REGIONAL NEWS, NOTES AND NEIGHBOURS

APRIL 29, 2005

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Steering Committee on Affordable

BY BERNADETTE WARD

Housing' in Halton

pring boarding from the concept of affordable, accessible housing for all residents, the Region of Halton began laying the groundwork for a housing strategy by holding it's first steering committee meeting on April 20.

"Our strategy focuses on one main principal, to allow Halton residents to remain in their own community," says Regional Chair Joyce Savoline who is also chairing the steering committee.

Members of the steering committee, in consultation with Halton's Human Services advisory committee, heard from stakeholders and members of the public who each had a five-minute opportunity to present their wish list.

"As someone who has been going through cancer treatment, every month I have to decide whether to eat, buy my medication or pay my rent," said Elizabeth Carmichael who spoke for the need of affordable housing for those with lowincomes on behalf the Halton Diversity Advisory Committee.

From seniors and young people to the poor and the disabled, almost every segment of the community was on hand to offer suggestions and point out need.

"EVERY MONTH I HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO EAT, BUY MY MEDICATION OR PAY MY RENT"

Carole Ward and Lang Moffat spoke on behalf of the Elderly Services Advisory Committee (ESAC), advocating for mixed housing options within the community.

"We at ESAC advocate that each municipality will be a place where people can work, live and age," said Moffat.

ESAC pointed out that there are more than 44,000 seniors in Halton and growing and whose housing needs will have to be met.

"Too many communities are built for just one demographic," said Moffat, referring to the need of seniors to be close to amenities such as retail and medical facilities.

Robert Baraniecki from the Halton Region Youth Advisory Committee (HRYAC) noted that his agency has identified a need for emergency housing and shelters for young people as well as second stage housing.

Acknowledging Halton's efforts to provide shelter, he noted though that there are very few beds. There are two beds at one Salvation Army shelter and up to 10 coming to the Lighthouse Shelter in Oakville.

With more than 5,000 young people living in poverty in Halton, there is a need, said Baraniecki for more beds and transitional housing that offers supports and life skills train-

"We need to provide a warm, positive environment for youth," said Baraniecki.

Almost all of the speakers had similar concerns about housing and affordability.

"Is Halton going to be only a place for rich people?" asked Carmichael.

Moffat pointed out that not ensuring an adequate sup-

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The Milton Chamber of Commerce "After Hours" get together for April was held at the Rose Cherry Home On 15th Sideroad In Nassagaweya. The guests of honour for the evening were Hockey Night in Canada icon, Don Cherry, and his vivacious daughter Cindy. The Rose Cherry Home has state of the art long term and palliative care facilities for up to six children at a time. Don Cherry thanked the many volunteers and tradesmen who donated their time and materials to realize the dream. The home opened to its first patient on Christmas Eve 2004. Pictured here, left to right, are David Bowker, Chair of the Cedarbrook Society which runs the Rose Cherry Home, Joyce Hagevik, president of the Milton Chamber, Don Cherry, Milton Town Councillor Father Mark Curtis, and Cindy Cherry.

Residents voice traffic concerns

By Donna Danielli

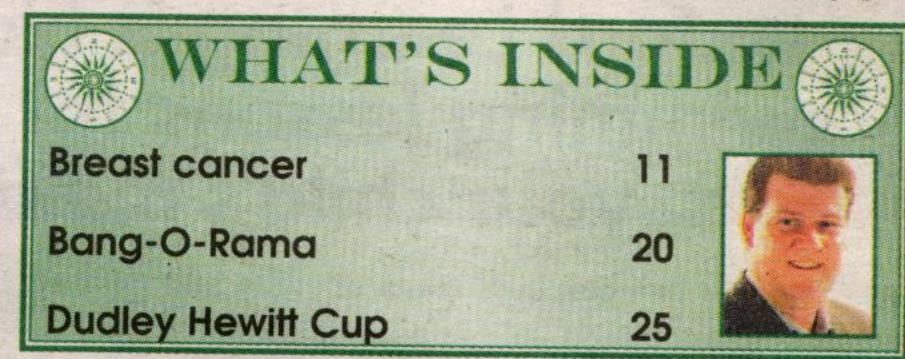
t the recent Rural Community Forum, rural residents took the floor to voice their concerns to Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline and Halton Region Police Ean Algar. Although the evening touched on issues such as the Draft Tree By-Law, garbage pick up, well issues and quarries, it was the issue of traffic that seemed to concern the residents the most. "The number complaint in the region is traffic," admitted Chief Algar. "Our enforcement levels are up, but it's still an issue."

Residents are worried about traffic on rural roads on three very different issues: truck traffic, motorcycles, and cyclists. "Motorcycles are ruining our community, with immunity from the law," complained Phil Van Alstyne. "They're ruining our quality of life and our safety." North Halton has long been a favourite spot for motorcyclists with its scenic routes and winding roads, and draws large numbers of riders every weekend. "We need to be clear though, we're not talking about the Harleys," said Daphne Bruce. "We're talking about the kids on their Kawasakis." Deputy Police Chief Mike Kingston was quick to assure the audience that the police department is aware of their concerns regarding the increased motorcycle traffic, and is taking steps to

crack down on dangerous riders or those that exceed noise by-laws. The Halton Regional Police Department will be initiating a trial program that deploys five or six officers on roads known to be favourites of the motorcycle crowd. "We'll deploy five or six officers, and we're going to ticket the hell out of them," he vowed.

The police department has also already begun to address concerns about the size and number of trucks on the rural roads. They have begun special training sessions for Halton officers and will implement a truck safety blitz in mid May. During the blitz, all trucks in a specified area will

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