

OKN Neighbourhoods, Halton Municipalities and Census Tracts

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OKN Neighbourhoods

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What changed from the 2015 to the 2023 neighbourhood boundaries?

Halton Municipalities

Another way to visualize data.

Census Tracts

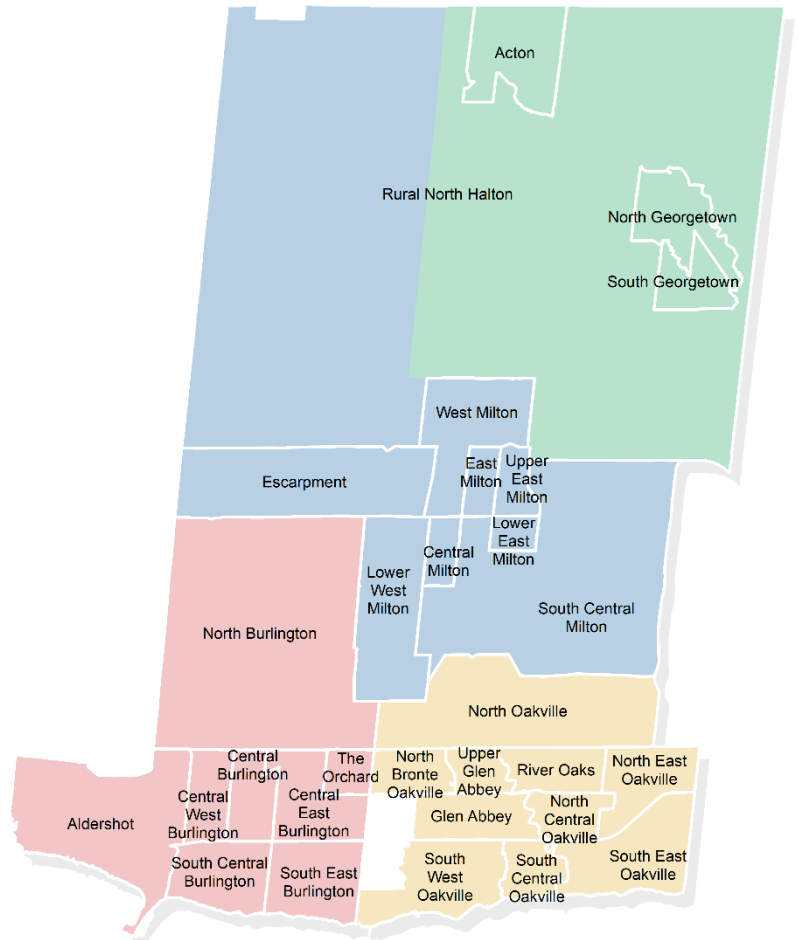
What are census tracts and how they can help you dive deeper.

OKN Neighbourhoods

What are OKN neighbourhoods and why they are important?

OKN Neighbourhoods allow OKN and its partners to collect, analyze, and share important local research, one of the hallmarks of OKN’s work in Halton. Research tells us that neighbourhoods and communities play a critical role in the healthy development of children and youth. OKN reports quality local data because of the important role that neighbourhoods play in child development. OKN and its partners conduct research, analysis, and share data by neighbourhood, using specific indicators for seven population results. OKN calls these the “Halton 7”, seven evidence-based conditions of well-being needed for children, youth, and families to thrive.

OKN Neighbourhood boundaries reflect Statistics Canada census boundaries and natural, transportation, municipal, and regional boundaries. As Halton’s population



changes and evolves, with new emerging demographic trends, OKN Neighbourhood boundaries are revised and updated. So far two updates were implemented, one in 2015, and another in 2023.

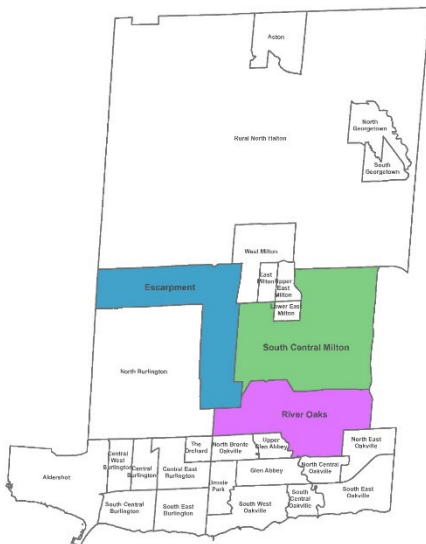
What changed from the 2015 to the 2023 neighbourhood boundaries?

OKN and its partners conducted community consultation and analysis of population changes in Halton.

- From 27 neighbourhoods, we moved to 30.
- Escarpment was split into Escarpment and Lower West Milton.
- South Central Milton was split into South Central Milton and Central Milton.
- River Oaks was split into North Oakville and River Oaks
- Rural North Halton remained unchanged as it was not possible to divide this neighbourhood and still meet the criteria of having at least two elementary schools in each neighbourhood.

See maps below for a quick comparison:

Before (2015 boundaries)



After (2023 boundaries)



For more information on the boundaries review process and criteria used, see [Neighbourhood Boundaries Update – 2023](#).

Halton Municipalities

Another way to visualize data

In 2024 the OKN Data Portal was updated to include maps by municipality. You can visualize maps for demographic data and more recent OKN surveys. In the future, OKN survey results will be released by neighbourhood and municipality, to ensure professionals and organizations in Halton find the maps they need, at the geography level required for their work.

Census Tracts

What are census tracts and how they can help you dive deeper.

Census tracts (CTs) are small geographic areas – usually smaller than neighborhoods – used by Statistics Canada to collect, present and analyse data.

While we have 30 OKN neighbourhoods, as of 2021, Halton Region has 131 CTs. Talk about an in-depth dive into Halton's data! This important update to the OKN Data Portal means you can use the data portal to explore recognized localities, zones and community spaces more easily. Now you can use the OKN Data Portal for more detailed social and demographic analysis, effectively providing a deeper understanding of community spaces.

For OKN surveys, the neighbourhood level is the smallest level available. However, all census and ON-Marg data available on the Data Portal are now available by CT. Are you ready for a deep dive into our 131 Halton census tracts?

Want to learn more about census tracts? Keep reading.

Census tracts are present in areas with a core population of 50,000 or more, and each CT usually comprises a population of 2,500 to 7,500 persons based on the prior census. Census tracts allow for more detailed economic and social analysis and are created in collaboration between Statistics Canada and committees of local specialists. For a list of rules guiding the creation of census tracts, see Illustrated Glossary - Census tract (CT).

Our communities are constantly evolving, and so is the need for nuanced insights. Statistics Canada may adapt its census tracts from one census year to the next, but census tract boundaries are relatively stable and can be used for data analysis and the study of trends over time.