



# Simply Halton

Your Halton Connection  
April '05

## Glossary of Housing Terms

**Affordable Housing:** Housing with market price or rent that is affordable to households of low and moderate income spending 30 per cent of their gross household income without government subsidies.

**Assisted Housing:** Housing available to low and moderate-income households for rent or purchase where part of the housing cost is subsidized through a government program.

**Domiciliary Housing:** Permanent residence for people with special needs.

**Emergency Housing:** A short-term living situation in an emergency housing facility or motel for individuals and families who have no shelter.

**Social Housing:** Rental accommodation owned and administered by not-for-profit housing corporations that receive financial assistance towards the capital and/or operating costs of the project.

**Special Needs Housing:** Designed to accommodate individuals with specific needs, and includes group homes, emergency shelter, housing for the homeless and independent permanent living arrangements where support services such as meal preparation, grocery shopping, laundry, housekeeping, respite care and attendant services are provided.

**Transitional Housing:** Temporary or interim accommodation for homeless or at-risk of homelessness individuals and/or families that is combined with case managed support services, aimed at helping these individuals to transition to long-term and permanent housing, self-sufficiency and independence.

## Halton Meetings & Events

- April Meetings at Regional Headquarters
- April 12, 9:30 a.m.  
Health & Social Services Committee
- April 13, 9:30 a.m.  
Planning & Public Works Committee
- April 13, 1:30 p.m.  
Administration & Finance Committee
- April 20, 9:30 a.m.  
Regional Council Meeting

## Developing an Affordable Housing Strategy for Halton



**Joyce Savoline**  
Regional Chairman

According to a recent Federation of Canadian Municipalities report, there has been an increase over the last 10 years of people in Halton spending more than 30 per cent of their income on shelter. As a result, low-income earners such as single parents, singles, seniors and the working poor have difficulties finding money for food,

clothing and other necessities. This fact, coupled with a lack of affordable housing and declining supply of low-rent units is making residency for some people, a far too expensive option and they are going elsewhere.

Guided by the principle that "People in Halton should be able to live in their own community," Regional Council committed to the development of a comprehensive housing strategy, as one of its goals for the 2004-2006 term. The strategy will incorporate housing types for all incomes and all stages of life -- from emergency shelters and government assisted housing to private sector affordable housing. We call it "The Housing Continuum" and you'll be hearing more about the continuum as the strategy develops.

There is a shortage of various types of housing. Homes being built are very expensive and varied options

### Quick Facts on Housing in Halton

#### Did you know...

- In October 2004, only 20 out of every 1000 rental units were available for rent
- According to the last Census, almost 40% of renters paid over 30% of their gross income in rent
- As of November 1, 2004, 1,702 households were on Halton Region's Co-ordinated Access Waiting List for social housing
- The Region estimates that on average 1,200 to 1,300 people in the Region are homeless each year.

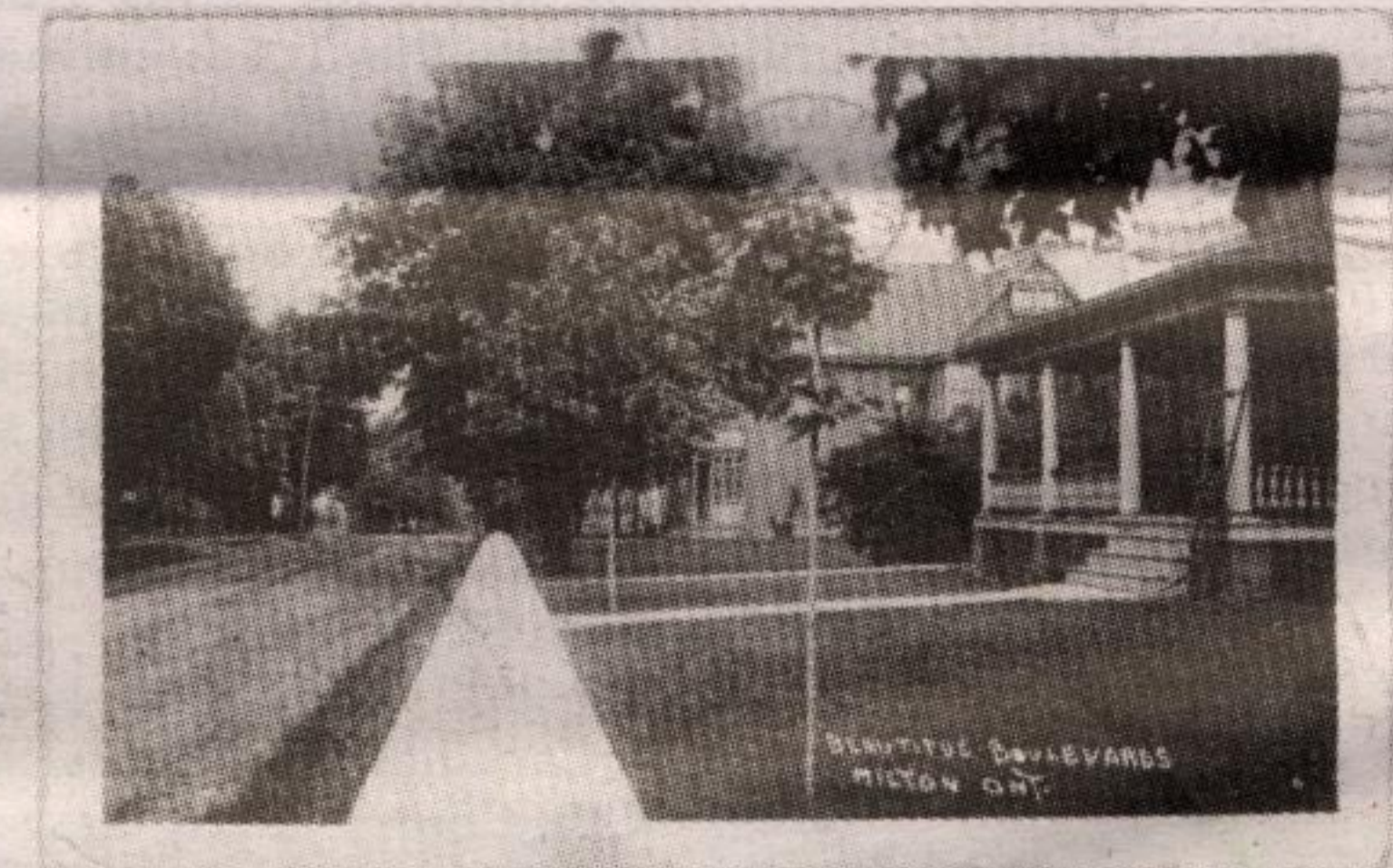
for a diverse population are inadequate. Housing should accommodate all incomes and all stages of life.

Halton is not the only municipality facing the challenge of affordable housing. It's encouraging to see a new federal/provincial-housing program evolving. Halton plans to participate in this program. A steering committee, made up of Regional Councillors, a member of the Halton Housing Advisory Committee and Regional staff have started to coordinate the development of a housing strategy for presentation to Regional Council in the fall. As Chairman of the steering committee, I will ensure there are several opportunities for public consultation. You will be invited to attend open houses to gain an understanding of the housing challenges facing the Region, as well as identify potential solutions.

In Halton, we remain committed to meeting the needs of our residents and maintaining our high quality of life. Additional communications about the housing strategy will be forthcoming as the plan develops.

## Halton in History

This picture postcard of Queen Street in Milton entitled "Beautiful Boulevards", presents some of the market housing available in 1911. The postmark is June 5, 1911 at Milton West in the afternoon. It was sent to Mr. George Prior of Macdonnell Street in Guelph. The one-cent stamp bears the picture of King George V. The late George Jackson who served on the Milton Library Board originally gave the postcard to the Milton Public Library. The Library donated it to the Halton Museum in 1988.



Courtesy of Halton Region Museum Archives

## Housing and Halton's Quality of Life



**A. Brent Marshall**  
Chief Administrative Officer

In 2003, Environics Research Inc. conducted a citizen and customer service satisfaction survey to assess residents' perceptions and expectations regarding Halton Region's programs and services. Of particular interest was satisfaction with the quality of life in Halton. Based on a random sample of 804 residents, more than 80 per cent of the respondents indicated the quality of life in

Halton is better than that of most other areas in the GTA.

The results of this survey were confirmed through the February 2005 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life Report which showed Halton residents enjoy a high quality of life with low unemployment, high educational attainment, good health and low crime rates.

The report also reflected how demographic changes impact on our future resources and sustainability. For example, the number of young adults, 25-35 years old, is declining, which

may be attributable to the high cost of housing and the lack of affordable rental accommodation. The report recommends further research on this issue.

In addition, Halton's seniors' population, those over age 65, is growing, bringing a host of needs including health care, housing and other human services. It's important that these social factors are taken into consideration in the development of our comprehensive housing strategy so that housing solutions complement community needs.

When we think of the quality of life in Halton we often think of the "hard" infrastructure services like roads, bridges and pipes that deliver safe, clean drinking water. But we need to start thinking about housing as infrastructure as well. Just as the roads, bridges and pipes help us sustain the quality of life we enjoy, so does housing.

Regional Council has given staff direction through the 2004-2006 Strategic Plan to engage stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive housing strategy that addresses three key areas: creating a supply of housing; protecting the housing supply; and meeting individual housing needs.

The Region's work on the housing issue is consistent with our approach to keep Halton a great place to live and work. Our process is one that that will be collaborative and consultative as we develop plans that will meet the needs of our changing and aging population.

We welcome your feedback. Contact Access Halton at [accesshalton@region.halton.on.ca](mailto:accesshalton@region.halton.on.ca)  
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