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Champion COMMUNITY Page

Seniors' home construction slated for spring

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

Milton's seniors could have a new place to call their own as early as 2002.

If so, it'll be thanks to the ongoing volunteer efforts of the founders of the Milton Millennium Community Residences (MMCR) — whose sights remain firmly set on filling the gap of assisted living for the town's elderly population.

MMCR is a non-profit registered charity that was formed four years ago with the goal of creating a facility for seniors who need assistance with living, said chair Karl Reichert.

Before undertaking the project, MMCR completed a survey to determine whether an assisted living facility was needed in town.

The survey showed there are about 861 units for assisted living in Halton region, but none located in Milton — despite a significant demand for them.

"The outcome of the study was that Milton needed over 100 suites for assisted living," he said.

The MMCR residence, when completed, will offer 50 units.

Mr. Reichert said MMCR took on the project when the government wouldn't.

"Fifty years ago when the community wanted something, they got together and did it," Mr. Reichert said. "We thought, 'Hey folks, why don't we do something.'"

About 30 people showed up to the initial meeting to show their support. Since that time, more people have joined the board, donating both time and money.

While the residence will be built with seniors in mind, anyone who requires assistance with living can apply to get in, explained Mr. Reichert.

"It is certainly set up as a seniors' residence, but if someone is struggling with MS (multiple sclerosis), they will find the accommodations appropriate," he said.

The entire project is expected to cost \$6.25 million. Construction is expected to begin sometime



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton Millennium Community Residences chair Karl Reichert stands in front of the future Martin Street home of the assisted living facility.

in the spring of 2001, with the move-in date set for the spring of 2002.

The residence will be a three-storey building with two wings. Each wing will consist of bed-sit suites (one living area) or one or two suites (one bedroom, plus a living area. Some will have also have a den and storage facilities). All units will have an ensuite bathroom, a kitchenette with a fridge and outlets for small appliances, an emergency call service and telephone and cable jacks.

The suites are designed with a person in a

wheelchair in mind. The light switches as well as the windowsills will be lower and the door frames will be wider, Mr. Reichert said.

Each level will also have a lounge, which overlooks the Mill Pond and the Niagara Escarpment to the west, as well as a caregiver station. Residents can access care staff, who will be available for medication management, bathing and other personal care 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

The main level will consist of a dining area, a kitchen and an assembly room. The basement will offer storage space for the residents, a lounge as well as hairdressing, hobby and physiotherapy rooms.

The residence will be a rental facility, with prices ranging from \$1,750 to \$2,000 a month. The price will include three meals a day as well as laundry and housekeeping services.

Because MMCR is a non-profit group, the price is below market value, Mr. Reichert said.

If seniors can not afford the rent, MMCR will try to help them by either hosting fundraisers or participating in government programs, he said.

"The Milton Millennium Community Residence will provide quality care, in a safe

and secure environment while encouraging an active, independent and worry-free lifestyle for its residents," Mr. Reichert said.

To help pay for the residence, the MMCR is approaching residents and businesses who have a connection to Milton to donate money.

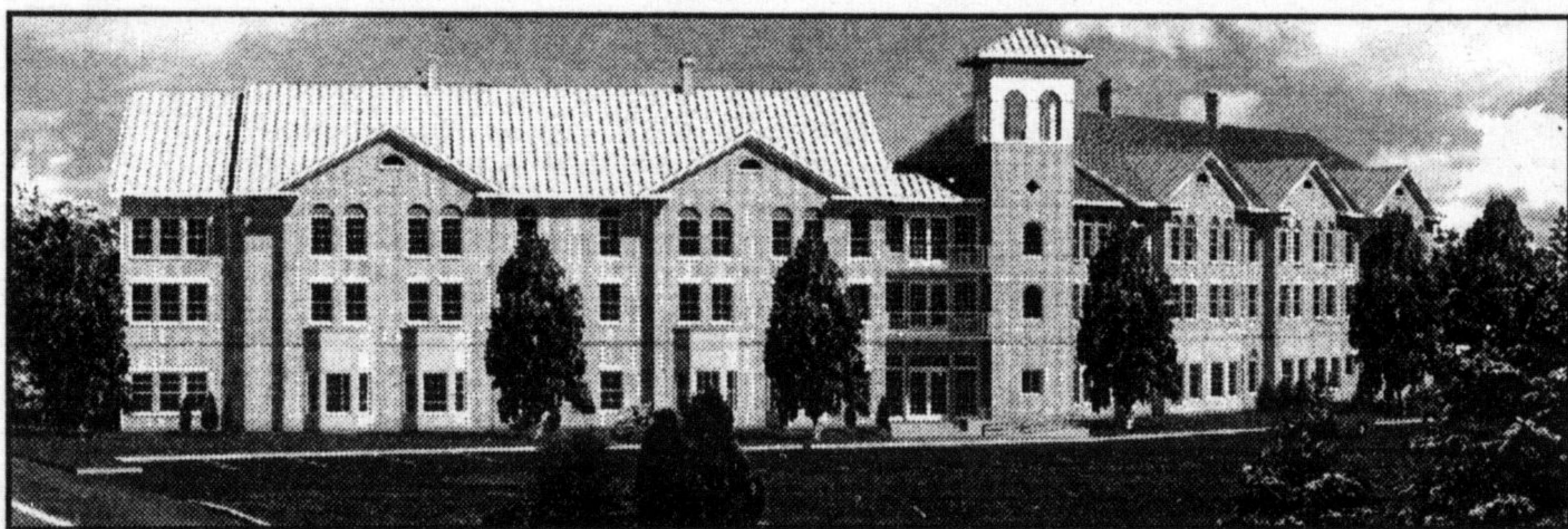
In addition, MMCR is offering 24 Right to Occupy (RTO) units. The RTO guarantees the units will be available to the person when the facility is built or when needed, Mr. Reichert said. It costs \$50,000, with \$5,000 down, to reserve a RTO bed-sit suite or \$65,000 with \$6,000 down for a one or two-bedroom suite.

Mr. Reichert explained the money is held in a trust account. Once the residents move in, they pay rent minus the interest generated on their money. The money will be returned upon request.

"The advantage to the purchaser is that their money is not at risk."

Three units have already been sold, with other people seriously looking at the RTO option, Mr. Reichert said.

For details or to donate, contact the MMCR at 693-8592. Memberships to the organization are \$25 a year.



Artist's rendering of the planned Milton Millennium Community Residences.

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COGECO 14 Programming Schedule — November 14th, 2000 - November 20th, 2000

Tuesday, November 14th	Wednesday, November 15th	Thursday, November 16th	Sunday, November 19th	Monday, November 20th
9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! Encore 5pm, 6pm, 7:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm 8:00pm	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! Encore 5pm, 6pm, 7:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm 8:00pm 8:30pm	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! Encore 5pm, 6pm, 7:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm Plugged In! - Week in Review The Local Scene Seniors Showcase "Your Federal Candidates" Brenda Dolling (NDP) "Halton Riding" All Candidates Meeting	9am, 10am, 11am, Noon Plugged In! Encore 5pm, 6pm, 7:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm

Feature this week: "Halton Riding All Candidates Meeting - Thurs. & Sun., 8 p.m."