



# Chapter 4

## Review of Demographic, Socio-Economic and Economic Trends and Population Forecast to 2031



## 4. Review of Demographic, Socio-Economic and Economic Trends and Population Forecast to 2031

### 4.1 Introduction

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One of the deliverables of the Recreation & Parks Rates and Fees Strategy was to undertake a review of Demographic, Socio-Economic and Economic Trends and Population Forecast to 2031. This Chapter provides a summary of the detailed review that can be found in Appendix C to this report. Demographic, socio-economic, and economic trends are used to inform fee recommendations made in Section 6.3, while the population forecast to 2031 has been used to inform forecast costs and revenues to 2031 in Section 6.4.

### 4.2 Demographic Trends, Socio-Economic and Economic Trends

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#### 4.2.1 *Demographic Trends (1991-2016)*

- Town population grew by approximately 2.2% annually (slower than Halton Region – 2.3% annually)
- Children/Youth (0-19 yrs) and Adult (20-64 yrs) population grew slower than average (1.8% and 2.0% annual growth respectively)
- Seniors (65+) population grew by 4.0% annually
- As population continues to age, population growth will be increasingly reliant on net migration vs. natural increases (i.e. births less deaths)

#### 4.2.2 *Socio-Economic and Economic Trends*

- **Average Household Income and Prevalence of Low-Income Households:**
  - Average household income in the Town is roughly 8% lower than for Halton Region and 31% higher than the provincial average
  - Average household income increased by 2.8% from 2001-2016 (equal to the increase for the Region) compared to the consumer price index for shelter costs during the same period (2%)



- Prevalence of low-income households (5.2%) is below Halton Region average (8.2%) and the Province (14.4%)
- **Employment Growth**
  - Employment growth from 2001-2016 has exceeded the average growth in the Region of Halton (2.5% vs. 2.2%)
  - At 2016, the Town's unemployment rate was lower than the provincial average (5.2% vs. 5.4%)
  - Currently 50% of Halton Hills employees commute from the Town

## 4.3 Population Forecast to 2031

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This Section reviews the assessment of the long-term population growth potential for the Town of Halton Hills to the year 2031 as provided in detail in Appendix C.

- Population forecast undertaken by major age group in line with Halton Region Best Planning Estimates to 2031
- Population forecast to grow by 2.7% annually
- Majority of growth expected in 2021-2031 period (3.7% annually)
  - Attributable to Vision Georgetown Secondary Plan development
- The Town's population is anticipated to increase by 38% over the forecast period
- Growth within the 0-19 yrs and 20-64 yrs age groups is below the Town average (33% each)
- Growth in the 65+ yrs age group is expected to be well above the Town average (73%)



Table 4-1  
2019-2031 Population Growth Rate by Age Cohort

Cohort	Annual Growth Rate	2019-2031 Growth
0-19	2.4%	33.1%
20-34	3.1%	44.7%
35-44	2.7%	37.4%
45-54	1.6%	20.6%
55-64	2.3%	30.8%
65-74	4.5%	68.7%
75+	5.0%	78.7%
Total	2.7%	38.5%
Child/ Youth (0-19)	2.4%	33.1%
Adult	2.4%	33.1%
Senior (65+)	4.7%	72.9%

## 4.4 Observations

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In many respects, the long-term economic and population growth potential of the Town of Halton Hills is largely tied to the success of Halton Region and the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (G.T.H.A.) as a whole. Many of the largest and fastest growing employment sectors across the G.T.H.A. have also experienced strong growth and expansion over the past several decades in Halton Region. With a robust economy and diverse mix of export-based employment sectors, the G.T.H.A. is highly attractive on an international level to new businesses and investors. In turn, this continues to support steady population and housing growth within the City of Toronto and the G.T.H.A. “905” municipalities, including the Town of Halton Hills, largely driven by international and inter-provincial net migration.

In accordance with relevant provincial, Regional and local planning documents, including the Growth Plan, 2019, and the Region of Halton Official Plan and the Town of Halton Hills Official Plan, the long-term economic outlook for Halton Region and the Town of Halton Hills is very positive. Recent economic and demographic trends across

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the broader regional economy further support the relatively strong population and employment growth anticipated for Halton Region and Halton Hills over the next decade and beyond.

Recent trends do not indicate there is an economic environment in the Town that would not support fees within the range of those being provided by neighboring municipalities. As such, where fee recommendations are made to move to the top end of the market comparison or maintain current fees at or above market comparators, these recommendations should be supported by the economic climate.

With regard to the forecast population growth, the Town population is aging. The share of the Town's population within 65+ age group is forecast to increase from 13% in 2016 to 18% in 2031. The aging of the Town's baby boom population (persons born between 1946 and 1964) will continue to drive relative higher population growth rates in the 65+ age group over the next decade. This will continue to influence demand on Recreation & Parks programs and services which cater to this age group.

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