

# Holy Cross seniors residence approved

Halton Hills Council, at its December meeting, approved the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw amendments that will allow a seven-storey 147-suite seniors' residence at 224 Maple Ave. — the former Holy Cross Church property.

The Rockport Group will develop the property with a mix of accommodation: 66 suites of independent living, 54 suites of assisted living (with 62 beds) and 27 suites of memory care. The memory care units will be on a separate, and secured floor that provides 24-hour care for residents suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or other types of memory problems.

Those around the council table, such as Mayor Rick Bonnette, lauded the Rockport Group's plans.

"I can't think of a better situation for Georgetown and Halton Hills than to have this type of facility to replace the church. It gives another opportunity for seniors to stay in town," he said. "To me, it's a good news story."

Ward 4 Councillor Ann Lawlor said she's pleased to see the height of the building is staying as low as seven storeys.

I think it's going to look really good in that location. It will blend in nicely with the neighbourhood," she said.

Sun-shadow studies and an urban de-

sign review showed that the increased height would not have an identifiable impact on the low-density homes across the street, or on the adjacent Holy Cross School. Halton Catholic District School Board has reviewed the plans and has no concerns.

Seventy-eight parking spaces are proposed including 34 underground spaces and 44 above ground.

The existing stand-alone parking lot located south of the Silver Creek valley represents 16 of the 44 surface parking spots. The portion of the Silver Creek valley system located on the property will be preserved.

The zoning amendment, from Institutional to Site Specific High Density Residential limits the use of the lands to a seniors' residence only.

The amendments are conditional with a Holding (H) provisions: that the owner (Rockport Group) satisfy Halton Region's Protocol for Review of Contaminated and Potential Contaminated Sites or that a qualified professional reports that the lands will be suitable for the use, and that the development gets the required amount of water allocation (70 SDE).

The development will now proceed to the site plan stage.

— With files from Melanie Hennessey



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