

Cobblehill Co-op receives funds to remove mould

By Frances Niblock

Thanks to \$109,749 in provincial funding, administered by Halton Region, the mould that had contaminated Acton's Cobblehill Co-Operative social housing units on Cook Street has been removed.

The Cobblehill Co-Operative applied for, but did not receive, an additional \$141,749 in funding for repairs it is unable to do because of lack of capital reserves.

The funding for the work was part of a \$1.8-million provincial investment announced in last year's budget to help repair and rehabilitate social housing projects in Halton. The money was earmarked for high-priority repair projects, energy-efficiency improvements to reduce operating costs and energy consumption, and other repairs at 3,141 existing social housing units at 15 projects in Halton.

Investing in social housing is part of Breaking the Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, which will reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25 per cent over 5 years – lifting 90,000 kids out of poverty – by boosting benefits for low-income families and enhancing publicly-funded education.

Tenants in 30 per cent of the units at Cobblehill Co-Operative – 20 apartments, two barrier-free apartments and 14 townhouses – pay market value rents and the remaining units are subsidized.

Halton's Manager of Housing Rob Cressman said the Cobblehill Co-Operative received the funding from a

category that covered emergency, unplanned or not budgeted repairs.

"Last fall, we asked all 26 social housing providers – including Halton's own Community Housing Corporation – to apply for funding. We chose to give the bulk of the money to social housing providers, the individual non-profits and co-ops, whose funding comes from capital reserves, which are depleted. Our own housing company has a fairly healthy reserve," Cressman said, adding that's why the 52-unit Lakeview Villa seniors' building on Elizabeth Drive and the 18-unit Holmesway Place social housing facilities did not receive any of this funding.

Cressman said the social housing stock in Acton and the rest of the Region has none of the horror stories of stock in larger cities like Toronto where there are reports of broken or missing plumbing, bugs and vermin and long-standing safety repairs.

"Not even close. Our

housing stock is in quite good shape and is well maintained. We don't have that concentration of units and scale of problems that you see in Toronto," Cressman said, adding that the social housing high rise buildings in Halton tend to be seniors units and the family buildings are townhouses where the families do a lot of the upkeep to maintain the properties.

"The main issue that we have is not the condition of the housing stock, but the capital reserves that are in place for the providers, except for our own housing, will be starting to run out in the next few years, so it's a funding issue, not a condition issue."

Cressman said there is an extensive waiting list of approximately 1,900 households to get into all of the special housing facilities in Halton and that means a "lengthy wait." Approximately 25 per cent are waiting for seniors housing and the balance is waiting for all-age communities.

POLICE BEAT

Bang bang - bye

A vehicle traveling east on Mill Street was struck by another vehicle exiting John Street in the afternoon of May 28. The black vehicle after hitting the first vehicle did not stop and continued going north on John Street. Police are looking for a black vehicle with front end damage and blue paint residue from the vehicle it hit.

Fore!

A McDonald Blvd. man is facing an assault with a weapon charge and uttering threats after hitting another male in the face at a Main Street residence on May 29. The victim did not have major injuries according to the police.

Disabled bus

A Denny Bus Lines wheelchair bus that was parked on Willow Street overnight on May 29 was vandalized. Two lower door windows were broken valued at \$500

More Blue & Green in your Yard

Items for Yard Waste

- Sticks & twigs
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Fruit from trees

GrassCycling

Grass clippings should be left on the lawn after mowing. Clippings decompose quickly and release nutrients back into the soil.

Items for Garbage

- Flower pots
- Plant/flower tags
- Plastic soil bags
- Pet waste

Take household chemicals to the Household Hazardous Waste Depot located at the Halton Waste Management Site (5400 Regional Rd. 25, Milton)
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