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Millenium project gains charity status, push for financing moves into high gear

By **KAREN SMITH**
The Champion

Volunteers with the Milton Millennium Community Residences (MMCR) are moving full speed ahead in their quest to raise \$400,000 now that the group has acquired official charitable organization status.

"We're trying to notch things up now to make the public aware," said Knox Presbyterian Church's Reverend Rod Lewis, project spokesperson.

He said some people have been reluctant to donate to the seniors' home project because tax receipts couldn't be issued, but that's all changed now.

The \$5 million project was initiated more than two years ago to build a local residence for senior citizens and others in need of assisted living.

The project's nine-member board of directors has put up \$50,000 as a down payment for a 1.4-acre parcel of land on which to build the residence. The land is located on the east side of Martin Street north of Mill Street.

The remaining \$400,000 for the property — the former landmark site of the Supersweet mill — must be generated by July 8 or the deposit will be lost and the project will fold.

Project volunteers have already been out in the community promoting their cause. MMCR had a booth at the recent Wellness Centre at Milton Mall.

And the organization will also be on hand at Volunteer Recruitment Day coming up at the mall May 1 and at the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary's annual Strawberry Fair.

But the most ambitious fundraising event for the organization to date is the upcoming Mayor Gord Krantz Toast and Roast Saturday, May 29 at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club.

Guest speakers will put Mayor Krantz on the hot seat during a night of good humour. The \$100-a-plate dinner will also feature live and silent auctions and entertainment.

Rev. Lewis said the housing project is important because many Miltonians who are too ill to live independently, but not sick enough to qualify for a home such as Allendale, are being forced to move out of town away from their friends and other close connections.

"You can see the pain on their faces and you want to cry with them," he said.

The concept of assisted living is a home-like, group-living arrangement for frail elderly citizens in which a wide range of individualized assistance is available 24 hours a day from professional staff.

Residents are typically considered semi-dependent, often needing assistance with many activities of daily living, but are not long-term bedridden or in need of extended acute medical care.

At the MMCR, staff will deliver assistance as needed with an emphasis on resident dignity, independence, autonomy and shared responsibilities, Rev. Lewis said.

An additional donation option includes the sale of up to 20 'right of guaranteed occupancy' units in amounts ranging from

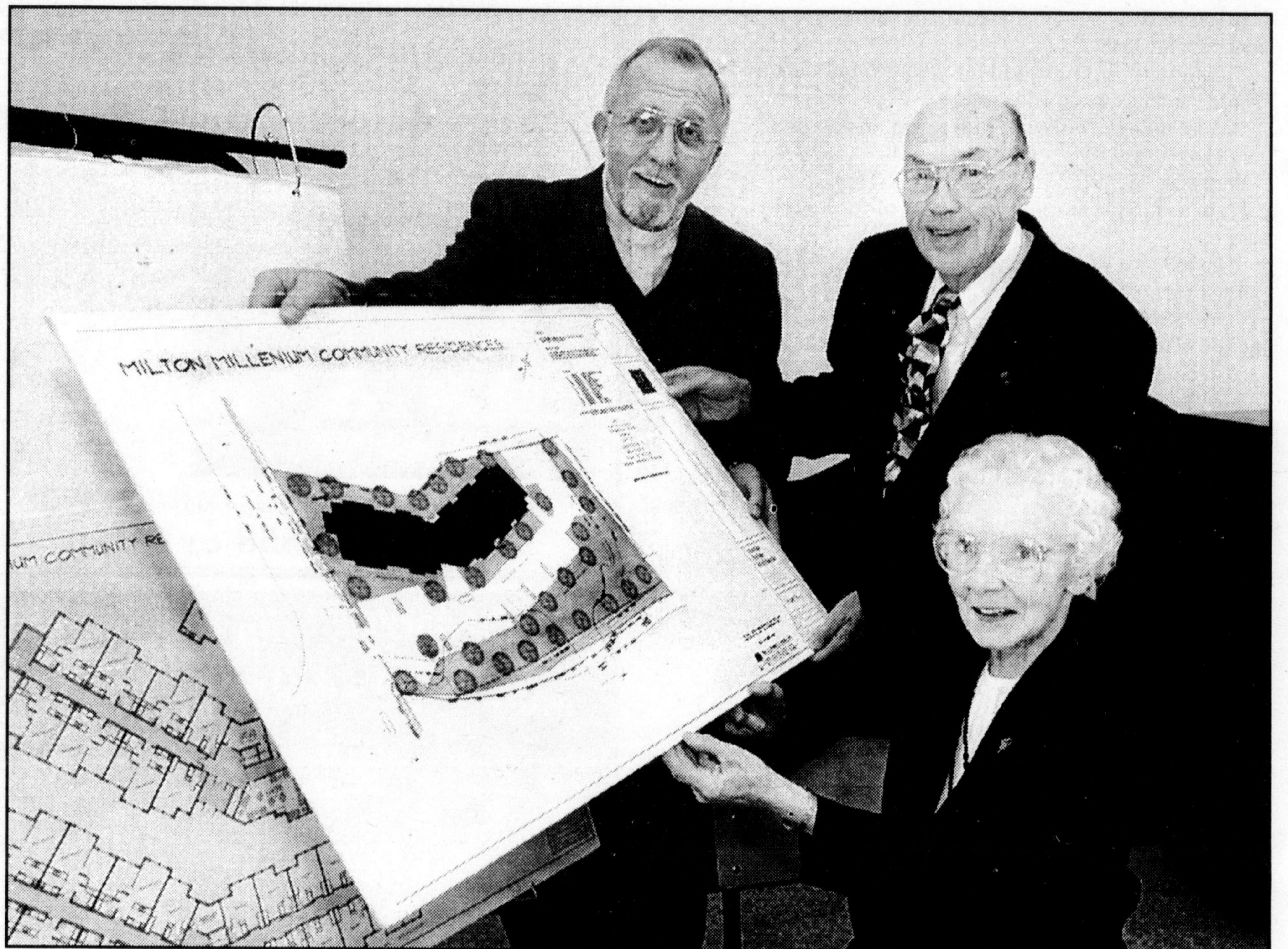


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Displaying site plans for the Milton Millennium Community Residences project are members (l-r) Rev. Rod Lewis, Mike Ledwith and Audrey Lyle.

\$50,000 to \$65,000 each.

Purchasers would have guaranteed occupancy plus a commensurate reduction in monthly charges, the return of money after moving out and the sale of the rights to another party.

The project includes 30 bed-sitting rooms and 16 single-bedroom apartments with communal dining and other amenities such

as a chapel, lounge and activity rooms.

The total cost per resident a month is estimated at \$1,475 for a bed-sitting room unit and \$1,575 for a one-bedroom apartment.

The building cost for the site is \$3.2 million. If all goes well, occupancy is slated for the fall, 2000. To make a donation or for more information, contact the MMCR at 693-8592.

Trail trekkers guide is part of book

With the arrival of spring, Conservation Halton wants to remind hikers of a book that could serve as an excellent guide for trekking trails in this area.

Halton: Rising, Wild and Beckoning features 160 photographs illustrating various aspects of the 5,500 hectares of conservation land within the region.

The book includes 16 coloured maps showing scenic drives and

trails and a large foldout colour map that can be used as a field guide to explore natural areas.

Proceeds from the book, which recently hit the 6,000 copies sold mark, will go to renovate and expand the visitor centre at Mountsberg Conservation Area, near Campbellville.

The book is available at bookstores in Halton, Hamilton, Wentworth and Mississauga.

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