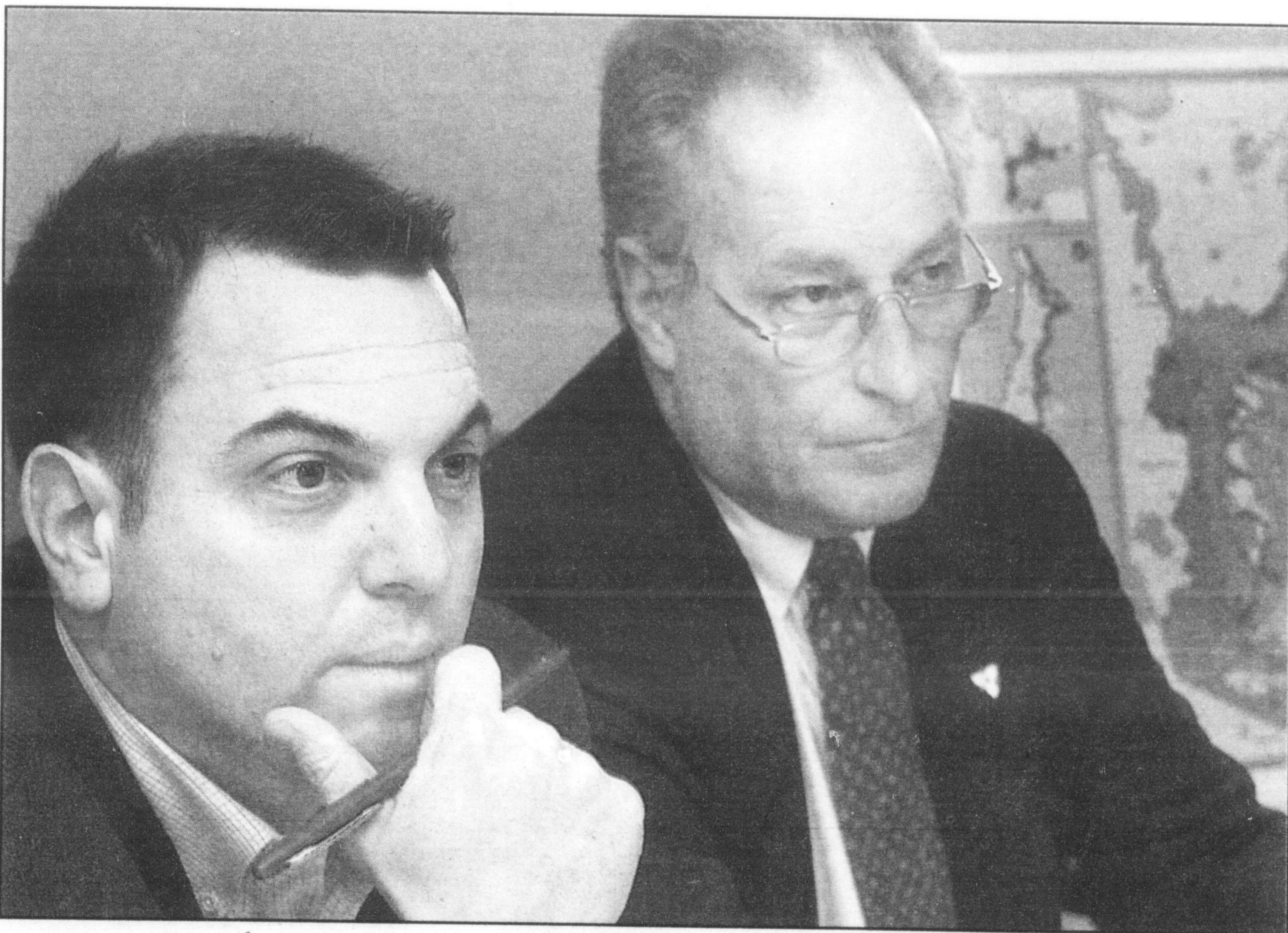


Champion Country

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Greenbelt plan comes under fire at roundtable talks



PC Municipal Affairs Critic Tim Hudak (left) and Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh listen to public input during the Halton Region Roundtable on the controversial Greenbelt Plan Thursday afternoon. A map of the much talked about area is situated behind them.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Plenty of criticism offered by area farmers at meeting

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

Local farmers had a chance to voice their concerns about the Province's proposed greenbelt plan to local politicians and PC Municipal Affairs Critic Tim Hudak Thursday.

At the Ramada Inn, Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh and Waterloo-Wellington MPP Ted Arnott joined Mr. Hudak for a roundtable discussion on the draft legislation that has many area farmers up in arms about the lack of public consultation, potential effects on property values and more.

"If farmers are going to be legislated as 21st-century serfs, it's incumbent upon the government to ensure that farming in the greenbelt remains viable."

TED CHUDLEIGH

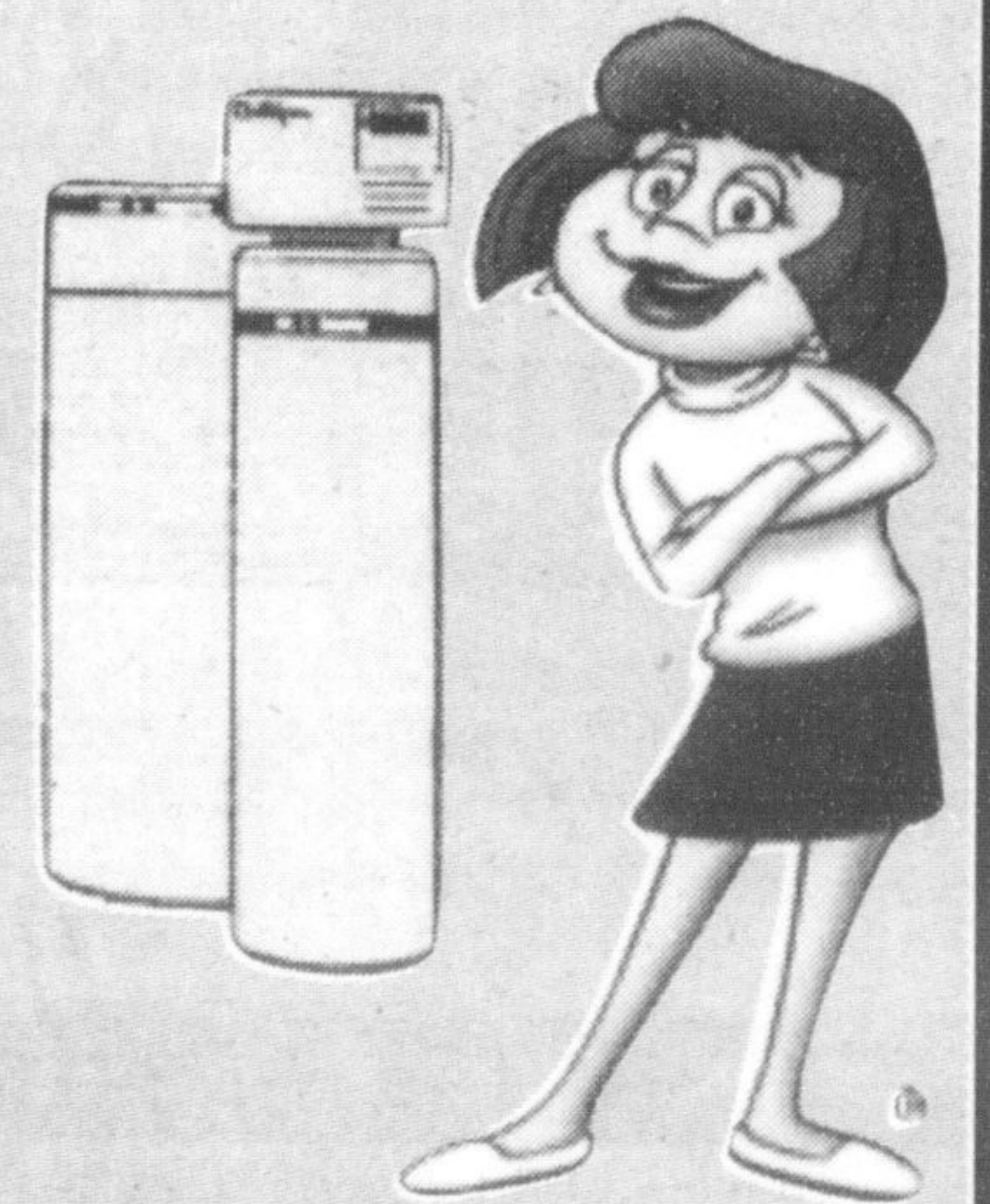
The plan aims to create a permanent countryside in the Golden Horseshoe region, swathing through Halton. It would encompass the Niagara Escarpment Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and also protect natural abutting features, covering about 1.8-million acres from Niagara Falls to Peterborough.

Mr. Chudleigh said the local agricultural industry is going to be hit hard by the poor planning of the greenbelt.

"Already farmers are seeing reductions in their financial borrowing power, as the value of their land is in question," he said.

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