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**COUNCIL** 

## TOWN OF HALTON HILLS TO CALL FOR NATION-WIDE CLIMATE ACTION **FOLLOWING REPORT**

**VERONICA APPIA** 

vappia@metroland.com

Halton Hills residents can help mitigate climate change in their own backyards, but without support from all levels of government, they are bound to feel the repercussions, town councillors heard Tuesday.

And to some extent, they already are.

According to a historical climate analysis, presented to the town's Planning, Public Works and Transportation Committee on Feb. 5 as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, the current average annual temperature has increased by approximately 0.6 C since the 1960s. The total annual rainfall has also increased by 29 to 34 millimetres, while snow has decreased by 11 to 12 centimetres.

The report suggests these figures are a mere preview of more drastic changes to come over the next 80 years or so, especially without a significant global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Future Climate Modeling portion of the report projects climate scenarios based on three potential future situations in



Pexels/photo

Climate change may affect the length of growing season for Halton Hills farmers in the future.

Halton Hills.

The best case scenario, which assumes that extreme action is taken to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remove carbon dioxide from the air, projects a 1.4 C increase in temperature by the year 2100.

In the worst case scenario, which is based on the current global emissions trajectory, Halton Hills can expect to see a 6 C increase by the same year.

Assuming that somewhat of an effort has been made to reduce emissions, a middle ground scenario is also included in the report, projecting the temperature hike at 3.6 C by 2100.

At the meeting, council-

lor Jane Fogal told the committee she will be bringing an amendment to the report before council on Feb. 11, urging the provincial and federal governments to take action.

"There's a timeline here," she said. "We are dealing with the future and not everyone does that really well. But today's children are the ones that will be facing the biggest problems."

Mayor Rick Bonnette echoed Fogal's thoughts on the matter

"It's going to (affect) the vounger generation. If we don't act and if the federal and provincial governments don't act, in 20 years

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## **CORRECTION NOTICE**

The Independent & Free Press apologies that, due to an error, the following businesses were not listed in Light Up The Hills Thank You ad from Jan 31st.



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