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Graham Paine/Metroland

Voice of the Whitebelt members (from left) Frank Varga, Bob Merry, Don Rowntree, Robert McClure, Tom McDonald and Jamie Laidlaw say farming so close to a major urban area has become increasingly challenging.

'WE'RE 30 YEARS TOO LATE TO PRESERVE FARMLAND'

LOCAL FARMERS IN FAVOUR OF GROWTH ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

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Over two dozen farmers have banded together in support of Halton's growth plan that proposes future development on what's currently farmland.

The group, which calls itself the Voice of the Whitebelt (VOW), is speaking out about its position as regional council gears up to decide on the plan that calls for an expansion of the urban boundary to accommodate housing and businesses to 2051.

VOW's 26 members say they work more than 6,000 acres of land in the Halton Hills whitebelt — the area that doesn't fall within the greenbelt or existing settlement areas.

The farmers are collectively expressing concern about the ev-

er-increasing hardships of farming in proximity to urban areas, and encouraging regional councillors to support the proposed residential and employment growth on whitebelt lands "for the greater good of the community."

"Most of us are nearing retire-

See FARMING, page 7

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