

# ROPSU

## Region of Peel Official Plan Strategic Update

### A Message From the Regional Chair

As the Region of Peel looks forward to this year, we anticipate completion of the Regional Official Plan Strategic Update (ROPSU). This entails several amendments to the Regional Official Plan such as the Human Services Amendment, the completion of various transportation studies and a final report on ROPSU in the summer of this year.

Although the ROPSU process is nearing completion, planning issues still need to be

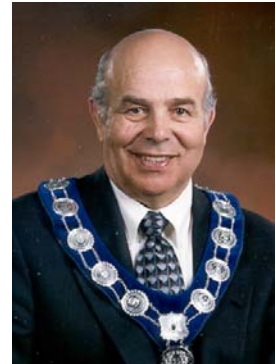
addressed. Some of these issues include implementation of Smart Growth at the Regional level (refer to article on page 3) including:

- the financial challenges facing the Region in areas such as human services
- the need to take a regional systems approach to environmental planning
- inter-regional transportation planning

These issues will be addressed by examining growth

management at the regional level. Working closely with our area municipalities, Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon, I am confident we can meet our challenges in managing the rapid pace of growth facing our region.

I wish you all the best for 2004. For more information on ROPSU and our growth management initiatives, please visit our website at [peelregion.ca/planning](http://peelregion.ca/planning)



**Regional Chair Emil Kolb**



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### Human Services Amendment Moving Forward

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A key component of the ROPSU process has been examining human services policies in the Regional Official Plan. On Oct. 21, 2003, a workshop was held with key human service stakeholders and a draft Regional Official Plan amendment was presented for consultation. The workshop was well attended and

participants provided positive input on the draft human service policies. Specific suggestions were received regarding affordable housing, homelessness, transportation, cultural heritage, preventative social programs and the crucial needs of the multicultural and aging population.

A draft Regional Official

Plan amendment has been circulated for comment. Staff are also seeking further input on the draft human service policies through a public meeting scheduled for spring of 2004.

For a copy of the draft amendment, please contact the Planning department (see back page).





**Construction Site in Brampton**

***Did You Know..***

In 2002, Peel led all GTA Regions, in addition to the City of Toronto in residential construction with an estimated building permit value of \$2.19 billion. Peel also had the highest value of building permits in the industrial and commercial sectors.

## Land Use Modelling to Support Growth Management

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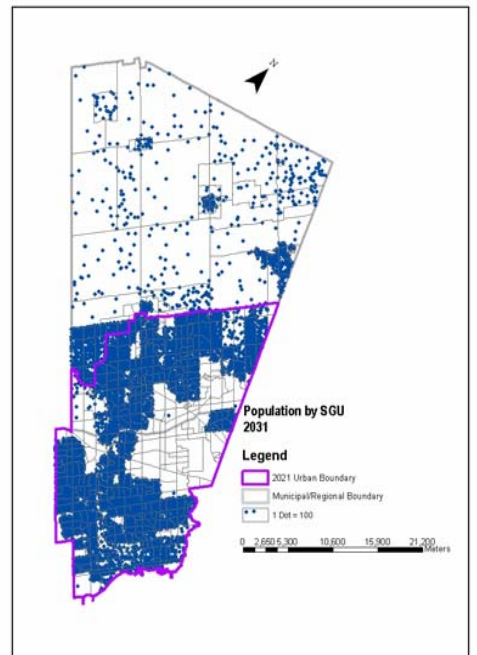
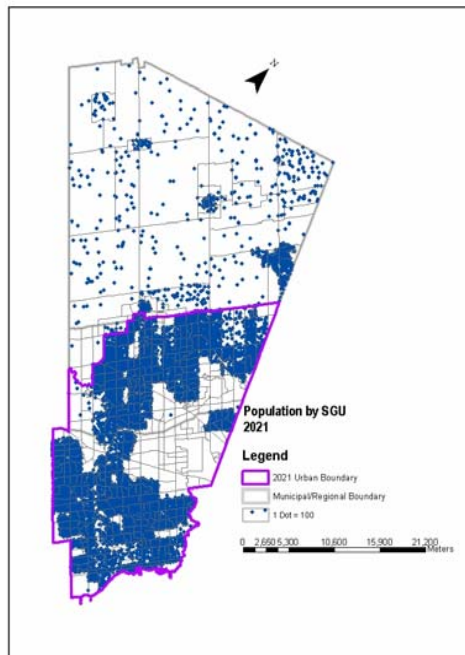
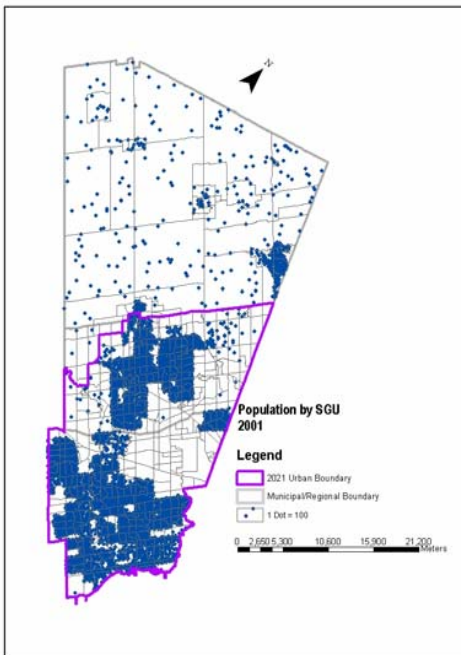
Expected rapid population growth in the Region of Peel has planners looking further into the future. Long range plans are being developed to ensure growth can be managed and to help protect the high quality of life residents enjoy. Decision support tools assist Regional planners to effectively evaluate alternative future development scenarios. An example of this type of tool is a flexible suite of software called “whatIf?” which allows the development of models for policy analysis, decision support and strategic

planning. Peel’s population is forecasted to grow to more than 1.5 million over the next 30 years. To manage growth, Peel has begun work on strategies to accommodate expected increases in population, employment and housing units. Using the whatIf? model, planners in Peel Region are developing alternative scenarios to examine issues such as the ultimate build-out of Mississauga, the potential urban expansion into Northwest Brampton and the further development of transit nodes and corridors in Peel.

The dynamic nature of the

whatIf? model comes from its ability to provide a graphical method for creating, comparing and documenting assumptions for alternative scenarios, as well as providing for the interactive display of data in various formats. Furthermore, whatIf? technology provides a strong link to existing GIS databases to ensure seamless integration with municipal GIS systems.

By undertaking this type of long range land use planning, Peel is ensuring that Regional growth management issues are considered based on appropriate and accurate land use forecasting.



## Implementing Smart Growth ‘Think Tank’

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What does it mean to apply Smart Growth principles to planning the future growth and development of Peel Region? On Oct. 1, 2003 about 30 members of Peel’s development industry and other stakeholders gathered for a successful, half day ‘think tank’ to brainstorm answers to this question and suggest follow up actions.

What is Smart Growth? “Smart Growth is development that serves the economy, community and the environment. Smart Growth makes it possible for communities to grow in ways that support economic development and jobs; create strong neighbourhoods with a range of housing, commercial and transportation options; and achieve healthy communities that provide families with a clean environment” (International City/County Management Association, *Getting to Smart Growth*, 1996). With its population expected to

increase by 500,000 people by the year 2031, Peel faces significant and rapid growth. The Region must work in partnership with the area municipalities, the community and the development industry to ensure that growth is properly managed.

Participants at the ‘think tank’ said applying Smart Growth principles in Peel means achieving balance and choice in planning for growth. A balance must be struck among social, economic and environmental factors so that safe and stable communities are created, which are also affordable to both municipalities and consumers while safeguarding air and water quality. Achieving choice means that a range of different housing and neighbourhoods are available in Peel, supported by travel choices including automobile and transit. Approaches to making Smart Growth happen in Peel were also identified. These include developing a strategy for

government to invest in transportation, sewer and water and other infrastructure; preparing planning policies that address public open space, the environment, transportation and land use as related systems; reviewing the amount of land used for roads, parks and schools to ensure that development standards are appropriate and providing information to the public to encourage support for smart growth.

Participants suggested that the Region develop a growth management strategy for Peel that supports Smart Growth and agreed to work with Regional staff in its development. Participants left the session energized to take on the challenges resulting from Peel’s rapid urban growth.

A second workshop with this group has been scheduled for the end of January and will be reported on in the next newsletter.



**Smart Growth ‘Think Tank’ Session with Development Industry**

### *Did You Know..*

By 2031, Peel’s population is expected to grow to more than 1.5 million and the number of households will be about housing 520,000.

## Environmental Mapping Update: Protecting our Greenlands

Craig Moffitt Ext. 4544

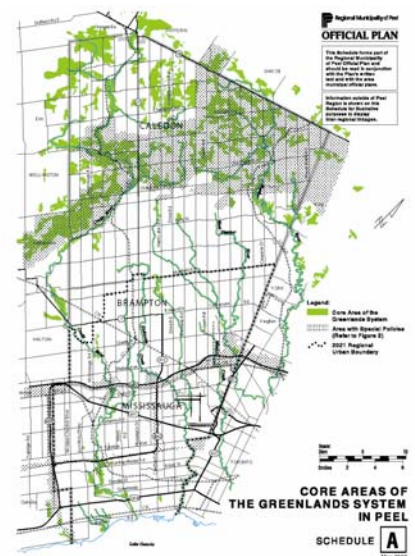
Peel Region contains significant natural features that need to be protected, maintained and enhanced through planning policies. The Regional Official Plan sets forth policies to achieve these objectives and provides mapping that illustrates the location and extent of protection of valuable natural features. The mapping contained in the Regional Official Plan is now dated (1996). New and improved data has become available through various sources. As a result (part of the ROPSU environmental work stream) Schedule A, Core Areas of the Greenlands System in Peel, will be revised as part of the environmental mapping update. The revised schedule

will provide a more accurate illustration of the policies in the Regional Official Plan and reduce confusion while providing the public with a clear picture of significant natural features in Peel.

In order to complete the update, Regional staff has been working closely with the area municipalities, the local conservation authorities (Credit Valley Conservation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority), the Ministry of Natural Resources and other external agencies to review data, agree on the components of the update, and undertake mapping. Revised environmental data has been collected from numerous sources. A draft Schedule A has been prepared and circulated to

the area municipalities and the conservation authorities for review.

Updating Schedule A of the Regional Official Plan will be achieved through a Regional Official Plan amendment. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the revised Schedule A through consultation, including a statutory public meeting in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act*, and provide feedback on the updated mapping. More information, including a copy of the Regional Official Plan Amendment, will be available on the Planning department’s Web site when available.



**Schedule A— Regional Official Plan**

## Moving Peel's Economy

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A strong economy, good access to the GTA and a high standard of living has brought many people and businesses to the Region of Peel. Integral to the Region's continued economic success is the support provided by Peel's goods transportation system.

This was the focus of the Planning department's first Goods Movement Forum titled, *Moving Peel's Economy* held on Nov 5, 2003. Spearheaded by Planning staff, the session brought together more than 50 freight industry leaders from both the private and public sectors to discuss future needs for goods movement in Peel.

Goods movement, commonly referred to as freight transportation, is largely a private sector business. Peel

Region provides and operates many roads and truck routes across the area. Information sharing and systematic, coordinated planning is an important part of ROPSU.

The Regional Chair, Emil Kolb welcomed the participants and spoke about the importance of working together to share information and take action on goods movement initiatives. This will help the Region's planning effort and assist in meeting future transportation needs of Peel's industries. Commissioner of Planning, Nick Tunnacliffe, challenged the participants to work with Peel in developing transportation plans and policies for the future of the area.

Introductions were followed by a presentation from Arno

Hart of Wilbur Smith Associates and Mike Kieran of the IBI Group. Wilbur Smith and the IBI Group have been commissioned by the Planning department to help conduct the first phase study of goods movement in Peel. They presented findings (to the group) based on practices across North America, and the GTA.

During the breakout discussion groups, participants debated future goods movement directions for Peel. They offered many valuable ideas to Regional planners. The consensus from the Forum is that the Region is heading in the right direction with its study and should continue to provide leadership in addressing future goods movement challenges. This is essential if the Region is to maintain its economic vitality.



**Goods Movement Forum**

### *Did You Know..*

Peel has an important role in Canada's export trade. For example, at the Michigan-Ontario border, Peel trucks account for about 12% of the trucks crossing the border. That means **1 in every 8** trucks crossing the Michigan-Ontario border contains goods made in Peel or loaded in Peel!

*Send us your comments or get on the mailing list by:*

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**Visit the ROPSU website to receive up to date  
information on upcoming events**

**We're online!**

[www.peelregion.ca/planning](http://www.peelregion.ca/planning)  
[www.peel-smartgrowth.ca](http://www.peel-smartgrowth.ca)

