

# Group says need there for senior housing

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
Special to *The Champion*

Although too soon for them to think about actual construction, a group of local residents is laying the foundation for assisted seniors housing.

Led by coordinators Audrey Cairns and Anne Ptolemy, Milton Millennium Residences hopes to build a \$3 million, 100-plus unit residential care facility at the northwest corner of the Allendale seniors complex.

More than 100 seniors attended a public meeting last Wednesday at the Senior's Activity Centre — where they heard initial plans for the project.

"We're looking at five acres fronting Highway 25. It's owned by Halton Region, so we won't have a lot of answers until we know if the land will be available," said Ms Cairns, who helped begin the campaign for assisted seniors housing last fall.

The facility — Ms. Ptolemy says — will fill a major void in local seniors' care. She believes it will provide

a much-desired option for seniors who "don't need 24-hour-a-day care but still require and want a protected kind of living."

Milton Millennium Residences' early needs assessment estimates 60 Milton seniors are in need of this type of housing. They expect that number to double by the time the facility is built.

The group has hired Toronto's Deirdre Gibson and David Parker of Niagara on the Lake — who will act as the project manager and architect respectively.

Both were on hand last Wednesday to offer insight into what the facility will look like and what services it will provide.

Mr. Parker provided three different designs — one bedroom, two bedroom or efficiency suites — as housing options while Ms Gibson conducted a survey to find out what local seniors need and want.

While not a heavy-care centre like Allendale, the new centre would have staff on hand and offer a number of services such as meal preparation, transportation and assistance with pre-measured medication.

Milton Millennium Residences will soon launch a widespread fundraising campaign to help cover some of the construction and study costs.

"Although the bulk of the money will come from the seniors actually buying (or renting) the housing units, we want to get the whole community involved in the project," said Ms Cairns. She said the group will make their official request to Halton Region in September and hope to provide seniors with an update by late fall.



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## Second hand smoke campaign

Second-hand smoke can cause a plethora of medical reactions, especially in children.

Ear and throat infections, coughs, colds, increased risk of bronchitis, pneumonia, and more frequent and severe asthma have been linked through research to exposure to second hand smoke.

Dr. Robert Nosal, Halton's medical officer of health, recently announced a new collaborative effort involving Halton, Hamilton, Niagara and Brant health units to combat the problem.

"Kids Need Breathing Space . . . Take Your Butt Outside" is the theme of an awareness campaign funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

The media blitz began July 7 with bus advertisements in Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Welland, Niagara Falls and Brantford. It runs for one month.

"It's a good message and hopefully when people see

the ad they might take it (the message) into consideration," said 12-year-old Heather Osborn, an asthma sufferer, who assisted with the campaign kickoff.

Additional phases of the campaign take place in September, 1997 and January, 1998 will include bus, radio, television and newspaper advertisements. Messages will point to negative health effects of second hand smoke and ways to help reduce exposure, especially for children.

"This campaign will help to raise parents' awareness of the fact that second hand smoke is an important health risk to children," said Dr. Nosal. "Clearly the desired outcome is that more and more Halton residents will create and support smoke-free homes, cars and public places."

Anyone with questions on how to reduce children's exposure to second hand smoke can call 825-6000 ext. 7832.

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