

# Halton Hills Farmers Unite for Action

Continued from page 1

owners and ignored the facts."

On Thursday February 22 over twenty Halton Hills farmers filled Mr. Stull's house for a meeting on the Greenbelt Coalition. As the evening passed people filtered in and out, and attention was turned to forming a Halton Hills Farmers Ratepayers Association. By night's end an association was formed with Judy MacDonald as secretary, other executives will be elected at a future meeting.

When asked why a Ratepayers Association was needed Mr. Stull pointed out that none of the farmers impacted by the Greenbelt Plan or the 4,700 acres addition by Halton Hills Council received any notification from any level of government, they learned of it by word of mouth. If they had a formal Association the Town of Halton Hills would have had to notify them right away and give the farmers an opportunity to present their case.

To most Halton Hills residents the idea of a greenbelt is attractive because it helps preserve our unique identity in Halton Hills. Making reference to the Greenbelt and Places to Grow maps that had come from Queen's Park Mr. Stull pointed out several facts that are not generally known.

The Queen's Park maps are significantly

different from the Town's Official Plan, and will eventually result in solid development from Steeles Avenue to Georgetown.

Since provincial legislation over-rides municipal Official Plans a handful of bureaucrats in Queen's Park have the power to make all the development decisions without consultation or considering with what the residents of Halton Hills want. "More like a dictatorship than a democracy"; said Rick Stull.

Farmers are limited in the type of farming they undertake, regardless of the economic impact these limitations have on their business.

Greenbelt designation will reduce the value of farmland, and erode the farmer's equity in the same way that a drop in the resale housing market level would erode a homeowner's equity; people would not qualify for mortgages and lose their homes and businesses. Small landowners are the real winners when their property is placed in a greenbelt; they now have property that can never be surrounded by development and the value of these estate-like properties will rise greatly over time.

Membership in the Farmers Ratepayers Association is open to all who have an OFA number. For further information call Rick Stull at 905-877 8145.

# Oakville holds in-camera discussions on Sharkeys

Continued from page 1

feet" from Sharkey's and who has been involved with council on a number of occasions due to noise issues, approved of the OMB's decision and believes that the Daniels proposal will be an improvement to the neighbourhood.

Frank Wylie represented residents in favour of the project. He feels that the condos will get rid of the noise from the bar, improve access to the harbour for all Oakville residents and help downtown merchants.

"In the end, the decision was based on the facts of the case, not on emotion," said Wylie.

Terrance Smith, vice-chair of Heritage Oakville spoke out in opposition to the OMB decision and asked council to work towards ensuring a similar situation doesn't arise in the future and also suggested a challenge to the legitimacy of the OMB.

"We had a democratically elected body opposed to this; to have one person strike it down doesn't seem democratic," he said.

Councilor's Chris Stoate and Mike Lansdown both expressed great disappointment with the OMB decision.

"I personally liked the recommendation and was disappointed by the reaction of board," said Lansdown.

For Stoate, the decision has emphasized the need for OMB reform and he expressed some frustration at being in a position of power that in the case of Sharkey's translated into powerlessness.

"Our judgment was overruled by the judgment of one who left town and doesn't have to live with the decision," said Stoate.

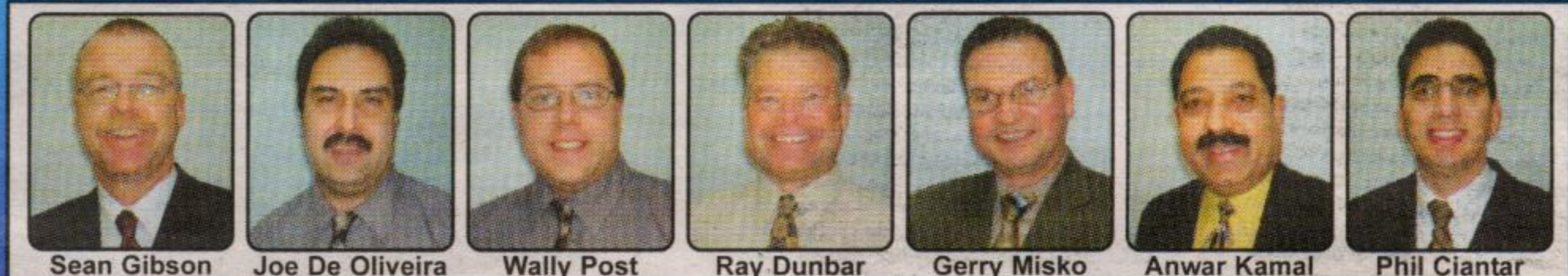
As to what the council intends to do about the decision, Mulvale indicates that there is a strategy involved.

"When the direction is unfolded, it will be made public," said Mulvale.

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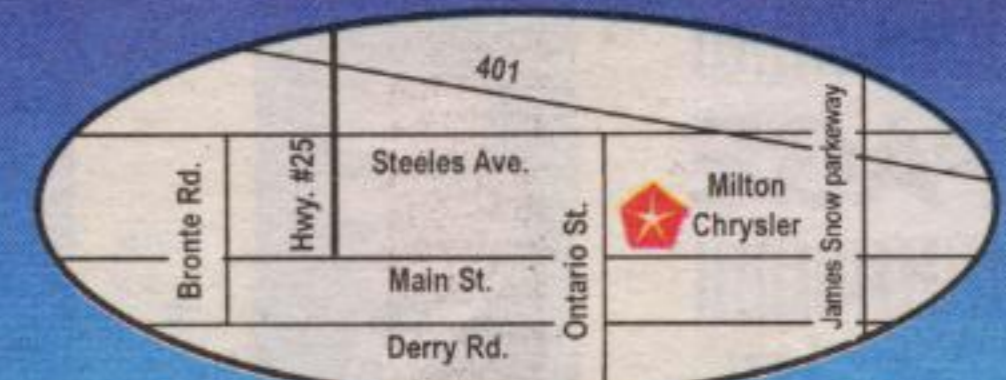
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