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Region marks National Housing Day...

To mark National Housing Day (today) and to put a human face on Halton's housing needs, a panel of community members are sharing their personal stories about housing with the Halton community.

The panel is called "Voices for Housing Choices" and the stories are shared in different ways— in person at public events, through written word or photography. During the week of November 20-25, there will be a "Voices for Housing Choices" display in each municipality at the local town/city hall.

Despite Halton's affluence, there is a significant disparity between the housing needs of the community and the availability of affordable housing. Halton Region's Annual Housing Report identifies a shortage of 300-600 units of afford-

able housing and 400-800 units of assisted housing in Halton in 2004. As a result, low-income residents such as students, young families or fixed income seniors are often forced to leave Halton to find a place to live.

Recognizing the importance of housing, Halton Region developed a Comprehensive Housing Strategy that addresses housing from now until 2015. The strategy incorporates a continuum of housing types for all incomes and all stages of life— from emergency shelters and government assisted housing to private sector affordable housing.

If you are interested in acting as an ambassador for Halton's housing issue, please contact Jen Lenard-Benson at 1-866-442-5866, ext. 4432 to get more information about this initiative.

The George & Dragon is No Longer! We're NOW the BRAND NEW

Knights

Of the **Round Table**

Come & Visit Julie & the Staff

Thurs. Nights 'AVERAGE JOE' KARAOKE

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2 lbs. \$9.95

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11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- Salads
- Roasts
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HAPPY HOUR
Mon- Fri., 5 - 7 p.m.

1/2 Price Munchies

79 Main St., S. Georgetown
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...and local woman shares her story

"Being a single parent isn't easy. When I found myself in that situation, I struggled to find affordable and adequate housing for me and my two children.

I wanted to live close to where I worked— the North Halton Country Club. We found a place, but unfortunately after paying rent and utilities— \$1300 a month— it was hard to put food on the table.

A friend urged me to apply for a house through Habitat for Humanity. We did, and two years later we have just moved into our brand new home in Georgetown.

Now my children have their own rooms. We



CRYSTAL ORVIS

don't have to share one closet anymore— we each have our own. There's a backyard to play in, and we've made friends with neighbours on our street.

I have been overwhelmed at the generosity of the community, of strangers. More than 600 volunteers helped to give our family a new start.

Georgetown is such a great place to live. It's a place where if you have a flat tire, someone will stop to help you fix it.

Our family feels grateful to be living here.

Halton is a wealthy community and housing prices are high. People don't think about the need for affordable housing. They take for granted that everyone has a house to live in. There are single parent families— like mine— with a full-time income who still can't afford decent housing. They need your help.

We need to get the word out about the need for affordable housing for families in the community. Spread the word!"

—By Crystal Orvis, special to the IFP

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Starts Friday

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(Excludes Castle & Nativity)

211 Guelph Street, Georgetown Northview Centre (Beside Police Station)
905-873-4410

HOURS: Monday-Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Thursday-Friday 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday 11 am - 4 pm