

# As their autistic sons reach adulthood, these families are searching for options

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In a few years, Yvonne and Ed Mabee's grandson Sean will turn 18, but their plan for his future is hazy.

The lack of options available for adults on the autism spectrum leave the couple without a plan for Sean's future and with very little hope that something positive will come into fruition within the next few years.

"You can't make a plan after 18 for kids like ours," Yvonne said. "For Sean, he's going to end up in a home, eventually. We're not going to live forever. We need to get him up and we would like to get him up so that we can go visit a home and pick and choose, but we can't do that."

Knowing that it takes years to receive a call, Yvonne says Sean was placed on a wait list for a home at seven years old. He is now 14 and Yvonne says she has yet to hear back - and when she does, there is no guarantee that the home available will be one that is best suited for her grandson.

"When a home comes up, it could be a crappy home," Yvonne said. "And if you turn it down you're going back on that wait list."

According to the most recent version of the Housing Task Force guide by P4P Planning Network, in conjunction with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, there are currently 12,000 adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario who are in need of housing.

As a result of the demand for an increase in housing options in recent years, the Ontario government currently has 18 proposed projects in the works, though none of them are for Halton Region. Ed and Yvonne Mabee with their grandson Sean, 14. Veronica Appia/Metroland Kady Lafortune is a mother of two sons who are on the spectrum. Her sons have also been on the wait list for a home since they were children. They are now 19 and 21 years old. Lafortune says along with the

problem of finding a home that is the right fit for her sons, she wishes there were more activities and programs available in Georgetown for her boys to partake in on a regular basis.

Finding programs in town has been a struggle for Lafortune since she first moved to Georgetown 21 years ago.

"For many years I drove down to Milton for camps, because I work full time and my husband works full time. We would drive every week to Milton, he would drop them off and I would pick them up, but I think it's important for the kids to know this is their community and to have things here to," she added.

The lack of camps for teenag-



Veronica Appia/Metroland

**From left to right: Bev Keane Teakle, Robin Treffry, Yvonne Mabee, Kady Lafortune and Colleen Bliss of the Autism Ontario North Halton chapter.**

ers in town leaves Yvonne and Ed in a tough situation each summer. They have to use respite services to be able to go to work because they cannot leave Sean


home alone.

"There are camps in Halton Region, but farther way," she said. "I leave at 6:30 in the morning. If the camp runs let's say 9

until 4, how am I going to get there in time?"

By June, Georgetown is expect-

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**... Lend Me Your Ears**

By Cory Soal  
R.H.A.D.

**COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT TINNITUS - PART 1**

**WHAT IS IT?**


Tinnitus is a subjective experience where one hears a sound, ringing or noise when no external physical sound is present. Some call it "head noises", "ear ringing," or other similar things.

**WHAT CAUSES IT?**

There are many causes; indeed almost everything that can go wrong with the ear has Tinnitus associated with it as a symptom. Things as simple as wax against the eardrum to very serious items such as tumors on the 7th facial nerve can produce Tinnitus. Meniere's disease has Tinnitus associated with it. One of the most common causes of Tinnitus is exposure to excessively loud sounds such as shooting, chain saws, rock concerts, or other loud noises.

For more information feel free to call...

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