

Hometown support is for those down on their luck

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“Here in Oakville, there are agencies who have worked in Halton for years now who serve individuals who, for whatever reason, have great challenges in finding housing. There may be addiction issues that the individuals are overcoming, other individuals may have mental health issues and other backgrounds of that nature,” said Brown.

“Agencies do such good work, but they have such a challenge at finding safe suitable housing for the clients they serve.”

Brown said residents should not be concerned about what he is doing. He said Home Suite Hope has been doing the same thing in the same location since 2004.

He also said the people who will make use of his facility are Oakville residents who are going through difficult periods and need help.

“The system right now and the housing availability, not just in Oakville, but in Halton in general, is such that when someone needs to find a home, like this, so often because of costs they are forced into Mississauga or Hamilton or even Toronto and we have to change that,” said Brown.

“We need to ensure people, born and raised in our community can stay in this community. The family supports and agency supports they rely on are all within arm’s length of their home in Oakville. The minute they have to move, they lose that connection and security and their recovery from whatever their circumstances are



ERIC RIEHL / OAKVILLE BEAVER

DEALING WITH REALITY: An affordable housing home has been purchased as a transitional home by the team called Stepping Stones, from left, in back, Alf Goodearle, Housing Manager, Support & Housing, Halton; Case Feenstra, Home Suite Hope Board of Director; Cathie Ostapchuk, Home Suite Hope Board of Director; Glen Ricketts, Program Director ADAPT; and, Ian Stewart, Executive Director ADAPT. In front, from left, Garth Brown, housing advocate; Carol Willems, Salvation Army, Director of Emergency Shelter Services; and, Janice Moro, Executive Director of Home Suite Hope.

will take that much longer to achieve.”

Brown said there is no shortage of need for subsidized housing with the current waiting list for Halton sitting at around 2,140 applicants.

The problem won’t be getting better anytime soon, Brown said, as developers are not in the business of building affordable housing, which they won’t make as much money on.

The ability to take a few of these individuals off this list, Brown said, was made possible by special partnerships.

Brown said while the home and its upkeep will be his responsibility he will be partnering with Support and Housing Halton, the ASH (Addiction Supportive Housing) Program and Halton ADAPT (Alcohol, Drug and Prevention Treatment) who will select and provide supportive services for the residents.

Brown said this is one of the first public/private partnership of its kind and is calling on others to follow his example.

The Oakville Beaver asked Brown why he

was willing to spend so much of his own money to help others.

“There was a Greek philosopher who said something to the effect of, “The success of a society is based on how it treats its neediest individuals,” said Brown.

“The need is there. It has been ignored. There have been many efforts to raise the issue and raise awareness and unfortunately there is not a lot of political will to step forward and help the needy. As a result we have situations of couch surfing in Oakville, the Salvation Army Lighthouse Shelter turns away men every night because there is absolutely no room for them.”

Brown’s decision to create more affordable housing in Oakville through his own efforts was applauded by Ward 5 Town and Regional Councillor and fellow affordable housing advocate Jeff Knoll.

“It’s a good alternative. If the private sector can find a way to satisfy their profit requirements and provide affordable housing it actually provides an opportunity to reduce our waiting lists and provide opportunities for those in need,” said Knoll.

“If you look back at the Halton Housing Taskforce I chaired two years ago, that was one of the things we actually talked about. This exploring of private/public partnerships and private opportunities to expand our affordable housing opportunities in the community.”

For more information, contact Brown at garthbrown@sympatico.ca.

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| <p>2010 CADILLAC* ESCALADE \$57,577 28,199 km • Stk# K1561</p> <p><small>22 Inch wheel and tire package, 6 disc changer, 6 speed auto, 6.2l v8 403hp, active fuel management, bluetooth for phone, bose sound system, deep tinted glass, dvd navigation system, fog lights, heated and cooled front seats, heated rear seats, heated steering wheel, hid lights, leather interior, power sunroof, rear seat entertainment, rear view camera, running boards, second row power release, side blind zone alert, stabilitrac, steering wheel radio controls, suspension package, tri-zone climate control, xm radio</small></p> | <p>2010 CADILLAC* ESCALADE \$57,145 27,254 km • Stk# K1458</p> <p><small>22 Inch wheel and tire package, 6.2l v8, awd, bluetooth, dvd navigation system, heated and cooled seats, heated second row seats, onstar, power sunroof, rear dvd player, rear view camera, remote start, running boards, stabilitrac system, tinted glass, tri zone climate control</small></p> | <p>2009 CADILLAC* ESCALADE \$44,166 50,097 km • Stk# K1387</p> <p><small>6 Speed auto, am fm xm radio, asb brakes, autotride suspension, bluetooth for phone, dvd navigation system, fog lights, head curtain air bags, heated front seats, leather interior, onstar, power liftgate, power sunroof, remote vehicle start, second row heated buckets, stabilitrac, traction control, tri-zone climate control</small></p> | <p>2010 CADILLAC* DTS \$34,987 26,403 km • Stk# K1374</p> <p><small>17 Chrome alloy wheels, 4 speed auto, 4.6l v8 northstar, 6 cd changer, 6 passenger seating, abs brakes, am fm xm radio, bluetooth for phone, front and rear parking assist, heated and cooled frr seats, leather interior, memory package, power sunroof, preferred equipment price, rear heated seats, remote keyless entry, remote start, stabilitrac, traction control, wheels: 17inch x 7inch aluminum chromed</small></p> |
| <p>2007 CADILLAC* ESCALADE ESV \$32,561 93,373 km • Stk# P0075</p> <p><small>Auto Dimming Mirrors, Bose audio, Heated Steering Wheel, Homelink/Garage Opener, memory drivers seat, Rear Climate Controls, Rear Defroster, Rear heated seats, Adjustable pedals, Backup camera, Cooled seats, Dual zone climate, DVD, Factory remote start, Fog Lights, Hands free phone, Heated seats, Keyless entry, Leather Interior, Navigation, ONSTAR, Parking Sensors, Pwr hatch, Sun Roof</small></p> | <p>2010 CADILLAC* CTS \$31,987 24,621 km • Stk# K1626</p> <p><small>Preferred equipment group, Keyless Entry, Leather Interior, OnStar, Power Door Locks, Power Seat, Power Steering, Power Windows, Premium Audio, Satellite Radio, Side Impact Airbag, Stability Control, Tilt Wheel, Traction Control, Sunroof</small></p> | <p>2008 CADILLAC* SRX V6 \$24,997 64,395 km • Stk# 60052</p> <p><small>22 Inch wheel and tire package, power sunroof, rear seat entertainment, seat equipment rear: 2nd row, 60/40 split-folding bench w/ lthr surfaces, 3-passenger w/ outboard heated seat cushions and centre armrest</small></p> | <p>2006 CADILLAC* DTS \$16,994 95,024 km • Stk# DT51004A</p> <p><small>17 Chromed aluminum wheels, 4-speed automatic transmission, 4.6l northstar dohc v8 engine, dvd navigation system, front & rear air conditioning, front and rear parking assist, power lumbar, massaging, power rear window sunshade, power tinted glass sunroof</small></p> |

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