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Passions run high at Region

Future of farming under Greenbelt questioned

By BERNADETTE WARD

Amid high emotions at a planning and public works meeting in Halton on February 23 more than 30 delegates pled the case of 4,700 acres of land with the committee ultimately deciding not to request rescission from the Provincial Greenbelt Plan.

Split about evenly for and against, delegates from across Halton including landowners, farmers and other interested parties, cited reasons that primarily fell into the categories of land devaluation, the environment and the sustainability of farming.

IF, AS THEY SUSPECT, THE GREENBELT DEVALUES THEIR LAND, IT WILL MAKE IT HARDER TO BORROW AGAINST THE LAND AND THEREFORE HARDER TO CONTINUE TO FARM.

Gloria Hildebrandt, spokesperson for the group, Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER), believes the lands should be a part of the greenbelt. Her group supports the preservation of land and natural environment, noting that these lands serve as the lungs of the GTA. POWER is also concerned about the food supply.

"Farming is critical to southern Ontario," she said.

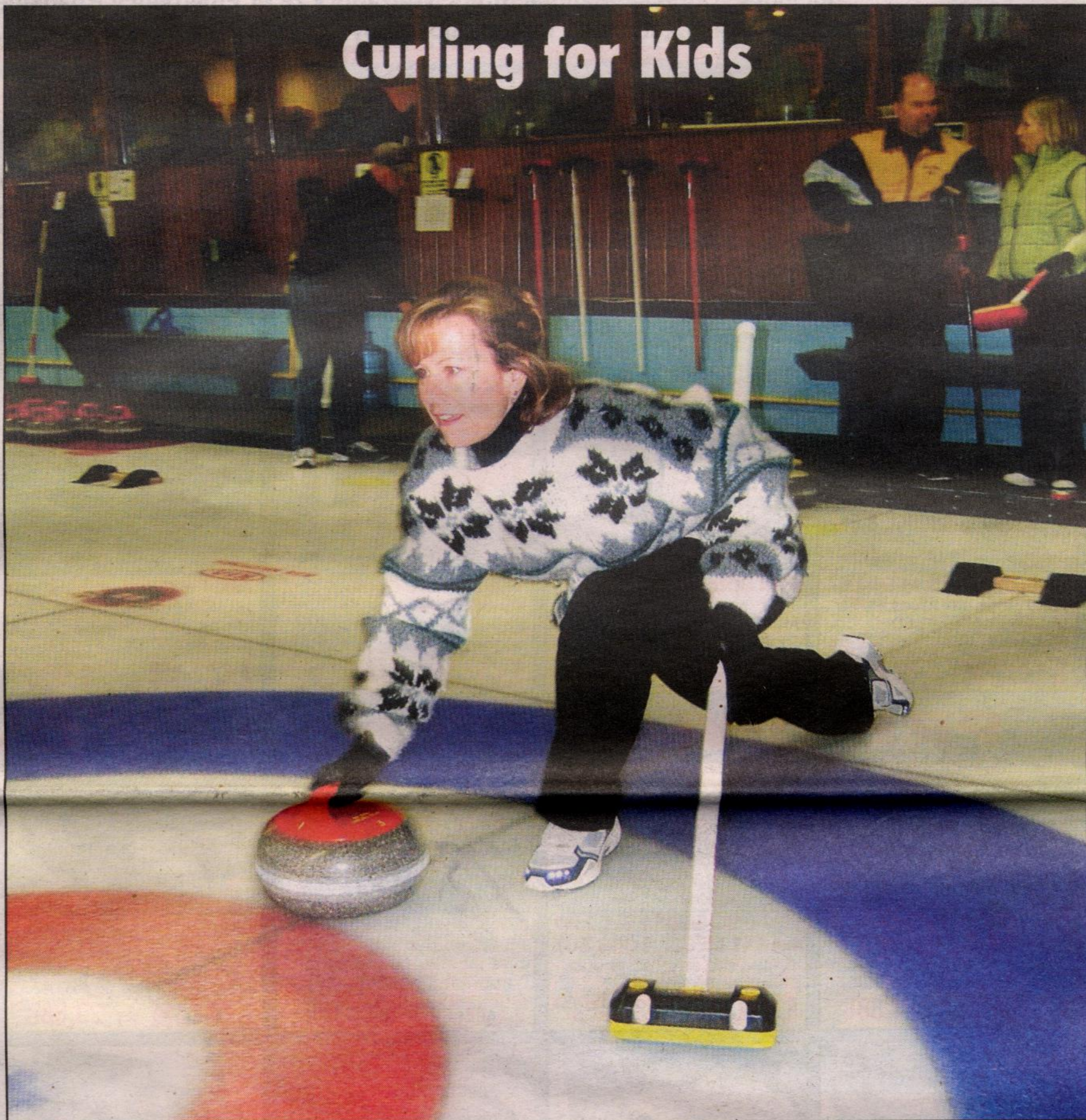
But Burt Andrews, of Andrews Scenic Acres, doesn't think that farming, and the issues facing the agri-business are on the radar anywhere.

"The name tells a story - not a word about agriculture in the name," he said of the greenbelt's title.

Many of the speakers cited concerns about land values and tempers flared at the suggestion of speculation.

"Don't try to paint me as a speculator, Mr. Elgar," said an antagonistic Rick Stull. "These people are not speculators, they're farmers and you're hurting them."

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Curling for Kids

By ANN KORNTA

The rocks were tossed onto the ice on February 25 and 26 for the eighth annual Curl for Kids charity program at the Milton Curling Club. The proceeds from the event were shared by Camp Trillium, Girls Incorporated of Halton, and Halton Women's place. In addition to curling, there was a charity auction. Pictured here is Jeri Campbell of the "Tonne of Fun" team.

Milton Council opts for transparency

By BERNADETTE WARD

Milton town council easily passed a motion on Monday night to add transparency and clarity to its guiding principles for public consultation, but the motion was not without its detractors.

"I'm not supporting this motion because what it's saying is that we

aren't doing a good job here," said John Challinor, councillor, Ward 4, who noted that there is already a process in place and that there is already transparency in terms of council.

Challinor was supported in his opposition to the amendment of the Community Services Standing

Committee report by Ron Furik, regional and town councillor, Wards 2 and 4, Mike Boughton, councillor, Ward 2 and Mayor Krantz.

The motion came on the heels of two delegates who spoke before coun-

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