

Neighbourhood boundaries update - 2023

Context and background: Our Kids Network partners, researchers, and community professionals have identified different neighbourhoods for the purpose of collecting, analyzing and sharing important local research - one of the hallmarks of OKN's work in Halton. Research is conducted, analyzed and shared 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.

In the early 2000s, 21 neighbourhoods were created. As Halton's population continues to evolve, neighbourhood boundaries need to be revised and updated. A first update happened in 2015, when neighbourhood boundaries were updated to 27 neighbourhoods. In 2023, population growth in some areas and community feedback on the need to revise some of the OKN neighbourhoods to account for evolving communities, led to the 2023 Neighbourhood Boundaries Update.

Scope and objectives of the OKN neighbourhood review:

- Determine whether any of the existing OKN neighbourhoods should be revised to better reflect population changes,
- Provide opportunity for community input into the process,
- Identify specific criteria to support decision-making,
- Develop and document the process and criteria for reviewing neighbourhood boundaries.

Methodology: a workgroup including OKN protocol partners in Children Services, Public Health, and OKN staff was established. The Children Services Research Team developed the proposal for this review, managed timelines and deliverables, and started the demographic analysis. Public Health provided support in data analysis to define the new boundaries and created an updated Postal Code Conversion File. OKN staff advised on the use and impact of boundaries and conducted community consultations with Community Safety and Wellbeing members, as well as OKN's Knowledge Translation & Research Committee.

To identify neighbourhoods needing revision, the workgroup analyzed community feedback from the engagement sessions, and analyzed population growth and Census data within the 0

to 17 age group across all neighborhoods The following criteria were used to support decision-making,:

- For a neighbourhood to match the requirements, it must have at least 50 children who are five years old,
- neighbourhood boundaries must be recognizable to the community residents,
- neighbourhoods must be created combining Statistics Canada dissemination areas,
- and neighbourhoods must contain at least two elementary schools.

Four areas were selected as possible neighbourhoods for revision and were brought forward for approval to the OKN Knowledge Translation and Research Committee. Once the new boundary recommendations were approved, OKN staff developed a short survey to select names for the new neighbourhoods, and members of the Knowledge Translation & Research Committee participated in the name selection.

Results: Three neighborhoods—River Oaks, South Central Milton, and Escarpment— were selected for further analysis due to their larger 0 to 17 populations, and one neighbourhood was considered for further analysis based solely on community feedback (Rural North Halton).

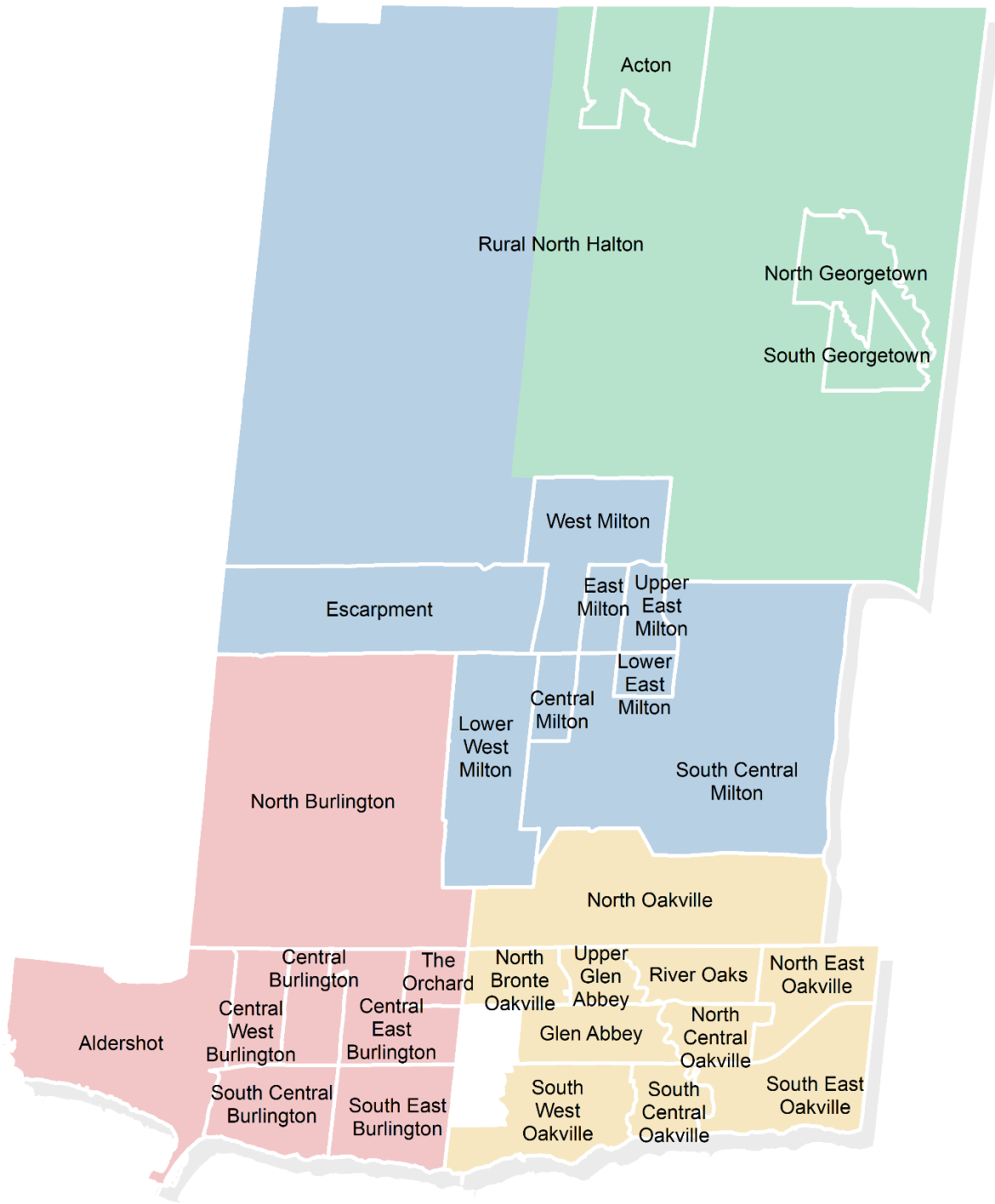
The population figures for the 0 to 17 age range in River Oaks, South Central Milton and Escarpment were rather large compared to other neighbourhoods. Considering new census tracts added in 2021, five and four census tracts were added to South Central Milton and Escarpment, respectively. River Oaks census tracts had not changed, but this was the OKN neighbourhood with the highest 0 to 17 population, including the high-growth area of North Oakville, and had already been appointed in community feedback as a neighbourhood to be revised due to its evolving communities.

The area of Rural North Halton was also included for further analysis as community members had put this neighbourhood forward for boundary review. However, for Rural North Halton, the workgroup was unable to revise existing boundaries due to the absence of population growth for the 0-17 age group and the fact that there is only one elementary school in the area that covers Milton, which would prevent OKN from releasing data for that area.

Resulting boundaries: The update resulted in moving from 27 OKN neighborhoods to 30. Escarpment was split into Escarpment and Lower West Milton. South Central Milton was split into South Central Milton and Central Milton, and River Oaks was split into North Oakville and River Oaks (see maps below).

Considerations: An updated Postal Code Conversion File was developed. The OKN Data Portal has been updated to accommodate the new boundaries while maintaining access to data from previous years.

2023 OKN Neighbourhoods



Changes from the 2015 to the 2023 OKN Neighbourhood boundaries:

2015



2023

