

# Co-op gets much-needed funds

By **LISA TALLYN**  
Staff Writer

Just in time for Christmas, the residents of Carruthers Road Cooperative Homes Inc. got some long-awaited good news.

Residents have been living with mould, leaking windows above electric floor heaters and rusted bathtubs, to name a few of the issues in the building and waiting for more than a year to get funds from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to fix them.

Finally on Tuesday the cooperative got word from the Agency for Cooperative Housing, which monitors the operating agreements with cooperatives for the CMHC, that close to \$600,000 would be coming its way to go toward improvements like replacing more than 200 windows in the building, dealing with mould remediation, renovating the lobby, installing new doors and replacing rusted bathtubs.

"It's about time," said Noel Duignan, coordinator of the cooperative. "All of that political intervention and lobbying efforts helped to further the cause."

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and Wellington Halton Hills MP Michael Chong met with the residents and wrote to the CMHC on the resident's behalf.

Duignan said all of the legal papers have to be signed regarding the funding, but he's hopeful some of the work will be able to start in January. He would like to see work on the washrooms in two vacant units be-

gin as soon as possible so the cooperative can start to collect much needed rent again on those units.

Bonnette, who called the conditions in the building "unacceptable," was thrilled with the news. "I think it's terrific news, and what a Christmas present," said Bonnette.

Duignan stressed that Cooperative is only one across the country in this situation.

"What needs to be done is a comprehensive plan put in place by the government and the issues dealt with in a speedy manner," he said.

Building resident Kathleen Richards was "extremely pleased" to hear the funding was coming to improve the building.

"It's certainly going to help us to put a facelift on the building and hopefully with the new windows it will be warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer, which will help tremendously with our hydro bill."

Charleen Williams, another building resident, was pleased with the news as well.

"It's a positive spin on what could have been a very negative situation for all the members in the cooperative," said Williams. She stressed she's very much looking forward to seeing the issues resolved, but based on past practice and her experience as a long-time resident she will be watching closely to ensure things unfold how they should.

She's very appreciative for all the lobbying efforts by Bonnette and Chong, and this newspaper which brought the story to light in November.

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