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Crops 'struggling' Area farmers praying for rain

By **CHRISTINA COMMISSO**
Metroland Media Group

In 31 years Bert Andrews could only remember three or four summers when he has had to irrigate the sweet corn on his Halton Hills farm.

This is one of those summers.

"We're not quite keeping up with watering and of course we're concerned that the quantity of water will be down soon," said Andrews, owner of pick-you-own berries farm Andrews Scenic Acres. "Quite frankly, we want to encourage irrigating right around the clock, but that costs more fuel and more labour."

Andrews said Ontario's relentless heat wave has hurt his business in more ways than one. Summer camp and daycare tours scheduled for this week have been cancelled, as residents are encouraged to limit their time outdoors.

Halton Hills cash cropper Bill Allison is also feeling the crunch of the dry weather.

Allison grows 1,400 acres of hay, corn, soybeans and wheat, and like others, has been impacted by the dry spell.

See **DRY**, pg. 5

Local cash cropper Bill Allison inspects some of the stunted corn he has growing south of Georgetown. Allison says crop insurance will be very important to some cash croppers this year, as the yields are not expected to meet the demands because of the dry spell. The corn shown here is about half its normal height.
Photo by Ted Brown

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