



Political officials were on hand last week to mark the beginning of construction for the Centennial Manor redevelopment. From left Peter Pomeroy, Halton Regional Chairman, Noel Duignan, MPP, and Gord Krantz, Milton Mayor. Manor resident Pirky Jokinen also joined the occasion.

Photo by Susan Jacobs

## Construction begins on new 'townlike' Centennial Manor

By ROB KELLY

A 75-year-old woman probably summed it up best.

"Bear with us, we're on the move" was the prize-winning phrase coined by Piekko "Perky" Jokinen that won a slogan contest counted at Halton Centennial Manor Monday. The competition was for a catch phrase to accompany the newly-launched \$20 million rebuilding campaign at the Milton senior citizens' home. The project will take 18 months.

In an outdoor ceremony under an awning that mercifully veiled the unseasonably strong sun but could offer little shelter against oppressive humidity, roughly 150 residents and dignitaries turned out to take part in the ceremonial sod-turning that marks the end of the old Manor and the beginning of a new one.

In less than two years the new Manor will be smaller but, according to its designers and supporters, less institutional.

"It will be one of the most innovative new homes in the province of Ontario," said project architect Mel Mekinda. "The new Manor will increase the dignity, the independence of its residents."

The new structure will depart from the previous design in a number of important ways. Perhaps chief among them is the layout of the residences themselves. Previously, living quarters were arranged like hotel or hospital rooms, with lines of doorways flanking seemingly endless sterile corridors. But the new scheme calls for eight 25-bed houses, almost dormitory style, in order to accentuate the home-like quality of the structure.

The residences will all share common central facilities such as a chapel and barber shop, to create a sort of town square atmosphere in a bright, airy mezzanine area.

While the current facility offers more than 300 beds, the reduction to 200 under the rebuilding program is seen as another effort to move away from an institutional setting. Also, the plan is to construct other smaller senior citizens' residences throughout Halton, both to make such centres more comfortable for the residents and to allow older people to live in their own communities rather than forcing them to move to Milton.

Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy said the planned "environment maximizes the dig-

nity, self respect and peace of mind" for residents and maintains "a special commitment to community atmosphere."

In honor of her winning slogan entry, Perky Jokinen was given a stuffed bear in a hardhat by Hal-

ton social services director Bonnie Ewart. The bear likeness and the slogan will be plastered on posters put up at the complex over the next 18 months as construction work takes place around the residents.

## Women must learn to be ready for attack say police

By KAREN SMITH

Being prepared is a women's best defence against crime, advised a Halton Regional Police officer.

"There's not going to be anyone around to help you necessarily. You have to make decisions," Constable Susan Delaney told an audience of about 50 people - mostly women - at Bishop Reding Secondary School.

The first step toward protecting yourself, she said, is realizing that you could be a victim. "We just always assume that things aren't going to happen to us."

In the home, good locks should be installed on all doors and windows. "Is the wood rotten? Are the doors easy to pick?" asked the energetic speaker. "Your locks are the most important. Don't count on the chain."

Be selective about admitting people into your home, she warned. Request identification from delivery, repair and service people - and even police officers.

"You don't have to let anybody into your home unless you're comfortable about who it is."

Constable Delaney suggested man's best friend as a security measure. "You wouldn't believe how even the worst offenders will back down as soon as he hears a dog."

Focusing on safety in the home, on the street and in vehicles, the event was the first of a series of seminars called *Women Alone* which Halton Regional Police are presenting throughout the region this month.

Police have had numerous

requests for the program since the abductions and murders of two Halton teenagers - the most recent Nina de Villiers of Burlington.

To be safe on the street, continued Constable Delaney, try not to walk alone at night - use a bus or taxi.

If you must walk alone, she said, be alert, avoid dark or isolated areas and walk out in the open away from walls, alleys, doorways and pillars.

Whether you're driving or on foot, determine the safest route of travel. The most secure way may not be the quickest way.

Although Constable Delaney is dead set against women carrying weapons (an attacker may use them against you), she said personal alarms may come in handy.

But, she added, women must ensure they don't develop a "false sense of security" by carrying the devices.

She also suggested women be aware of facilities and organizations available to them - such as Halton Women's Place and the Halton Rape Crisis Centre - just in case.

Despite the fact that crime is on the rise in Milton and the rest of the region, Constable Delaney said Halton is still a safe place to live.

"This is still a great community," Constable Delaney assured the audience. "The bad percentage give a lot of people a bad name."

"There are a lot of good people out there. You just have to learn how to stay safe. Be aware and be prepared."

### Car totalled

A stuck gas pedal caused a driver to demolish a parked car in a parking lot at 17 Elizabeth St. in Acton Monday. At 2:15 p.m. the driver set her Buick in motion, and the gas pedal became stuck, causing her to rear-

end the other car. She then drove her car into the fence, and when she put the car in reverse, the gas pedal again stuck, causing her to hit a tree, police said. The parked car was severely damaged and the Buick was lightly damaged.

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