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The first goal is having fun.



An artist's rendering of the proposed St. Andrew's Church affordable housing project located at the corner of Sinclair Avenue and Mountainview Rd. S.

Construction could begin this spring on church's affordable housing project

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Wayne Barrett, a longtime member of the St. Andrew's Church committee working on the housing project and project manager during construction, was pleased with the announcement.

"We have worked on it for years," said Barrett, also a board member of the non-profit organization behind the project.

"It's great news for the church," said St. Andrew's Church minister Grant Williams.

Barrett said the organization responded to a proposal call last March and had been waiting for Halton Region to agree to the federal/provincial program.

In total, Barrett said the organization would receive \$4.2 million—from the federal and provincial governments and Halton Region. The organization will take out a mortgage for the remainder of the cost.

"The 120 units being built under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing program are an important step in addressing Halton's affordable housing gap," said Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr. "I would like to encourage the federal and provincial governments to continue working together to make affordable housing a reality for Halton residents of all income levels and at all stages of life."

The Georgetown project will be built as a four-storey addition to the existing St. Andrew's United Church at the corner of Mountainview Rd. and Sinclair Ave.

The church donated the land for the project. "A little congregation like ours has committed

\$1.75 million (the value of the land) for the people of Georgetown," said Barrett.

The Halton Catholic District School Board swapped a triangular piece of land with the St. Andrew's group as well.

"We have had great co-operation from the separate school board," said Barrett.

Barrett said 44 units in the building will be affordable housing units for low-income individuals, three will be for families in transition and the remainder will be rented at market value.

Barrett said they have applied for a building permit from the Town of Halton Hills and hope to start construction in March or April. He estimates it will take 12 to 14 months to complete the building.

He said there is a currently a waiting list of people who want to live in the building, however, they are still taking names.

Anyone interested should call the church at 905-877-4482.

Meanwhile, the Town of Halton Hills will recommend to Halton Region that a six-month extension for the water allocation to the supportive housing site be given until July 31, 2008. The extension is conditional that site plan approval and building permit issuances be achieved before that time expires.

The time limit for the water allocation of 31 SDEs (Single Detached home Equivalent) had expired January 31.

(Lisa Tallyn can be reached at ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)

Generating station cash could kick-start library expansion

CYNTHIA GAMBLE
Staff Writer

The construction of the Halton Hills generating station on Steeles Ave. could mean that the Library and Cultural Centre expansion project occurs sooner than expected.

In 2004, the Town of Halton Hills and about four developers upfronted cash to allow Halton Region to bump up the water and wastewater servicing of the 401 Corridor, from Fifth Line South to Trafalgar Rd. The Town's share of that was \$1.5 million, but it was not expected that Halton Region would be able to pay that money back until least 2010.

However, when TransCanada Energy applied to build the new 683-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant, they agreed to pay the Town of Halton Hills the \$1.5 million,

plus \$39,647 in interest. (TCE will pay an additional \$250,000 community benefit pledge when the stormwater agreement is approved in April 2008.)

Council has approved the allocation of \$1.29 million to the Major Capital Project Allocation Reserve Fund, to be directed to finance the library project. The remaining \$250,000 will top up the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve.

The library/cultural centre project is expected to cost between \$10 and \$12 million, and there is only \$5.2 million (split between the reserve and development charges) in the Town's coffers to fund the project.

Now, with the funds from TCE provided sooner than the expected 2010 payback period, and with other possible financial strategies (such as fundraising), the \$4-6 million shortfall could be made up sooner, pushing the project's schedule ahead.