REGION TAKES STEP FORWARD WITH NEW SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

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Halton is advancing a variety of assisted housing projects across the region while also calling on the senior levels of government for funding to support them.

Regional council recently passed several motions that will help pave the way for new subsidized housing locations in Georgetown, Milton and Oakville.

This includes:

• 17 Guelph St., Georgetown: According to a Halton staff report, this apartment building project has the potential to create up to 16 units of purpose-built rental housing, with a minimum of six units at an assisted rent level. Regional staff was directed to work with Halton Hills



Town of Halton Hills photo

A rendering of the affordable apartment building proposed for 17 Guelph St.

staff and issue a joint call for expressions of interest, which aims to find a thirdparty affordable housing provider to build, operate and maintain the building.

• 363 Margaret Dr., Oakville: Halton is exploring the potential creation of a two-storey apartment building with larger unit sizes on the lands owned by the Halton Community Housing Corporation. Council approved \$400,000 for pre-development work such as sourcing consultants, studies and construction quotes to position the property for development.

• Allendale campus, Ontario Street, Milton: Council endorsed a Phase 1 implementation plan for the lands, which envisions a three-building development targeted to older adults. Regional staff estimates that 505 residential units and 20,000 square feet of community space can be accommodated on the Phase 1 lands at the corner of Ontario Street and Childs Drive. The first proposed building is an eight-storey apartment building for older adults with up to 228 one-bedroom units.

• 263 Kerr St., Oakville: A land use concept for the site was approved by council that calls for a four-storey apartment building for older adults with up to 40 one-bedroom units, along with ground floor space for a seniors' hub. Halton staff has been authorized to take the necessary steps to advance the project.

Council also approved taking a portfolio approach to Halton's housing opportunities — a method often used by larger municipalities to improve readiness for long-term funding commitments from the provincial and federal governments.

"This is very exciting," said Oakville Mayor Rob Burton, noting he recently met with federal Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion Ahmed Hussen, who indicated if Halton develops a portfolio approach, he can secure funding for the region.

"I intend to hold him to it," added Burton.

Council directed Regional Chair Gary Carr to write to the relevant provincial and federal ministers to request housing portfolio funding.



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