas Street in Oakville and Burlington and, to a lesser extent South Georgetown; and

- In areas where there are significant number of rental apartment available, such as College Park in Oakville.

The expectation is that this pattern is continuing and so the 2006 Census data are expected to show a concentration of recent immigrant populations in the newly developed portions of Burlington and Oakville. Milton is likely to be the most striking change, as the Milton expansion areas are likely to be far more diverse than the older established parts of Milton.

2. Halton Has the Smallest Visible Minority Population in the GTAH

One measure of diversity in a population is its proportion of visible minorities. Statistics Canada defines and reports on visible minorities which is generally defined as non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour, but excluding Canadian aboriginals.

The presence of visible minorities is often equated in part to immigration statistics. As can be expected, there is a significant overlap, as rises in recent decades in visible minority population has been, in part, the result of increased immigration from Asia, Africa and Latin America. However, caution is warranted because a still-significant number of immigrants are not visible minorities and many of the members of visible minority communities were born in Canada, including some who go back many generations in Canada.

Table 9 shows the number and proportion of the population in visible minority communities in the GTAH. The data indicate a concentration of visible minorities in

Toronto, Peel and York and much smaller numbers in Durham, Hamilton and especially Halton with the least proportion of visible minorities in its population.

Table 9 Number of Visible Minorities, 2001 - GTAH		
	Visible Minorities	**% of Total Population**
Region of Halton	32,600	8.7%
Oakville	18,600	12.9%
Burlington	11,300	7.5%
Milton	1,000	3.3%
Halton Hills	1,600	3.4%
Region of Peel	379,100	38.3%
City of Toronto	1,051,100	42.4%
Region of York	216,100	29.6%
Region of Durham	62,500	12.3%
City of Hamilton	52,700	10.8%
Total GTAH	1,794,100	32.2%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Like the pattern described above for immigration and sources of immigration, Halton can expect gradual change in this demographic attribute as the Region matures and becomes more diverse in this and many other attributes. And, like immigration, the concentrations of visible minority communities are likely to continue to be in newly developing areas.

3. Halton Has the Highest Average Income in the GTAH

As shown in Table 10, in 2001, household income in Halton and York Regions were very similar and were by far the highest by both an average and median measure in the GTAH. Halton's average income was a full 60% higher than that of neighbouring Hamilton.

Table 10 2001 Average & Median Incomes - GTAH		
	Average Household Income	**Median Household Income**
Region of Halton	$92,500	$74,900
Oakville	$106,500	$84,000
Burlington	$83,700	$68,400
Milton	$86,400	$74,300
Halton Hills	$85,300	$74,900
Region of Peel	$80,600	$69,200
City of Toronto	$69,100	$49,300
Region of York	$91,900	$75,700
Region of Durham	$75,100	$66,800
City of Hamilton	$57,700	$47,900

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

A similar distribution is also reflected in the data on sources of income. Table 11 indicates average employment income of individuals reporting employment income. In this case Halton is much higher than even second highest York Region. The difference

between this and the household data between Halton and York would indicate that households in York contain, on average, more employed people than Halton.

Table 11
2001 Average Employment Income of Individuals - GTAH

	Average Employment Income
Region of Halton	$45,800
Oakville	$52,200
Burlington	$42,800
Milton	$39,000
Halton Hills	$41,400
Region of Peel	$36,600
City of Toronto	$37,800
Region of York	$40,900
Region of Durham	$37,300
City of Hamilton	$32,700

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

While Halton is a high income community, there is a range of incomes within the community, with a number of individuals and households with low income. However, Table 12 indicates that Halton has the lowest proportion of its economic families and its overall population defined as low income by Statistics Canada in the Census.

Table 12
Incidence of Low Income Among Economic Families & Population in Households GTAH, 2001

	Number of Low Income Economic Families	Incidence of Low Income Economic Families	Low Income Population	Incidence of Low Income Population
Region of Halton	5,800	5.4%	26,500	7.1%
Oakville	2,400	6.0%	11,200	7.8%
Burlington	2,700	6.1%	12,100	8.1%
Milton	300	2.9%	1,200	3.9%
Halton Hills	400	3.2%	2,000	4.2%
Region of Peel	27,100	10.4%	114,500	11.6%
City of Toronto	125,000	19.4%	552,500	22.6%
Region of York	17,400	8.9%	72,600	10.0%
Region of Durham	9,900	7.0%	42,500	8.5%
City of Hamilton	21,700	16.1%	95,600	19.8%
Total GTAH	206,800	14.0%	904,200	16.4%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

The basis of the forecasts in the *Growth Plan* of moderate economic growth in the GGH over the forecast period is consistent, on average, with recent decades (as always economic growth will be a cyclical phenomenon). This would translate into gradual increases in real per capita gross domestic product that would, in turn, be reflected in gradual increases in real household income.

From a distribution perspective, we would expect Halton and York to remain at the highest income levels in the GTAH. Toronto and Hamilton, as central cities are likely to remain at the lowest end. Both Halton and York continue to be dominated by higher end housing products, attracting higher income migrants, a factor which will keep incomes relatively high in these communities. Countering this factor, however, is that as Halton matures, and particularly as Milton develops with more mixed housing types and incomes, the income gap between Halton and the GTAH average is likely to narrow.

While the incidence of low income in Halton is low and can be expected to remain relatively low in the GTAH context, the growth in population will still mean a very significant growth in the number of individuals in low income households and the number of families experiencing low income. If the incidence of low income remains the same in Halton between 2001 and 2031, the doubling of the population alone will mean a doubling in the number of people in low income households. This will have significant implications for social and other services in the Region.

III PRINCIPLE IMPLICATIONS OF REGIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE TO 2031

The previous section addressed the current character and the expected future changes in some key demographic variables for Halton Region. This concluding section looks at selected implications of these demographic changes. These implications include those of direct interest to the Sustainable Halton process, in particular housing and housing type, participation in the labour force and demographic attributes of immigrant communities. The section concludes with a discussion of broader implications for municipal and agency service delivery.

As discussed elsewhere, some of the key implications of demographic change were carefully researched in the process of preparing the *Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. While we would encourage the interested reader to refer to this report, we have provided some excerpts here, where appropriate, of some of the matters of critical interest to our current discussion.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON HOUSING DEMAND

The future character of housing development in Halton, particularly choices about housing unit types, is a central issue for the Sustainable Halton process. The issue of housing type is addressed in a number of ways in the report on future land supply and demand, urban structure and intensification. Here the key focus is on how age structure is a key determinant of housing preferences.

Figure 5 shows the housing occupancy patterns in the GTAH by age of household head. What it indicates very clearly is how housing preference is closely linked to age of household head. Most newly formed households, headed by those in their 20s, choose to occupy apartments — typically a first household after moving away from parents is a rental apartment. As people move into family formation years, typically becoming partnered and then having one or more children, in their late 20s and through their 30s,

the preference for apartments declines dramatically while the preference for ground related housing increases significantly. This is a reflection of two key factors, increased income in these age groups allowing home ownership and a very strong cultural preference for families to occupy ground-related housing.

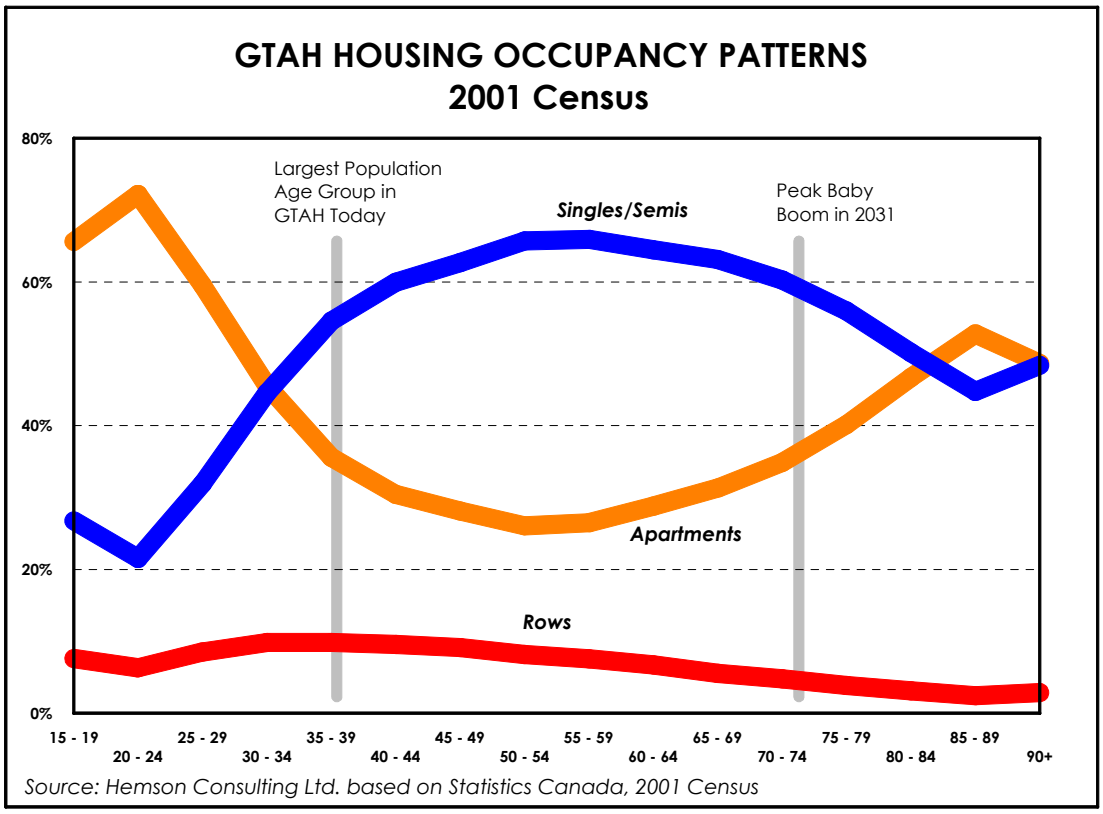


Figure 5

Based on Census data, single detached occupancy peaks and apartment occupancy is at its low point while the household head is in his or her 50s. The preferences begin to converge again as households age. Divorcees and empty nesters choosing apartment living begins the shift in preferences. Apartments, however, do not become the predominant preference until people are in their late 80s.

Relative to the issue of how housing type preferences may change in response to demographic change, there are a number of key observations that can be made here:

- The largest population age group in the GTAH today is 40 to 44 years old. This group is not yet in the age group of maximum preference for single and semi-detached dwellings, which is the 55 to 59 age group. The peak population will not be in this highest single and semi-detached occupancy category until the mid-2010s. Demographically-speaking, the preference for single and semi-detached housing is rising over the next ten years. This is just the period when the *Growth Plan* suggests housing preferences should move in the opposite direction. As will be addressed in the intensification paper, swimming against this current will be a challenge.

- Even by 2031, the peak of the baby boom population will still be within the age groups with a very high preference for singles and semis. Those who see the retirement of the baby boom as generating shifting housing demand patterns in the GTAH are correct, however it will not be a very large effect until the 2030s and 2040s.

- It is rightly pointed out that forecasting on this basis assumes that each generation will display similar behaviours to the generation ahead of them. While this is an assumption, all available data suggests that we continue to behave this way. Indeed, current trends in this decade still indicate a rising preference for ground-related housing relative to apartments.

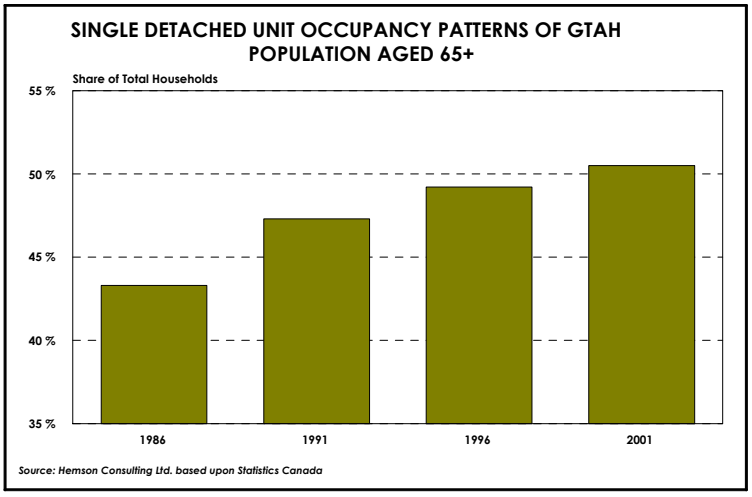
- Rising preferences over the past twenty years for singles and semis over apartments is especially marked in the elderly. As older people live longer and remain healthier longer they delay the move from the "family home" to an apartment. There is a consistent trend of older people staying longer and longer in their homes. This was described in the *Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* as follows:

As people live longer and remain healthier in older age, they remain in their houses longer

Contrary to the popular belief that empty-nesters and retirees flock to new lifestyles in Florida, Muskoka or downtown condos, the overwhelming statistical evidence is that people "age in place." Most of the elderly remain in the family home as long they can and few permanently migrate elsewhere.

People tend to move out of their family home when one of two things occurs: they can no longer physically maintain the property or a spouse dies. These factors often coincide, the latter greatly affecting the ability to maintain a house.

Today the age at which people are choosing to move is shifting. As a result of increased health, wealth and life expectancy, the propensity of those over 65 to move out of their family home has decreased quite dramatically. As illustrated below, in the GTAH there has been a significant increase in households aged 65+ and occupying single detached units. If occupancy patterns for those over 65 had remained at 1986 rates through 2001, there would have been a need for 27,000 fewer single detached units, all other things being equal — this is equivalent to 10% of the single detached construction in this period.



There are a range of views as to the direction that this trend is now heading. Depending on the Scenario, the forecast for the GTAH is based either on: the occupancy patterns for those over 65 remain close to the 2001 levels; or declining to earlier levels in response to new trends or policy initiatives.

The occupancy characteristics of the GTAH drive the overall housing market in this single economic region. Growth in Halton is largely the result of migrants from other parts of the GTAH seeking new housing in Halton that may not be available at their place of origin due to price or physical availability.

In considering Halton Region on its own, in Figure 7, the housing preferences display very similar patterns of housing preferences by age to those in the GTAH. The most notable difference is that in the peak population age groups of the 30s, 40s and 50s, the preference for singles and semis is higher overall than the GTAH average and apartments somewhat lower. This pattern reflects the current, more suburban, character of Halton with more houses and fewer apartments relative to more central locations.

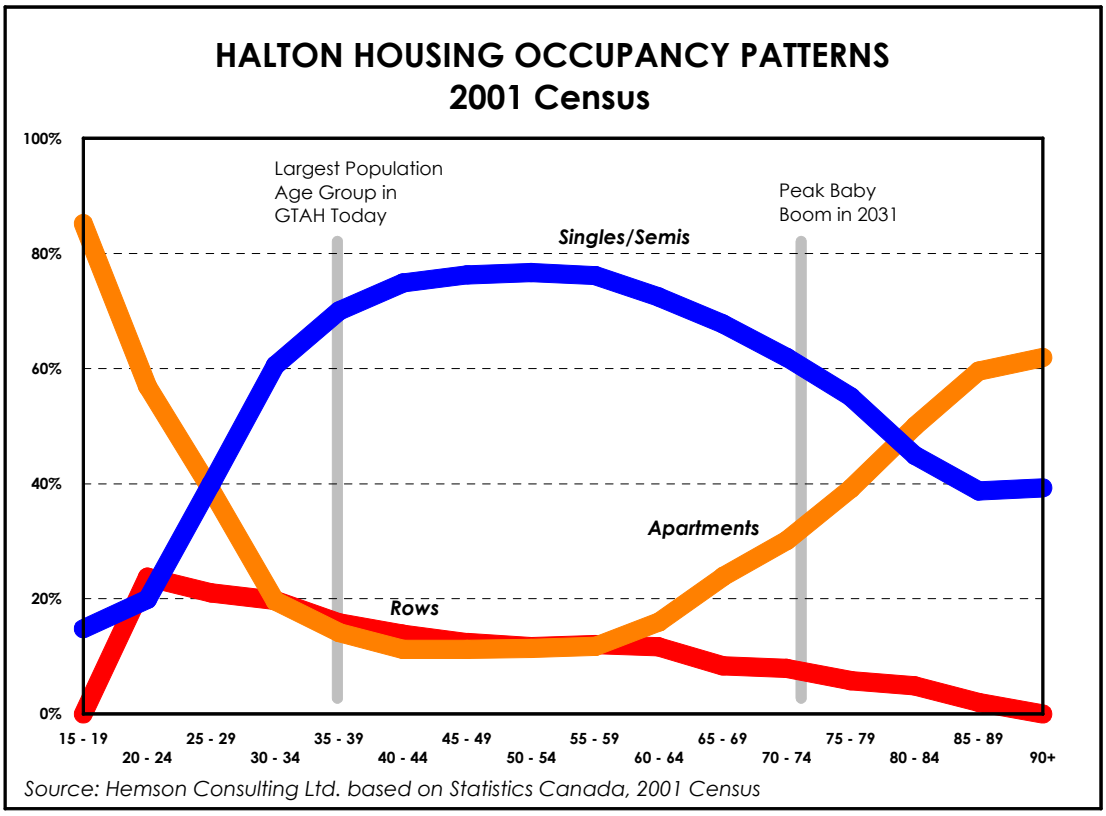


Figure 6

Overall the demographics of housing in the GTAH and Halton Region create challenges for some of the planning policies and objectives of the Region as well as those of the Province. How these patterns might be shifted through policy is addressed in the Sustainable Halton intensification and land demand reports. Policy development, if it is to be effective, needs to consider these demographic challenges.

B. REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT AFFECTED BY AGE STRUCTURE

There will be significant economic effects of the aging of the population and the population age structure. Participation in the labour force, and therefore employment, are closely tied to age. Generally labour force participation rises as individuals complete

secondary and post-secondary education, peaking through the 30s, 40s and into the early 50s. By the late 50s age group, participation begins to fall again as early retirements begin and decline very rapidly in the post 60s age group. Women have a slightly lower labour force participation through child-bearing years as some drop out of the work force for a period of time for child rearing (a small number of men also do so).

As shown in Table 13, the patterns of the labour force participation in the GTAH are similar to those of Halton Region.

Table 13 2001 Labour Force Participation Rates by Age and Sex Halton and GTAH, 2001

	Halton			GTAH		
	Total	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**
15-19	62.9%	63.4%	62.4%	48.0%	46.4%	49.7%
20-24	86.3%	86.3%	86.3%	78.3%	79.3%	77.2%
25-29	89.3%	92.0%	86.8%	85.7%	90.1%	81.6%
30-34	89.3%	95.9%	83.1%	85.5%	92.2%	79.2%
35-39	88.3%	95.3%	81.7%	86.1%	92.6%	79.8%
40-44	88.3%	95.6%	81.4%	86.3%	91.9%	81.0%
45-49	89.1%	94.4%	84.1%	86.1%	91.7%	81.0%
50-54	86.6%	93.9%	79.6%	81.9%	89.1%	75.0%
55-59	75.5%	84.6%	66.8%	70.2%	79.9%	60.8%
60-64	50.5%	62.2%	39.1%	46.9%	59.2%	35.7%
65+	12.1%	18.0%	7.3%	9.9%	14.9%	6.0%
Total	72.1%	78.6%	66.1%	68.4%	74.5%	62.7%

During the forecast period there is only one major change in labour force participation expected to occur. Participation for women is expected to rise in their 50s and early 60s. The younger women who had much higher labour force participation (associated with the significant social and economic changes of equal rights and equal pay) in the 1970s and into the 1980s will likely, through the forecast period, remain in the labour force and therefore increase the participation rates in these groups. This is one area where there is a clear divergence between how the current generation is behaving versus their parents; a time when far fewer women worked outside the home.

Even with some change in labour force participation, as the population ages and there is an increased proportion of people over 65, the proportion of the population of working age, and therefore in the labour force, will decline. A period of relative labour force shortage is anticipated throughout the forecast period (cyclical unemployment will, of course, still occur from time to time). How society and the economy will respond is becoming a hotly debated question in some quarters and is at the core of the discussion around mandatory retirement. The degree to which people will avail themselves of the opportunity to work longer is uncertain. *The Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* indicated the following view:

Note: How the economy and society will respond to the relative shortage of labour remains uncertain. There are two scenarios that are likely to occur. First, people may work longer, following a movement toward removing mandatory retirement. Second, the market may compensate for the shortage through wage rate restructuring and capital substitution.

Capital substitution is the investment in machinery to release labour. It includes not only manufacturing automation, but also virtually every application of technology, such as vending machines, electronic file management and voice mail.

The forecast takes a moderate position between these two scenarios of people working longer and the economy just substituting capital for labour. The forecast assumes only moderate increases in labour force participation in older age groups. By implication, the forecast then projects that continued labour demand will be satisfied by capital substitution.

The younger age structure of Halton relative to the GTAH means that the effects of aging on the labour force will be less pronounced in the local population. However, the competition for employment and the mobility of labour force is highly metropolitan in character. The effects of any labour shortage and the consequent economic effects will be felt equally in the employment base in Halton as in other surrounding communities. Future employment growth and economic development opportunities in Halton will be affected by how the economy responds, as described in Halton's recently-adopted economic strategy.

C. IMMIGRANTS DISPLAY SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS TO OVERALL POPULATION

One of the most frequently asked questions is: what are the effects that the large immigrant population in the GTAH may have on the overall demographic, housing and economic characteristics. It is commonly supposed that there are large differences in the characteristics of immigrants from the Canadian population in terms of such factors as fertility, income, household characteristics, housing type preferences and labour force participation.

Recent immigrants typically do demonstrate some different characteristics during an initial settlement period, which would generally be 5 to 10 years. After about 10 years in Canada most immigrants display very similar characteristics, for their age, as the overall population. In fact, immigrants tend to have slightly fewer children and smaller households, thought to be because they often have a later start in household and family formation while adjusting to life in Canada.

Some of these attributes will vary between different immigrant communities in accordance with cultural preferences. For example, some communities do have a much higher cultural preference for multi-generational households (meaning a high average household size), at least in the first generation. Overall these localised differences do not have a large effect on the average behaviour of the population.

The Growth Outlook for the Greater Golden Horseshoe indicated the following view respecting the housing preferences of immigrants and how that might change overall housing preferences in the GTAH:

Effect of immigration on housing demand

The GTAH has a large proportion of immigrants in its population and will continue to do so through the forecast period. It is often supposed that continued immigration will affect the housing demand in the GTAH because of differing housing attributes of the immigrant population. In general the effect of this is already accounted for in the forecast, since the base information from 2001 includes the existing immigrant and non-immigrant population at that time.

In considering household formation amongst immigrants, it is important to distinguish between recent immigrants (10 years or less) and those who have been in Canada for more than 10 years. Recent work underway for the Region of Peel by John Miron at the University of Toronto ("The impacts of immigration in long-term household formation for the Region of Peel") indicates that recent immigrants have larger households than the norm for their age group. This is for a variety of economic, social and cultural reasons. The additional people are other adults and extended family rather than additional children.

Miron goes on to suggest that after 10 years, immigrants appear to take on similar household formation attributes of the population at large. This is not surprising, given that it will often take a number of years for new immigrants who are sharing accommodation to become economically self-sufficient and able to form their own households. Miron's preliminary analysis indicates that over the forecast period there may be little difference in a household forecast for Peel if immigrant and non-immigrant population were forecast separately versus a single forecast for the population as whole (as has been done in the GTAH forecasts in this report). Further work will be done on this subject to either confirm or vary the preliminary findings.

Looking forward through the forecast, we would expect there to be little difference in overall demographic attributes between immigration and Canadian-born populations. One cautionary note, however, is that some recent studies along with a large number of press reports indicate that the adjustment period for new immigrants may be becoming longer. The traditional view of 5 to 10 years may be giving way to a 10 to 15 year adjustment. Clear data is not yet available on this matter, but needs to be considered and monitored as growth occurs and forecast and plans are updated and reviewed.

D. IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS ON MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC SERVICES

The final set of implications of demographic change to consider are the potential effects on the delivery of services by municipalities and agencies. As noted in the introduction to this report, the information presented here is intended to describe the demographic foundations of Sustainable Halton. Implications for service delivery can only be considered here in a brief and generalised fashion. Each department has a specific client group with its own detailed characteristics of interest. They are best equipped to determine the impacts within their own departments of the forecast demographic change.

To assist the departments and agencies themselves to start the thought process on the implication of growth and long-term demographic change, we have provided some examples of the types of shifts in service provision or service demand that might arise from the demographic changes described in this report:

- **Transportation:** a growing elderly population is likely to affect transit demand and the need for special services, such as kneeling busses on regular routes and

increased demand for disabled transportation services. A proportionate reduction in the student-aged population will affect demand for this key transit-use market.

- **Water and Wastewater:** Some individual communities, as they age, will see population declines. Declining population may result in reduced demands for water supply and for wastewater treatment. Any such effect would be with the use of plant capacity, but would not affect the pipes as the number of connections would not change.

- **Health:** Demands for services provided for the elderly will increase far more rapid rate than the overall population growth rate. Demands generated by children, such as immunisation, will grow at a slightly slower rate than the overall population growth.

- **Social Services:** Like health, demands for services provided to the elderly will grow at a faster rate than the population. Income support programs and related social supports for low income households will likely grow at the overall rate of population growth, resulting in a near doubling in the overall number of cases over the next 25 years. As the distribution of growth in the Region shifts, demands will also begin to surface in different parts of the Region. Growing numbers of immigrants in the population (growing at about the same rate as overall population) will increase demand for immigration settlement services provided through the Regional and municipal level.

- **Fire and Ambulance:** Demands for the medical-related services of fire department and of the ambulance services are likely to grow faster than the overall population as the high-demand elderly age group grows rapidly.

- **Parks and Recreation and Libraries:** Services will have a similar demand shift as noted for health and social services, with slightly reduced emphasis on youth and increased emphasis on seniors.

- **Economic Development:** As Ontario enters an era of relative labour shortage and economic changes occur in response, economic development departments will need to monitor and adjust programs to address emerging issues and keep Halton competitive.

- **Policing:** Changes in age structure may affect the number or type of crimes in Halton (males aged 15 to 24 commit a disproportionate amount of crime, but males 20 to 24 will be declining slightly as a share of total population) while other demands will likely increase with growth, such as traffic-related matters.

- **Schools:** In an overall demand sense, school demands in these forecasts are simply age related. However, the school board will be increasingly challenged by very high demand in growth areas and declining enrolment in mature communities. Areas south of the QEW which have already suffered from declines in enrolment will continue to do so — over the forecast period, areas immediately north of the QEW will begin to age into the declining enrolment characteristics as these neighbourhoods age.