

Bennett Centre's seniors' complex gets green light from town council

Halton Hills council gave its unanimous stamp of approval to Bennett Health Care Centre's (BHCC) plan to build a seniors' complex on a Princess Anne Dr. property, at Monday's council meeting.

BHCC, a non-profit organization, which operates the long-term care centre adjacent to the Georgetown hospital, hopes to build the complex with various forms of housing, adult daycare, and professional and retail units on 16.5 acres.

The plan includes a 12-storey 200-unit apartment building (placed in the lower section of the property), a two-storey 128-bed long-term care facility and an eight-storey 100-unit supportive care facility.

Director of Planning Bruce MacLean said the property's topography and location makes it a good place for the two apartment buildings, which are above the town standard of six storeys. He said William Osler Health Centre has confirmed through drawings and a study that the extra height will not affect the Georgetown hospital heliport.

However, the approval comes with a number of conditions, including:

- Town assumes ownership of 2.58 hectares (6 acres) of valley land along the eastern edge of the property, which will become Open Space Conservation
- Town receives ownership of land through the property to build a collector road, an extension of Halton Hills Dr., from Maple Ave. to Princess Anne Dr.
- The site plan will accommodate a public trail that will connect to the Civic Centre
- Credit Valley Conservation and the Town must be satisfied with the stormwater

drainage.

- Confirmation of water and wastewater capacity— currently there's none.

Approval must be ratified at the October council meeting.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said the plan is visionary for the community and approval "sends a message to our seniors that we want them to stay in our town."

In the spring, the Bennett Health Care Centre board requested concessions from the town including waiving cash-in-lieu of parkland contribution, development charges and building permit fees and contributing funds to build the road. These issues will be dealt with in a future staff report to council.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Region helps out UW

Halton Region launched its annual United Way campaign last week with a barbecue lunch event that raised more than \$3,700 in cash and pledges for the charitable organization.

"Halton Region and its employees have a long tradition of supporting the United Way," said Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline, "The United Way is Halton Region employees' charity of choice. Last year, we raised a record \$171,468. It's this kind of generosity that is characteristic of our employees and the culture of our organization."

Sponsored by Teresa Longo of Longo's Fruit Market in Oakville, the event featured Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and Regional Councillor Janice Wright hard at work on the barbecues.

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