

# SENIORS LIVING

## Halton Region to study sale of its long-term care homes

By Bob Mitchell  
Special to The IFP

Halton Region will undertake a review of its owned and operated long-term care facilities to see whether it's time to sell them or continue to operate them.

Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison initially wanted Halton to ask the Province for permission to test the market for such a sale.

But with no support from other budget committee members, Dennison decided to support the review route, urged by Oakville Councillor Tom Adams, which passed unanimously during a meeting last month.

Dennison has been advocating selling Halton's three municipally-operated facilities for several years, but his idea has always been rejected.

He insisted such a sale would

save the Region \$17 million annually by divesting itself from Alendale in Milton, Post Inn Village in Oakville and Creek Way Village in Burlington.

In making his pitch for selling, Dennison said, "If it's found in the Yellow Pages we shouldn't be involved in it."

Sheldon Wolfson, Halton's social services and community commissioner, said the Region is provincially mandated to operate at least one long-term care facility.

In deciding whether to sell or retain, municipalities had to consider several ramifications such as a community and labour relations, and various cost issues, Wolfson said.

There is also a risk of losing beds.

"Licenced beds (in private nursing homes) have a value. They can be bought and sold," Wolfson

said. "Municipally-approved beds cannot be bought and sold."

However, several councillors agreed that Dennison made a compelling financial argument in

### Halton will need 400 more long-term care beds by 2021

— Sheldon Wolfson,

Halton Social Services and Community Commissioner

that, by selling the three facilities, Halton would not only reap a financial benefit, but it would also result in the private sector paying property taxes for the homes.

However they wanted staff to ensure his figures were accurate and what the long-term effects would be on Halton residents should they eventually decide to sell all three or just one of their

homes or keep the status quo.

Halton currently has 2,736 long-term care beds of which 21 per cent are operated by the Region, Dennison said.

A sale of the three municipally-owned homes would result in a cash infusion of about \$125 million, and reduce annual operating costs by more than \$17 million, according to Dennison.

He argued such a sale would increase the Region's taxable assessment, providing about \$2.5 million in property tax revenue.

"We also have \$20 million in our reserves for repairs and renewal of these facilities so this could potentially free up close to \$150 million," Dennison said.

Budget committee members were told municipally-operated homes have higher operating costs than privately-operate homes primarily because of higher wages

and past arbitration awards.

Because residents don't necessarily get to choose the home they want to live in unless they can wait for an opening, Dennison said it makes no sense for taxpayers to continually foot the bill for homes that can be served by the private sector.

"They (privately-operated homes) are income-producing assets," Dennison said.

Dennison suggested it made more sense for the Region to use the money from a sale, its reserves and the annual costs for operating the homes and use it for social housing and homeless issues, areas the Region is required to fund.

Wolfson said the Region currently operates 200 beds less than it needs and the need will become greater in the future. It's projected Halton will need 400 more beds by the Year 2021.



**Georgetown  
Denture  
Clinic**

*Creating confident smiles since 1982.*

Alexander Trenton  
DD, F.C.A.D. (A) Denturist

18 Church Street, Georgetown (Across from the Library and Cultural Centre)

(905) 877-2359

[www.georgetowndentureclinic.ca](http://www.georgetowndentureclinic.ca)

**Acton  
Denture Clinic**  
*Tracy Mitchell DD*

**130 Mill Street East,  
Acton**

Full & Partial Dentures  
Implant Retained Dentures  
Precision Dentures (BPS® Certified)  
Same Day Service for Repairs & Relines  
Dental Lab On Site  
No Referrals Needed

**519-853-0079**

### LONG TERM CARE AND RETIREMENT LIVING



*Eden House*  
Care Facility Inc.

"A Nice Place to Live"

Please call for a tour 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Accredited by:



"Serving Seniors since 1968"



R.R. 2, Guelph 519-856-4622  
[www.edenhousecarehome.ca](http://www.edenhousecarehome.ca)



**SENIORS LIFESTYLES**  
published each month

To advertise here please contact  
Kelli 905-873-0301 ext 237  
[kkosonic@theifp.ca](mailto:kkosonic@theifp.ca)

### Mountainview Residence

*This 81 suite Retirement Residence offers home-cooked meals, daily housekeeping, laundry services, nursing staff and planned social activities.*



**Owned & operated by the Summer family**  
Situating on a beautifully landscaped 5.6 acre property at 222 Mountainview Rd. N., Georgetown  
For more information or to enjoy a personal tour – simply call 905-877-1800.  
[www.mountainviewterrace.ca](http://www.mountainviewterrace.ca) [www.mountainviewresidence.ca](http://www.mountainviewresidence.ca)



### Mountainview Terrace

60 apartment style suites for cognitive self-sufficient seniors.  
Included in monthly fee:  
Weekly housekeeping, lunch & dinner, activities.



Specializing in Alzheimer's Clientele



### "TOTALLY SECURED ENVIRONMENT"

Fox Run is a country estate located on four scenic acres overlooking the Caledon Hills, and close to the quaint village of Erin, Ontario. Fox Run caters exclusively to individuals in early to mid states of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. We offer a non-institutional alternative for those who can no longer live alone and need around the clock attention.

Contact Patricia Kelly (Owner/Administrator) at 519-833-1033

RR2, Erin, Ontario