

# LET'S TALK OAKVILLE

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM YOUR **WARD 6** COUNCILLORS

SUMMER 2022

- HOUSING AFFORDABILITY
- RECREATION UPDATES
- NO URBAN EXPANSION
- LIVING WITH COYOTES AND FOXES
- DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Working together for a stronger community.





Regional and Town Councillor - Ward 6

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Dear Residents,

Welcome to the 12th edition of the Ward 6 Oakville newsletter. We trust you will find it interesting as we continue to navigate public health advice along with other levels of government. Council continues with the Livable Oakville vision by controlling how growth occurs, maintaining high-quality infrastructure and services, keeping our finances healthy and preserving greenspace.

### CONTROLLING GROWTH AND CREATING COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

We continue to manage growth in Oakville to support complete communities with the needed infrastructure and greenspace. Oakville's plan directs denser growth to nodes and corridors like the GO station, the Dundas/Trafalgar Uptown Core area, the Trafalgar Road corridor as well as to the lands north of Dundas. Allowing higher density development in these areas protects existing neighbourhoods from unexpected development applications, reduces demand to urbanize further agricultural land and tends to produce more affordable housing options.

Halton Region considered options for where growth should occur over the next 30 years based on provincial requirements. Halton Region chose to protect agricultural land from being urbanized and is instead directing growth to lands that have already been designated for development. Thank you to the hundreds of residents who provided their input on this important issue.

### PROTECTING OUR HEALTH

Your local government has been working hard to adapt quickly and thoughtfully to the latest information on how to operate successfully in the age of COVID-19. The Town of Oakville and Halton Region continue to work together with our provincial and federal governments to protect the health of our residents and community. Throughout the pandemic, our work has included vaccination programs run




Town Councillor - Ward 6

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by Halton's Public Health team, the move to greater on-line services, and the use of non-medical face masks as recommended among others.

### PROTECTING NATURE

Our local greenspace and trails continue to be appreciated by growing numbers of residents. In 2022, you will see work to manage the effects of emerald ash borers and LDD (European gypsy or Spongy) moths on our trees, the planting of even more trees and work towards creating a climate change resilient community. We continue to actively protect our local creeks and natural lands.

### BUILDING AND RENEWING INFRASTRUCTURE

Council continues to focus on building and maintaining infrastructure that improves the livability of our communities. In addition to road improvements, we are also improving walking, cycling and public transit infrastructure. Oakville is also introducing electric buses in the near future. Council continues to promote safety on our roads with measures to control the speed of traffic on local roads.

### KEEPING OUR FINANCES HEALTHY

Despite the severe financial impacts of the pandemic, the Town of Oakville is well positioned with strong reserves and low debt levels that will allow us to weather the pandemic better than many other communities from a financial perspective. Council passed the 2022 Budget keeping the overall property tax increase at 1.5%. This is lower than neighbouring municipalities and significantly below the current inflation level.

It's important to us that we be accessible to our constituents. If you have any questions or concerns, we're only a call or a click away.

Best regards,  
**Tom and Natalia**

# Increasing Assisted and Affordable Housing

Town Council approved the creation of the Affordable Housing Consultation Plan in April this year. The proposal outlines the opportunity for public consultation across Oakville to inform research on improving the availability of assisted and affordable housing. The plan will also help inform the public of recommendations from the research. Oakville has a wealth of experience in the housing business and it is urgent that realistic measures be identified, tested and adopted to address the crisis in housing affordability.

The research will develop policy options for all levels of government by reviewing published literature and consulting a broad panel of experts in fields related to the housing supply including within fields such as academics, land development, home building, urban planning, law and finance.

The work will identify barriers and opportunities to increase access to affordable and assisted housing for both rental and purchase. It will consider the effectiveness of proposals based on the amount of housing produced, the degree of impact on housing affordability, who pays or gains from the proposal and the timeline to produce measurable results.

The plan will also include recommendations around community advocacy as an earlier Provincial Housing Affordability Task Force did not include local or municipal input. Recommendations from the Provincial Housing Affordability Task Force would destroy local input into good planning in our community if adopted and would not address the stockpiling of development approvals by the development industry.

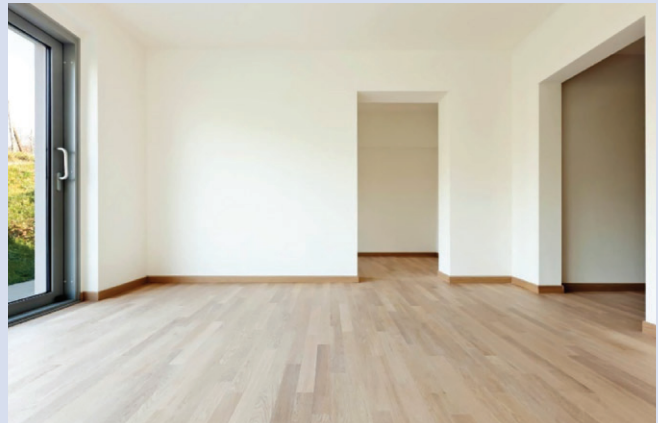
The report is expected by the second quarter of 2023 with interim reports as needed.

## Vacant Homes Tax: Fewer vacant homes and funding affordable housing

Halton Region staff, in cooperation with the local municipalities, are working on the design and implementation of a Vacant Homes Tax (VHT) program for the region, which will include undertaking public engagement to obtain input and feedback from Halton residents and stakeholders.

Housing in Halton Region has become less affordable in both the ownership and rental markets. The cost of housing has also outpaced household income. The purpose of implementing the VHT in Halton is two-fold. First, it is a policy measure to encourage owners of vacant homes to rent, sell or occupy the home. This should provide incentive to increase the supply of units to the housing market. It is projected that over a ten year period 330 vacant homes would be sold or converted to rental properties as a result of the VHT. Secondly, revenues generated from the VHT could be used to enhance affordable and assisted housing programs in support of the Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy.

The Region estimates that the earliest that the VHT could be implemented would be billing in 2024 or 2025 based on the 2023 or 2024 taxation year respectively.



## Building a Portfolio of Affordable Housing



Regional Council recently approved the implementation of a portfolio approach to achieve the objectives of the Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy.

The portfolio approach is a multi-year plan to create new assisted rental housing in Oakville and across Halton Region in partnership with senior levels of government.

The portfolio plan includes partnership opportunities with private and non-profit sector groups, seeks to develop existing Regionally owned sites and opportunities to purchase properties and new units to address housing needs.

Halton's flexible approach allows our community to respond to opportunities while addressing specific community needs in Oakville. Halton's portfolio approach is a clear signal to the provincial and federal governments that our community has a plan to tackle the challenges of assisted and affordable housing but investment from them is required to bring this plan into action.

If Halton receives provincial and federal funding we could create as many as 600 purpose built rental and assisted units across the Region over the next 10 years. It is expected additional projects will be added as work continues. Partnering with the federal and provincial governments to fund these projects is essential for success.

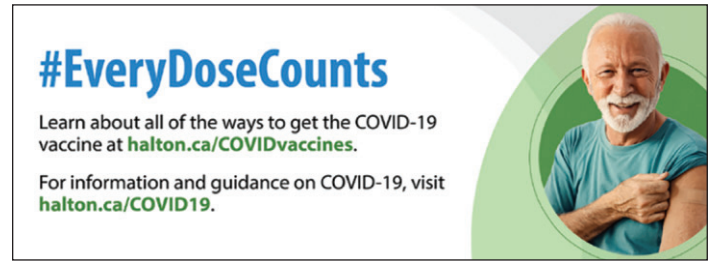
Housing is a shared responsibility and all levels of government must do their part.

# Slowing the spread of COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our residents have demonstrated resiliency and compassion by following public health guidance to protect the health and safety of our community. Our collective response and ability to support one another has allowed us to make great progress and work through many challenges together.

This summer, it remains important for all residents to consider their individual risk and the risks to those around them, and to make informed choices to keep everyone safe. This includes staying home when sick; keeping up-to-date on all recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccine; wearing a mask in high-risk settings where physical distancing is a challenge; regularly washing your hands; and following all public health recommendations in place.

For the latest information and guidance regarding COVID-19 and vaccines, please visit [halton.ca/COVID19](https://halton.ca/COVID19). Thank you for continuing to do your part!

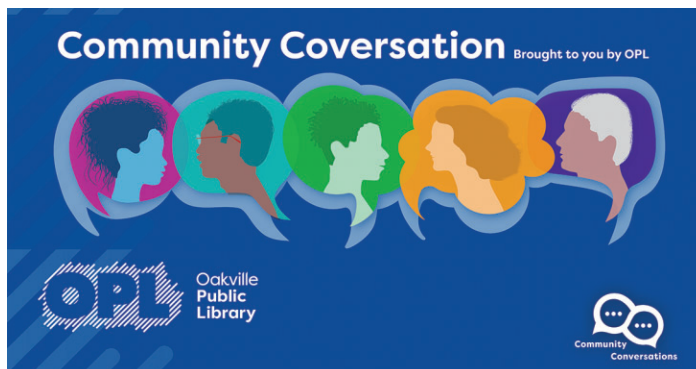


## Exciting things at Oakville Public Library!

### COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Participate in Oakville Public Library's (OPL) Community Conversations Series, OPL's commitment to creating a community that celebrates diversity and belonging, addresses difficult conversations, and helps build connections. Through a variety of partnered programs, events, and resources, the series highlights social issues and polarizing topics. Themes include: 2SLGBTQI+ Voices (June), Indigenous Arts (September), Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice (October), and Belonging (November).

To see upcoming programs, events, resources and more visit [opl.ca/CommunityConversations](https://opl.ca/CommunityConversations).



### OPL'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE: TAKE AN ADVENTURE!

Our annual Summer Reading Challenge is on! This year's theme is "Take an Adventure!"

Every summer we invite Oakville residents of all ages to read and participate in fun programs, and discover new titles and authors. Visit us in branch or on-line.

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT OPL

Join us for Morning Movers, an outdoor preschool program at various local Oakville parks, including outside IRCC at Glenashton Park. Other programs of interest include Reading Buddies, Family Storytime, Creation Zone appointments and volunteer opportunities for teens. See all programs and events at [opl.ca/Programs](https://opl.ca/Programs).

Follow Oakville Public Library on social media at @oakvillelibrary, and watch book reviews, tutorials and more on our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/user/OakvillePublicLibrary](https://youtube.com/user/OakvillePublicLibrary).

## What's happening in Oakville!

- Recreation and culture programs: Get active and creative this summer in diverse programs for all ages and abilities including summer day camps, swimming lessons, drop-in swims, skating, fitness, sports, social activities, and more. Our outdoor pickleball lessons will expand to William Rose Park this summer! Register for programs at [oakville.ca](https://oakville.ca).
- Super Playgrounds half-day drop-in program: This summer, kids can enjoy supervised games, crafts, sports and making new friends without the commitment of a full-day, week-long camp! For ages 6-12. Register for programs at [oakville.ca](https://oakville.ca).
- Iroquois Ridge Community Centre parking lot redesign: If you've yet to visit the centre, our improved lot now includes additional accessible parking spots, new pathway, bollard lighting, bike racks, and benches, plus two electric charging stations.
- Iroquois Ridge Seniors' Spaces: We have added caregiver parking spots for Friendship lunch drivers and closer accessible spots to the Seniors Centre entrance. Outdoor patio enhancements including a games table will be completed by summer.
- Outdoor Pools: Cool off this summer at Falgarwood Pool starting June 18.
- Canada Day: Friday, July 1 starting at 6 p.m. It's back! Join us in-person at Bronte Heritage Waterfront Park for family-friendly events and activities. Fireworks show at 10 p.m. Event details coming soon!
- Movies in the Park: Enjoy family-friendly movies in seven town parks between August 19 and September 16 with interactive activities based on each movie's theme. Event details coming soon!





## Upgrading Multi-Use Paths

This summer, portions of the multi-use path on Upper Middle Road will be widened to provide more space for active transportation and recreation. The multi-use trail on Upper Middle Road is a primary walking and cycling corridor in the town's Active Transportation Plan network. The two sections that will be widened this summer include the section between Sixth Line and Oakmead (in Ward 5) and the section between Trafalgar Road and Golden Briar (in Ward 6). Work on the multi-use trail will begin in July and will be complete by the end of 2022. The majority of funding for this work comes from an infrastructure grant from the federal Canada Community Revitalization Fund.

Future plans include widening additional sections and adding new sections of multi-use trail along Upper Middle Road. These projects support the town's Active Transportation Master Plan and our commitment to climate action by providing more opportunities for walking and cycling as forms of recreation and transportation.



## Living with Coyotes and Foxes

In urban areas across North America, coyotes and red foxes have both adapted well to living in cities including Oakville. Though they tend to keep to themselves and are not considered a serious risk to humans, they are still wild animals and we should try to avoid contact. Most negative interactions with these species are preventable if we act responsibly and respectfully.

Though they aren't known for attacking humans, coyotes and foxes pose a risk to pets. Use a leash when walking your dog and supervise your pets whenever they're outside. Remember that cats should not be permitted to roam freely.

In order to reduce the likelihood of coyotes or foxes entering your property, never feed or leave food out for either of these species. It's also a good idea to remove water or food sources from your yard. For example, bird seeds, rotten fruit that has fallen to the ground and even garbage or compost can attract these animals either directly or because they support rodents which are a food source for coyotes and foxes.

Additionally, be sure to get rid of long grass, dead brush or woodpiles and to close off gaps underneath sheds or decks with wire screening as these provide potential den sites for coyotes or foxes.

If a coyote or fox does approach you, it's important to make yourself the bigger threat. Be as loud as possible, wave your arms, clap your hands, yell or make lots of noise. Don't turn your back or run away, keep this up until the animal leaves. This is called "hazing". However, you shouldn't haze foxes or coyotes with pups who maybe more protective of den locations in the spring. If a coyote is behaving aggressively or poses an immediate threat to safety, call 911.

If you encounter a coyote you believe to be sick or injured, please call the Oakville Humane Society at 905-845-1551. For more information and resources on coyotes, please visit the Town of Oakville's website at <https://www.oakville.ca/environment/featured-wildlife.html>.



# Planning mandated growth in Halton

The Provincial Growth Plan mandates that Halton plan to accommodate 1.1 million residents and 500,000 jobs by the year 2051. As more families and businesses choose to live and work here, Halton has been reviewing the Regional Official Plan to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the community today and in the future. It also ensures the Regional Official Plan is aligned with Provincial policies and remains responsive to current social, economic and demographic conditions.

The Region has prepared a Modified Preferred Growth Concept to help plan for long-term, sustainable development in Halton. The Concept:

- Accommodates growth to 2041 without urban boundary expansion: New homes and businesses in Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton or Oakville to 2041 will be located in existing communities, largely around strategic growth areas. A clear framework has been provided for when and how planned growth between 2041 and 2051 should be distributed.
- Helps preserve the natural environment and rural areas: Growth will be guided in a way that helps preserve agricultural lands and our Natural Heritage System and addresses climate change.
- Focuses on building a transit-supportive community: Growth will take place around key transportation routes for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians to ensure residents can easily travel to school, work and play.

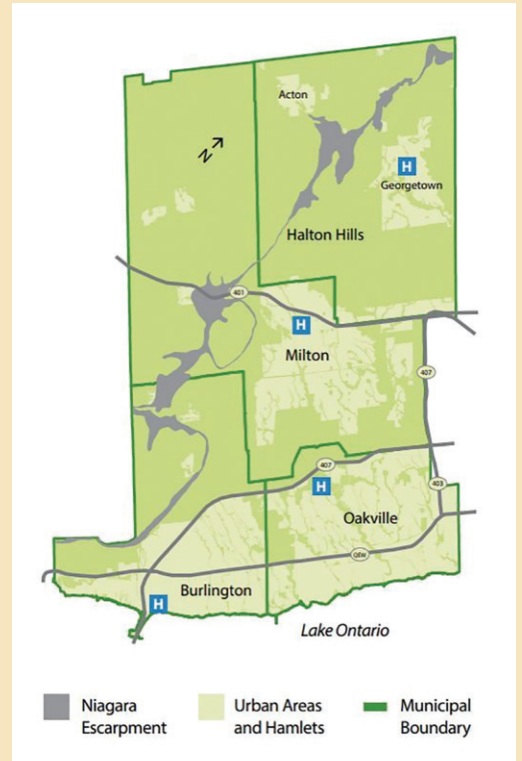
Regional Official Plan Amendment 49 (ROPA 49) advances this Modified Preferred Growth Concept. In April, residents were invited to ask questions and provide comments on ROPA 49 at a virtual Public Open House (see recording on [halton.ca/ropr](http://halton.ca/ropr)) or make a submission to Council at the virtual Statutory Public Meeting. Comments were also accepted via email or phone.

Staff will bring a recommendation report to Regional Council on June 15, 2022 to adopt ROPA 49 after reviewing comments and input. While the Council meeting had not yet been held at the time of this writing, if adopted as expected, the final Amendment will be forwarded to the Province for approval to meet the July 1, 2022 conformity deadline.

To learn more about ROPA 49, you can:

- visit the ROPA 49 webpage on [halton.ca/ropr](http://halton.ca/ropr); or
- sign up for email updates about the ROPR review process.

Thank you for your participation in our Regional Official Plan Review process!



# Oakville Tackling Climate Change

A recent report to town council showcased our commitment to fight climate change with robust mitigation strategies. In 2021, the Corporation of the Town of Oakville achieved 24.7% energy use reductions and 29.4% carbon emission reductions compared to 2014. Oakville's 2030 target was for 20% energy use reductions and 30% carbon emission reductions. The town is ready to surpass its original targets with all the planned projects and initiatives over the next few years.

The Town has adopted a new 2050 target to become a Net Zero carbon municipality from a corporate perspective given the existing progress and to be aligned with provincial and federal carbon emission frameworks. This will require more staff and community effort as Oakville's corporate portfolio includes facilities (such as Town Hall, community centres and arenas), municipal vehicle fleets and the Oakville Transit fleet. Within the next decade, Oakville will continue implementing projects that will help us meet the Net Zero target including:

- A bus electrification strategy to fully convert Oakville Transit vehicles by 2035 combined with a broader green fleet strategy to replace other municipal vehicles with electric versions
- Deep energy retrofits to tackle the use of fossil fuels in our largest facilities
- A renewable energy generation strategy to help offset increased utility costs from operational electrification

The Town looks forward to this challenge. We are getting all the pieces in place for a smooth and successful path towards 2050.





# Development Applications Highlights

LOCATION	APPLICATION	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
1226 -1230 White Oaks and 350 Lynnwood Drive	Kamato Holdings Ltd.	Zoning application approved for the demolition of the two-storey office/retail building and to allow the construction of a 20-storey rental building containing 203 new units. The existing parking structure is also to be removed. Currently going through the site plan process.
1949 Ironoak Way	Lions Foundation/ Dog Guides of Canada	Site plan application to permit the construction of a two-storey dog training facility. Application under review.
1005 Dundas St E and 3033 Eighth Line – Northeast corner of Eighth Line and Dundas	T&M International Investments Inc.	8 storey apartment building with 380 units. Site plan pending final approval.
2358 Eighth Line (at Ravineview Way)	Meadowridge Developers Inc.	Site plan applications for 2 single detached homes (Lots A and C).
North of Dundas – Mattamy (Joshua Creek)/Dunoak	Halton District School Board – North Oakville School #3	Rezoning to modify the regulations to permit an elementary school.
3006 William Cutmore and 1415 Dundas Street East	Mattamy (Joshua Creek) Ltd.	Application under review for two 12-storey mixed use buildings containing 328 units and 1,140 m <sup>2</sup> of commercial space. Foundation permit issued.
1429 Dundas St E.	Mattamy (Joshua Creek) Ltd. – Phase 3	Draft plan of subdivision and zoning amendment to create 1024 residential units including detached dwellings and townhouses, village square, neighborhood parks, elementary school. Phase 3 public hearing held December 7, 2020. Resubmission expected.
256, 260, and 294 Hays Boulevard and 271 Oak Park Boulevard	SmartCentres on behalf of SmartREIT	Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment application for two residential towers (27 and 30 storeys) with 585 residential units and 589.9 m <sup>2</sup> of commercial space. Public Meeting held September 13, 2021 with a staff report expected June 27, 2022.
377, 387 and 411 Dundas Street East (Northeast of Trafalgar and Dundas)	Oakvillage Block 14 – Daniels Emshih	Site plan application for three 15-storey residential buildings containing 697 units and 447 m <sup>2</sup> of retail space with minor variance application for increase in height and parking. Resubmission pending.
3064 Trafalgar Road	Distrikt	Site plan application for two 30-storey residential towers containing 698 units. Resubmission pending.

# Tom and Natalia in the community



Halton Interfaith Council prayer service for Ukraine at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church



Commemorating National Day of Mourning



Receiving appreciation from Goodwill Amity for pandemic leadership



Official summer exhibition opening at Oakville Galleries



Raising the Pride flag at Town Hall



Welcoming 2022 Oakville Fire Class recruits



Oakville Fire Prevention Officers



Visiting the renovated Coach House for Museum Month



D-Day Anniversary Parade



Welcoming Wisacre Studios to Ward 6