PLACES TO GROW

BETTER CHOICES. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

Planning for Growth
in the Greater Golden Horseshoe

October 28, 2008
Ontario Growth Secretariat
Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
Population Change 1996-2006

Source: Statistics Canada

Northwestern
Actual: -9100
% Decline: -3.7%

Northeastern
Actual: -23,800
% Decline: -3.8%

Western
Actual: +93,600
% Growth: +6.2%

Eastern
Actual: +118,100
% Growth: +8.0%

Central
Actual: +1,227,900
% Growth: +17.8%
Land Use Planning in Ontario

- Planning Act provides the legislative framework for land use planning in Ontario.
Land Use Planning in Ontario

• Provincial Policy Statement establishes province-wide planning policies.
• Articulates provincial interest in land use matters.
• Municipalities and other decision-makers shall “be consistent with” the policies in their decision-making on planning.
Land Use Planning in Ontario

- Provincial plans provide provincial direction for specific geographical areas of Ontario.
Ontario’s Greater Golden Horseshoe

- 12,000 square miles - centred around Toronto.
- Economic engine of Ontario.
  - Represents 70% of Ontario’s GDP.
- Covers 21 counties and regions, comprising 110 different municipal jurisdictions.
- Largest city region in Canada.
  - One quarter of Canada’s population (7.8 million people in 2001).
- One of the fastest growing urban regions in North America.
  - Forecast to grow by 3.7 million people and 1.8 million jobs by 2031.
Ontario’s Greater Golden Horseshoe

A highly diverse region:

• Highly urbanized Greater Toronto Area along the north shore of Lake Ontario.
  • Current population: 6 million people.

• Dozens of mid-sized cities and small towns.

• Some of the best agricultural lands in Canada.

• Cottage and resort areas in the northern part of the region.

• Important natural areas.
Benefits of a Growth Plan

Environmental
• Improved air quality.
• Reduced development pressures on natural areas and agricultural land.
• Clear connections between urban form and climate change.

Economic
• Global competitiveness.
• Reduced traffic congestion.
• Infrastructure savings.

Health
• Clear links between car-dependent communities and increased obesity rates, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.
Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Developing the Growth Plan

- “Places To Grow” initiative launched in the summer of 2004.
- Series of draft growth plans released, followed by multi-stakeholder workshops, public meetings and one-on-one meetings with key municipal and sectoral leaders.
- Internal coordination across provincial ministries that deal with land use and infrastructure planning.
- Review of over 200 other jurisdictions throughout the world.

April 2003

July 2004

February 2005

November 2005

June 2006
Places to Grow Act, 2005

• “Places To Grow Act” passed by Ontario Legislature in 2005.
  • Province-wide in scope.
  • Enables the Ontario government to develop growth plans for any area of the province.
  • Contains a flexible list of elements that a growth plan may contain.
  • Local planning decisions must conform to the Growth Plan’s policies.
  • Local official plans must be brought into conformity with the Growth Plan within three years of the Growth Plan’s release.
Growth Plan Objectives

• Create complete communities with more options for living, working, shopping and playing
• Revitalize downtowns to become vibrant centres
• Reduce traffic gridlock
• Providing greater choice in housing types
• Curb urban sprawl and protect farmlands and natural areas
Coordinate Growth Forecasts

- Allocates population and employment growth forecasts for each of the 21 counties and regions in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

- Municipalities required to use these forecasts as the basis for their local planning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Population 2021</th>
<th>Employment 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region of Durham</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region of York</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>1,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Toronto</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region of Peel</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>1,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region of Halton</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Hamilton</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,910</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,610</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Numbers rounded off as nearest 5,000 for MBR and HamOnt municipalities, and to nearest 1,000 for outer ring municipalities.

* Separate forecasts for three municipalities for 2021 and 2031 will be determined.

** Totals may not add up due to rounding.
Create “Complete Communities”

• More opportunities for shopping, entertainment, recreation and employment within easy access to people’s homes.
• Street configurations that are pedestrian and transit friendly.
• High-quality public spaces.
Infill and Redevelopment … Not Sprawl

• 40% of new residential growth inside the existing built-up area of each upper and single-tier municipality by 2015.

• The Province has delineated a built boundary that marks the built-up area.

• Built boundary will be used to monitor and implement the Growth Plan.

• All municipalities must prepare intensification strategies.
Revitalize Downtowns

• 25 downtowns identified as urban growth centres:
  • Mixed-use economic centres for surrounding area
  • Pedestrian/transit supportive
  • Focal points for regional services
  • Cultural identity and amenities
  • Key transportation nodes
• Minimum density targets that centres must plan to achieve by 2031.
Build Better Suburbs

• Future greenfield areas must be built at an average density of 20 people and jobs combined per acre.

• Greenfield development must create complete communities, with development patterns and street configurations that support transit services, walking, biking, parks and a mix of housing and jobs.

• Strict tests and criteria required for expansion of urban areas into rural countryside and natural areas.
Plan for Employment

- Municipalities will maintain adequate supply of lands providing for a variety of appropriate employment uses.
- Major office or appropriate institutional uses should be located in areas well served by transit.
- Municipalities may permit conversion of lands within employment areas, to non-employment uses, only through a municipal comprehensive review.
Increase Transportation Choices

• Transit supportive urban form in all communities.
• Transit is the first investment priority for moving people.
• Community design that supports walking and cycling.
• Highways to be used for moving goods.
Protect What is Valuable

- Taken together, policies in the Growth Plan direct development to existing settlement areas and reduce development pressures on important natural areas and agricultural lands.
- 1.8 million acre protected Greenbelt at the heart of the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- Create a culture of conservation (water, energy, waste).
Growth Plan Concept
Strong Commitment to Implementation

- The Province is moving forward with implementation of the Growth Plan on a number of fronts:
  - Municipal Conformity
    - Working with the 110 municipalities in the Growth Plan area to ensure official plan conformity by June 2009.
  - Implementation Analysis
  - Supportive Provincial Initiatives
    - Infrastructure Investment and Transportation Planning (Metrolinx.ca)
  - Provincial Real Estate Portfolio
  - Public Engagement
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www.placetogrow.ca