

ZAK'S PHARMACY
 Milton's Independent Pharmacy
 • Free Delivery
 • 10% Seniors Discount
 • All Drug Plans Accepted
 • Written Drug Information Available
 "At Zak's We Care About Your Health"
 70 Main St. E. 875-2424

Weekend **Champion** MILTON PUBLISHED
Milton's Choice Since 1860

KAREN'S FLOWER SHOP
 Holiday Flowers and gifts
 487 Laurier Ave.,
 878-2881

A Metroland Community Newspaper Vol. 141 No. 73 Friday, November 24, 2000 36 Pages \$1.00 (GST included)



✓ 'Tis the season

Jenni Jaffray of Terra Greenhouses casts a professional eye over a vibrant poinsettia plant. The Britannia Road facility offers about 10,000 plants in 31 colours and a variety of sizes aimed at bringing a touch of festive cheer to the holiday season. Even shopping can feel festive thanks to a cup of cider offered to shoppers browsing through the aisles of brightly coloured poinsettias and other winter plants. Christmas decorations are also available.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Single seniors are hit the hardest in affordable housing crunch: survey

By IRENE GENTLE
The Champion

Single seniors are among the hardest hit in Halton's affordable housing crunch.

And renters are finding it tougher to make ends meet than homeowners.

Those are the results from a recent affordable housing survey, mailed randomly to 23,000 Halton households.

Of those that were returned, about 67 per cent were filled out by homeowners, with the remainder returned by renters, the Region's health and social services committee heard Tuesday.

The survey found that more than 13,000 house-

"Very little new, affordable housing is being built."

GWEN MALONEY

holds in Halton are spending more than 30 per cent of their gross income on shelter.

Of those, about 11,000 are low-income renters earning less than \$30,000.

Struggling most are seniors, single parents with children and the working poor, reported Gwen Maloney, director of the Halton Non-Profit Housing Corporation Division.

"Thousands of households are at risk of losing their housing because of unaffordability or inadequacy," she said.

"And very little new, affordable housing is being built."

To meet the need, Ms Maloney believes 14,500 units of assisted housing will be required over the next decade.

Today, about 5,000 households are headed by seniors earning less than \$30,000 per year.

But there are only 1,790 assisted units for seniors, carrying a wait list of about eight years.

Also, the survey revealed that about 6,700 low-income singles are spending more than 30 per cent of their incomes on shelter.

• see FINDING on page 20

INSIDE

Comment 6
 Dateline 13
 A&E 14
 HS Report 23
 Sports 27-29
 Classified ... 30-33

BILL'S AUTO BODY SHOP
 Working #1 Harder to stay #1
 Specializing in Insurance Claims
 Rick Boers Complete auto body and refinishing services
 155 McEwen Rd., Milton
 (905) 976-2721

Hawkins Animal Hospital
 Dr. Debbie Hawkins
 550 Ontario St. S., Unit 5A
 (located in PizzaHut Plaza)
 (905) 875-6888

WINNING CHOICE AWARDS 2000

GALLINGER COLLISION & REFINISHING CENTRE
 HAD AN ACCIDENT?
 Specializing in insurance claims.
 ALL MAKES & MODELS
 Free Courtesy Cars
 655 Main St. E., Milton 875-3673 EXT. 238