

2002 Halton Farm Tour -

By: BRENDA MATHIES

With a record number of participants the Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC) hosted its 2002 Halton Farm Tour on Thursday September 12. This year's theme (Changing Times, Current Issues) focused on the adaptations that Halton's farming community are currently facing.

The first concern of many of Milton's rural residents is the industrialization of agricultural land - more specifically the proposed CN Intermodal facility. The tour's first stop was the Marshall farm which is situated directly across from the proposed site on Lower Base Line.

Robert and Joan Marshall are the fourth generation to operate this 100-acre farm which was originally

granted to Robert's great grandfather (John Marshall) in 1853. John Marshall purchased an additional 100 acres of land on the north side of Lower Base Line in 1873. For many years this farm was a 200-acre operation for approximately 60 head of Holstein cattle. In the '70's the second parcel of land was sold and by the late '90's the farm had ceased its dairy operation but still continues to carry on a hay and cash crop business.

That second parcel of land is now owned by CN and is rented out for farming purposes. It was September of 2000 when Mr. Marshall received his first real estate offer for his remaining land. It is believed that CN was trying to purchase all of the perimeter sites. To

date approximately 1000 acres of land has been purchased by a variety of numbered companies and in February of 2001 CN announced their proposal to build a large intermodal yard that would be approximately 400 acres in size.

As Mr. Marshall says, "Taking all this land out of agriculture is not a good thing . . . this is one of the heartier areas in the county. Some of the best lands in Halton have been built up but this is still a good pocket of farm land." The construction and operation of this intermodal site will inevitably bring with it many negative factors. The noise and air pollution will effect all local residents not to mention sensitive crops such as soybean. The high intensity lighting systems may cause confusion to cattle

because the nights will not be a dark as they are now. The odours of the locomotives and the diesel trucks could cause problems for the residents that are down wind from the site (an increase in asthma and other breathing problems). The increased traffic (up to 800 trucks per day) on these rural roadways will not only cause damage to the roads but decrease safety.

Mr. Marshall also believes that the CN Intermodal yard will bring other future industrialized development to an area in the region that is not currently zoned for such development. To date, CN has not made application for the proposed use of this site and Mr. Marshall stated that we (Halton residents) are currently at the mercy of the CTA and waiting for

word about the future.

Brandalea Farm, in Halton Hills, was the second stop on this year's tour. Harry and Judy Brander purchased this farm in 1975. They currently own 195 acres and rent an additional 300 acres. The Branders currently operate a beef feed lot. The cattle are purchased at about 900 pounds and resold approximately 140 to 160 days later when their weight has increased to 1400-1500 pounds. About 400 head of cattle pass through the operation each year with approximately 240 on the property at any one time. Mr. Brander's farm also consists of corn and hay (grown for feed) and wheat and soybean (cash crops for proper crop rotation).

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Halton Region

A Partnership That Works!

Be a Part of Halton Region's Official Plan Review

Halton Region
2002
Official
Plan
Review

This fall, Halton Region is seeking input from the public on its Official Plan. We will be hosting a series of open houses and workshops throughout the Region, and we look forward to hearing your ideas on the future of Halton.

What is the Official Plan?

Every municipality in Ontario is required to develop an Official Plan which outlines a community's vision for its future and guides decisions on development, transportation, environmental protection, and more.

Halton Region's Official Plan is now under review. This is an opportunity for residents and businesses to play an important part in ensuring Halton Region continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

What is important to you about Halton Region? How should we address the challenges our Region is facing?

Your participation is vital. Please drop in to one of our open houses or visit our website to learn more about the Official Plan Review.

www.region.halton.on.ca/officialplan

Official Plan Review Event Schedule

Open houses have been held on September 23rd in Burlington and September 24th in Milton

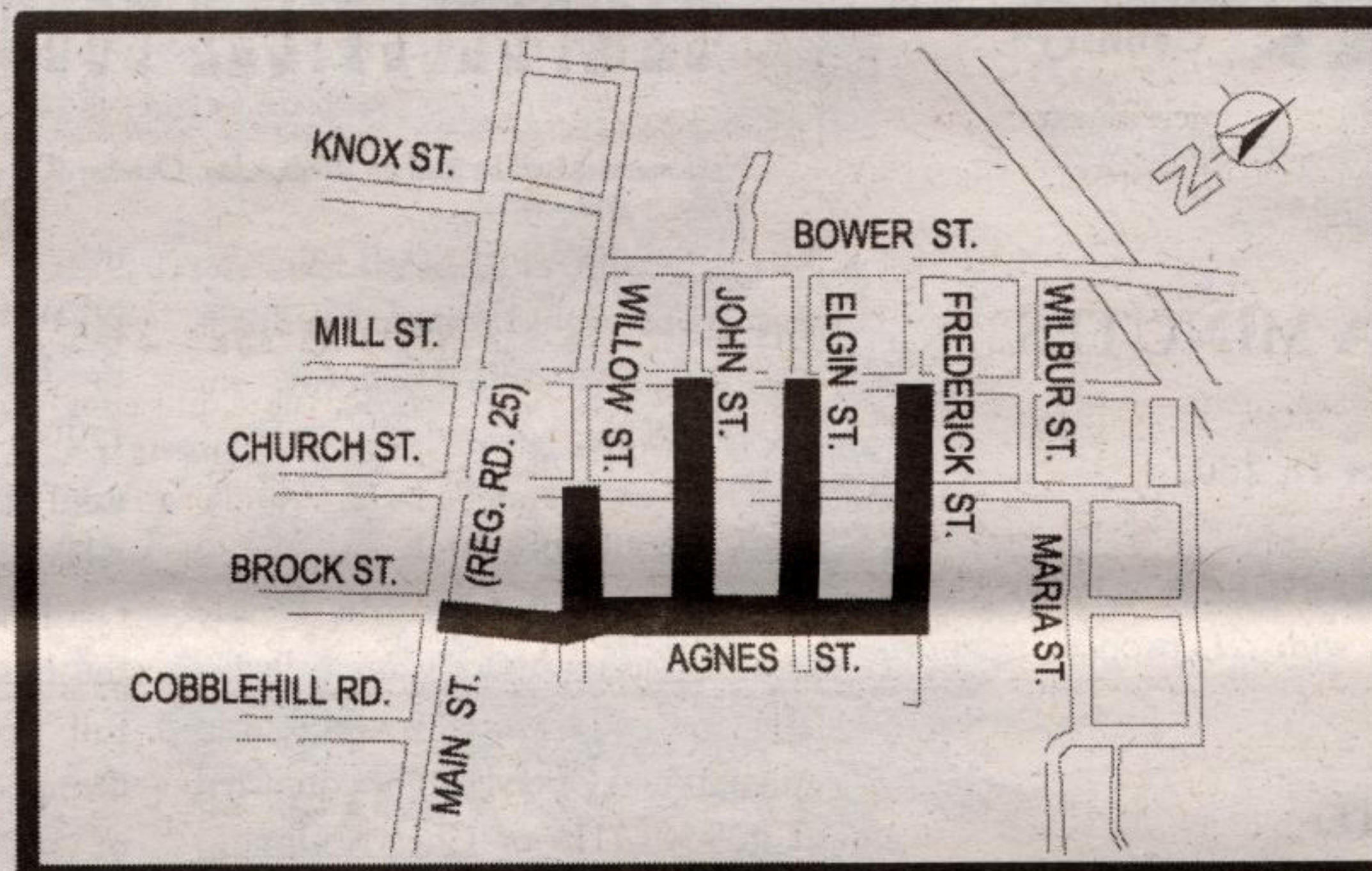
October

Wednesday 2 nd	Monday 7 th	Tuesday 8 th
6:00pm Open House (Halton Hills Council Chambers, 1 Halton Hills Dr, Georgetown) 7:00pm presentation	7:00pm Open House (Hugh Foster Hall, 43 Brown St, Milton) 7:30pm presentation	6:00pm Open House (St Volodymyr Cultural Centre, 1280 Dundas St, Oakville) 7:00pm presentation
Tuesday 15 th	Wednesday 16 th	Thursday 17 th
6:00pm Open House (Holy Rosary School, 261 Plains Rd E, Burlington) 7:00pm presentation	6:00pm Open House (St Dominic's School, 2405 Rebecca St, Oakville) 7:00pm presentation	6:00pm Open House (St Joseph's School, 147 Mill St, Acton) 7:00pm presentation

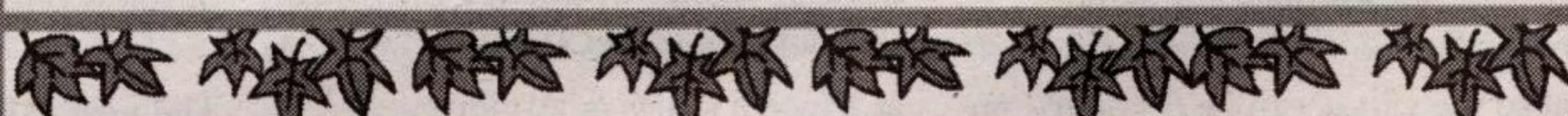
A children's activity area will be provided at each open house.

Call us or visit our website at www.region.halton.on.ca/officialplan to download a copy of the Directions Report: *The Greening of Halton - Smart Growth, Smart Choices and other technical papers*. These documents are a starting point for a public dialogue about the important issues in our community. For more information contact Isabel Telford at EXT. 7195

CAST IRON WATERMAIN AND WASTEWATER MAIN REPLACEMENT IN THE AGNES STREET AREA, TOWN OF HALTON HILLS (ACTON)



CONTRACT NUMBER: WS-1724-02
 SCHEDULED START DATE: OCTOBER, 2002
 SCHEDULED COMPLETION DATE: MAY, 2003
 CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR: LEONARD VERWEY
 TELEPHONE: EXT. 7616
 ON THE WEB: www.region.halton.on.ca



Backyard Composter Sale

Subsidized by Halton Region Waste Management Division

\$15



Saturday, October 5, 2002
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Backyard Composters will be available at the following locations:

- HALTON REGIONAL BUILDING 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville (parking lot by main entrance)
- MILTON MALL Parking lot at Ontario St. & Main St., Milton
- BURLINGTON CIVIC OPERATIONS BUILDING 3330 Harvester Rd (at Cumberland), Burlington
- OAKVILLE MUNICIPAL BUILDING 1225 Trafalgar Rd., Oakville
- HALTON HILLS PUBLIC WORKS YARD 11618 Trafalgar Rd., Georgetown

- Converts grass, leaves and kitchen scraps into rich, garden-friendly compost
- Reduces waste
- Takes as little as 10 minutes a week



1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
 905-825-6000 Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866)
 TTY 905-827-9833
 or visit us at: www.region.halton.on.ca