

2017

State of Sustainability Profile

measuring our progress



Message from the Mayor

I am pleased to share with you the second edition of the biennial State of Sustainability Profile which measures the progress of implementing the Town of Halton Hills' Community Sustainability Strategy. The Community Sustainability Strategy was approved by the Town of Halton Hills' Council in 2013, and its implementation is supported by Council's 2014-18 Strategic Action Plan. The first State of Sustainability Profile was written in 2015 to measure our progress at implementing the Community Sustainability Strategy. The second edition of the State of Sustainability Profile has captured the progress between 2015 and 2017 by:

- Measuring the indicators from the Community Sustainability Strategy
- Highlighting the Town's actions
- Identifying Sustainability Ambassadors and Champions

Measuring our progress at implementing the Community Sustainability Strategy Indicators allows us to gauge how well we are moving towards our overall Community Sustainability Vision. At the Town, we apply best practices and take a PAREE approach (practical, affordable, reasonable, educational and enforceable) in our plans, actions and strategies.

Congratulations to all of the organizations, businesses and individuals who have pledged to become Sustainability Ambassadors or Champions to implement the Community Sustainability Strategy. Together, we will continue to take positive steps along our journey of sustainability to enhance and improve our quality of life in Halton Hills.



Mayor Rick Bonnette



“Let's continue to build a community that is livable, thriving, healthy and sustainable.”

2017 State of Sustainability Profile

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About the Town of Halton Hills

The Town of Halton Hills, with a population of approximately 60,000, consists of two urban centres, Georgetown and Acton, the Halton Hills Premier Gateway employment area, three hamlets – Glen Williams, Stewarttown and Norval – and several smaller settlements. Halton Hills has long been recognized for its natural beauty, active agricultural community, high quality of life and proximity to major centres, including Brampton, Mississauga and Toronto. The Town is ranked as one of the top small communities in Canada by a national magazine.



Advances in Our Community Sustainability Strategy

The Community Sustainability Strategy (Strategy) was approved in 2013.

The Strategy includes one overall vision along with a vision for each of the four pillars of sustainability – cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, environmental health and social wellbeing. In addition, there are 32 focus areas, 10 community values, 167 goals and 27 indicators that measure the Town's progress at implementing the Strategy.

The State of Sustainability Profile serves as a sustainability report card to objectively measure the Town's progress in advancing its sustainability goals.



“ In 2060, the urban and rural communities of Halton Hills balance economic prosperity with a deep commitment to the natural environment, while retaining viable local agriculture and small-town feel, and being socially equitable, culturally vibrant, and strongly connected. ”

Town of Halton Hills Sustainability Vision

Indicators at a Glance

Listed below are the four pillars of sustainability with the indicators from the Strategy. Beside each indicator is an icon showing the direction of the trend of the indicator over the past two years. The direction of the icon represents an **increase** (↑), **decrease** (↓) or **no change** (→) to the indicator. The colour of the icon represents the trend of the indicator as being **positive** (green), **negative** (red) or **no change** (yellow). The **asterisk** (*) represents an indicator where no data is available to measure the indicator or a note regarding an indicator is required.

4 pillars of sustainability



Cultural Vibrancy Indicators

- ↑ Total kilometres of trails
- ↑ Library use
- * Annual survey of the variety of participation in cultural activities and organizations
- ↓ Total participant hours for recreation programs
- ↓ Total hectares of municipally owned open space
- Number of accessible facilities available for use by many community groups
- ↑ Number of designated heritage properties and districts



Economic Prosperity Indicators

- ↑ Commercial floor space per capita
- ↑ Employment density
- Employment participation rate
- Number of hectares of land re-designated from agricultural purposes to other uses
- ↑ Average family income
- ↑ Number of business sectors accounting for 50% of all economic activity
- ↑ Percentage of population that work from home
- Ratio of residential to non-residential property assessment
- ↑ Total gross farm receipts



Environmental Health Indicators

- Average total daily flow of water
- ↑ Population density
- ↑ Renewable energy initiatives
- * Tree canopy cover
- ↑ Number of people/km² in the urban areas and rural areas
- ↑ Number of buildings certified by recognized green building programs, including construction meeting the Town's Green Building Standards, LEED™, etc.
- ↑ Number of renewable energy projects and total capacity of renewable energy output



Social Wellbeing Indicators

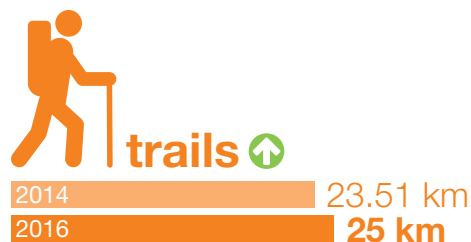
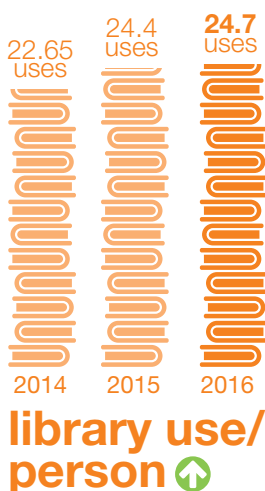
- * Number of citizens dependent on social services per 1,000 residents
- ↓ Number of households in the low-income bracket before taxes per 1,000 households
- ↑ Number of households spending more than 30% of gross income on shelter per 1,000 households
- ↑ Transportation modal split
- * Range of services available for Halton Hills seniors

Cultural Vibrancy

“A culturally vibrant community where culture is integrated with our economic, social and environmental lives and offers the opportunity for individual fulfillment through access to sports, recreation, arts, culture and heritage.”

Cultural Vibrancy Vision

Cultural Vibrancy Indicators



recreation programs ↓



heritage properties

total cultural heritage properties ↑



designated cultural heritage properties ↑



* No data is available for the following indicator: Annual survey of the variety of participation in cultural activities and organizations.

Focus Areas of Cultural Vibrancy

- Strengthening of sense of community
- Engaging citizens
- Inclusive to youth
- Vitality of arts and cultural sectors
- Inviting parks and trails
- Diverse recreation and sports
- Valued heritage legacy
- Leading edge libraries

Cultural Vibrancy Highlights

Halton Hills Public Library launched special edition wooden library cards that serve as a reminder of this significant year in Canadian history.

The Town hosted a cultural showpiece at the Helson Gallery that celebrated more than 100 years of shared knowledge, skills and compassion of Canadians in China.

The Town selected three residents to be representatives for the Canada 150 Community Leaders Network.



CANADA 150
1867 - 2017

Many Town initiatives were launched to recognize the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

The Town received \$78K from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program to replace streetlights in the Princess Anne Drive area. This was a joint project between Halton Hills Hydro and the Town of Halton Hills.

223 trees were planted with a \$25K grant from CN Rail that funded local tree planting projects in honour of Canada's 150th anniversary.

The Canadian Forces Snowbirds flew over Halton Hills on August 31, 2017. The flyby recognized the Town, with the leadership of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, earning the title of Canada's Most Patriotic Town. To win the title, Town residents registered the 57,073 flags they proudly flew on Canada's 150th birthday.

In partnership with local businesses, the Town re-launched the successful Shop Local – Shop Halton Hills campaign. The program was originally launched in 2009 to encourage residents to shop locally and raise awareness of the benefits of spending their money in their home community.

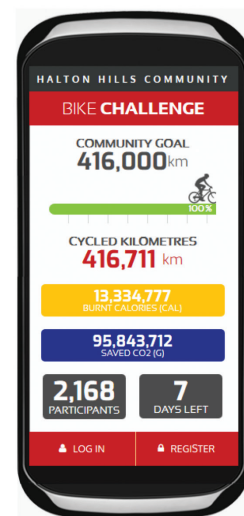
In partnership with the Town, the Lorne Scots Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiments unveiled a memorial in recognition of the group's dedicated service to the community.

This celebration included a special visit from His Royal Highness, Prince Edward, The Duke of Kent. The monument recognizes the contributions of the regiment, which recently celebrated its 150th anniversary, as a significant contributor to the Canadian Armed Forces operations, locally and globally.



Halton Hills signed its first Sister City Agreement with the District of Wenjiang in the City of Chengdu China.

The Agreement will foster friendly relations and co-operation between the two parties. To further enhance connections, the Town hosted its first Wenjiang Festival in the fall of 2017. Delegates from Wenjiang joined more than 1,200 participants to enjoy this week-long celebration of culture, which included: art and cooking classes, workshops, hockey celebrations and more.



In 2017, Halton Hills' Bike Challenge excelled in promoting active living and raising funds for the Georgetown Hospital.

2,182 cyclists and businesses raised \$45K and over the past five years \$308,500 has been raised.



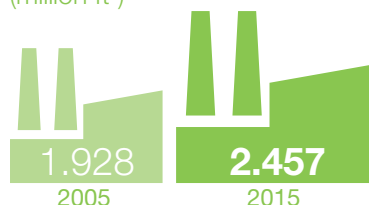
Economic Prosperity

“A community where economic prosperity is based on a green, diversified and resilient economy, and the strengthening of the existing industrial base.”

Economic Prosperity Vision

Economic Prosperity Indicators

commercial floor space ↑
(million ft²)



2014 .71 people/ha
2016 .745 people/ha
employment density ↑



2014 69%
2016 69%
employment participation ➔



agricultural lands re-designated for other uses ➔

Number of business sectors accounting for 50% of all economic activity ↑

2014 1,407
2016 1,417*

* Includes 121 manufacturing businesses and 331 retail trade businesses.

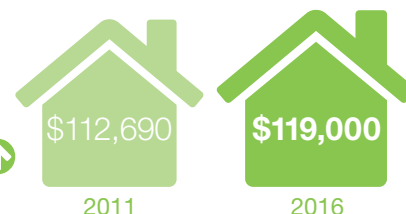


total population working from home ↑

2014 2,470 people
2016 2,600 people
2,000 people



average family income ↑



Focus Areas of Economic Prosperity

- Diversified and resilient economy
- Vibrant food and agricultural sector
- Tourism
- Knowledge-based industry & research and innovation
- Active and vibrant creative sector
- Live-work opportunities
- Green economy
- Infrastructure
- Balanced tax base

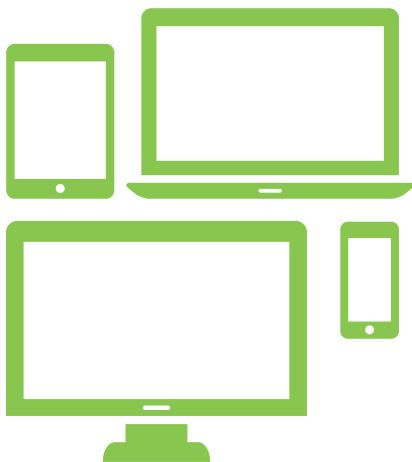
Economic Prosperity Highlights

The Town's LED streetlight conversion project is well underway.

To date, 4,428 fixtures (95%) have been upgraded to the new technology. This has allowed the Town to realize a 60% energy savings for street lighting. As a result of the installation of light flashers and vehicle-actuated traffic calming signs, the Town has successfully used solar energy to reduce hydro costs.

Approximately 55 acres of industrial land in Acton was bought by developers.

This \$30 million initial investment is the largest in Acton in many years. The site will be developed into a high-quality industrial subdivision with lot sizes ranging from 2 to 25 acres.



The Town implemented an Electronic Bid Submission Service to improve operational efficiency.

Additional automation projects included: new registration and parking ticket software, banking improvements, and a new ActiVan scheduling and trip route calculator.



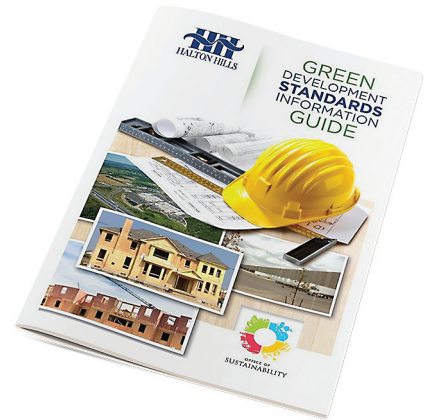
The Community Improvement Plan has encouraged local businesses to make investments in their properties by providing matching grants for eligible work.

To date, \$266,543 of loans and grants have generated a total community investment of \$1,541,296.



A Sister City Agreement was signed with the District of Wenjiang in the City of Chengdu China.

The Agreement will foster friendly relations and co-operation between Wenjiang and Halton Hills. Accomplishments include: a Sustainable Regional Planning Forum, business agreements with Chamber of Commerce (Wenjiang), and a partnership between SouthWestern Energy and Sichuan Taiyi (a sustainable energy company). The sister-city partnership is part of the Town's comprehensive economic development strategy.



Green Development Standards continue to be implemented in development projects in Halton Hills.

To date, more than 625 residential units and approximately 148,000 m² of non-residential construction will be in conformance with the Green Development Standards and include sustainable development features.



Halton Hills received \$675,000 from the provincial Connecting Links Program. This project involved resurfacing 500 m of Highway 7 in Acton.



The Halton Hills Premier Gateway attracts investors and new industrial and commercial businesses while providing local employment.

Collectively, 381,000 m² of building space has been established along the south border of Halton Hills.



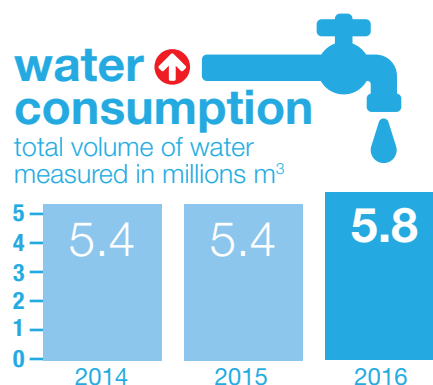
Environmental Health

“A community where integrated, thriving natural systems are valued, actively protected, and enhanced for long-term health and enjoyment.”

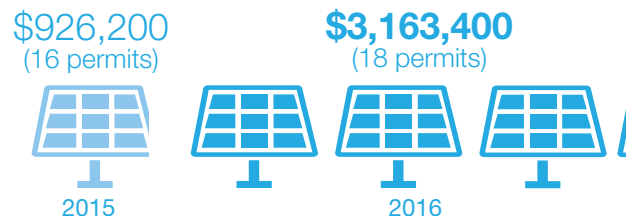
Environmental Health Vision

Environmental Health Indicators

population density ↑



Total buildings certified by recognized green building programs including construction meeting the Town's Green Building Standards, LEED™, etc.



renewable energy initiatives ↑

(value of photovoltaic solar panel permits)

Data for the Strategy indicators are provided by various agencies and the Town of Halton Hills. The following indicators are measured differently than stated in the Strategy, however they closely relate to the Strategy indicators and are worthy of reporting:

- “Water consumption” instead of “Average total daily flow of water”
- “Population density” instead of “Number of people/km² in the urban areas and rural areas”

✱ No data is available for the following indicator: [Tree canopy coverage](#).

Focus Areas of Environmental Health

- Natural heritage
- Water
- Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions
- Land use
- Biodiversity
- Natural resources
- Energy
- Consumption and waste management

Environmental Health Highlights



The annual Earth Week Celebration hosted in April 2017 included:

- The Community Clean-up and 22-Minute Makeover where residents collected approximately 7,000 kg of waste
- Public Works Earth Day and Tree Sales Event where free compost was given away and almost 1,000 trees were sold
- Earth Day and Sustainability Fair where 35 organizations, showcased their good work in the community

2017 marked the 10th year of Halton Hills celebrating Earth Hour. With the support of local businesses, schools, residents and other organizations, energy consumption decreased by 2.8% — the equivalent of powering 1,494 homes for one hour. To celebrate Earth Hour, the Town partnered with Halton Hills Hydro and Wastewise to hold a special electronic waste collection.

The Town has joined leading municipalities around the world as a member of the Compact of Mayors that supports networking and collaboration between leading municipalities tackling climate change.

Approximately 450 municipalities around the world are members of the network, representing almost 400 million people.



The Town of Halton Hills Council endorsed the Blue Dot Movement by signing a made-in-Halton-Hills motion.

This endorsement recognizes that Canadians have a right to live in a healthy environment. The motion was forwarded to the federal government and requested an amendment to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to include the right for Canadians to live in a healthy environment.



The Town has doubled the length of its on-road bike lanes during the past two years by adding 8 km of new routes.

In Georgetown, on-road bike lanes were added to Miller Drive, Danby Road and River Drive. In Acton, on-road bike lanes were added to Churchill Road, Atwood Road and Berton Boulevard.

Funding for 100 way-finding signs that were installed at 20 locations was received from Smart Commute Halton via a Transportation Demand Management Innovation Grant.

Way-finding signage for cycling and pedestrian routes is one of many initiatives of the Halton Hills Bicycle Friendly Community Committee.



Halton Hills Public Library launched a new series of sustainable library cards.

The cards are made from Nordic Birch wood harvested from sustainably managed forests and are 100% PVC free. Halton Hills is the first community to have wooden library cards in Canada. This was a fantastic addition to the operations and other green library initiatives which include green tours and green living collections.



In 2016, The Town was awarded the Halton Region – Employer of the Year Award.

The Town has been a member of Metrolinx's Smart Commute Halton program in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area since 2010. In 2017, the Town moved from a Gold Level status to Platinum Level for reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality and providing more sustainable travel options. The program encourages alternative commuting options such as carpooling, cycling, walking, transit and teleworking.



Social Wellbeing

“A healthy and safe community based on an ethic of caring and social equity.”

Social Wellbeing Vision

Social Wellbeing Indicators

Transportation Modal Split



driver

The type of transportation a person uses to commute to and from work.

2011

29,450 people

2016

31,155 people



passenger

2011

25,265 people

2016

26,540 people



public transit

2011 1,635 people

2016 2,005 people



active transport

2011 955 people

2016 1,120 people

other

2011 1,315 people

2016 2,245 people



64 residents per 1,000 spend more than 30% of their gross income on shelter 



Number of households in the low income bracket before taxes per 1,000 households 

2011

57.0

2016

55.5

* No data is available for the following indicator:

- Number of citizens dependent on social services per 1,000 residents
- Range of services available for Halton Hills seniors who require significant assistance

Focus Areas of Social Wellbeing

- Housing
- Transportation
- Social and health services
- Poverty
- Seniors
- Safety and inclusion
- Comfort
- Learning

Social Wellbeing Highlights



The new Three Musketeers Skatepark and Sports Court in Acton won an Excellence in Design Award from Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO).

PRO is a non-profit association that advocates for advancements in health, social and environmental issues in municipalities throughout Ontario. The 2016 PRO award recognized the quality of design and construction of the park, as well as the community-focused approach to working on this challenging project.



The Acton Arena and Community Centre underwent a 47,800 ft.² addition.

The project included: an NHL-size ice rink, 186 spectator seats, six new change rooms, two referee rooms, a community room/meeting space, an open lobby with viewing to both ice surfaces, exterior washrooms for campus users and a new elevator to access second floor viewing and meeting spaces.



Prospect Park in Acton has been upgraded with new equipment designed for wheelchairs which is the first of its kind in Canada.

The Town worked on this project with Annetrista Absalom, author of the book "We Are More Alike Than We Are Different". She also donated proceeds from her book to this project.



ActiVan is currently in its 36th year of service in Halton Hills.

ActiVan began service in 1981. By the end of its first year, it had served 121 registered riders and provided a total of 1,811 trips. Over the course of 2016, ActiVan served 2,710 people within our community and fulfilled 38,766 trips.



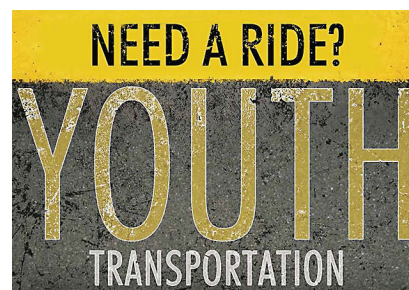
Halton Hills Fire Services continued protecting and educating our community. Over the past two years, they:

- Responded to 1,950 emergency calls
- Checked 535 new child car seat installations
- Attended 147 public events
- Attended 50 special events



The Town and the Canadian Dutch Remembrance Committee were one of 140 recipients recognized by the 70th Anniversary Dutch-Canadian Friendship Tulip Gardens.

The tulips were in addition to the 100,000 Dutch tulip bulbs that were sent to Canadians in 1945 as a symbol of appreciation for the role Canadian soldiers played in the liberation of the Netherlands and the hospitality Canada provided to the Dutch Royal Family who found refuge in Ottawa during World War II.




The Youth Taxi Scrip Program provides affordable transportation options for youth in the community to access extracurricular activities such as sports, jobs or social gatherings.


Registered youth can travel anywhere in Halton Hills with a 50% discount off regular rates.





Planning for Our Future

This section highlights recent or upcoming key plans, policies and strategies which currently relate to the Community Sustainability Strategy and the sustainability of our community in the future.


 The Town has completed a Mature Neighbourhoods Character Study and changes have been made to the Town's Official Plan and Zoning By-law to reflect the outcomes of the Study. The Study was conducted in response to the public's concern regarding the loss of character and integrity of the Town's mature neighbourhoods associated with large-scale residential redevelopment.


 A secondary plan is underway for Downtown Georgetown (also known as the Destination Downtown Study) which will guide decision making in this area over the next 20 years. It will build on what residents already love in Downtown Georgetown and identify ways we can make it even better. The Study will review all aspects of the Downtown including the historic character, natural areas, housing, businesses and public spaces.

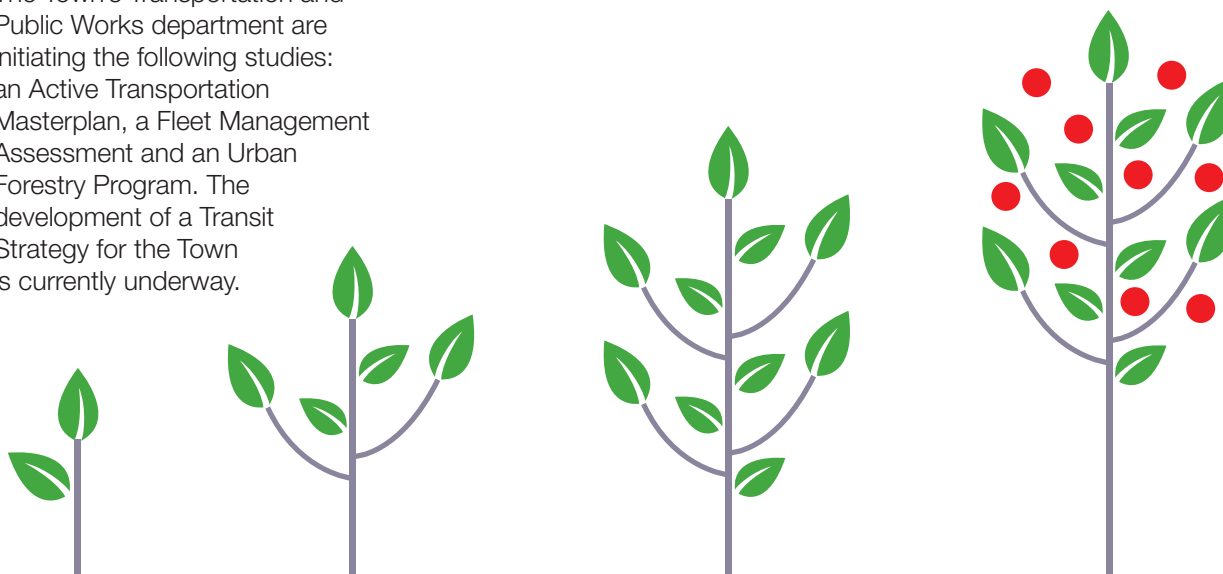
 The Town's Transportation and Public Works department are initiating the following studies: an Active Transportation Masterplan, a Fleet Management Assessment and an Urban Forestry Program. The development of a Transit Strategy for the Town is currently underway.

 The Vision Georgetown project is well underway for the planning of the 1,000-acre parcel of land in south-west Georgetown. This land will eventually be home to 19,000 residents and provide 1,700 new jobs. The project is in its third phase which includes studies in areas such as: energy and water conservation, transportation and sustainable neighbourhood design guidelines. It is anticipated that the adoption of the Vision Georgetown secondary plan will occur in mid-2018 with residents living in this area by 2021.

A review of the Town's 2010 Intensification Opportunities study will be initiated in 2018. The 2010 study identified the potential for Halton Hills to accommodate intensification between 2015 and 2031. The purpose of the review is to understand the ability of the Town to accommodate residential intensification within the built-up areas of Halton Hills until 2041.

 Development of the Town's Climate Change Adaptation Plan is underway. It will establish a better understanding of how climate change will impact the community in the future and what needs to be done to remain resilient to climate change. The Plan is expected to be completed by 2019 and is funded by a \$175,000 grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

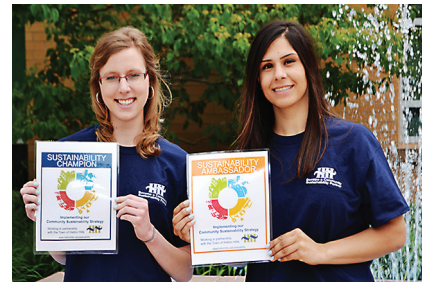
 The Recreation and Parks Strategic Action Plan Update 2017-2021 will be implemented in 2018 to reflect recent trends, updated facility provisional standards and service delivery options. A few key highlights include continuing to implement the Youth Needs Study, Active Living Strategy and the Parkland Acquisition Strategy.



Community Partners

The success of implementing the Strategy is reliant on the partnerships the Town has within the community.

Local groups have pledged to become Sustainability Ambassadors or Sustainability Champions to implement the Strategy through actions and services that they provide in the community. To date, all of the Community Sustainability Strategy Indicators are being worked on by the Town and our approximately 100 partners. Tracking this information helps to ensure the Strategy is being fully implemented.



Sustainability Ambassadors

Listed below are Town partners who implement the Strategy but do not submit an annual action report.

- Acton BIA
- Acton Pizza & Coffee Shop
- Alex Hilson
- Baker's Dozen
- Bella Tan
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
- Communication Artistry
- Denise Dilbey, Royal LePage Meadowtowne Realty
- Dini & Co.
- Ditto's Boutique Acton
- Dollar Stretch Daze
- Dr. Ben Giddens Optometrist
- Extreme Pita (Georgetown)
- Family Barber (Acton)
- Friends of the Old Seed House Garden
- Georgetown Cleaners
- Georgetown Hospital
- Georgetown Thai Cuisine
- Global Pet Foods (Acton)
- Halton Environmental Network
- Halton-Peel Highland Games Association
- Imai Japanese Cuisine
- Light Up the Hills
- Linda Bischoff
- Lily Thai & Vietnamese Cuisine (Acton)
- Lions Club of Georgetown
- Mariam Rajabali
- North Halton Mental Health Clinic (Acton Site)
- Ontario Scientific Advisors Inc.
- Olympic Greek Souvlaki
- Salon Estilo
- Scotiabank (Acton)
- Starlight Cafe (Acton)
- Tanners Local Pub & Grill (Acton)
- The Carpet Palace (Norval)
- The Glen Oven Cafe (Norval)
- The Residences at St. Andrew's Georgetown Corp.
- White Rabbit Books

Sustainability Champions

Listed below are Town partners who implement the Strategy and submit an annual action report to the Office of Sustainability.

- Accountants on Main
- Acton Community Garden
- Acton High School
- Acton Home Hardware
- Architectural Conservancy of Ontario – Halton Hills
- ArtCast Inc.
- Big Village
- Canadian Federation University Women
- Canadian Mental Health Association – Halton Region Branch
- Canadian Tire
- Chance to Play
- Christine Upton
- Coldwell Banker Fieldstone Realty
- Community Foundation of Halton North
- Community Support Network Halton Hills
- Country Reflections
- Creature Comfort Company
- Distress Centre North Halton
- Downtown Georgetown BIA
- Elizabeth's Fashions
- Feathered Nest Furnishings
- Georgetown Agricultural Society
- Georgetown Choral Society
- Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council
- Georgetown Lawn Bowling
- Giant Tiger
- Halton Catholic Children's Education Foundation
- Halton Food for Thought
- Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable
- Halton Hills Equestrian Park & Centre For Conservation Agriculture
- Halton Hills Hydro Inc.
- Halton Hills Public Library
- Hillview Active Living Centre
- Inspire Halton
- Inspirit Centre Inc.
- Jennifer Spence
- Laurent Thibault
- Lemon Drop Interior Design
- Peace Welcome
- RBC Royal Bank (Guelph Street Branch)
- RBC Royal Bank (Main Street Branch)
- Regal Lighting Designs
- St. George's Anglican Church
- Sweetie Pies on Main
- Tandia™ Cooperative Banking
- Total Energy Solutions Inc.
- United Way of Halton Hills
- Willow Park Ecology Centre
- Young's Pharmacy and Homecare



Join Us on Our Sustainability Journey

The Town is committed to maintaining a small-town feel while improving sustainability in Halton Hills, as measured from cultural, economic, environmental and social perspectives. Collectively, the initiatives, events, strategies, policies and plans highlighted in the 2017 State of Sustainability Profile demonstrate the positive overall trend of our sustainable initiatives.

The Town is committed to partnering with businesses, organizations and individuals to implement the Community Sustainability Strategy. By pledging to become a Sustainability Ambassador or Champion, we can work together to implement the Strategy and take local actions that benefit Halton Hills and communities beyond our borders.

Join us on our exciting sustainable journey as we continue to implement and measure our Community Sustainability Strategy to improve quality of life in Halton Hills. We look forward to hearing from you.

Town of Halton Hills Planning & Sustainability

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SUSTAINABILITY