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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 100

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2005 \$1.00 (GST included)

44 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Lucky to be alive

A firefighter surveys what's left of a Mazda sedan crushed by a tractor-trailer unit in a noon-hour multi-vehicle collision yesterday. Amazingly, there were no injuries. About 10 vehicles including four tractor trailers were involved in the accident on Hwy. 401 at Guelph Line. Frustrated motorists were re-routed as the highway was closed for several hours east-bound, as was a section of Guelph Line.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Region stands ground on greenbelt

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

Although there were many calls for the Region to rescind its motion recommending the Province add more than 4,000 acres of north Halton land to the greenbelt plan, that didn't happen at the lengthy regional committee meeting Wednesday.

The planning and public works committee heard from approximately 30 delegates on the topic at a seven-hour meeting, with about half of those individuals asking that the Region follow suit with Halton Hills council and reverse its decision, such as Sandy Grant from the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture.

"The addition of the 4,700 acres should be rescinded for the simple reason that there was a severe lack of consultation in this area by the provincial government," she said.

"The plan has a great many flaws we feel should be dealt with before implementation."

She added that the Region should join the federation in its request to delay the implementation of the greenbelt until issues affecting farmers, such as viability and science, are dealt with properly.

Several farmers also came out to the meeting to voice their opposition to the inclusion of the approximate 4,400 acres in the greenbelt.

"My land, if it's included in the greenbelt, won't be subject to fair market value," said farmer Bob Merry, whose land falls within the subject area.

Most of the farmers who spoke echoed Mr. Merry's thoughts.

Many who supported the Region's original recommendation also turned out at the meeting.

Fourth Line resident Bernard Coyle presented a petition with more than 300 signatures of residents who live in or adjacent to the subject area, all calling for inclusion in the greenbelt.

"The people who signed the petition expressed many reasons for wishing to be part of the greenbelt, the most notable being they wanted the extra protection afforded by the provincial legislation beyond the protections of the land provided in the Town of Halton Hills' draft official plan," he said.

Gloria Hildebrandt of Protect Our Water and Environment Resources (POWER) also voiced the group's support for the 4,400 acres.

"This will provide a needed buffer between the industrial lands of Milton and a rural part of Halton

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• Walmart P&G Brochure* • Walmart • I.D.A.* • No Frills*
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