

Population Growth

From 2016 to 2021, the City of Hamilton's population increased from 536,917 to 569,353, a 6% increase. The 6.0% increase surpassed Ontario's 5.8% population growth over the same period and surpassed Hamilton's 2011 to 2016 growth percentage by 3%. (Statistics Canada, 2022a) Hamilton's population has been steadily increasing since 2011 and with that the population's age structure has changed. The most notable change in Hamilton's age structure since 2011 is the continued growth of the senior population (age 55+). This generation was responsible for much of Hamilton's school infrastructure growth from the 1950's to the 1970's and is now contributing to Hamilton's and Ontario's overall aging population.

Another significant change in Hamilton's age structure since 2011 that has and will impact school age student population is the 27% increase in the 25-39 age cohort. Recent statistics have indicated that childbearing has become more popular for woman in their late 20s and early 30s (Statistics Canada, 2015). Growth in the childbearing age cohorts over the past 10 years has had a positive impact the number of children aged 0-14. The 0-4 and 5-9 age cohorts have increased 6% and 9.6% since 2011. Growth in the 0-4 cohorts and other factors such as immigration has resulted in a slow and stable growth in HWDSB kindergarten and primary aged students since 2011.

With a growing 0-4 age cohort, growth in the kindergarten and primary aged cohorts, it is expected that HWDSB's elementary enrolment will remain stable in many existing neighbourhoods and grow in areas of new development.

Fertility

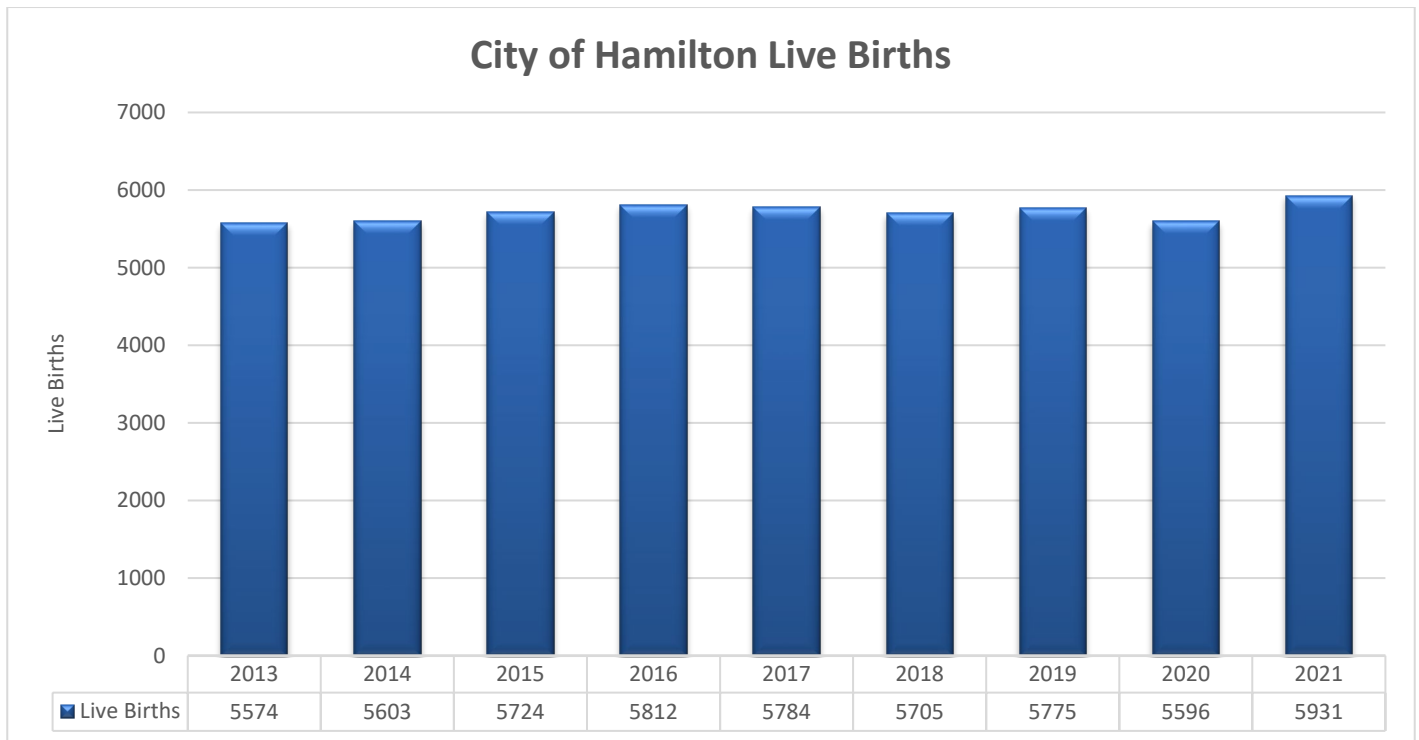
Fertility rate of an existing population is one the main driving factors in population growth. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the total number of children born per woman if they were to reach the end of their childbearing years. The TFR in Canada and throughout the world has fallen drastically over the past 70 years. In 2022, Ontario's estimated total fertility rate was 1.27 children per woman which decreased from 1.52 in 2016. (Statistics Canada, 2024) This is significantly lower than the peak baby boom era fertility rate reached 3.8 children per woman. The replacement population TFR is 2.1 children per woman, meaning for a population to maintain its current level each woman in their childbearing years must have on average 2.1 children. Due to Canada's and Ontario's lower fertility rate, the country and province will be dependent on immigration and migration to maintain population growth.

Recent demographics have indicated that the family creation process is occurring later in life which directly impacts the number of children each family may have. In 1991, Ontario's the average age of mother at childbirth was 28.4 years old while in 2021 it was 32.1 years old. Over this same period the TFR fell from 1.7 to 1.37. (Statistics Canada, 2023) The age 30-34 cohort increased to one of the largest 5-year cohorts in Hamilton in 2021. This again indicates that number of births in Hamilton should at a minimum remain stable and could potentially grow as larger cohorts move into the typical childbearing years.

2024 Long-Term Facilities Plan Section 1.1: Community Profile

The number of live births per year in Ontario has generally been decreasing since the early 1990s. In the early 1990s Ontario was averaging approximately 150,000 live births per year. Throughout the 1990s the number fell drastically to less than 130,000 per year but since 2010 has stabilized averaging approximately 140,000 births per year. (Statistics Canada, 2023)

In Hamilton, the number of live births between 2013 and 2021 has shown the same recent stable trends as the province. The chart below indicates the number of live births in Hamilton since 2013. Residents of Hamilton have been averaging approximately 5,700 live births per year since 2013 with 2021 producing the most live births over that period of time. (Better Outcomes Registry Network, 2023)



(Better Outcomes Registry Network, 2023)

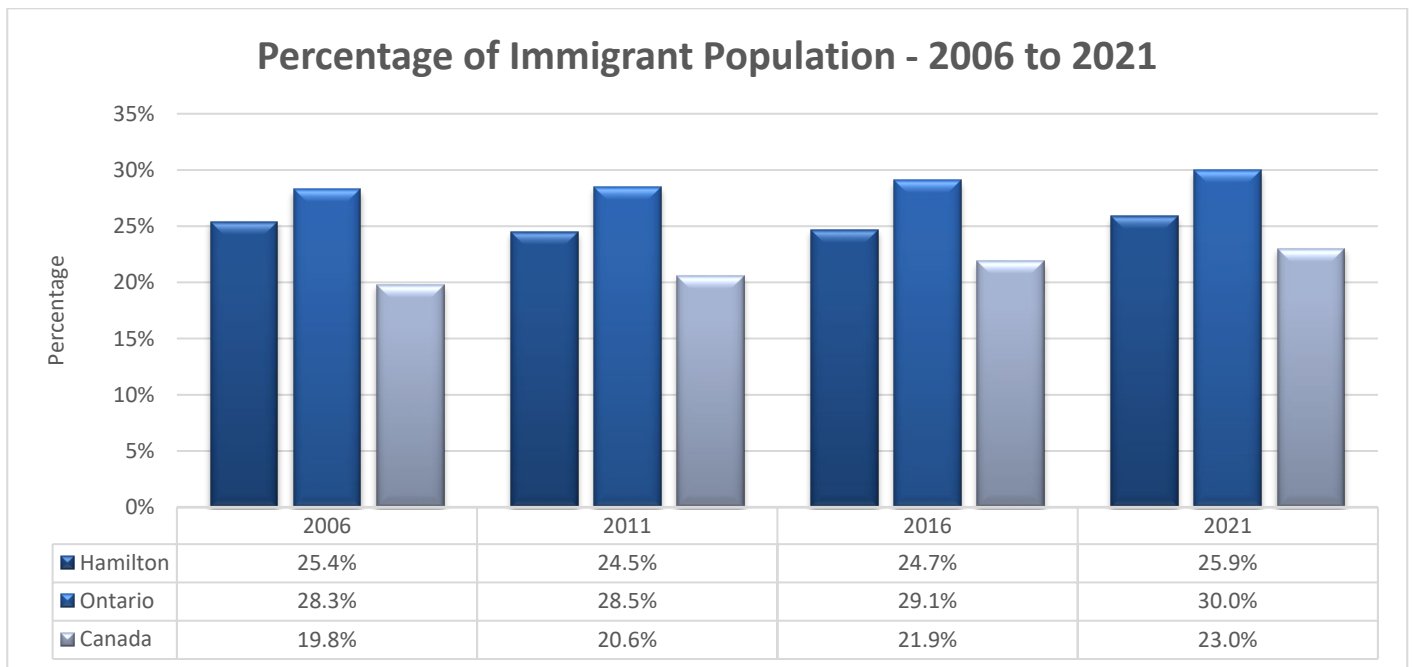
Areas with the highest count of live births since 2013 include Binbrook, Winona, Upper Stoney Creek and Downtown Hamilton which includes Bennetto, Central, Dr Davey and Queen Victoria (Better Outcomes Registry Network, 2023). Schools within these geographic regions typically yield some of the largest Kindergarten enrolments in the Board. Historic enrolment projections also provide an insight into the anticipated future kindergarten enrolment in an area. Historic enrolment trends are reviewed annually to ensure JK projections are in line with the ongoing trends in a community.

HWDSB will continue to monitor live birth data and historic enrolment to inform enrolment projections and ensure they are trending in the same manner.

Immigration and Mobility

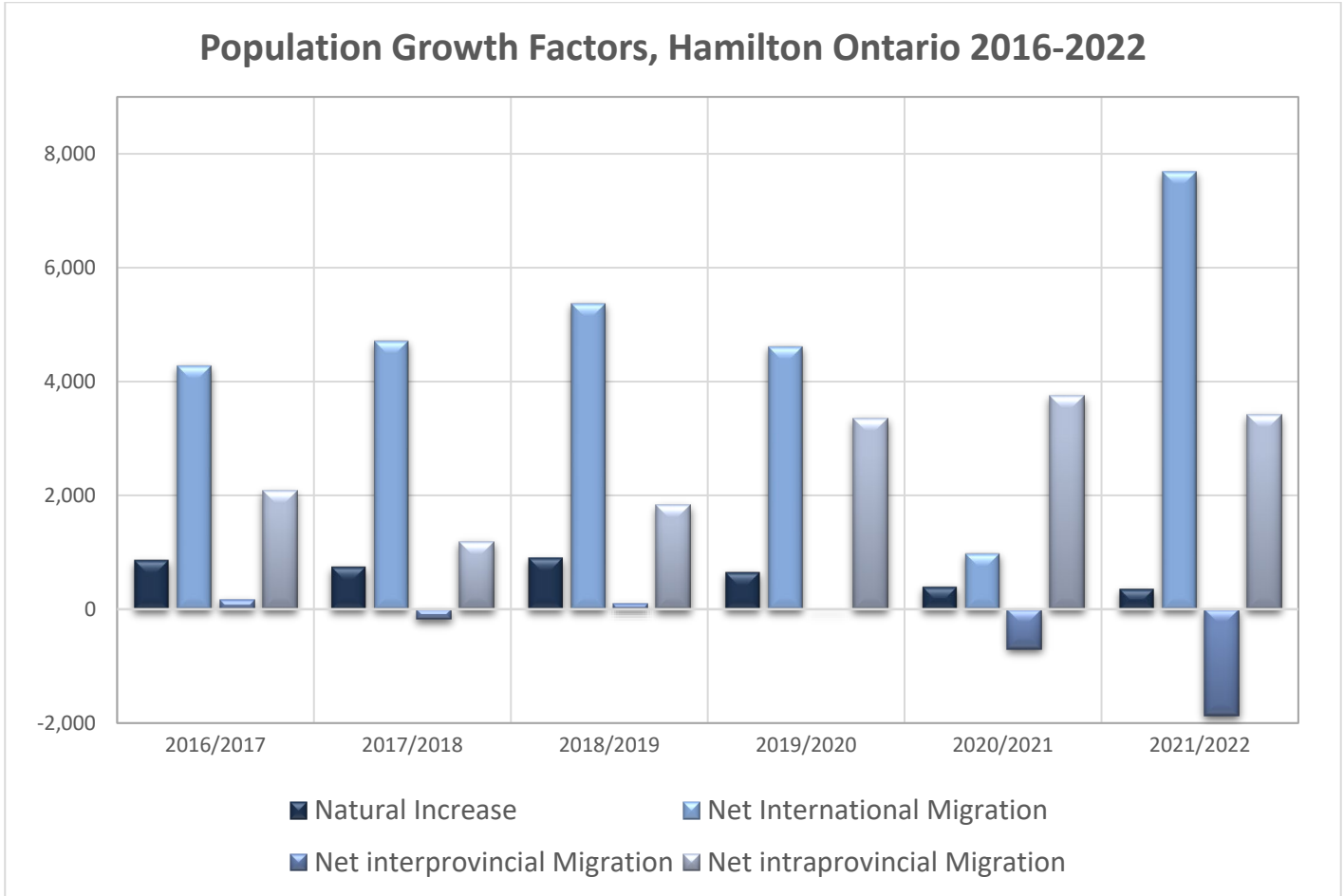
Immigration is the main driving force of Canada’s, Ontario’s and Hamilton’s population growth. According to the 2021 census, approximately 26% of Hamilton’s population identified themselves as a newcomer and 2.3% were non-permanent residents. Compared to Ontario, approximately 30% of people identified themselves as newcomers and 2.8% were non-permanent residents. Between 2016 and 2021, approximately 20,145 newcomers settled in Hamilton. Between 2011 and 2016 only 13,150 newcomers settled in Hamilton. (Statistics Canada, 2023a)

Since 2006, on average 25% of Hamilton’s total population have been identified as immigrants. This indicates that the number of newcomers settling in Hamilton over the past 15 years has remained consistent relative to the population of Hamilton. The chart below depicts Hamilton’s percentage of immigrant population in comparison to Ontario and Canada. Hamilton’s percentage of immigrant population has been consistently higher than the Canadian average yet lower than the Ontario average. Areas with the highest percentage of immigrant population in Ontario are in the Greater Toronto Area. Percentages of immigrants in the Regions of York, Peel and City of Toronto range from 46-51%. (Statistics Canada, 2023a)



(Statistics Canada, 2023a)

Mobility data takes into account not only the number of international migrants but also the number of people who move in and out of Hamilton from other provinces, cities, towns and municipalities. From July 2021 to July 2022, census Canada estimates that Hamilton’s population grew by approximately 9,600. These estimates consider natural increase (births vs deaths), net international migration, net intraprovincial migration (within Ontario) and net interprovincial migration (outside of Ontario but within Canada). Below is a 6-year history of Hamilton’s population growth factors.



(Statistics Canada, 2023a)

The chart above shows that Hamilton’s net international migration numbers continue to trend upwards. July 2021 to July 2022 was a 5 year high with approximately 7,700 newcomers moving to Hamilton within that one-year period. The chart also shows the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on population. In 2020/21 net international migration was well below the 5-year average as government mandated reduced immigration. The number of intra and interprovincial migration changed starting in 2019-2020. Due to government mandating remote working polices, many people decided to move away from major urban centres in favour of smaller communities. Starting in 2020 the chart above depicts a significant change in intraprovincial migration as Hamilton benefited from many people’s decision to leave the Greater Toronto Area. The following two years of data showed a similar number of people moving to Hamilton from other Ontario communities, but it also showed a large number of people leaving the province based on the interprovincial migration data. Overall, the net change in population has been positive for Hamilton.

The overall impact of the pandemic and newly formed demographic mobility trends will continue to have an impact on Hamilton’s overall population including school aged children. Planning and accommodation will continue to track large scale demographic changes and the impacts to school level enrolment. New trends will be incorporated into future sets of enrolment projections.

Population Projections & Growth Management

According to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, by 2051, the City of Hamilton is expected to grow and achieve a population of 820,000 with 332,000 homes.

	2021 Census	2031	2041	2051
Population	569,353	652,000	733,000	823,000
Dwellings	222, 805	258,000	295,000	332,000

(Hemson Consulting LTD., 2020)

A Place to Grow provides a framework for growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) and outlines where and how the region will develop land over the next 30 years. The basic goal of the growth plan is to ensure lands are developed to meet the current and future needs of the community while protecting environmentally sensitive and resource abundant areas. Current and future land use needs include lands for employment, housing, agriculture, infrastructure and services. The Plan outlines minimum intensification and density target requirements which municipalities must plan to achieve. Municipalities are also required to conform to the Provincial Policy Statement and other provincial land use planning documents which are specific to certain geographic areas of Ontario. In addition to the Growth Plan for the GGH, the City of Hamilton must also conform with the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Parkway Belt West Plan.

All municipalities including Hamilton have an Official Plan which guides both short and long-term land use planning using Hamilton’s area specific policies, values and interest but also incorporates the framework of the above-mentioned Provincial Plans. In November 2021, City of Hamilton submitted a no urban boundary expansion Official Plan to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMHA). In November 2022, the MMAH released a decision to modify the Official Plan which among other items included urban expansion areas. On December 6, 2023, the Province of Ontario officially rescinded the majority of the provincial modifications to Hamilton Official Urban Plan which restored the City of Hamilton’s no urban boundary expansion growth strategy approved by City Council in June 2022. The no urban boundary expansion plan means that all residential and employment development will be within the current urban boundary and will focus on intensification. Based on the decision to not expand the urban boundary the percentage of new development constructed within a built-up area between 2031 and 2051 will be above 80%. Due to the limitation that intensification puts on residential development it is expected that under this direction the majority of new development would be in the form of medium and high density (townhome and apartment units) with limited lower density housing options.

Although the City did not approve the expansion of the urban boundary through Municipal Comprehensive Review and Official Plan Review there is still the opportunity for developers to initiate urban boundary expansion through an application process. The new boundary expansion process was initiated through The Provincial Growth Plan in 2019 which introduced a policy that will allow for boundary expansion to occur outside the MCR process. HWDSB will continue to monitor implementation of the proposed changes to the City’s Official Plan and growth management strategy and review their impacts to current and projected enrolment when finalized.

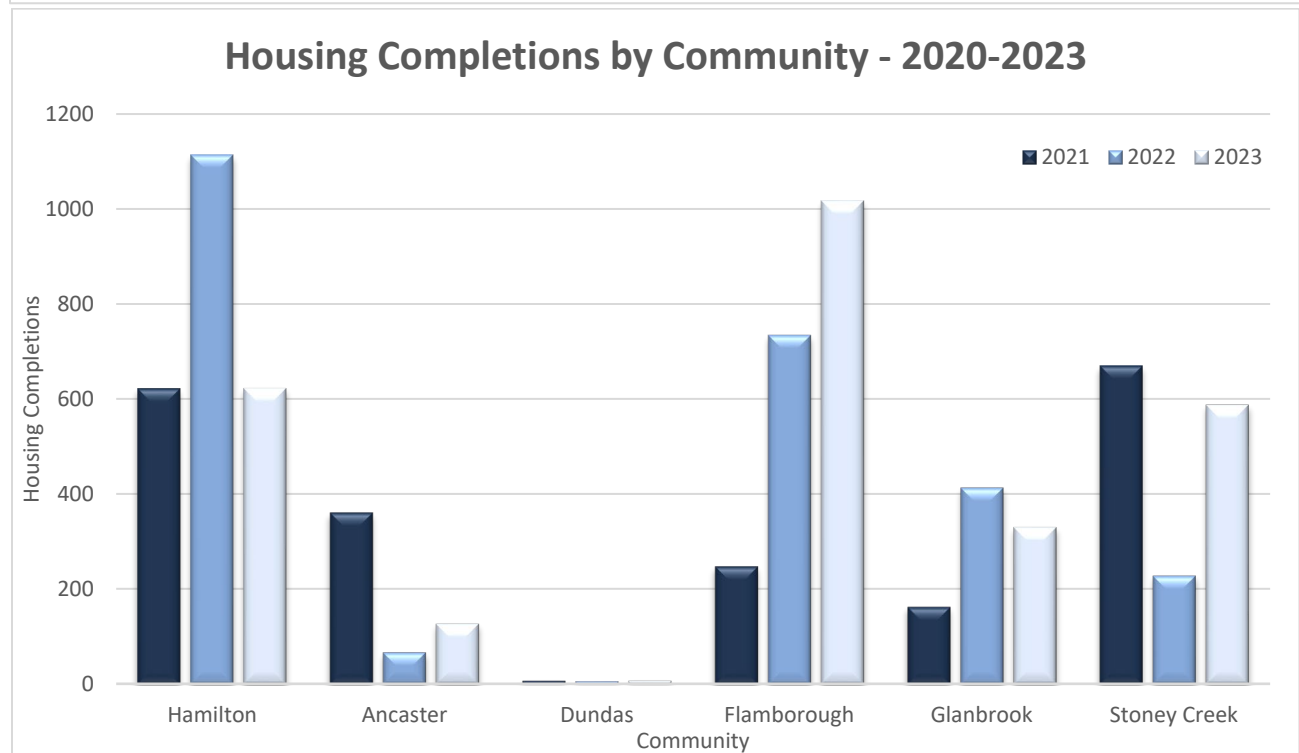
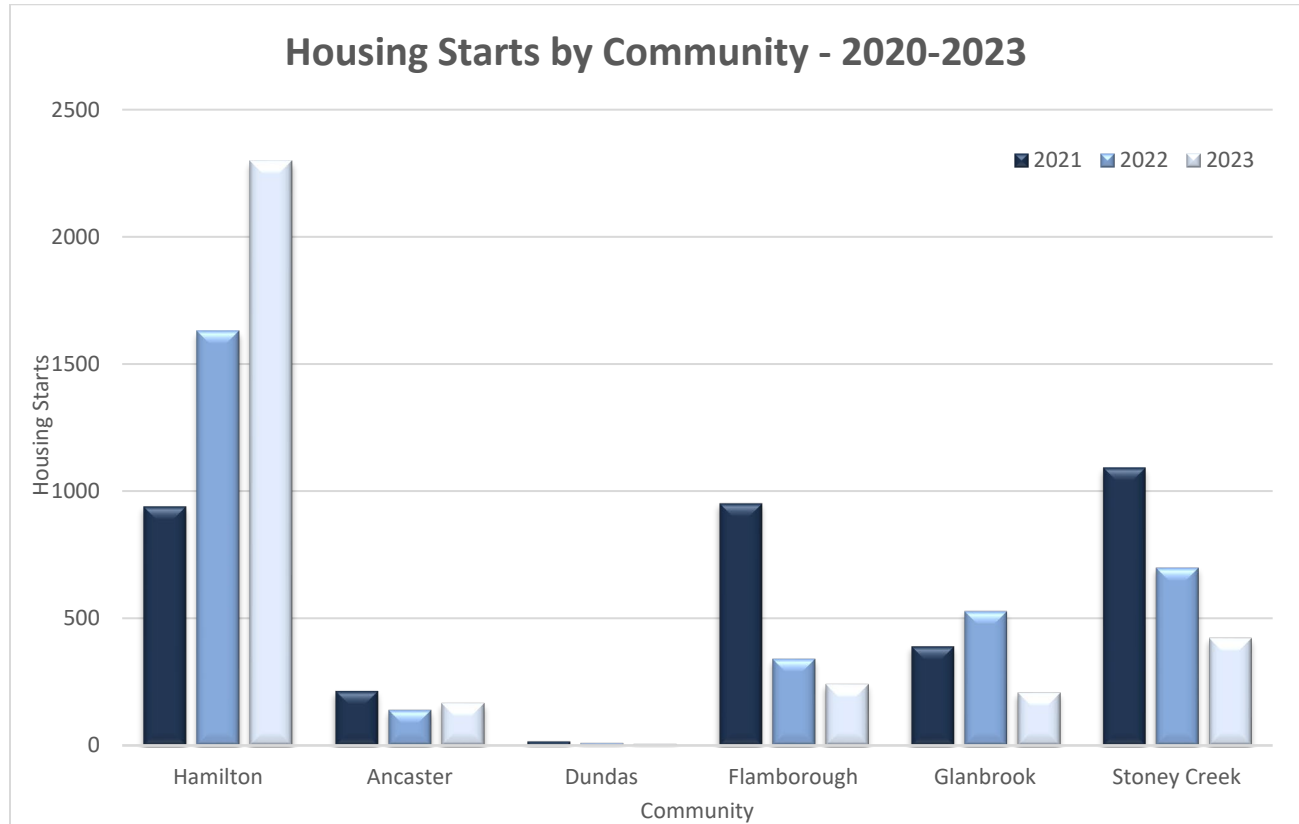
Residential Development

Tracking residential development is important in the formation of enrolment projections. Ensuring that projected enrolments account for future housing developments allows for Planning and Accommodation to have a proactive approach in areas of the city with new development. Determining the potential timing of residential development requires continuous monitoring.

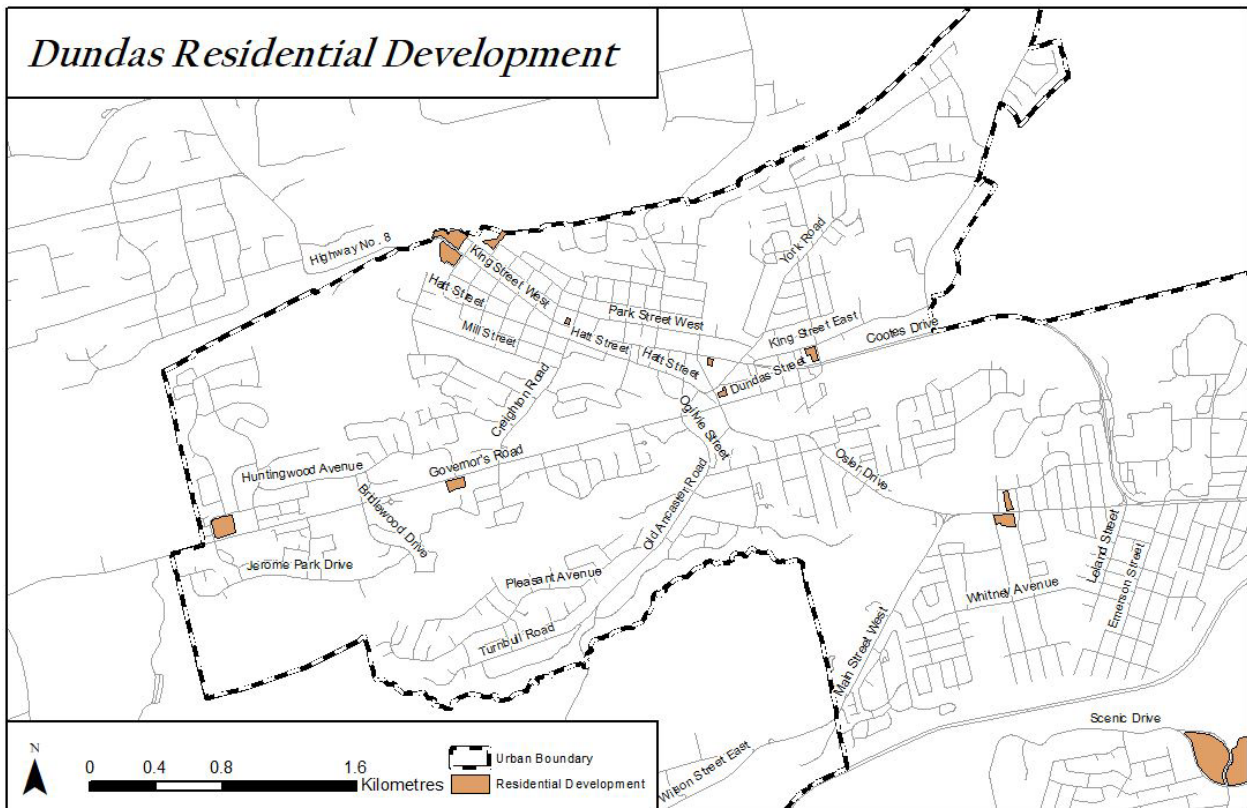
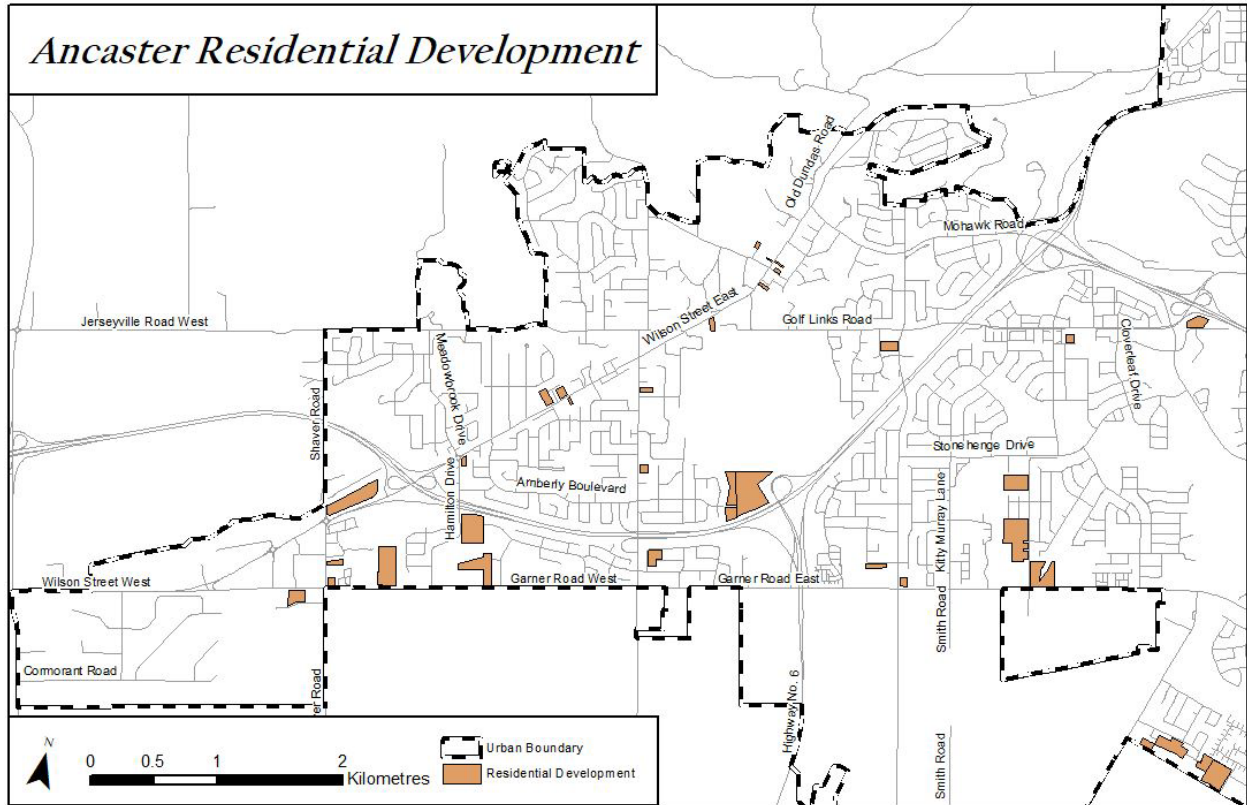
From 2020 to 2022 Hamilton averaged approximately 1,694 building permits for new one/two family dwellings, row housing and apartments (City of Hamilton, 2024). In 2023, the City of Hamilton issued 1,892 permits for new one/two family dwellings, row housing and apartments which is a 12% increase from the previous three-year average. The total value of the residential permits for new row dwellings and apartments continues to increase each year, indicating a shift towards higher density dwellings in Hamilton's new neighbourhoods.

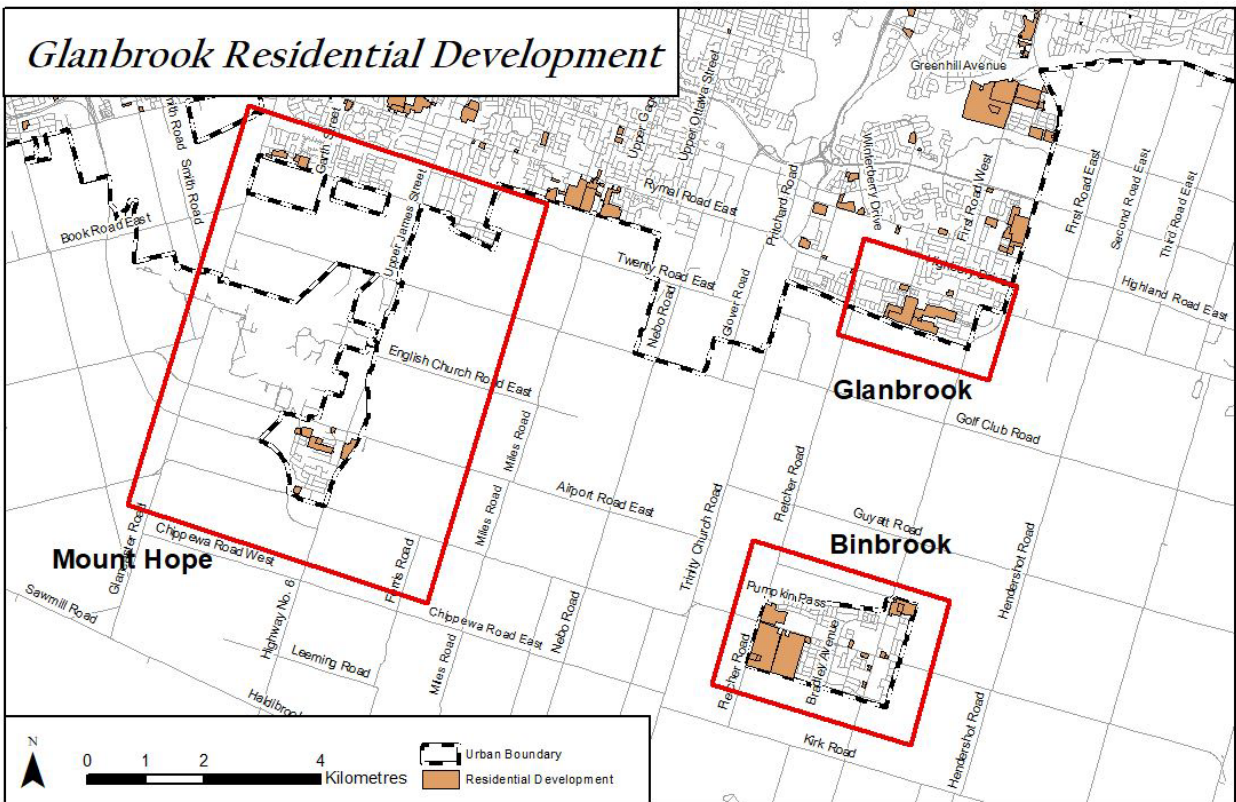
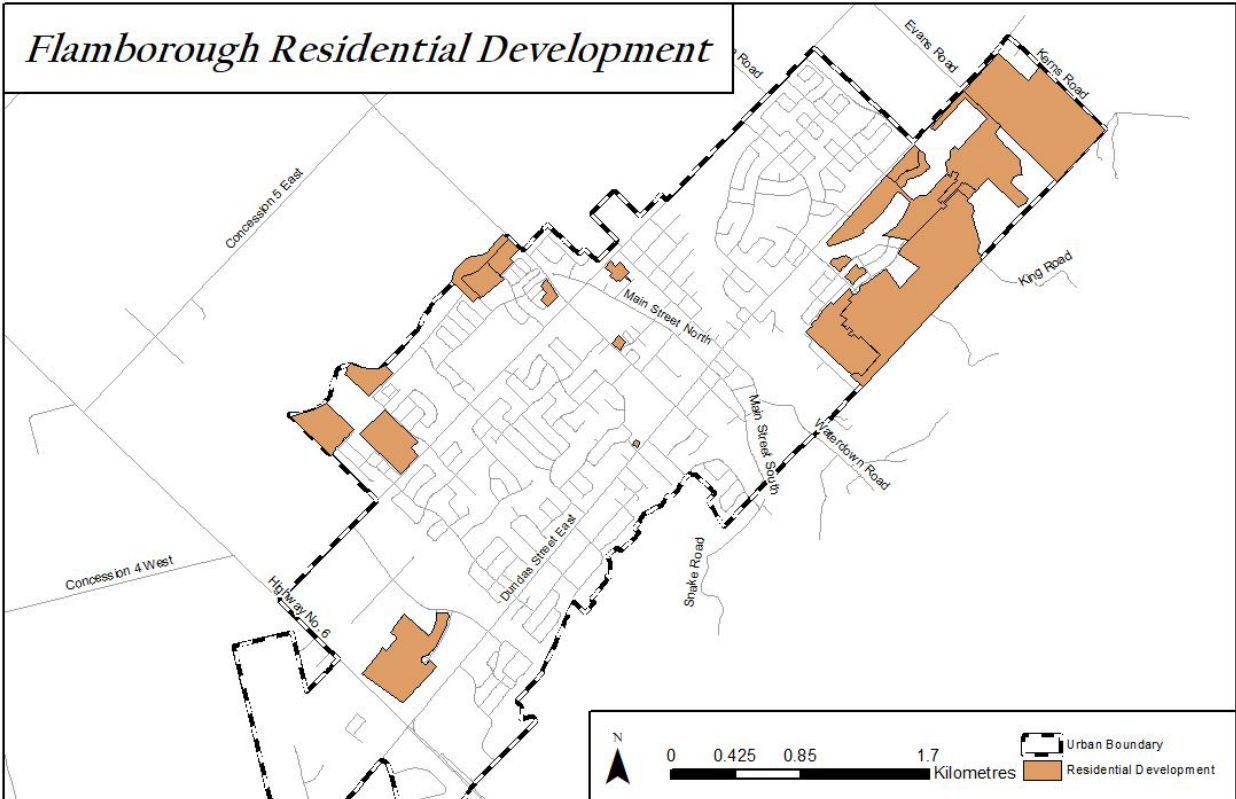
The City of Hamilton averaged over 2,324 housing completions per year from 2020 to 2022 (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2024). In 2023, there were nearly 2,700 housing completions. Of the 2,700 completions, row housing and apartments accounted for 2,000 or approximately 73%. As seen in the graphs on the next page, the former city of Hamilton geographic area accounted for the majority of housing completions in 2023. Most of the growth came from apartments units which is a newer trend for Hamilton in comparison to previous years. CMHC apartment starts and completions data aligns with the increased value in apartment building permits collected by the City of Hamilton. Limited vacant residential land and the no urban boundary expansion growth plan in Hamilton has changed the composition of new neighbourhoods from predominantly single-family homes to neighbourhoods with a combination of single-family, semidetached, townhouses and mixed-use buildings. The trend of higher density housing is expected to continue based recent building permit data, CHMC data, and development applications circulated by the City of Hamilton. In 2023, housing starts remained consistent with the previous year's value. The overwhelming majority of the housing starts were apartment buildings, accounting for 76% of housing starts in 2023. 17% of housing starts were row housing with only 8% were single family and semis again signalling the move away from single family homes as the predominant new housing built form. Apartment buildings typically yield a low number of students and historically have not had a significant impact on school enrolment. Staff continue to monitor yields from apartment units and will adjust projections as new trends occur.

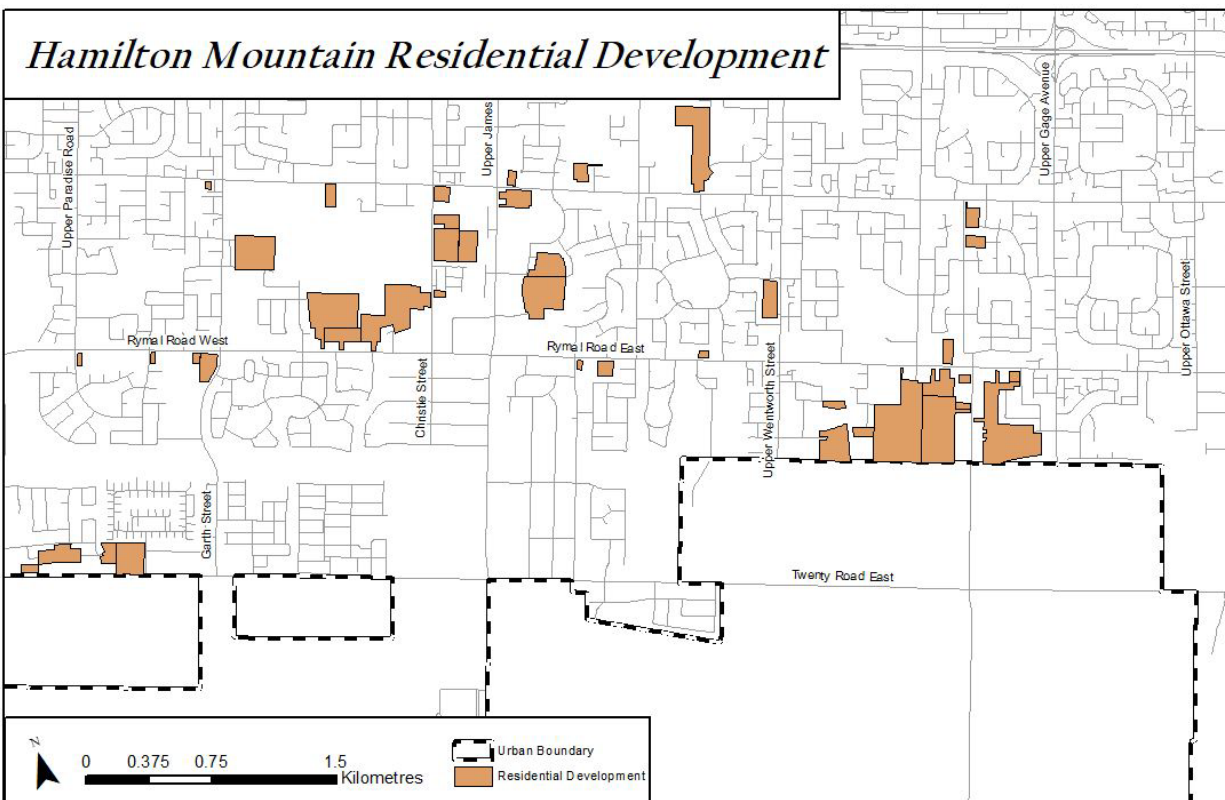
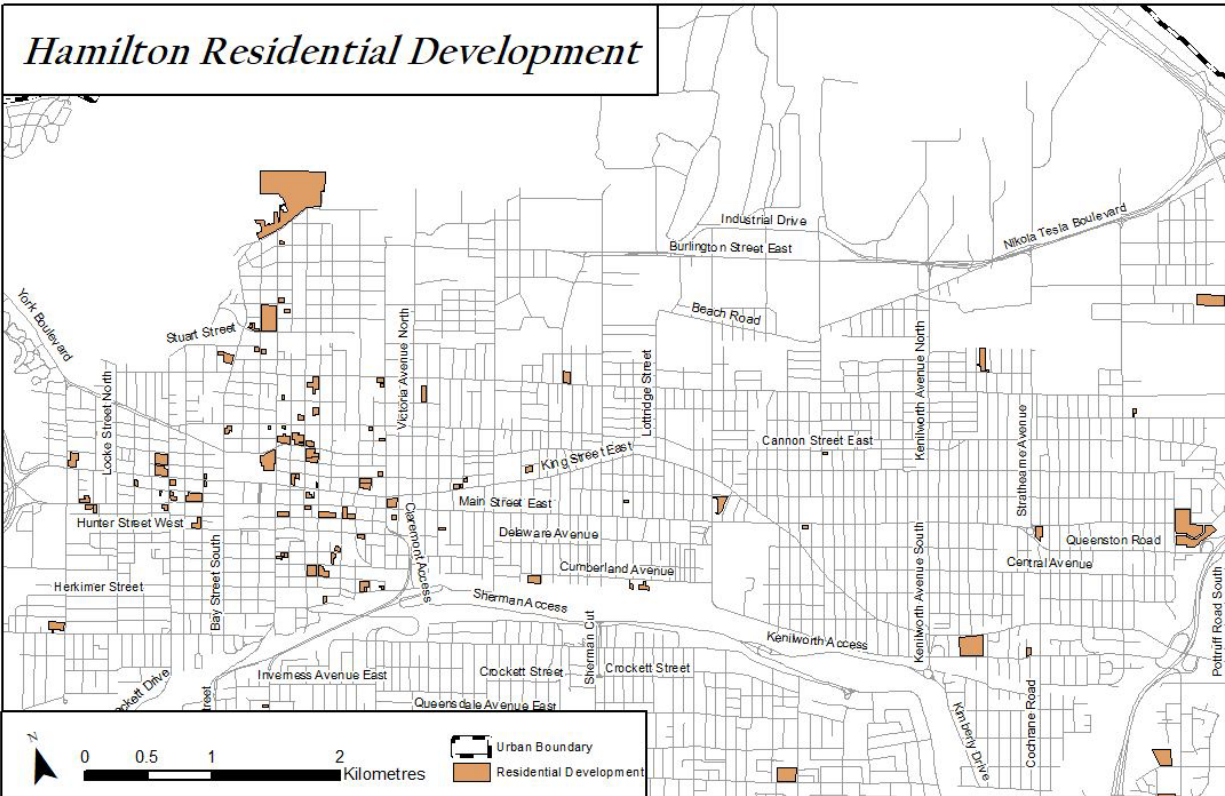
Based on municipal housing data and development applications, schools in Upper/Lower Stoney Creek, Binbrook and Flamborough will continue to have accommodation pressures until new facilities can be constructed. The Ministry of Education has approved the construction of a second 615 pupil place K-8 school in the Binbrook community. Once the identified school site is registered and purchased by HWDSB, construction can commence. In 2021, the MOE approved construction of a new K-8 facility in Upper Stoney Creek to alleviate enrolment pressure and replace Tapleystown. HWDSB purchased a school site in Waterdown within the Waterdown Bay subdivision and received funding for a new school in April 2024. HWDSB also received funding in April 2024 for a 178-pupil place addition at Mount Hope elementary to accommodate enrolment growth from residential development. An additional site in Winona has been identified through the City of Hamilton's secondary plans. HWDSB will purchase this site once available. On pages 8-11 of this section are maps illustrating the lands that have been identified through the City of Hamilton development circulations.

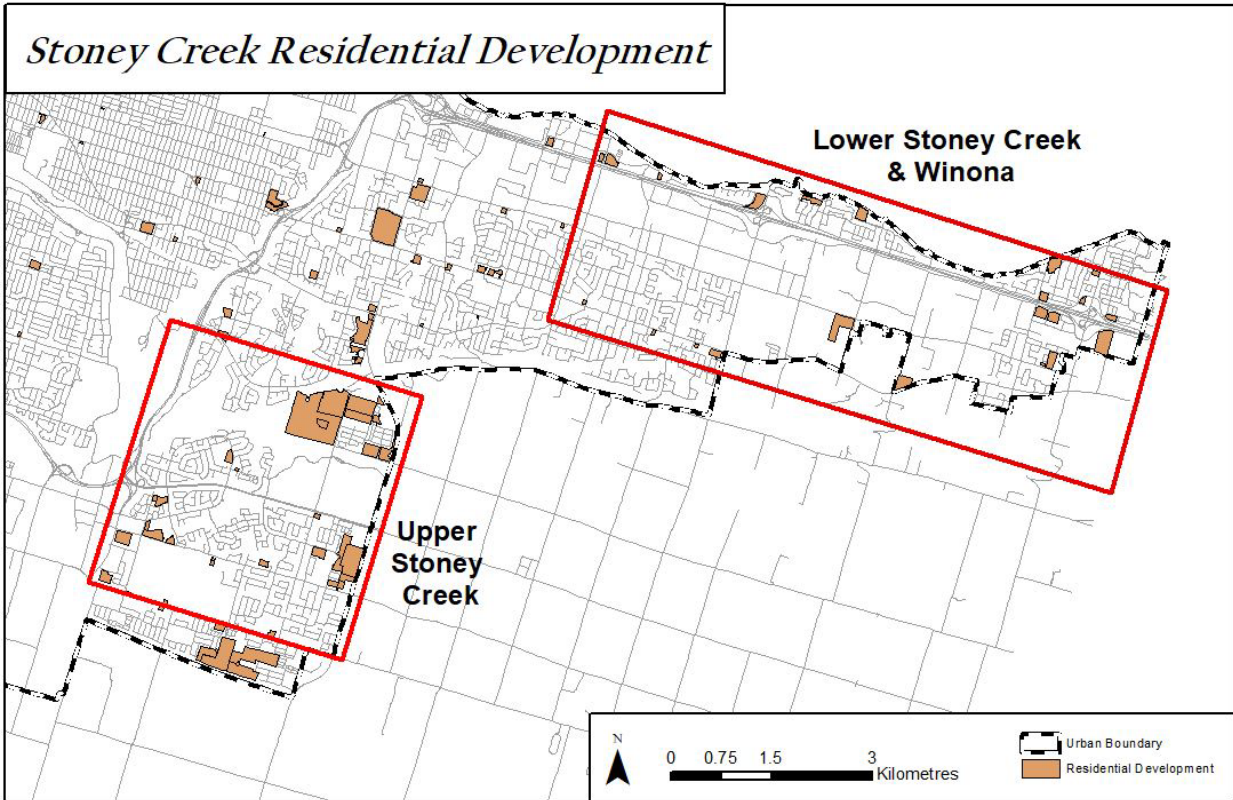


(Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2024)









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