



**SENIOR SURVEY:** Acton Seniors (clockwise from front left) Neil Miller, Betty Green, Betty Cole, Ena Gibson, Helen Bittorf and Peggy DeBruyn completed a housing and support services survey at the Acton Seniors' Centre on Monday. - Frances Niblock photo

## What Seniors want...

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"Architects and planners don't ask what we want, so I thought I'd put in my two cents worth I want to stay in Acton, because this is my home and I want to have choices," Gibson said after filling out the survey.

ESCA community development co-ordinator, Sue Haggith, said the seniors'

perspective on housing and support needs is the missing piece of information as planners look at land uses.

"Do they really want apartments? Do they really want bungalows? What they really do want hasn't been researched to a great degree and this survey will help the people working on those issues," Haggith said, adding the survey will give Halton

more data to base future senior-related issues on.

Twenty copies of the ESAC survey are available at the Acton Seniors' Centre, by calling Halton Region and at the Mill Street office of HHCSL.

Following several more survey workshops throughout Halton, the information will be presented to Halton Council is a report this June.



## Few changes contemplated at assisted housing

Halton housing officials were quick to dispel rumours the 52-unit Lakeview Villa in Acton, an assisted housing development now owned by the Halton Housing Corporation (HHC), was being converted to disabled housing.

The province is no longer paying for social housing and developments like Lakeview Villa are now run by the Halton Housing Corporation, whose biggest shareholder is Halton Region.

"As far as 17 Elizabeth goes, it should be a seamless transition," HHC spokesperson Mary Garbus said on Friday, adding she's on a transition steering committee that will report to Halton Council in April on "what the new relationship will be" with the housing corporation.

Garbus said the property manager at 17 Elizabeth Drive had left, but the custodian and supportive-housing staff remain in place at the building that offers a mix of rent-geared-to-income housing

including three barrier-free units.

In Acton, the HHC also owns Braeside, a 12-unit senior's apartment building on Holmesway Place, and two family developments including 18 units on Holmesway Place and the 36-unit Cobblehill

Homes Co-operative.

Affordable housing is for households with low to moderate incomes who can't find private rental housing that costs more than 30 per cent of their gross income, the accepted standard of affordability for housing.

### TOWN DIGEST

#### GROUP HOME REPORT

Within weeks, a consultant hired by Halton to look into public concerns over the number of group homes in Acton will report with the Region on how to address those concerns.

An ad hoc committee has been looking into land use controls that would ensure group homes continue to be permitted, but within a framework that has them situated throughout the Region.

The Halton Hills Official Plan allows group homes anywhere in the urban area.

#### JK DELAY

The Halton District School Board still hopes to re-implement Junior Kindergarten (JK) programming this Sept., but a study on how it impact the board and students was not ready as expected last week.

It will be mid-November before a committee struck to study the impact reintroducing JK is ready to report.

The board initially planned to open two JK centres in Burlington and Milton, schools that would accept students from feeder schools, but that plan may change to offering the program in individual schools.

## Acton gives gift of life

As get-well gestures, they don't get much bigger, or more generous.

Friends and relatives of Acton's Walter Barlow gave the gift of life in his name at last Thursday's blood donor clinic at the Legion - unique donations that pleased his grateful family, nurses and Canadian Blood Services officials.

Almost two weeks ago, Walter, in a Guelph hospital being treated for cancer, required eight units of blood - he's had two more since - and when wife Pauline heard the nurses talking about a blood shortage, she decided when people asked her what they could do to help, she'd ask them to give blood.

Mrs. Barlow shared her plan with a friend, Eileen Dix, who began recruiting the donors, who after admiring a photo of Walter and signing a card at the clinic, were among the 86 people who braved the driving rain and slippery road conditions to give blood at the clinic.

"It's just thrilling so many people are here to help," Mrs. Barlow said as she thanked Dix's recruits and others who heard about their request.

"We sincerely want to say thanks to everyone - it's just marvelous. And, there are Brownies and Guides here today and both Wally and I were involved with Guiding and Scouting for more than 20 years, so he'll like that," Mrs. Barlow said, adding her husband was improving.

Twenty-four Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders earned their Blood Recruitment badge by bringing a blood donor to the clinic, helping make the clinic a "wonderful success" according to clinic co-ordinator Julia Roehrig.

"We had a lot of first time donators. I'm completely blown away by these numbers - I'm so pleased - thank you Acton," Roehrig said, adding Canadian Blood Services staff want to tell the Barlow's story in a volunteer newsletter.

Nurses treating Walter posted an earlier New Tanner story about the Barlows' request for blood donations on a hospital bulletin board, hoping others will give the gift of life - the ultimate get-well wish.



**BLOOD BADGE:** Acton Guide Jessica (left) and Brownie Candace Vlietstra, both earned their Blood Recruitment badges for bringing parents, Teena and Peter, to last Thursday's blood donor clinic at the Legion. - Frances Niblock photo

### Tentative deal for teachers

Details of a tentative collective agreement reached on Friday by the union representing Halton's public high school teachers and the Halton District School Board will not be released until after it's ratified by both parties.

Halton school board trustees approved the deal, subject to union ratification at a closed-door, special meeting on Monday night. The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), will stage in-school votes tomorrow (Friday) throughout Halton.

Approximately 1,000 Halton secondary school teachers, including 32 full and part-time staff at Acton High School, have been without a contract since August. They began a legal job action in mid-December, refusing to cover for absent colleagues, take part in school or board committees or do lunchroom and hall supervision.

Some teachers in Acton also withdrew from extra-curricular activities, leaving parents and senior students to coach some sports teams and over-see the school bands.

The tentative two-year pact was reached following several marathon bargaining sessions with the help of a provincial mediator, who commented "how polite" both sides were to one another after five months of talks.

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