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For what matters.

<sup>1</sup> Terms and conditions apply; Double Welcome Bonus offer (10,000 Aeroplan Miles) applies to CIBC Unlimited Chequing Accounts (UCAs) opened and enrolled in Aeroplan feature between branch opening day and the 1 year anniversary of the branch opening in 2012, if (i) eligible transactions are completed within 6 months of the account open date, and (ii) the account remains open for a minimum of 6 months. You will receive 5,000 Aeroplan Miles 6-12 weeks after the end of the calendar month in which you complete (i) and 5,000 Aeroplan Miles 6-12 weeks after the end of the calendar month in which you complete (ii). Offer is limited to 1 UCA per customer; cannot be combined with any other UCA offer. Other conditions apply; ask in-branch for details. <sup>2</sup> 1/2% bonus interest per year applies to posted rates of 1 to 7 year terms of non-registered, non-redeemable Long-Term GIC only. Minimum investment amounts apply; ask in-branch for details. <sup>3</sup> One-time sign-up bonus only available when CIBC Fixed-Rate Closed Mortgage is initially advanced for minimum \$125,000. Offer excludes CIBC AeroMortgage® and CIBC Better Than Posted Mortgage. Mortgage must not be in default to receive bonus Aeroplan Miles and must be advanced within 90 days of application. Mortgage offer is valid between branch opening day and the 1 year anniversary of the branch opening in 2012. You must have or open an Aeroplan Account. Mortgage applicants must meet CIBC lending criteria. Other conditions and restrictions apply; ask in-branch for details. Offer cannot be combined with any other mortgage offer. <sup>4</sup> No purchase necessary: 1 first prize consisting of one (1) \$1,000 CIBC Bonus Rate GIC (non-redeemable, non-registered) with a 1-year term, at the current interest rate (Cdn.), 1 second prize consisting of one (1) \$1,000 Heritage Green Landscape Contractors Gift Certificate. Gift certificate terms and conditions apply. To enter, fill out ballot in-branch, available up to 4pm August 20, 2011, one per person. Odds of winning depend on number of ballots. Skill-testing question required. Employees, minors and Quebec residents not eligible. Full details in-branch. Prize suppliers are not sponsors of the contest. ACT QUICKLY, OFFERS MAY BE WITHDRAWN OR CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE AT ANY TIME. Offers only available at this branch, unless otherwise specified. Offers end on the 1 year anniversary of the branch opening in 2012, unless terminated or amended earlier by CIBC. ®Aeroplan and AeroMortgage are registered trademarks of Aeroplan Canada Inc. CIBC authorized licensee of marks. ®Reg. TM of CIBC. "CIBC for what matters." and "It's worth a talk." are trademarks of CIBC.

# Seniors' needs not being met

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"Older women in our communities are quite often spending way more than 30 per cent of whatever little income they're getting on housing costs," said Brown. "They're having to sacrifice healthy diets, medicine, transit and other issues in terms of mobility because so much of their budget is going into their housing."

There are 3,626 units of affordable housing in Halton as of last December, which aren't targeted towards specific client groups, with 1,679 in Oakville. Of the Oakville units, 679 are senior units with a centralized waiting list or housing providers with its own waiting lists. At the end of 2010, there were 2,140 eligible applicants on the wait list, of which 529 were for senior communities. In 2009, it was 468. The demand for senior housing has gone up 13 per cent in Halton.

"I was staggered by the number of seniors advocacy groups, as well as active groups who are providing support to people (aged) 50 and over. When it comes down to it, seniors' needs quite often (are) not being attended to and services in the community (have) fallen short of what seniors need to live a comfortable life throughout retirement," said Brown. "As they age, they've got so much to offer and we seem to be either cutting them short or they end up living in the silo of their homes."

As high as 80 per cent of the applicants drop off the list when they are not housed within three years. If all applicants remained on the list until they are housed, it would take up to 27 years to house them all, based on the 2010 unit turnover rate, according to the report from CDH.

One of the housing options in Oakville includes a life lease concept developed by the Rotary Club of Oakville (RCO), Brown said. Chartwell Classic Oakville Retirement Residence, on Oak Park Boulevard, allows residents to purchase the 'right to reside' in the property at market rate and pay nominal maintenance fees.

Brown said they can sell their 'right' when they move on, but the success of this plan is reflected by a waiting list of over 100 people. The last bungalow was auctioned off in 2008 between

4 prospective buyers and sold for \$280,000, which is a housing model that some can afford, but most cannot, he added.

"Seniors just don't have that kind of equity to be able to invest. Even if someone did have the cash or was able to sell the property they might have, there really is nowhere for them to go," said Brown. "It's a great idea and concept, but maybe there could be a smaller scale concept that would allow people to move forward in that direction in a more economical fashion with existing properties."

Halton provides a variety of housing and special care services for seniors, and a full list of directories, reports and programs can be found at [www.halton.ca](http://www.halton.ca).

Another issue brought up at last week's meeting was a lack of access to transportation that would make it easier for seniors to get around, Brown said.

"Moving within Oakville, the transit traditionally has been a way to get to the GO station. The next challenge is getting from Burlington to Oakville or (vice versa) or Milton to Oakville or Burlington," said Brown. "The effort to get from Burloak to Hopedale Mall requires three transfers and over an hour of travel, and you're looking at probably about a 5 km journey."

He said transportation provided to those with accessibility issues isn't just about cost; it's a timing issue as well. Oakville Transit (OT) offers a discounted rate for people ages 65 and older, on a pack of 10 bus tickets for \$17.50 and a monthly bus pass for \$50.

Although no new group was established at the meeting, Brown suggested people can contact him if they were interested in learning more.

"There is a lot of disparity, angst and concern built up in the minds of a lot of seniors who may not have the pensions that they hoped for and they're sitting on the equity of their home," said Brown.

For those interested in attending a CASH meeting, the next is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. at 760 Brant St., Suite 405A, in Burlington. Contact Brown at [garthbrown@sympatico.ca](mailto:garthbrown@sympatico.ca).

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