

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS MADE AT THE JANUARY 2008 PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES

Attachment #5 to PPW42-08

THEMES	HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMENTS	RESPONSE
NO GROWTH	Why do we have to grow at all?	The Region of Halton is required to plan for the population growth that has been forecasted in the Provincial <i>Places to Grow</i> Plan. The population and employment forecasts to 2031 were the result of an extensive forecasting analysis of past and continuing trends. The Province has indicated that the growth forecasts can be revisited every 5 years.
CAPACITY FOR GROWTH	<p>Additional studies should be undertaken as part of Sustainable Halton to measure the impact of growth. We cannot grow without understanding the Region's carrying capacity and what is sustainable.</p> <p>We are building on mistakes of the past in terms of pollution levels, the end of oil, imported produce, and draining aquifers.</p> <p>Accept that some growth is good, but it should be well planned, phased and have both the hard and soft infrastructure in place.</p>	<p>The Region is undertaking a carrying capacity study to research the carrying capacity concept in an ecosystem context. The study will provide recommendations on how the concept can be applied to Halton Region and inform the Sustainable Halton process.</p> <p>The Region's Water and Wastewater Master Plan to 2031 and Transportation Master Plan to 2031 will identify and plan for the infrastructure requirements</p>

		for existing and new growth areas over the next 25 years. The Community Infrastructure Plan that the Region is undertaking will identify the human service infrastructure that need to be accommodated in each community across the Region.
PAYING FOR GROWTH	Need to ensure that development charges and taxes cover the costs of roads, schools, fire stations.	<p>The Province is committed to a policy of growth paying for growth. The Region recognizes that there are significant infrastructure costs associated with growth. The Region is facing infrastructure deficits to accommodate forecasted growth. In response, the Region and the Local Municipalities have introduced the Fairness For Halton campaign which is asking that municipal infrastructure be recognized as a priority by the federal and provincial governments.</p> <p>The Sustainable Halton Evaluation Framework speaks to the issue of infrastructure deficits with objectives that aim to ensure financial sustainability for the Region and Local Municipalities, and that growth is financially viable.</p>
URBAN SEPARATOR	Should identify an urban separator that would separate Halton from Brampton and Mississauga.	The Sustainable Halton Evaluation Framework contains an objective to maintain and strengthen Halton

		Region's distinct communities. Growth options that maintain Halton's tradition of distinct communities both within Halton Region and between adjoining municipalities will be ranked highest.
PRESERVING EXISTING CHARACTER	<p>Supportive of intensification, but need to consider the impact on the culture and character of the community. Need to protect existing neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Density must be well examined in terms of the impact on an existing community. Concerned that the character of Georgetown would be harmed by intensification and that it will bring other social problems.</p>	The Region recognizes the sensitivity required when incorporating intensification into existing communities. In response, there are objectives in the Evaluation Framework that speak to the preservation of the built heritage inventory, and to ensuring that new development is compatible with or enhances local character and cultural landmarks. Policies to this aim will be incorporated into Local Municipal secondary plans and at the development approval stage. The Region will take on an ongoing monitoring role.
INTENSIFICATION OVER GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT	<p>We should be intensifying before permitting greenfield development. Only use as much greenfield for development as is absolutely necessary. Try to do it with less.</p> <p>Think in creative ways to redevelop underutilized urban land.</p>	The amount of growth that is forecasted for Halton Region to 2031 requires that the urban area of Halton be expanded. However, the Region is looking at all possible opportunities to accommodate growth through intensification. The process of identifying intensification opportunities is being conducted with the Local Municipalities so that they can apply their local expertise to the identification of appropriate locations for

		intensification.
INTENSIFICATION AND PUBLIC TRANSIT	Should locate the highest densities where there is transit. Should intensify around GO Stations.	The integration of intensification and transit is integral to the achievement of complete community objectives. The growth options will identify nodes and corridors to accommodate transit supportive densities. GO Stations are an important connection in the transportation network and represent key opportunities for more intensive land uses.
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE	<p>Build infrastructure first, to support intensification. Built roads to accommodate growth before the growth occurs.</p> <p>Need better inter-regional connections. Develop better transit in an east-west network, not just a north-south network.</p> <p>Promote “green” public transit.</p>	To achieve complete community objectives, the Region’s transit system must be expanded both within and between municipalities. The Sustainable Halton Evaluation Framework speaks to planning for an integrated transportation network by ensuring suitable transportation infrastructure that accommodates the movement of goods and people from both inter- and intra-regionally. The growth options that can best meet this objective will be ranked the highest.
SUSTAINABILITY	Define sustainability.	The Sustainable Halton process is

	<p>Begin the Evaluation Framework with 4 overriding sustainability principles: reduce and then eliminate fossil fuel use, reduce the amount of man-made consumption, reduce the degradation of nature, work to share resources so that everyone's base needs are met.</p>	<p>guided by Regional Official Plan policy 25 which states that Regional Council supports the notion of sustainable development, which "meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need." This provides a policy framework for all planning decisions within the Region.</p> <p>There are many definitions of sustainability and sustainable development that speak to the environment, natural resources, and consumption. The Sustainable Halton Evaluation Framework speaks to these issues by promoting conservation from air, water, energy, and waste perspectives. In addition to these important objectives, sustainability must also encompass the economic and social realms.</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY</p>	<p>Promote a culture of conservation. This includes water conservation through low flush toilets and grey water systems and energy efficiency.</p>	<p>The Region's Evaluation Framework contains the goal to promote a culture of conservation through policies for air, energy, water and waste. Objectives include the application of high energy efficiency standards and renewable energies to new building and whole communities, promoting water</p>

	<p>Preserve green spaces, reserved for nature, recreation. Make sure that the goals and objectives of the Natural Heritage System are defensible.</p>	<p>conservation through community design, and promoting the implementation of storm water management best practices. The Region will create policies to guide the local implementation of measures that are within the local domain.</p> <p>The Sustainable Halton growth management strategy operates from the base point of an enhanced Natural Heritage System that protects a connected system of core natural areas. Growth options will be evaluated within the context of an enhanced Natural Heritage System.</p>
<p>AGRICULTURE</p>	<p>Ensure that agriculture is preserved for local food supply. Producing locally gives much more back to the local economy. However, there also needs to be a local market to support local food production.</p> <p>Promote sustainable farming practices.</p>	<p>The Region recognizes that agriculture is valuable to Halton Region. Maximizing opportunities to protect agricultural land and promote local food production, and protecting a contiguous agricultural land base are important objectives in the Sustainable Halton Evaluation Framework. As part of the Phase Two process, the Region has undertaken a LEAR (Land Evaluation Area Review) Study to identify prime agricultural lands in the Primary Study area that will help inform the process of evaluating growth options.</p>

RESOURCE EXTRACTION	The Region should be stronger in monitoring extraction and the transportation of aggregates from the Niagara Escarpment, as it causes wear and tear on the roads.	
COMPLETE COMMUNITIES	<p>Provide a diversity of housing to suit all age groups and provide affordable housing options.</p> <p>Make sure that community facilities are on transit routes.</p> <p>Need to ensure that residential development is supported by new employment to increase the live/work opportunities. Focus on shortening the distance between living and working.</p> <p>Need to ensure that community infrastructure is in place in each community.</p> <p>Promote community nodes, mixed use environments, walkable communities, opportunities to age in place.</p>	The Sustainable Halton process adheres to the principles of complete community development and has incorporated these principles into the Sustainable Halton Evaluation Framework. The complete community principles speak to providing a range of housing choices, affordable housing options, mixed use, transit supportive development, and live/work opportunities. The Region is undertaking a Community Infrastructure Plan to ensure that communities have the necessary human services and community service infrastructure for all segments of the population so that people can age in place within the same community.
SUSTAINABILITY AND DESIGN	Sustainable building methods and building materials need to be investigated.	While the Building Code is the authority responsible for construction practices, the Region is promoting high energy efficient standards and renewable energies for new buildings and whole communities through the Sustainable Halton Evaluation Framework. Policies in this regard will be considered through the Regional Growth Strategy and will

		be implemented through Regional and Local Official Plans.
EMPLOYMENT AREAS	Create more employment opportunities in the Region. Don't isolate employment areas from residential.	The Region is committed to protecting for employment needs to 2031 and beyond so that the Region can ensure there is a better balance between residents and jobs. In the evaluation of growth options, the Evaluation Framework contains objectives to locate employment areas near primary transit networks, and with direct access to intra-regional and inter-regional transportation networks.
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE	<p>Where is the water going to come from to support growth and how can we ensure that there is enough water for growth?</p> <p>Water and Wastewater plans need to be part of the decision-making process.</p>	<p>Growth cannot occur without investment in water and wastewater infrastructure. Growth in Halton Hills would have to be supported by a lake-based system.</p> <p>The Sustainable Halton process is an integrated planning process that is being undertaken in concert with other studies including a Water and Wastewater Master Plan Study to 2031. This study will help inform the Sustainable Halton process. There are also a series of objectives in the Sustainable Halton Evaluation Framework which speak to the security of water supply and source water protection, that will be applied to the evaluation of growth options.</p>

