

Ward 2—One of Ontario’s “Places to Grow.”

When it comes to growth and development—there’s certainly a lot going on in Ward 2. Have you ever wondered how it all got started?

In 2005, the Province of Ontario passed the Places to Grow Act. Its purpose was (and still is) to help the Ontario government plan for growth in a coordinated and strategic way. The passage of this legislation gave the Province specific authority to:

- Designate any geographic region of the province as a growth plan area.
- Develop a growth plan in consultation with local officials, stakeholders, public groups, and members of the public.
- Develop growth plans in any part of Ontario.

The Places to Grow Act led to the creation of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) the following year. One of the fastest growing regions in North America, the GGH is expected to grow by an additional 3.7 million (from 2001) to 11.5 million people by 2031—accounting for more than 80% of Ontario’s expected growth. This particular Plan optimizes the use of existing spaces (otherwise known as intensification) with a focus on urban growth centres since these areas can best accommodate additional people and jobs.

The Town is currently developing a new Official Plan under the Livable Oakville program to implement the Growth Plan for the GGH. This initiative will allow Oakville to realize its vision of being the most livable town in Canada by ensuring the development of a complete community including:

- A full mixture of housing types incorporating more affordable housing.
- A broad range of employment opportunities inclusive of office and industrial uses.
- Retail uses in a variety of forms such as historic main streets, malls and large format stores.

- An array of health and educational facilities that serve the entire population.
- Protection of the environment with an appropriate mixture of public parks and trails.
- A transportation system connecting Oakville to the broader region, while accommodating automobiles and encouraging the use of other modes of travel like transit, cycling and walking.

The Town of Oakville has undertaken 6 major studies that will continue to shape Livable Oakville. One specific study is The Plan for Kerr Village. An established downtown community, this location supports a wide range of businesses and housing types. The Plan for Kerr Village will update previous revitalization work and implement a course of action. Most importantly, it will focus on policy tools to guide land use. It will build upon the urban design character of the area and propose a revitalization scenario to carry out development over time.

Says Ward 2 Councillor Cathy Duddeck, “Councillor Oliver and I encourage our constituents to become involved in the planning process. Attend future public information meetings, read the information that’s available on the Town’s website and voice your concerns to your local resident’s association.” Council recently voted against removing the jog at St. Augustine and Maurice Drive and extending Mary Street to Herald Avenue. “Public input,” says Duddeck, “weighed heavily in our decision.”

The Kerr Village study area is in the Old Oakville Community within the approximate boundaries of the CN railway to the north, Lakeshore Road West to the south, Queen Mary Drive to the east, and Maurice Drive to the west. Visit <http://www.oakville.ca/officialplanreview.htm> to learn more about the Town’s Official Plan or status of The Plan for Kerr Village.