

'Big Pipe' on its way

Due to holiday deadlines, look for Canada Day coverage in Friday's paper.

Construction about on schedule

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 But when available, road shoulders have been used to keep traffic flowing.
 "We've maintained two lanes of traffic whenever possible but there are times when safety comes first," he said. "We're very proud that we've had no lost days due to accidents since the project began."
 Workers have also had to deal with heavy rain, which has at times temporarily derailed

the project.
 "Overall, they're about a week behind schedule, but they'll catch up quickly," assured Mr. Ohashi. "They're still within schedule and they'll make up a lot."
 Ironically, Halton Region staff serve as early warning systems for traffic troubles when they encounter heavier than expected delays on their way to work.
 "My best gauge is the staff

here," said Mr. Ohashi. "If somewhere is backed up, they call and ask me why."
 Construction is being handled on a design-build basis by D'Orazio-Walter Joint Venture. Its task is to bring both a wastewater and water pipe up Highway 25 and into Milton.
 So far, about 13.5 km of concrete pipe has been laid out.
 The water pipe will eventually take a turn at Derry Road, head east to Fourth Line, over to Thompson Road, then swing along Laurier Avenue.
 The wastewater pipe will end at the Laurier Pumping Station. Construction began in January and is scheduled to end in September.
 The first flush — or when water is expected to be available to service 6,200 residential units and 500-700 acres of employment land in Milton's phase one growth — is set for October.

Half of all residence units sold

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 chair of the steering committee and board of directors that literally helped build the right-to-occupy condominiums from the ground up.
 Hank and Louise Maas are the second couple to settle in the building. They laid down their deposit a full four years ago.
 "When they decided they were going to build, we bought a unit," said Mr. Maas. "It's close to town, close to church, close to schools."

When it's completely done, the building will sport 50 individual units, ranging in price from \$108,000 to \$184,000.

There are 10 different models to choose from, ranging from just under 700 square feet to almost 1,200 square feet.

Scaling back seemed natural to the Maas', who raised their brood in a four-bedroom farmhouse in Campbellville.

"We had five children," said Ms Maas. "We needed a big house."

Now they're looking forward to being near their grandchildren's school.

"We can catch up with them at lunch," she said.

The couple moved in Saturday, but as of Thursday, carpet in their unit wasn't laid down. A parking garage won't be ready for another month or so. And since the units are being built one at a time, construction will be ongoing for a while.

But everyone appeared happy to be finally moving in.

"Beautiful, oh, everything," marvelled Ms Korchuska on first sight of her new home. "Everything is nice."

And handy, pointed out Ms Gleeson. A grocery and drug store stand only blocks away, and both deliver. Holy Rosary parishioners won't even need to know the weather as they travel the covered walkway to their church. And houses of worship of all denominations are just a skip and jump away.

"We're right by the core of the town," said Ms Gleeson. "A lot of seniors' places are stuck in the middle of nowhere."

Soon, there will be lots to do without leaving the grounds.

A wellness centre with a whirlpool and exercise room is planned, as well as a place for a hairstylist to make house calls. There will also be a craft room, workshop and a meet and greet lounge.

Companionship is one reason the Korchuska's moved from Thunder Bay to take residence in Marian Courtyard.

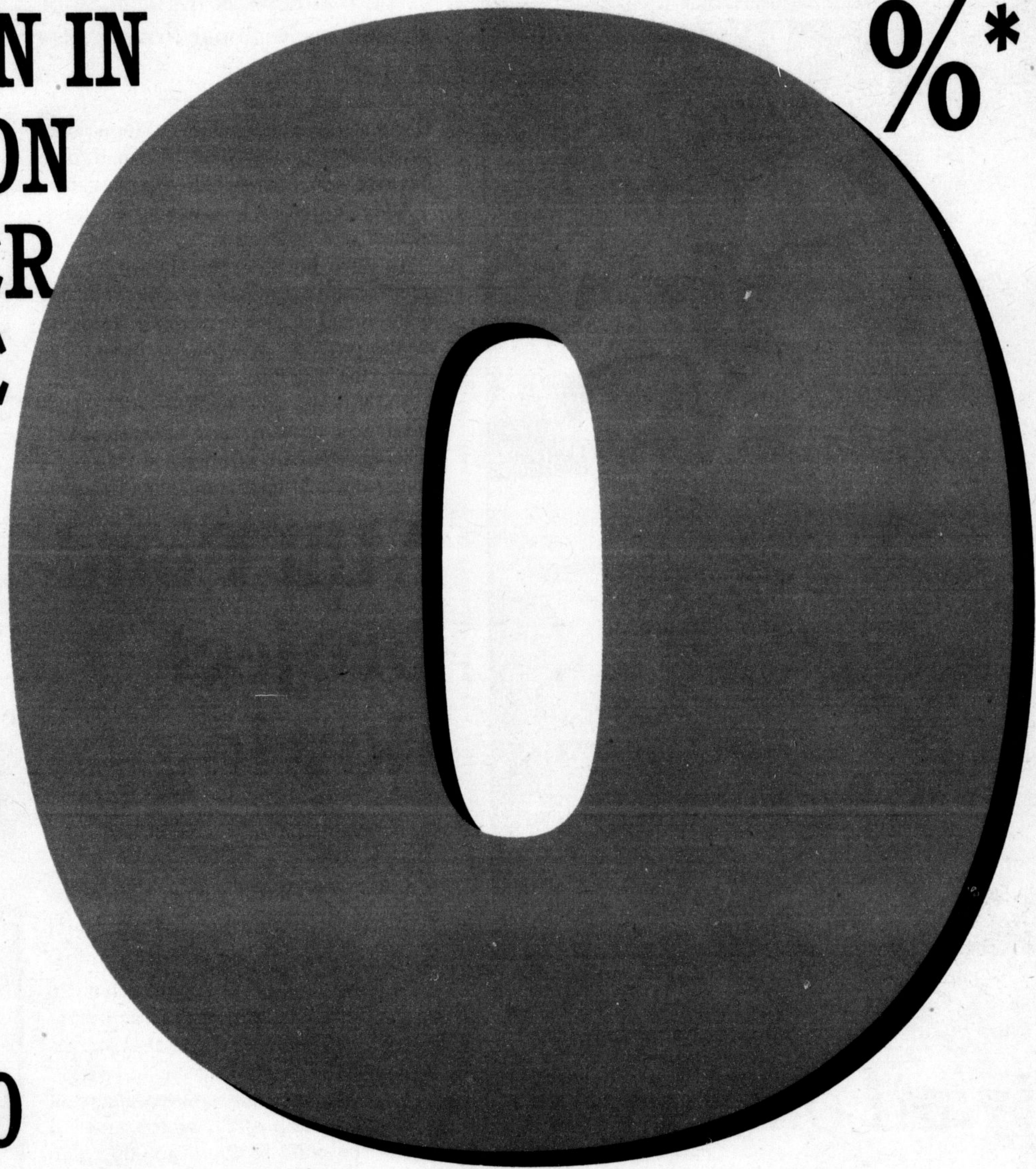
"We wanted company and things like that," said Ms Korchuska.

Currently, about half the units are sold. Ms Gleeson is hoping the others will follow suit in order to pay off the Diocese of Hamilton, which provided some financial backing for the project.

But as the pioneering couples roamed through the construction, a sense of triumph was in the air.

"These couples have waited five years to move in. They've been very patient," said Ms Gleeson. "It's been a long time coming."

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