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LETTERS & COMMENTARY LET'S PROTECT OUR REMAINING AGRICULTURAL LANDS

I write this letter as a former Halton regional councillor representing Halton Hills in the 1980s.

I was a member of Halton regional council when we voted in favour of the "big pipe" from Lake Ontario to service the region with water for development.

When I see the extent of the growth in what was a beautiful agricultural region, I am ashamed that my vote has had the impact we see today. Enormous swaths of agricultural lands in both Milton and Halton Hills have turned into large homes surrounded by pavement.

And we are about to do it again.

Halton Region is poised to vote on a staff recommendation on Feb. 9 to add another 5,000 acres of prime agricultural lands to the development scenario.

As a member of the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee in the '80s, I learned that Halton had nearly the highest heat units in the soils in the country. That's what makes it prime land.

Halton Hills is asking for an additional 2,000 acres of prime land to be approved for development, despite sitting on 1,400 acres of already approved development lands that have not yet been developed.

The alternatives are there, and it just takes residents speaking out and political will make it happen. The current urban boundaries are quite capable of providing more affordable and seniors housing and more transportation opportunities.

Stop looking at prime farmlands to provide the solutions.

Some have said that it's too late; that developers already own the lands. Keep in mind that, at this point, they are not developers, they are speculators as they do not have the approvals to develop.

Say no to the approval for development of the last prime agricultural lands in Halton Hills and Milton.

PAM SHELDON, HALTON HILLS

YOUROPINIONS

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER AT THEIFP.CA