

# Protecting the Greenbelt

When the Greenbelt plan was first established in 2005 there were cries it would stifle development and prevent future growth around the Greater Toronto Area, Hamilton and the Golden Horseshoe.

While over the years developers and some rural residents have complained about the plan's restrictions, for the most part the Greenbelt has saved millions of acres of land that would have been paved over for roads, houses and shopping plazas.

So it was with stunning consternation when Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford revealed in a February 2018 video that he would "open up" the Greenbelt to make way for residential homes.

But in record time, Ford reversed course on his idea to destroy the Greenbelt once his intentions became known to the public.

The Progressive Conservatives have a history of trying to build on environmentally sensitive land. When Mike Harris led the party, he proposed to allow developers to build on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Soon after the backlash began and the PCs in 2001 backed away from the idea.

The Greenbelt plan has proved exceptionally beneficial to Ontario residents, protecting about 800,000 hectares of land from Niagara to Port Hope, along the Niagara Escarpment. The idea then and still is to limit urban sprawl and preserve environmentally sensitive land.

It ensures that at least 60 per cent of all new residential developments in municipalities are in existing built up areas, an increase from the previous 40 per cent.

In Halton, the Greenbelt plan is protecting 42,330 square hectares of land – beautiful and in some parts ecologically-sensitive green space that may otherwise have been developed.

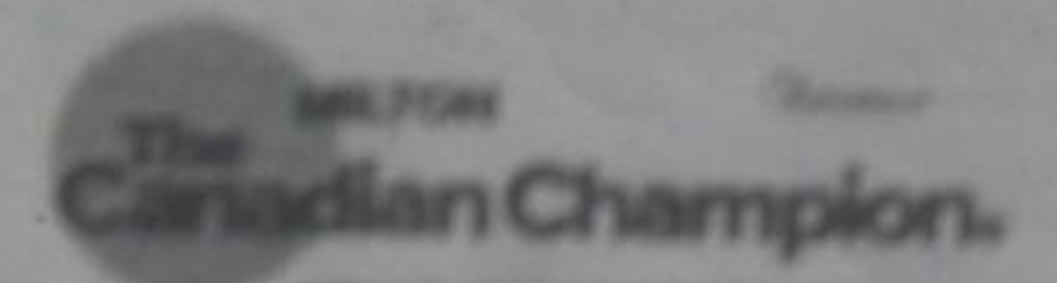
The Greenbelt document has forced developers to build on land they have been sitting on for years, such as along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Development has also been going at a breakneck pace in others areas of Burlington, Milton and Oakville. It is projected that the Greater Golden Horseshoe, which includes Halton, will grow by about four million people over the next 25 years.

But as the Greenbelt and other provincial planning policies have shown, and what Ford and his ilk should be aware of, building within the confines of an urban area is preferably and more cost effective than digging up farmland to build the next shiny new big box store.

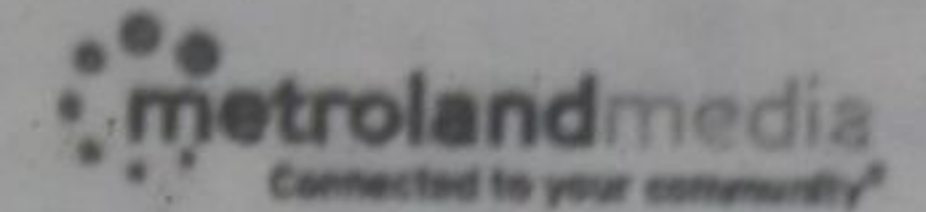


Maddie Crevier photo

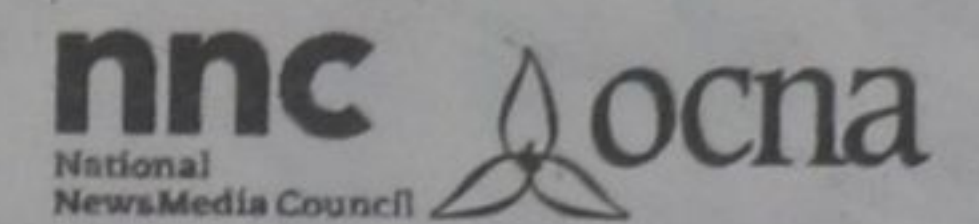
**Maddie Crevier, Darryl MacDonald and Sloane MacDonald enjoy a magical experience at Disney World, where they met Princess Anna and Queen Elsa. Going away? Pack a copy of the Champion in your suitcase, snap a creative photo and email your Champion Tracks submission to [cohara@metroland.com](mailto:cohara@metroland.com). Please include everyone's name and destination information.**



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## Street light approved for Martin and Woodward

*Council also approves light at bridge on the avenue, writes Dills*



**JIM DILLS**  
Column

*Time capsules are gems of information extracted from past issues of the Champion and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past.*

**November 1922**

Town council approved a recommendation that an electric street light be placed at the corner of Martin Street and Woodward Avenue and another at the bridge on the avenue.

tials and delicacies, the tables were decorated with beautiful flowers and there was an ample force of waiters. The supper was followed by an exceptionally good musical program in the church, given by local talent.

There was a large attendance at Grace Church last Thursday evening at the induction of Rev. Canon Naf-tel as rector by Ven. Arch-deacon Renison of the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, who read the impressive induction service and presented Canon Naf-tel with the keys of the church.

At present the Methodist trustee board is absorbed in the details of the new

steam heating plant for the church and school room. They hope to have it completed by the first of the year and never to hear any more complaints of the church being cold. The plant will be the very best and most efficient of its kind.

There was a good attendance at the free radio concert given by the Durant Co. in the Palermo hall on Friday evening, but the radio failed to operate successfully, which was a great disappointment.

*- This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached through the society at 905-875-4156.*

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