

Fundraising continues to open seniors' residence

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news that a citizen recently financially backed his interest in moving into the facility once it's built.

The citizen has made a deposit to reserve one of 20 units the MMCR is offering under guaranteed occupancy, the reverend said.

"It's another cause for celebration because you've got someone in the community saying I'm prepared to put my money up even though there's not even a hole in the ground," he said.

Fundraising will now continue to cover the land purchase price and eventual construction, Rev. Lewis said.

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. It's to be situated on a 1.4-acre parcel of land on the east side of Martin Street north of Mill Street — the former site of the Supersweet mill.

Rev. Lewis has 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.

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.



Rev. Rod Lewis

Residents are typically considered semi-dependent, often needing help 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 pitch in as needed with an emphasis on resident dignity, independence, autonomy and shared responsibilities, Rev. Lewis said.

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.

To make a donation or for more information, contact the MMCR at 693-8592.

Police board looking at meeting the time change

People who wanted to attend Halton Regional Police Services Board meetings but couldn't due to morning start times may see things change next year.

Services board chair Don Robinson called it a trial balloon, suggesting meetings could begin at 4 p.m. some time in the near future, rather than at the traditional 9 a.m.

Heather Trojek, executive administrator of the services board, said the suggested time change came about at the request of several members of the seven-person board.

Provincial appointee and board vice-chair Kelly Culin likes the idea. "The number one interest I have in this is to accommodate the public. To assist board members (with their own businesses to run) is a secondary consideration."

Police services board meetings traditionally do not attract more than a couple of citizens, often the same

ones.


One board member who put up some opposition to a possible time change to 4 p.m. was Burlington's John Taylor.

"This is a complete surprise to me. I'd have to miss at least half of the meetings for the rest of this year," said Mr. Taylor, who has commitments as a city and regional councillor for Burlington and also sits on the Burlington Public Library Board.

"I'm not averse to a change in principle, perhaps looking at the start of the new year."

Board member Tony Gabriel was concerned that police staff would have to work into the evening. He offered 2 p.m. or even 8 a.m. starting times.

The board seemed open to discussing a time change beginning next year. The issue could come up for a decision at the next service board meeting, slated for August 5 at 9 a.m. in Georgetown.



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