

# ROPSU

## Region of Peel Official Plan Strategic Update

### Region of Peel Official Plan STRATEGIC UPDATE

#### A Message From the Regional Chair

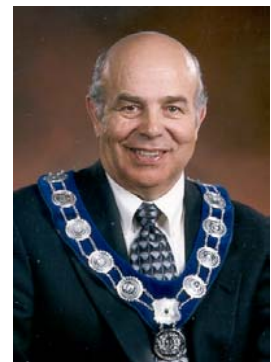
The Region of Peel Official Plan (ROP) is a strategic, long-term and visionary document. The Region of Peel is initiating a process to look forward over the next two or three decades and update the Regional Official Plan, through the Regional Official Plan Strategic Update (ROPSU).

The Region of Peel, which includes the area municipalities of Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga, is one of the fastest growing regions in the Greater Toronto Area. Between 1996 and 2001, Peel's population increased by 16 per cent while

employment has increased by 24 per cent.

In 1996, the Region of Peel adopted a Regional Official Plan to protect the environment, manage and direct growth and improve the physical environment. To ensure the Plan remains current, the *Planning Act* requires for it to be reviewed every five years.

Over the next two years, the Region's planning department needs your help updating the Plan to ensure that it remains strategic and current. Open houses, workshops, newsletters and a Web site are some of the opportunities that are



**Regional Chair Emil Kolb**

provided for you to share your ideas regarding the natural environment, transportation, growth and human services. By 2004, we will have a revitalized document that will continue to make Peel a dynamic place to live and work.

#### Inside this issue:

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- Protecting Our Environment
- Ensuring Our Regional Structure Is Up-To-Date
- Achieving Convenient and Efficient Movement of Goods and People

#### Inter-Municipal Planning Subcommittee Members:

Ian Sinclair (Chair)  
Susan Fennell  
Emil Kolb  
Paul Palleschi  
Maja Prentice  
Pat Saito  
Richard Whitehead

#### What is the Regional Official Plan?

The ROP manages growth by:

- Protecting the environment;
- Directing future growth;

- Effectively and efficiently providing regional services; and
- Supporting healthy communities.

The ROP is implemented through area municipal official plans and zoning by-laws which are area municipal responsibilities.



## WHY A REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE?

### ENVIRONMENT

- development pressures on Oak Ridges Moraine
- keeping environmental mapping current
- protecting water resources

### HUMAN SERVICES

- aging population
- more lone-parent families
- limited rental and affordable housing



### REGIONAL STRUCTURE

- sprawl
- disappearing farmland
- growth pressures

### TRANSPORTATION

- increased auto use
- more congestion
- lengthy travel times



Seniors in Peel

#### ***Did You Know..***

Peel's population and workforce are aging. Between 1991 and 2001, seniors aged 65 and over were the fastest growing group, increasing by 69 per cent.

## Enhancing Quality of Life Through Human Services

The Region of Peel is committed to enhancing the quality of life for people who live and work in Peel. Quality of life is greatly impacted by the quantity and quality of human services delivered by the Region. These services include; social assistance, child care, social housing, long-term care facilities, public health and police.

Peel is experiencing one of the fastest growth rates in

the GTA. By 2021, approximately 1.36 million people will live in Peel, an increase of 38 per cent from 2001. The population in Peel is also changing, in terms of ethnic diversity, income, household and age structure. The long-term impact of these changes will affect the need for community facilities, housing and employment opportunities.

Accordingly, the Region of Peel is examining the

possibility of undertaking a comprehensive review of its human services planning. This review may lead to a strategy to deal with human services issues and policy recommendations.

For the ROPSU process, human services policies and housing policies will be reviewed, and it is expected that revised or new Official Plan policies will be recommended.



The Oak Ridges Moraine

#### ***Did You Know..***

Across the Moraine, groundwater aquifers provide drinking water for more than 250,000 people and supplies water for agricultural, industrial, commercial, and recreational uses.

## Environmental Stewardship and Protection in Peel

The Region of Peel has a responsibility to preserve, protect, and restore natural areas in Peel. The Official Plan reflects this in its policies to conserve air, water and land resources, and protect Peel's natural features and environmentally sensitive areas.

Recent policy initiatives and updated information

need to be included in the Official Plan to support the Region's on-going commitment to protecting the natural environment.

The Region of Peel has identified three environmental priorities that require amendments to the Official Plan.

Firstly, updated environmental mapping

will be prepared reflecting current information.

Secondly, the Region will enhance protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine by incorporating new Provincial legislation (*The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001*) in the Official Plan. Thirdly, the Region will continue to enhance the protection of water resources for long-term use and enjoyment.

## Ensuring Our Regional Structure is Up-to-Date

Regional structure reflects the interrelationship between urban and non-urban areas, residential and employment areas, and transportation networks.

The Region has experienced rapid population growth over the past 10 years, growing from 733,000 people in 1991, to 989,000 people in 2001. This high level of growth makes it critical to examine whether or not there is enough land planned for long-term urban use within Peel's urban boundary.

In addition, the Region needs to accommodate growth using approaches such as innovative housing types, alternative urban development standards, increased densities, intensification, infill and redevelopment.

Up-to-date population, household and employment forecasts are key to ensuring a relevant and effective regional structure. This is why the Region of Peel is updating its forecasts.

The Region is also working with the City of Brampton to study the option of expanding the urban boundary in Northwest Brampton to accommodate growth. In addition, policies will be reviewed in light of new provincial policies, Smart Growth initiatives and updated municipal Official Plans.



**A residential neighbourhood in Brampton**

### ***Did You Know..***

Between 1996 and 2001, Peel's population grew by 136,422 people - only two other Canadian municipalities had a higher population increase.

## Achieving Convenient and Efficient Movement of Goods and People

Through the Regional Official Plan, the Region of Peel is committed to achieving convenient and efficient movement of goods and people.

However, rapid growth is challenging the ability of the transit system to meet this commitment.

Transportation is one of the primary concerns facing residents and businesses in the Region. Mounting traffic congestion is increasing travel times and imposing delays and stress on citizens. Each day businesses in Peel endure the costs of traffic congestion as annual congestion costs across the

Greater Toronto Area exceed \$2 billion. Traffic congestion also contributes to decreased air quality.

The ROPSU process will develop long-term transportation strategies leading to solutions for goods movement, transportation demand management and Caledon's transportation needs.

The process will culminate with the development of updated transportation policies by incorporating what has been learned through the above studies with the existing policies in Brampton and

Mississauga. This will result in a consolidated Regional Transportation Plan.

Since transportation facilities are provided by all levels of government and the private sector, the work program will be conducted in co-operation with area municipalities, other levels of government and transportation agencies.



**Traffic on Highway 410**

### ***Did You Know..***

In 1996, 1,684,700 trips were made each day by Peel residents; 85 per cent of that by automobile, 7 per cent by transit, 5 per cent by walking and cycling, and 3 per cent by other modes.

## Get Involved!

The Region of Peel will be providing a variety of opportunities for you to learn about the Regional Official Plan Strategic Update and to share your ideas.

### Attend open houses, workshops and public meetings

Attend open houses and workshops to further identify issues and to examine policy alternatives. Participate in public meetings for amendments to the Regional Official Plan.

### Learn about ROPSU in your community

Planning staff will be visiting local elementary and secondary schools, community centres, malls, and interest groups and organizations throughout Peel Region.

### Local newspapers

Look for upcoming information about the ROPSU in your local newspaper.

### Newsletters

E-mail us or visit our Web site to receive free newsletters on ROPSU.

### Send us your comments

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

**Mail:** 10 Peel Centre Dr., 6th Fl  
Brampton, On L6T 4B9

**Phone:** 905-791-7800 ext . 4024

**Fax:** 905-791-7920

**E-mail:** [ropsu@region.peel.on.ca](mailto:ropsu@region.peel.on.ca)



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