

PLACES TO GROW

BETTER CHOICES. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

Planning for Growth

Understanding the Growth Plan
for the Greater Golden Horseshoe



Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal



Places to Grow

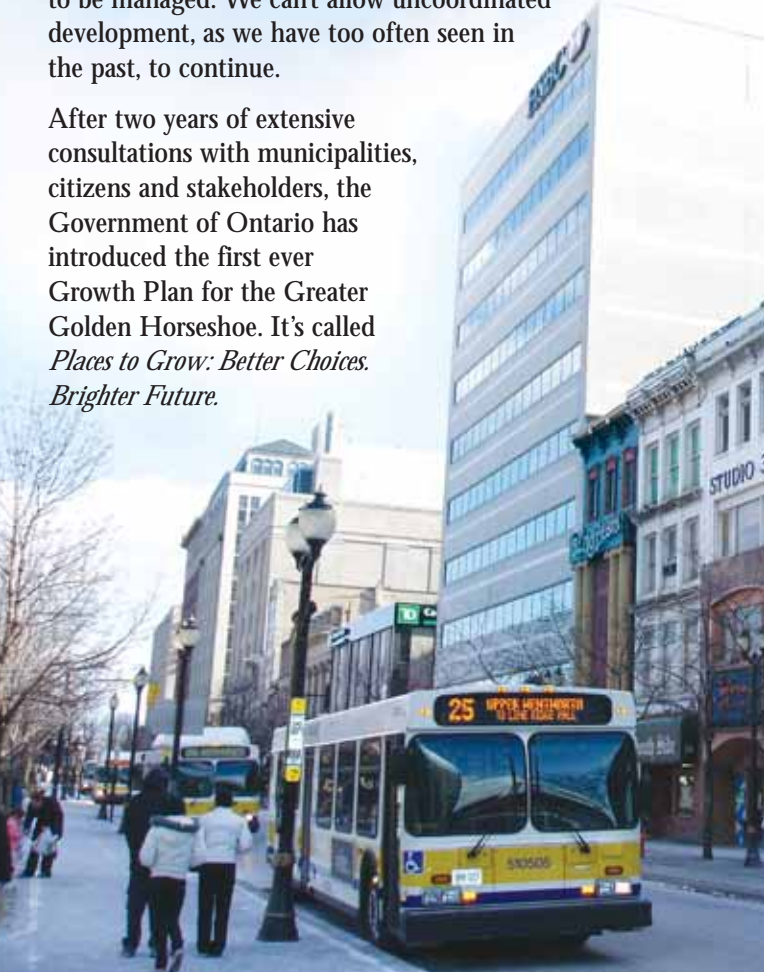
Better Choices. Brighter Future.

Planning for growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe

The Greater Golden Horseshoe is one of the most important regions in Canada – economically and culturally. With Toronto at its centre, this region stretches around Lake Ontario from Niagara Falls to Peterborough. It is home to more than eight million people. And it's growing.

Population growth is welcome – it brings jobs, opportunities and innovative new ideas. But this growth needs to be managed. We can't allow uncoordinated development, as we have too often seen in the past, to continue.

After two years of extensive consultations with municipalities, citizens and stakeholders, the Government of Ontario has introduced the first ever Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. It's called *Places to Grow: Better Choices. Brighter Future.*



Why do we need a Growth Plan?

The Greater Golden Horseshoe is already the fastest growing urban region in Canada. By 2031, close to four million more people and almost two million more jobs are forecasted to come to this region.



If properly planned, this growth is good for our economy. It will provide skilled workers, attract new investment and create new opportunities. It will increase the diversity and improve the quality of life in our communities.

It will also help make sure that the Greater Golden Horseshoe continues to be an important centre of business, manufacturing, agriculture, research, education and culture.

But we need to plan for this growth.

Without a plan, we will experience more of the adverse effects that are already occurring, such as traffic gridlock, urban sprawl, loss of farmland and dwindling natural areas. Furthermore, research shows a direct connection between urban sprawl – which creates too much dependence on the automobile – and obesity, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other health problems.

We need a plan that will reap the benefits of growth, while avoiding the pitfalls. The Government of Ontario has introduced such a plan.



The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe is a comprehensive, 25-year strategy to maximize the benefits of growth and maintain our high quality of life. It is a plan to



grow in a more complete way – so communities offer a good mix of places to live, work, shop and play. It is a plan that will create communities where it is easier for people to walk, bike or take transit to get around.

Key elements of the Growth Plan

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe sets clear, region-wide standards for growth and development, while giving local governments the flexibility they need to address local circumstances.

The Plan

► Provides coordinated population and job growth forecasts for municipalities to help them plan for new residents and new employment opportunities.

► Encourages revitalization of downtowns and city centres, making them more vibrant, people-oriented and attractive.

► Reduces development pressures on agricultural lands and natural areas by directing more growth to existing urban areas.

► Ensures that new development helps create complete communities that offer more choices in housing, better transit and a range of amenities like shops, schools, entertainment and services that are closer to where people live.

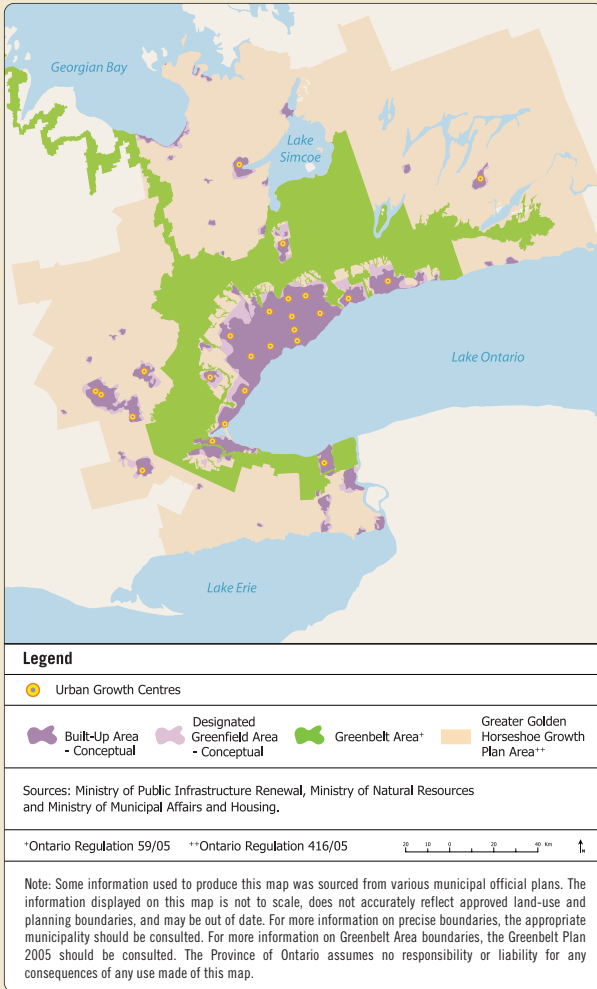
► Identifies 25 downtown locations as urban growth centres that will be revitalized as community focal points, centres of culture and recreation and economic generators. These centres will also support transit and the economy of the surrounding area.

► Complements the province's new Greenbelt Plan, which protects 1.8 million acres of valuable farmland and natural areas at the heart of the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

► Encourages an integrated transit and transportation network that offers people more choices for getting from place to place.

► Links planning for growth with planning for infrastructure, so that the roads, sewers, schools and other services are in place to meet the needs of growing communities.





The Government of Ontario has a vision for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

More than anything, the Greater Golden Horseshoe will continue to be a great place to live. Its communities will be based on the pillars of a strong economy, a clean and healthy environment and social equity. It will offer a wide variety of choices for living, working and enjoying culture. Getting around will be easy. Clean air, land and water will characterize the region. Farming will be productive, diverse and sustainable. The Greater Golden Horseshoe will be a place where residents enjoy a high standard of living and an exceptional quality of life.

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe is a major step toward making this vision a reality.

GGH Urban Growth Centres

Downtown Barrie	Mississauga City Centre
Downtown Brantford	Newmarket Centre
Downtown Cambridge	Midtown Oakville
Downtown Guelph	Downtown Oshawa
Downtown Peterborough	Downtown Pickering
Downtown St. Catharines	Richmond Hill/ Langstaff Gateway
Downtown Brampton	Vaughan Corporate Centre
Downtown Burlington	Downtown Toronto
Downtown Hamilton	Etobicoke Centre
Downtown Kitchener	North York Centre
Uptown Waterloo	Scarborough Centre
Markham Centre	Yonge-Eglinton Centre
Downtown Milton	

For a copy of the Growth Plan and for more information visit the website:
www.ontario.ca/placestogrow

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