

Questions about selling land remain for Halton councillors

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Karl Reichert, spokesman for the group behind Milton Millennium Residences, told Halton's health and social services committee his group hopes to build a 120-unit assisted living residence on surplus Allendale property.

Assisted living fills a need that is currently not met in Milton, committee heard. Residents have access to help in their homes, including housekeeping, food preparation and medical intervention if necessary. The concept covers the gap between totally independent living and the heavy need of Allendale residents.

According to Mr. Reichert the new residence would use existing Allendale facilities as much as possible in order to cut costs.

The group is looking for the five-acre parcel of land at Ontario Street and Child's Drive. However, Burlington Councillor

Jack Dennison, who has championed maximizing the use of the Allendale grounds, wondered if they would consider other sites near the long term care facility.

Mr. Reichert stressed that the five-acre Allendale site was perfect for seniors residences given its proximity to Milton Mall and its expandability. He said his group should be able to produce a business plan by the beginning of September. The 120-unit building would

be the first phase of a larger project.

"The second phase of the project could be built by another group. As long as it serves the seniors then our objective has been met," Mr. Reichert said.

The basic plan for the building is to sell most of the units as lifetime lease arrangements to help raise capital. There are several projects across Ontario using this financing arrangement, committee heard. Some units would be saved for simple rental and others set up in a rent geared to income arrangement, Mr. Reichert said.

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The group is in the process of setting up a privately owned, non-profit charitable corporation.

"Without the need to make a profit we think we can come in with a below market cost," he said.

Mr. Dennison said Halton Region would have to follow a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) procedure before selling the property in question.

"I won't want to mislead you folks that we will have an answer in four weeks," said Mr.

Dennison. "It will be September at least for the RFP to even begin. I am a little concerned with taking the prime site without a decision on the whole property."

Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale pointed out that while other sites on the Allendale property may seem close to Milton Mall, the little extra distance is daunting for seniors who are not mobile or able to deal with severe weather.

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