

# 27,000 Halton acres in green

Legislation designed to curb urban sprawl in Ontario will see about 27,000 acres in southern Halton County reserved as green belt area. The 27,000 acres will compose part of a massive parkway belt running from Dundas to Markham, announced Monday at Queen's Park.

The concept involves 55,000 acres of land and an estimated cost of \$150 to \$200 million. The belt varies in width from 700 feet near Milton to a maximum width of about two miles near Dundas.

The belt will surround Milton three sides, leaving the town's north open. It circles an area designated as a future urban centre in North Oakville. A wide strip of the belt running along the east side of Highway 25 separates designated future urban centres in North Burlington and North Oakville.

**Southern boundary**  
While it isn't stated in government releases, the belt running east-west between Burnhamthorpe Rd. and Lower Base Line in Oakville is a sound indicator of where Central Halton's southern boundary will be in a regional government set up. That stretch is located 100 feet north of an existing hydro right of way and designates a future regional transit system.

The green belt makes provision eventually for three urban centres within Central Halton. Milton as it currently exists and two urban centres, one in North Burlington and the other in North Oakville will all be separated from each other by the green belt. The same belt that it is believed will form the southern boundary of Central Halton borough in regional government also appears to be designed as a buffer between what will be Central Halton and Oakville on one side and Burlington on the other.

A belt splintering south off the main line at a point north of Highway 5, running on either side of the Bronte Creek to the lakeshore, will provide green space between the existing towns of Burlington and Oakville. This area will be known as Bronte Creek Park. Both Oakville and Burlington are surrounded on three sides by green belt, with the lake providing the fourth boundary.

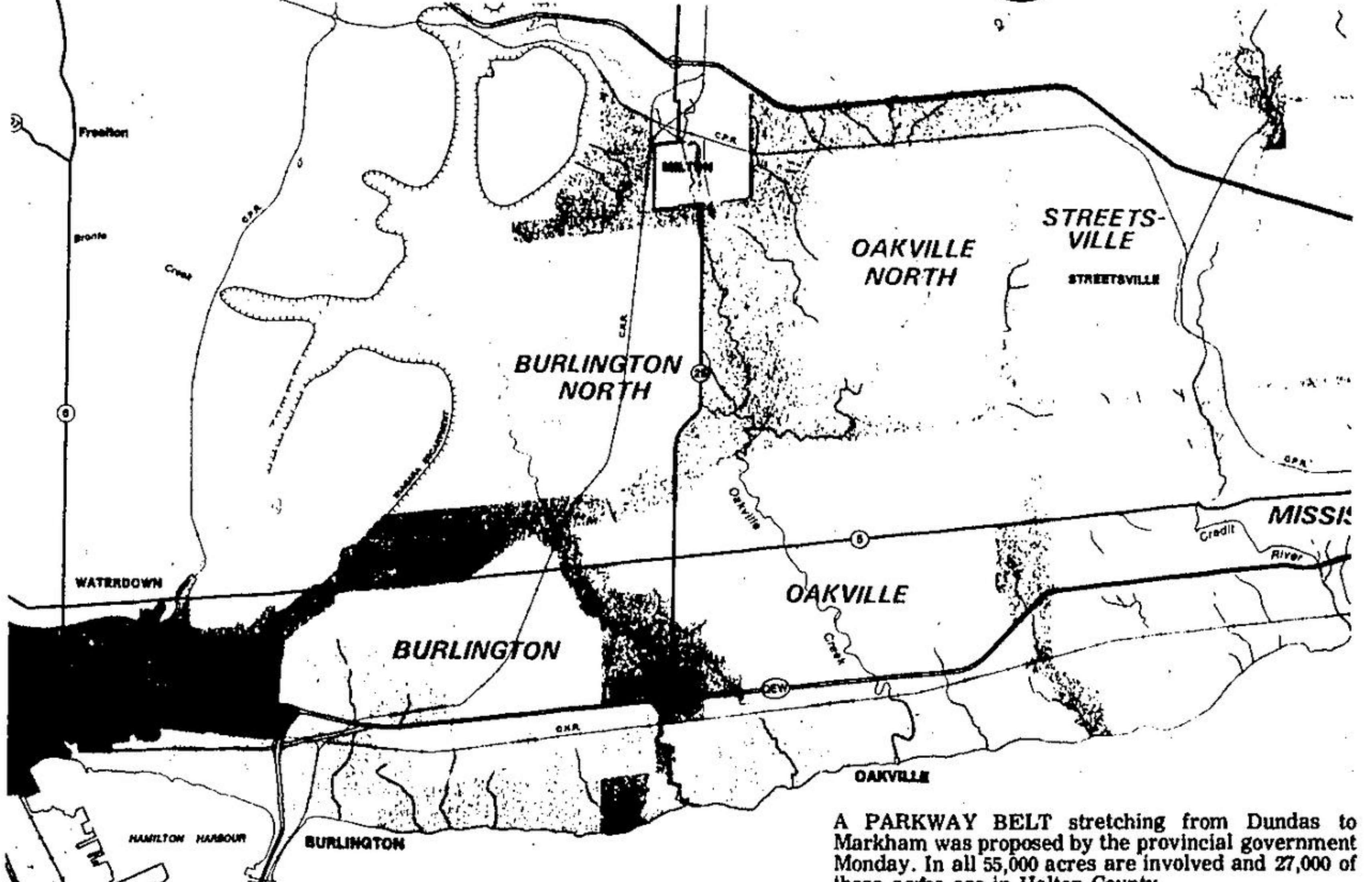
The belt running from a point just east of Milton to Markham will provide the route for future Highway 407. Highway 403 will eventually be extended from the intersection of the present 403 and the Queen Elizabeth Highway and run along the southern boundary of the Central Halton borough and easterly from there to Toronto Airport.

**Multiple purpose**  
Provincial planners claim the belt will serve a number of purposes. It will aid in defining and separating communities and it will link communities with service corridors, allowing movement of people and goods. It will provide a land reserve for the future and for needs not foreseen at this time. It is also designed to provide recreational land at the back doors of urban complexes, the government claims.

The belt will prevent residential development from flowing from one municipality to another and serve as a buffer between the two.

According to policy statement made Monday, the belt will also serve as a service corridor. Rather than having parallel routes for various services such as electricity, highways, telephone lines and pipelines for water and sewage, all services can be run along a common corridor. One key advantage of grouping such services is to avoid wastage of land.

**Protection offered**  
The concept will also aid in meeting the needs of the urban people. Ravines, river valleys, botanical gardens and parts of the Niagara Escarpment will be protected from large, damaging



A PARKWAY BELT stretching from Dundas to Markham was proposed by the provincial government Monday. In all 55,000 acres are involved and 27,000 of those acres are in Halton County.

cut and fill operations. The remaining farmland must be protected and tree stands must not be sacrificed unnecessarily to road widening and development.

**Temporary planning**  
regulations which came into effect Monday put a freeze on all the lands in the belt and they will be used only as an agricultural purpose. The regulations invoked Monday will serve as a holding device until municipal official plans and by-laws are amended to reflect the policy of the park belt.

**Non conforming uses**  
Industries and homes in the belt now won't be disturbed. According to the report, permission will be given for particular kinds of development if the development meets the principles of the concept. New residential or industrial development will not be allowed.

According to the report the province plans to purchase the 55,000 acres over an extended period of time. Over 12,000 acres of the belt land is now in public ownership.

Although the land use restrictions go into effect immediately, there is provision for municipalities and the general public to suggest changes and modifications on the plan.

After a period of public hearings the treasurer will appoint a board to conduct public hearings and report back. Once the hearings are over and the plan is amended and adopted, it will become binding and private development will be carried on without conflicting with the Parkway Belt West plan.

**Golf Course**  
About half of the land involved is already controlled by zoning by-laws that coincide with the restrictions recommended. About 20 per cent has zoning designations that conflict with the policies. Municipalities will have to amend official plans and zoning by-laws in these cases.

Three or four per cent of the land is currently owned and operated as golf courses. To encourage this use, property tax

relief will be given to golf course owners.

**Stringent guidelines**  
The planning restrictions on private land are more stringent than any in the history of the province. Premier William Davis told a meeting of MPPs and municipal councillors at Queen's Park Monday, "I am sure that all members of the legislature recognize the vital necessity of checking urban sprawl, of preserving community identity and of ensuring that there will always be sufficient green space among the grey."

The premier said ownership of

land had traditionally been an individual's cherished mark of independence and there was a time when the owner enjoyed the privilege of putting his land to whatever use he chose.

He noted, however, checks had to be taken to prevent incompatible use of land so the landscape and open space could be preserved for future generations.

In his speech Davis stressed the need for the province to have a hand in the planning and determining the use of land in Ontario.

## Urge GUARDs attend Toronto mass meeting

Representatives of GUARD (Group United Against Rural Dumping) were urged to participate in a demonstration and mass meeting of all Ontario groups fighting rural dumping at the University of Toronto grounds on Wednesday, June 13, at 6.30 p.m.

The motto of the Garbage Coalition is "Ungarbage Ontario" and the purpose of the meeting is to focus attention on proper treatment of reusable waste materials for those in power.

**Outlines aims**  
GUARD head Bill Johnson outlined the purposes and aims of the larger body at the meeting at the home of Fred Brooks. "Mass public demands on elected

representatives appears to be the only way to get the program started," Mr. Johnson told the meeting.

Mr. Johnson said it appears Mr. Auld and Mr. Campbell are leaving their posts, so it may be necessary to start the battle over again with new personalities.

The meeting in Toronto will be on the back campus of the U. of T. just west of Queens Park Crescent West, on the south side of Hoskin Ave. The group was urged to bring lunch, neighbors and friends.

The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, June 6, 1973

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