



## A Message from the Mayor

I like to think that one of the hallmarks of my career as Mayor has been advocating for public engagement on issues that affect residents. Town Council formalized this approach with the 2017 approval of a Public Engagement Charter so I'm pleased to advise that consultation and education will figure prominently in the development of a

Private Tree Management Strategy. This strategy will apply to trees on private properties and will be informed by a comprehensive stakeholder process to understand what the community values in a healthy tree canopy and how best to preserve those values in the development of new policy.

Trees occupying on large parcels of land (half an acre or more) are protected through Halton Region's tree by-law and enforced by the Town. The by-law is intended to prevent clear cutting of trees or unsustainable wood harvesting which means cutting more trees than the forest can naturally regenerate.

Our role as Council members is to make decisions in the best interests of the community and we base these decisions on facts and input from staff, other technical experts, the public and best practices. In regards to the forthcoming tree strategy, I know I speak for all our elected officials when I say we want to hear from property owners to understand your concerns and what you value. I encourage everyone to participate in the consultation process. Information will be available on [letstalkhaltonhills.ca](http://letstalkhaltonhills.ca) in August.

Keeping it real.



Rick Bonnette,  
Mayor



## A Message from the CAO

The Town is conscious of the need to structure services that reflect the specific needs and desires of the Halton Hills community. For this reason, the Private Tree Management Strategy will be developed in accordance to a set of guiding principles that includes soliciting input from residents, educating the public and evaluating potential regulations for their suitability to this community.

To begin, staff has initiated a comprehensive inventory of trees located on municipal and private lands. Staff also began researching the policies of other municipalities noting many different approaches: Milton does not have a tree by-law; Oakville's by-law applies to trees 15 cm or larger and a minimum 1.5 m in height while Burlington adopted a two-year pilot program.

Concurrent with the development of the Private Tree Management Strategy is a Community Forest Strategic Management Plan that will help to maintain and improve trees on Town owned lands.

Both tree strategies support Town Council's Climate Change resolution adopted in May that reads in part: "That the role of a healthy eco-system including its important function of sequestering carbon be recognized as fundamental to any Climate Change plan by measures such as expanding tree planting and maintenance budgets."



Brent Marshall,  
Chief Administrative Officer