# Halton's housing to become more affordable for low-income singles

## By IRENE GENTLE

The Champion

Low-income singles who find it tough to meet steep Halton rents will be the target market for up to 84 rent supplement units allocated by the Province earlier this year.

Regional council agreed recently to focus on singles after learning they're the most under-served population in Halton when it comes to affordable housing.

"They tend to be a group that isn't thought about in terms of needs," said Gwen Maloney, director of the Halton Non-Profit Housing Corporation Division.

"They're coming to us for one-bedroom apartments and we

don't have any."

When most social housing units were being constructed, single people weren't fingered as a priority, explained Ms Maloney.

By the time their need became obvious, rental units in general had ceased to be profitable.

New units stopped being built, leading to the current regionwide shortage of rental housing.

Today, Halton's vacancy rate is less than 1 per cent.

But it doesn't pay for builders to dip back into the rental market with land and construction costs as high as they are, said Ms Maloney.

"The private sector has told us they don't make money building rental housing," she said. "They're better off to build condos or other types of ownership housing."

### Correct earlier imbalances

So when the Province announced it would help fund 84 rent supplement units in Halton, Ms Maloney saw it as an opportunity to correct some of the earlier imbalances.

"Before we just accept 84 units, let's see if we can be strategic about this," she said.

"Even if it's a drop in the bucket in terms of overall need, we tried to analyze what the priorities are."

Council agreed to target singles in the take-up of the units, but stressed that opportunities to fill all 84 units shouldn't be wasted.

The next step is to encourage landlords to take the Province up on its offer.

To that end, the Region is poised to launch an information and advertising blitz geared to area landlords.

"We want to see these units taken up," said Ms Maloney.

She promised to report back to council with information on the unit take-up by the end of the year.

Under the rent supplement program, tenants pay a certain portion of their income toward rent.

The Province then chips in the rest, so that landlords receive rent at full market value.

## Passed-out driver saved from harm

from TWO MEN on page 1

"I pulled my vehicle in front of hers. We matched speeds so we didn't smash," said Mr. McConnell.

When the two vehicles were literally bumper to bumper, he applied his brakes and gently brought the larger Lumina to a stop.

At the same time, an anonymous driver pulled his half-ton pick-up truck beside the Lumina to prevent it from drifting back into traffic.

Ms Westwater and her husband, Gord, are attempting to learn the identity of the second driver, who is believed to be local, in order to thank him as well.

"The more I think of the story, the less I can believe it," said Mr. Westwater. "They were both mature men. I thought it was a pretty neat thing."

Once the Lumina was stopped, Mr. McConnell squeezed in through a window to shut off the van and open the locked doors.

Both men deserve a police citation for their actions, said Mr. Westwater, who called The Champion in order to publicly acknowledge the pair.

He also called Mr. McConnell at work to personally thank him for his part. But Mr. McConnell shrugs his actions off as

just being neighbourly. "I've driven quite a bit and I've seen a lot of accidents," he said. "Every once in a while, you've got to do something

good." After the incident, Mr. McConnell stopped in at Milton District Hospital to check on the condition of the driver, who had remained unconscious even after the vehicle's flight

ended. Ms Westwater emerged from the mishap without an outward scratch. She was taken to the hospital for tests, but results weren't in as of press time.

Even the Lumina got off lightly. After fixing a tire rim, it was ready to be driven the next day.



for all your home cooling needs



## NO COST - NO OBLIGATION IN-HOME EVALUATION!

Our Trained home comfort consultants will come to your home and evaluate your central air needs and requirements. All at NO COST and with NO OBLICATION. Furthermore, prior to installation we will perform a certified heat gain calculation to ensure accurate sizing requirements. OUR GOALS ARE TO SATISFY YOUR HOME COMFORT AND GIVE YOU EXCEPTIONAL VALUE.



Now earn AIR MILES® reward miles for all Sales & Services!

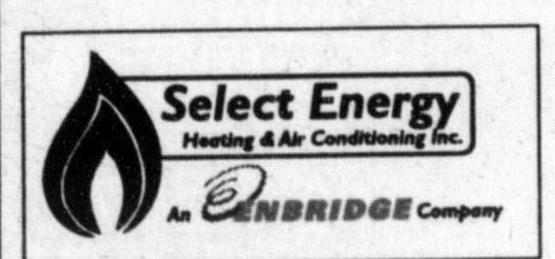
\*OAC see Dealer for details

## THE "SELECT" SERVICE TEAM Providing customers with:

- Experience (20 years each) Factory trained
- Competitive prices
  Quality installation
- Warranty
  Guaranteed customer satisfaction



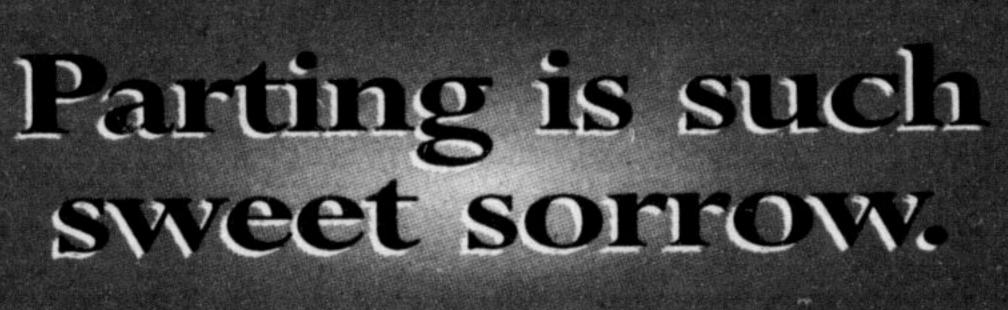
John Little, Joel Taggart and Shaughn Butler



4361 Harvester Rd. (between Appleby & Walkers Line) (905) 632-1377

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM MON-FRI 10-9, SAT 9:30-6 Georgetown Marketplace Mall (905) 876-1020

® TM Trademark of AIR MILES International Holdings N.V. Used under license by Loyalty Management Group Canada, Inc. and Enbridge Services Inc. Now earn one AIR MILES reward mile for every \$20 spent on eligible products and services with Enbridge Home Services.



{But we'll get over it.}



THE BEST SELECTION! Save up to 66% on hundreds of

selected items during the La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries® Final Markdown.

most comfortable and attractive furniture around. But that's what we're doing, for a limited time, with a great deal of our inventory including discontinued, one-of-a kinds and returned merchandise. La-Z-Boy® sofas, recliners, tables, bedroom and dining room

OFFER OF THE YEAR! NO DOWN PAYMENT\* NO INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS\*

It's never easy saying good-bye to some of the OUR BIGGEST FINANCING furniture and practically everything else. All at prices that are the lowest they'll be all year. So while it will be difficult to see them go, at least we'll know they'll be finding good homes. Like yours. Hurry in, while selection is still plentiful.

La-Z-Boy Sofas from \$599 La-Z-Boy Recliners from \$399 La-Z-Boy Reclining Sofas from \$899

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED!

(905)331-7600

Mon.-Fri. 9:30am - 9pm, Sat. 9:30am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 5pm \*Offer does not apply to Dotted/Flyer/Clearance merchandise. See store for details. On approved credit only on your La-Z-Boy Charge Card. Applicable taxes, delivery charges and \$29.99 administration fee due at time of purchase.

12 equal monthly payments, commencing 30 days from date of delivery/pick up. Limited time offer.



领 缺陷 经联 核 (158)

