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# THE HALTON COMPASS



REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

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## Province releases details of Places to Grow

### Second phase of Province's strategy is rolled out at public forum

By BERNADETTE WARD

Concerns about loss of autonomy and questions about the lack of infrastructure were some of the issues raised by an unusually reticent crowd attending a public forum on the province's growth management strategy held in Halton on March 9.

"Are we going to look at slowing down immigration?" asked James Fisher in response to news that Halton is targeted for a 42 percent increase in population by 2031.

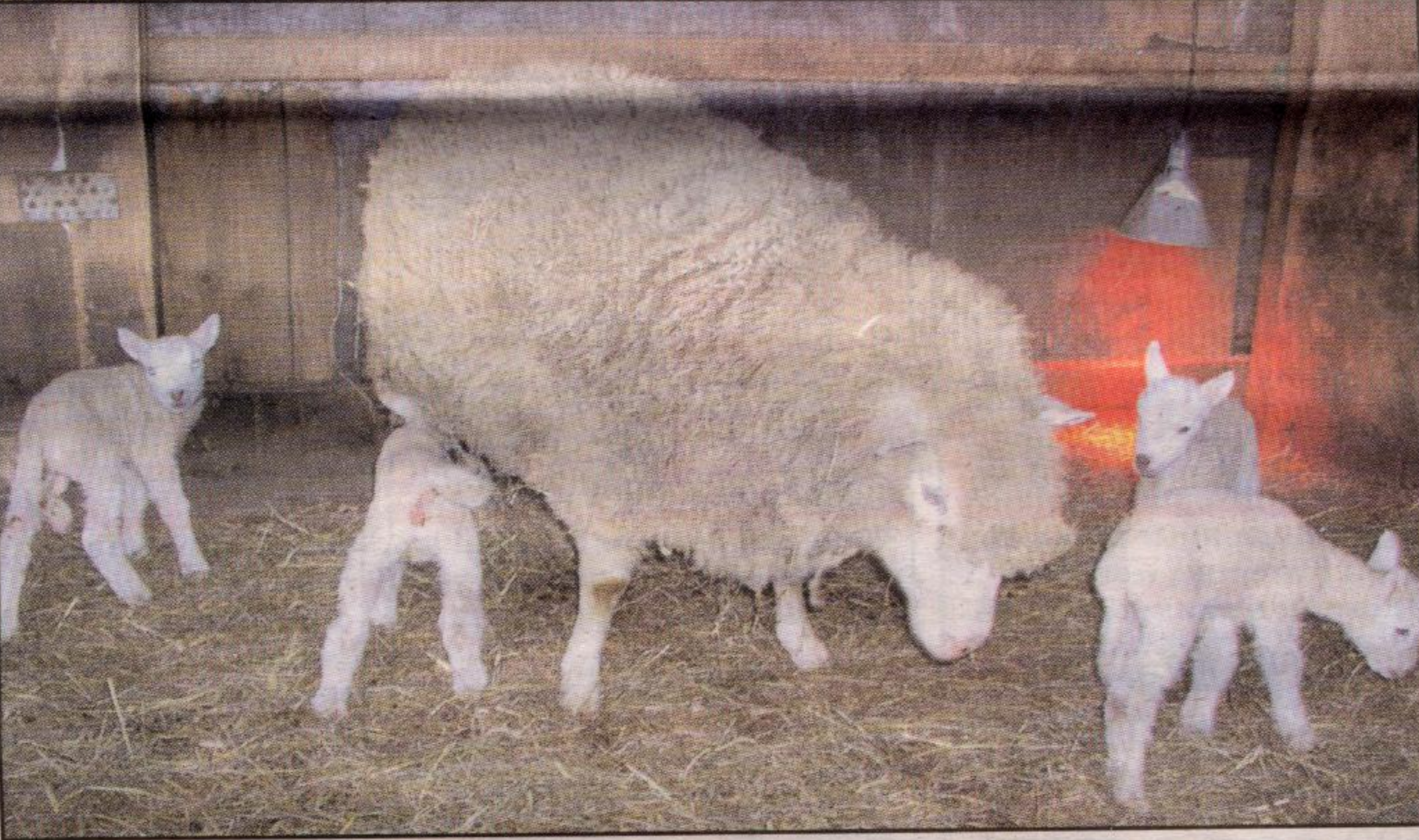
"Ultimately, if we continue to grow, we'll continue to use up land," he said.

A CHANGE IN PLANNING IS NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO AVOID CONSEQUENCES OF REDUCED AIR QUALITY, LONGER COMMUTES AND THE LOSS OF FARMLAND.

The two-hour information session was intended to allow for public input on Bill 136, the province's vision for growth in Ontario, better known as Places to Grow.

"Public forums like this are extremely important," said Regional Chair Joyce Savoline, who indicated they are intended to capture the values and character of the community.

According to Hannah Evans, Manager of Partnerships and Consultation for the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal who presented a condensed version of the draft plan, the integrity of our communities as well as our health and wellbeing are at risk.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

### 'We're four little lambs'

Rhonda Schop and Mark Hurtig of Highmeadow Farm in Nassagaweya had a pleasant surprise this week when their Southdown crossbred ewe, Lucille gave birth to quadruplets, two males and two females. It is extremely rare for such a multiple birth to occur in sheep. The proud (and potent) sire is a registered Border Cheviot owned by Joseph Lasby, also of Nassagaweya.

risk.

A change in planning is necessary if we are to avoid consequences of reduced air quality, longer commutes and the loss of farmland.

"It's imperative to shift the way we live,"

she says.

To that end, the province will oversee all growth plans, with local Official Plans needing to conform. Places to Grow legislation

Continued on page 3

## Carr speaks with constituents

By DONNA DANIELI

Halton Member of Parliament Gary Carr drew a crowd of approximately fifty people at a specially scheduled meeting of the Milton Rural Residents Association (MRRA) on Monday March 14. Held at the Nassagaweya Hall in Brookville, the meeting was an opportunity for Carr to outline recent initiatives by the federal government, as well as provide the residents a chance to question Carr on local issues.

"IN POLITICS YOU NEED TO KEEP PUSHING, YOU NEED TO BE AGGRESSIVE ON THE ISSUES AT ALL TIMES."

Carr pointed to new investments as the highlights of the recent federal budget, such as \$5 billion for municipalities, \$41.3 billion for healthcare and a \$1 billion rural infrastructure fund. Many references were also made throughout the evening to Carr's 6,000-signature petition presented to the Minister of Transportation against the proposed CN intermodal in Milton. "We need to make sure the intermodal does not happen," said Carr. "In politics you need to keep pushing, you need to be aggressive on the issues at all times."

One resident, who was later identified as Bill May, questioned the government's stance on the environment and the impact a proposed mid-peninsula highway could have. "I think environment is a word you people use to get elected, and I don't think that it goes any further," he accused. Mr. May suggested that the government focus more on effective train travel as a way to

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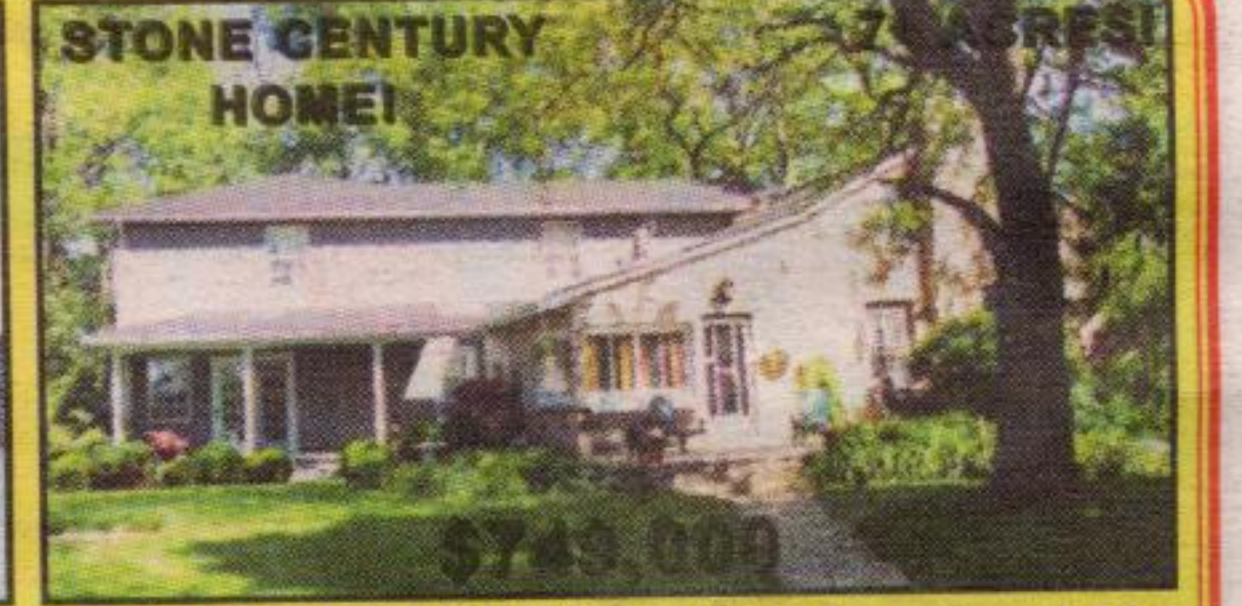
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'CHARLESTON' FAMILY HOME! 'Barzotti' kit (hrdwd & grnhs brkfst area) opens to fam rm w/ gas firepl & w/out to interlock patio (gas bbq h/up), pond w/ impressive rockery, fenced yard, garden shed. Cathedral ceilings & gleaming hrdwd in liv & din rms. Rare find in Milton!

IN RURAL N. BURLINGTON! Pond, rolling fields, Escarpment views! 3400 sq ft century home w/opncpt addit'n. Modern luxuries+century charm! Plank pine flrs, 2 stone fireplaces, 1 gas firepl. 22x14' kit opens to 23x23' fam rm w/ w/out to verandah. On the way to everywhere!