Population Change (1991-2011)

With the release of the first data from the 2011 Census, we can look at how the population has grown in our communities. The population of Halton Region increased by 14% between 2006 and 2011 and by more than 60% over the past twenty years from 1991 to 2011. As recorded in the 2011 Census, Halton’s population is now over half a million persons at 501,669. The growth rate in Halton is more than double the provincial average over the past five years.

For the first ten years (1991-2001), Halton’s population grew by 20%. Over 80% of the increase came from the Town of Oakville (48%) and the City of Burlington (34%). In the last ten years (2001-2011), the region’s population increased by 126,000 representing a growth rate of 34%. Over 40% of this increase occurred in the Town of Milton. The combined contribution from Oakville (30% growth) and Burlington (20% growth) diminished to 50%. The contribution from the Town of Halton Hills is about 9%.

Population change (1991-2011), Halton Region

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991-2011 Censuses
The population growth in Milton is phenomenal. For the second Census in a row, Milton was the fastest-growing municipality (Census Subdivision) in Canada. The growth between 2006 and 2011 occurred at an impressive rate of 56.5%. While this is less than the rate of 71.4% that Milton experienced between 2001 and 2006, it still meant that Milton’s population accounted for almost 50% of the Halton’s population increase over the past five years. Milton’s population now stands at 84,362, an increase of 30,473 since 2006. Oakville remains the largest municipality in Halton with 182,520 persons in 2011, followed by Burlington with 175,779 persons and Halton Hills as the smallest with 59,008 persons.

Between 2006 and 2011, among the six Census Divisions (Toronto, Durham, York, Peel, Halton and Hamilton) in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), Halton is the second fastest growing region after York Region (15.7%). Its growth rate also ranks second among the 49 Census Divisions in Ontario. The growth rates for the other three municipalities in Halton are 10.2% for Oakville, 6.9% for Burlington and 6.7% for Halton Hills.