

Farmers want process slowed down

• from GREENBELT on page 14

"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."

Economic uncertainty was one of the main concerns discussed by those at the meeting, like Halton Hills farmer Bert Andrews. "It just creates a lot of stress in the farming community when you don't know where the equity of your operation is heading," he said.

The lack of an agricultural viability strategy in the greenbelt plan is one of the four "fatal flaws" Mr. Hudak identified, the other three being: the greenbelt's mapping, which he said is based on political science, not natural science; the lack of an infrastructure plan and the growth freeze that will be placed on municipalities in the protected area, impacting their tax base.

He also called the greenbelt initiative a 'greenbotch' plan, adding that it's a good idea in principle, but poorly implemented.

The implementation process was another contentious issue at the meeting, particularly the lack of public consultation. "I think that every property owner that might be affected by this should have been contacted," said Campbellville chicken farmer John Opsteen. "There's a lot of people out there that don't know what's going on."

Many other farmers in attendance also called on the official opposition to make sure those affected are more involved and the whole process is slowed down. "We just want more time to make sure we have good legislation," Mr. Opsteen said.

Mr. Hudak said the PC party is going to put up some resistance on the issue.

Mr. Arnott added, "I think it's very clear the government has to slow down the process."

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Traffic light installed at intersection

Due to heavy traffic and concerns from area residents, the Region recently installed a new traffic signal at Tremaine Road and Main Street/No. 14 Sideroad.

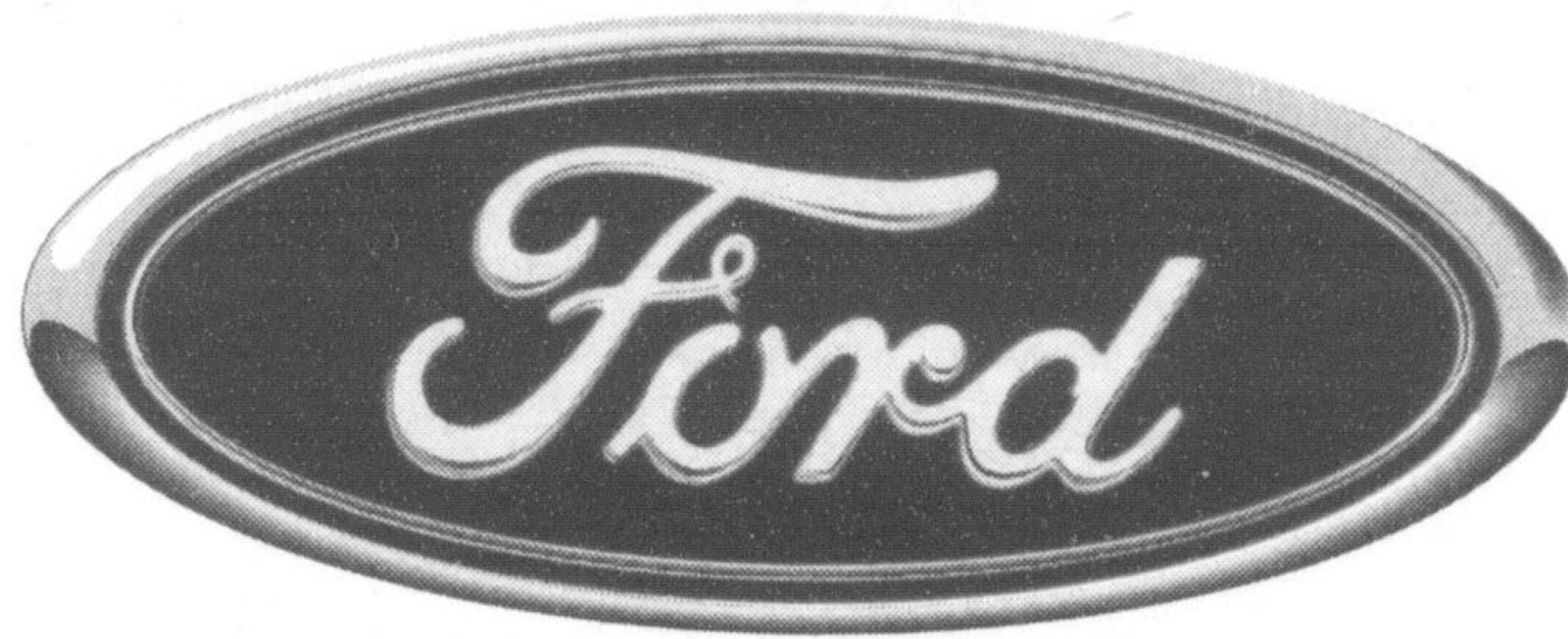
The signal will work on a 'split-phasing' system intended to allow motorists to safely complete the turns from Main Street to No. 14 Sideroad via Tremaine Road due to a jog in the alignment.

No right turns on red signals will be permitted at any time from both Main Street and No. 14 Sideroad.

Previously, traffic at the intersection was controlled by a two-way stop sign. While this intersection is not considered problematic in terms of collisions, the traffic signal should improve safety.

For more information, contact Halton Region at (905) 825-6000, ext. 7623 or visit www.region.halton.on.ca.

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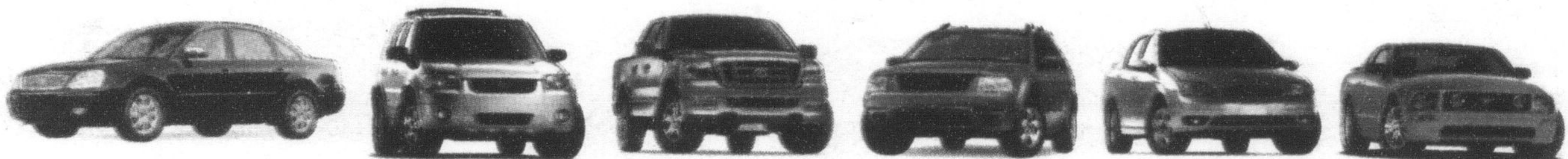


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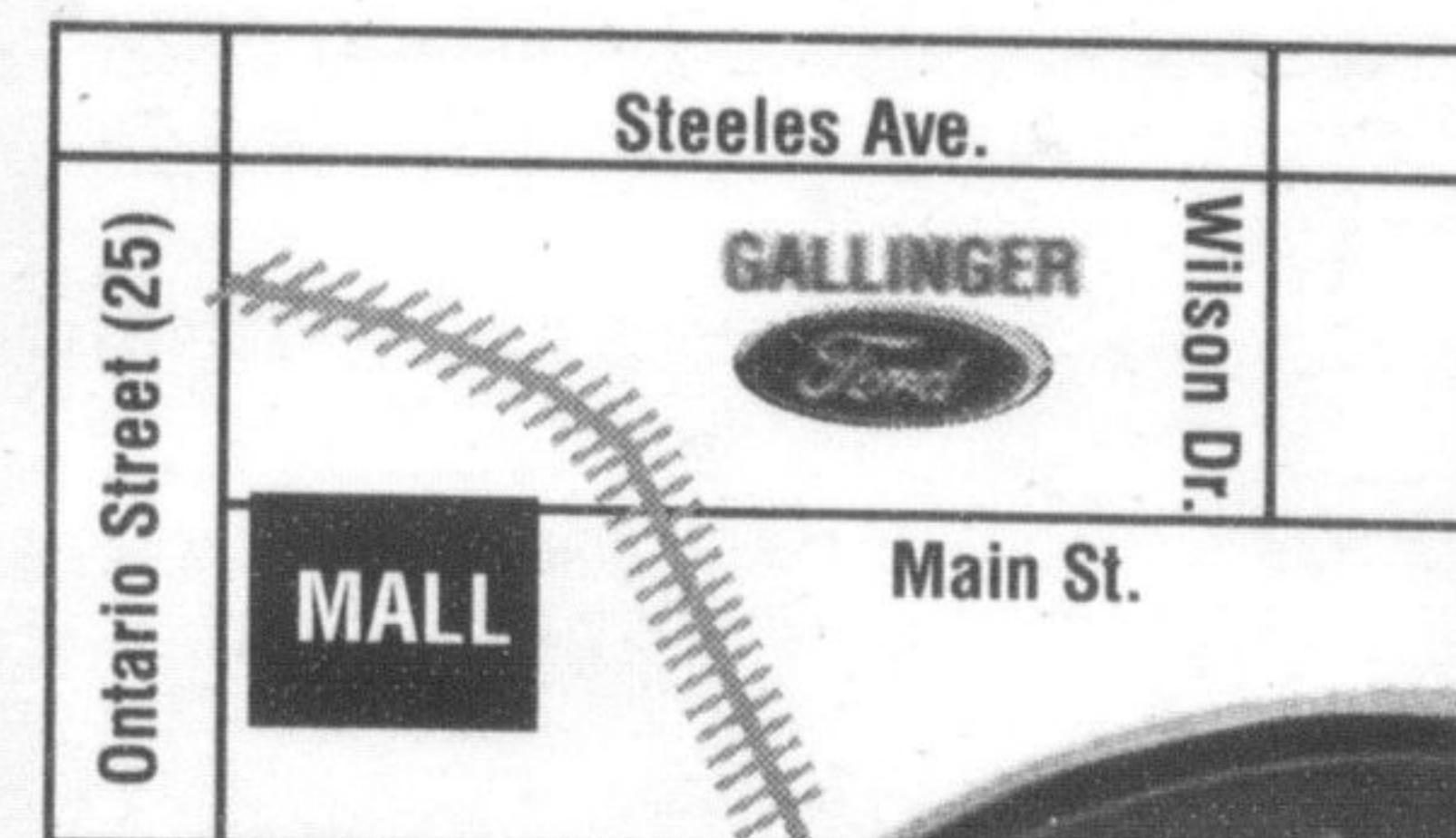
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