

ROPSU Regional Structure

Region of Peel Official Plan Strategic Update

Message From the Director of Planning Policy and Research

The Regional Structure focus area of ROPSU helped to ensure that the Regional Official Plan (ROP) is based on an up-to-date appraisal of the amount of growth that can be expected in the Region and that long-term growth planning supports the general goals and specific objectives of the plan.

The main emphasis of this focus area was to review the Northwest Brampton urban boundary expansion and to

review Peel's population, household and employment forecast to 2031 and the urban land supply available to accommodate this forecasted growth. The ROPSU TAC consisting of Regional and area municipal staff worked with Hemson Consulting Ltd. to conduct this review and concluded that there was insufficient urban land within the 2021 urban boundary, including potential intensification to accommodate the growth forecast

for the Region. Based on five years of technical studies and the updated growth forecast, Regional staff recommended ROPA 15 to Regional Council for adoption. ROPA 15 changes the ROP's planning horizon to 2031 from 2021, updates the population, household and employment forecasts and expands the urban boundary to include Northwest Brampton. ROPA 15 was adopted by Council on June 16, 2005 and is currently before the Ontario Municipal Board.



Arvin Prasad,
Director of Planning
Policy and Research



Inside this bulletin:

- 1.0 Updated Population and Employment Forecasts **Pg. 1**
- 2.0 Smart Growth Workshop **Pg. 2**
- 3.0 Liveable Peel Launched **Pg. 3**
- 4.0 Urban Land Needs Beyond 2021 **Pg. 4**

1.0 Updated Population and Employment Forecasts

The Region continues to grow at a rapid pace. Census data shows that Peel's population increased on average by more than 27,000 people a year between 1996 and 2001.

Beginning in 2002, the population and employment numbers in the ROP were revised through a co-ordinated approach with the area municipalities. At the conclusion of the review, the

updated forecasts were incorporated into the ROP through ROPA 8 adopted by Regional Council in July, 2003.

Regional staff worked with staff of the GTA Regions, Toronto, Hamilton, the Province and Hemson Consulting Ltd. to update the forecast for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. In January, 2005 a technical paper titled, *The Growth Outlook for the*

Greater Golden Horseshoe was released by the Province. The forecast is part of the provincial *Places to Grow* draft plan. The Growth Outlook forecasts that Peel will experience even more growth than anticipated in the ROPA 8 forecast. The Growth Outlook predicts that by 2031, Peel will grow to 1.57 million people (without Census undercount) or 500,000 people more than the ROPA 8 forecast.





The Made in Peel Smart Growth Workshop Panel Discussion

2.0 Smart Growth Workshop

The Regional Planning Department hosted a successful “Made in Peel Smart Growth” workshop in February, 2003 in consultation with ROPSU TAC in order to identify opportunities to implement the work of the Smart Growth Central Ontario Panel and develop a “made-in-Peel” response to the Panel’s work.



The Made in Peel Smart Growth Workshop Breakout Groups

More than 120 professional planners and policy makers, consultants, developers, and other private and public sector stakeholders from Peel, and across the GTA attended the workshop.

The following are key highlights of the workshop:

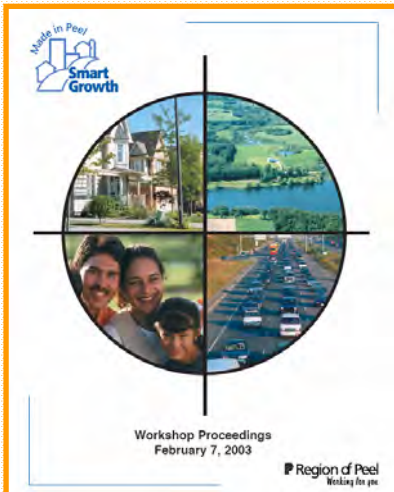
- The Province must develop a growth management plan to implement Smart Growth principles by

guiding growth to centres and corridors within the GTA and by supporting more compact urban form;

- Financial tools, financial incentives and investment in infrastructure such as transit service are necessary to achieve Smart Growth in Peel;
- Goods movement is an emerging priority in Peel and the GTA since traffic congestion is slowing goods movement which, in turn, imposes significant costs on business every day;
- Land use and transit must be closely linked especially in centres such as Downtown Brampton and the Mississauga City Centre and along transit corridors. The creation of attractive, pedestrian friendly, urban places with high quality urban design and good transit service was identified

as another way to promote Smart Growth.

Since the Smart Growth Workshop took place, the province has become active in growth management and in planning. In 2004, the province released a discussion paper on a provincial growth management plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe followed by the release in 2005 of the draft provincial growth plan called: *Places to Grow*. A final draft of the provincial growth plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe is expected soon.



3.0 Liveable Peel Launched

On April 29, 2004 the Region of Peel Planning department held a workshop with Regional Councillors and key staff from other Regional departments, Peel Police, Conservation Authorities and area municipal planning staff.

Arvin Prasad, Director of Planning Policy and Research opened the workshop with a presentation on the following points.

- The pace of growth and changing demographics due to immigration and aging are placing significant and changing demands on Peel's services
- To maintain a liveable Region, infrastructure and human services must keep pace with growth pressures and the needs of residents
- Research must be undertaken to understand the impacts of growth on

Regional services and to develop strategies to maintain Peel's quality of life

The presentation also emphasized the importance of sustainability, which seeks to balance society, culture, economy and environment considerations. Sustainability means thinking long-term (30-50 years out) so decisions made today do not compromise options open to future generations.

Following the presentation, attendees of the workshop were engaged in an interactive facilitated discussion. The purpose of the discussion was to allow participants to identify:

- Their vision for Peel over the next 30 to 50 years
- The aspects of Peel that should be improved to build a more liveable future

- Ways to address the impacts of growth, aging and immigration on Regional programs and services over the long-term
- How Regional Council could move forward on a Liveable Peel initiative



Liveable Peel Seeks to Balance Society, Culture, Economy and Environment-

The ideas and values expressed by participants discussion provided direction on how to proceed with developing a long-term sustainable vision and proactive strategy that could form the basis of a Liveable Peel initiative.

To view the Liveable Peel presentation visit: www.peelregion.ca/planning/liveable-peel/index.htm

At the conclusion of the workshop, many participants expressed the need to develop a long-term vision and proactive strategy to maintain the Region's quality of life.

More information on Liveable Peel is available at www.liveablepeel.ca



4.0 Peel's Urban Land Needs Beyond 2021 and Northwest Brampton

In March, 2005 after five years of study by the City of Brampton and the Region, the City applied to the Region to expand the urban boundary to include Northwest Brampton. In June, 2005 the *Northwest Brampton Urban Boundary Study*, prepared by Hemson Consulting Ltd. was released. The study concludes that the Northwest Brampton boundary expansion meets the requirements of the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement and, in particular, it meets the requirement for a comprehensive review of urban boundary expansion proposals. The study also concludes that the designated urban land supply, including potential intensification, is inadequate to accommodate the long-term growth forecast for Peel to the year 2031. The five years' of analysis of Northwest Brampton together with the Hemson study provide a rationale to increase Peel's urban land supply.

Regional staff worked with staff of the area municipalities and plan review agencies to draft an amendment (ROPA 15)

which responded to concerns of agencies while progressively expanding the urban boundary of Peel.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and the City of Brampton staff agreed on an environmental study process to prepare sub-watershed studies and to define a natural heritage system for protection. CVC's role in approving terms of reference and resulting sub-watershed studies is contained in

ROPA 15. In addition, ROPA 15 provides for the protection of a shale resource identified by the province as significant and phases development in relation to available road and transit capacity.

The amendment addressed most issues and concerns raised and on June 16, 2005 Regional Council adopted ROPA 15. ROPA 15 is now under appeal to the OMB.

ROPA 15 provides a framework for the more , detailed, planning process to follow for Northwest Brampton by the City of Brampton in collaboration with the Region, Caledon, Mississauga, Credit Valley Conservation, the Province and other agencies. It is anticipated that after the detailed planning work and infrastructure investment, development of Northwest Brampton could commence in the near future.

