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# THE HALTON COMPASS

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## The Greenbelt tightens

It's all over bar the shouting

BY DONNA DANIELLI

With the moratorium on development in the swath of land through the Golden Horseshoe for a proposed greenbelt running out, the provincial government introduced Bill 135, the Greenbelt Plan for its first reading on October 28. The purpose of the Greenbelt Plan is to identify where urbanization will not occur in order to provide permanent agricultural and environmental protection. It is comprised of approximately one million acres of permanently protected countryside, along with another 850,000 acres

already protected by the Oakridges Moraine Act and the Niagara Escarpment Plan, that allows a diverse range of uses while protecting environmental systems and supporting agriculture as the main land use.

"We truly believe that what we're creating here is something that our children and their children will remember us by," John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Housing and Affairs told a public meeting in Burlington on Tuesday.

More than three hundred people crowded into the

Royal Botanical Gardens to hear an overview of the Plan, with many standing in long lines at the two microphones, awaiting a chance to provide their input into the consultation process. Reaction to the Plan was mixed, something Mr. Gerretsen said was common of the meetings. "Some organizations think we have left too much land for future development and some organizations think that we haven't left enough," he commented. "We think we have left the right amount." He

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## Pampered in Campbellville



Halton Compass employee, Cathy McLeod, had a pampering at Campbellville's new hair salon, Hairitage last week. See page 11 for story and before and after photos.

## Farmers slam Province's Greenbelt Draft Plan at Oakville meeting

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Many farmers slammed the Province's Greenbelt Draft Plan at a recent public meeting at the Oakville Convention Centre, describing the plan as one that protects farmland without protecting the farmer working on the land or the agricultural industry.

Farmers also expressed their growing frustration about getting compensation for land that's likely to be devalued if it's designated as part of the Greenbelt.

**"I DON'T WANT A GREENBELT WHERE IT DOES NOTHING BUT DIMINISH MY EQUITY"**

Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn, who co-chaired the meeting, said the government is concerned about the "larger issue of farm viability" as well as ensuring that Ontario "grows in fine form." However, Nassagaweya farmer Lieven Gevaert told people at the meeting that "restrictions cost" and that farmers are paying dearly for a greenbelt plan that's intended to benefit all Ontarians. "There's a significant wealth transfer from those that are greenbelted to those in urban areas. Urban values will go up."

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