

Province holds off on greenbelt legislation

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the government more time to meet with municipal leaders and to consider the input provided by stakeholders and the

public during the past year.

New research from the Neptis Foundation, a non-partisan, privately funded organization, shows that there are approximately 72,000 hectares of Greenfield sites that have already been designated for development in the GTA. While included in the Greenbelt Study Area, Milton and parts of Halton Hills have also been designated by the Ministry of Public Renewal as emerging urban centres and slated for future development. Public Renewal Minister David Caplan stated at a meeting earlier this year in Hamilton that his ministry has been careful to consider the recommendations of the Greenbelt Task Force when designating those areas within the Golden Horseshoe where new development will be permitted.

These emerging urban centres are intended to take pressure off of agricultural lands, but questions have been raised about the type of development that will be allowed. The province leans heavily towards the development of intensification and more compact housing. A September poll conducted by the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association however, reflected that 65 per cent of those polled in the GTA prefer to live in single-family dwellings in the suburbs. As well, 61 per cent oppose high density housing in their community, leaving builders to speculate that they will be forced to build housing that no one will wish to purchase.

Former Metro Toronto planning commissioner David Gurin however, refutes arguments by developers that

state home buyers will not support high density housing, thus driving up housing prices. His October report points out that historically, the price of land has played a minor role in the cost of housing, with interest rates, availability, speculator panic and the job market having more of an effect. Large price hikes in house prices in Toronto occurred in the mid eighties and the early seventies, without any greenbelt legislation or land use restrictions acting as influencing factors.

"Our plan for the greenbelt will shape the way communities grow and prosper," says Minister Gerretsen. "It's about where we want Ontario to be in years to come. We're holding the future of Ontario in our hands and we're taking the time to get it right."

Deidre opens new hospice room at Milton District Hospital

By ANN KORNUA

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2002 and decided this was a need for the community in Milton."

Deidre Scholtz was a five year old in 1996 when she contracted Idiopathic Aplastic Anaemia and required bone marrow transplants to save her life. She was the focus of an intense search for a suitable donor that saw thousands of strangers a day lining up to give bone marrow samples. Now a lovely teenager, Deidre is the picture of health.

Deidre herself, along with members from the Lion's Club, cut the ribbon to this fully furnished room. The new Hospice room features a special bed that can be raised and lowered to within seventeen inches of the floor for easy access for patients. The room is outfitted with donated equipment and furnishings to create a cosy

atmosphere. A finishing touch to the room is a beautiful plaque on the outside of the door dedicated to Deidre and Friends who helped make this new Hospice facility a success.

The new Hospice facility is one decisive way that Milton District Hospital is moving into the future of care giving. It was made possible by donations from throughout the community.

Deidre and Lion's club president Bill Michaluk cut the ribbon on the new Hospice room.



The Lion's club members with Deidre's family stand to open the new Hospice room for MDH. Back row: Gord Bates, Sandy Kenyon, Liz and Clem Scholtz, Bill Michaluk, Doug Heggie, Jerry Brophy and Dan Crouder. Centre Deidre Scholtz.

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