



Community Page

Hard work pays off as first residents move into finished Martindale Gardens

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Home, sweet home. As residents begin the adventure of moving into the newly-opened Martindale Gardens seniors' facility on Martin Street, one man's adventure is nearing an end.

Life as Karl Reichert has known it for the past eight years, toiling as chair of Milton Millennium Community Residences (MMCR), is about to change. The dream that loomed before him for so long has taken shape, and the bulk of Martindale Gardens, a non-profit retirement/assisted living facility, is finished.

But it's not like he's about to take much credit for the project. In his eyes, he did what he was supposed to do — nothing more, nothing less.

"I wish it wasn't referred to as my project," he said. "I committed to it, so I put everything into it."

Various delays have plagued the project from beginning to end, preventing it from opening last September as expected.

"I'll be relieved when it's finished," Mr. Reichert said. "It's been a long struggle. I've never worked as a developer — I had no knowledge of buildings — so it's been a bit of a journey."

So far, seven residents have already begun to call the new facility home, and at least 26 people have signed rental agreements for the 76-suite facility.

Mr. Reichert said he continues to believe that if it weren't for continual divine intervention, the project would have folded.

"I believe God wanted us to do it," he said, adding although challenges were plentiful, he didn't have any sleepless nights because he knew everything would pan out in the end.

MMCR — a volunteer, non-profit charity — decided eight years ago that Milton's seniors needed a place they could spend their golden years without having to leave the community. The thinking was, it's already hard enough for seniors to leave their homes. Why should they also have to leave their beloved town to get a spot in a retirement facility?

Overlooking the picturesque Mill Pond, Martindale Gardens is as elegant inside as it is outside. Many rooms have bay windows for a bright atmosphere, and the walls have been painted a pale green colour. Potted miniature roses sit on tables in the dining room, and luxurious window coverings hint at the care that has been taken with each room's décor.

Suites range from the 327-square-foot studios to 731-square-foot two-bedroom suites. Suites come equipped with kitchenettes featuring small refrigerators and room for residents' microwaves.

The first and third floors are for independent seniors, while the second is for those requiring assisted living.

The lower level features a gym, salon, hobby room, exercise room and chapel. There's also a doctor's office.

A sense of community is important, Mr. Reichert said. "People are connecting with people," he said. "Not living alone is what it's all about."

Marlene Williams, general manager of Martindale Gardens, said residents are able to live in a more "companionable" environment without completely changing their lifestyles.

Hiring was done carefully and selectively, Ms Williams said. "The staff become part of the family of residents, so it's impor-



Martindale Gardens offers a picturesque view (above) of Mill Pond from its third floor lounge, as well as an elegant dining room (at left) and stairway (below).

Photos by **GRAHAM PAINE**



tant that we hire happy people."

MMCR is now facing something unforeseen. Many Miltonians are bringing their elderly parents from other communities to Martindale Gardens — particularly since the rates are attractive.

Since Martindale Gardens was always intended primarily for seniors already living in town, Mr. Reichert said it's important that Milton seniors considering making the move do it now — before space is taken up.

Mr. Reichert said the project's dedicated workers deserve recognition.

"The trades and suppliers stayed despite some problems," he said. "As we encountered difficulties, we met other trades who came and picked up the slack."

The 27-person staff has already shown its commitment and dedication, Mr. Reichert said.

"The caring nature of the staff is great."

To book a personal tour of the facility, call (905) 693-8592.

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Programming Schedule – Tuesday, March 16 - Monday, March 22, 2004

Tuesday, March 16		Wednesday, March 17		Thursday, March 18		Friday, March 19		Saturday, March 20		Sunday, March 21		Monday, March 22	
5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Early Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	7:30pm	Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition	5pm, 6pm & 7:30pm	Plugged In! Late Week Edition
5:30pm	Seniors Showcase	5:30pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	5:30pm	Osler Health Connection	6:30pm	Money Week	5:30pm	Be Inspired	5:30pm	Be Inspired	5:30pm	With Good Taste
6:30pm	Optimist TV Bingo (Live)	6:30pm	Be Inspired	6:30pm	Money Week	7:00pm	The Issue Is...	6:30pm	Seniors Showcase	6:30pm	PeopleSpeak in Halton	6:30pm	Faces-Waldi & Bergsma
8:00pm	Halton Hills Council - Mar. 2	7:00pm	Swap Talk (Live)	7:00pm	The Issue Is...	8:00pm	Main Street	7:00pm	Money Week	7:00pm	Money Week	7:00pm	Be Inspired
		8:00pm	2004 Georgetown Hockey Heritage Awards	8:00pm				8:00pm	Faces - Waldi & Bergsma	8:00pm	Faces - Waldi & Bergsma	8:00pm	SportsZone Live (live)

2004 Georgetown Hockey Heritage Awards - Wednesday 8:00 pm