

# Habitat for Humanity's search for land here continuing

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**

*The Champion*

When it comes to providing a hand up for low-income families, Milton is lagging behind its surrounding communities.

Habitat for Humanity Halton's goal of building homes in each of its five communities is quickly taking shape — everywhere but Milton and Oakville, that is, where parcels of land are still being sought.

Susan Goetz, chair of Habitat for Humanity Halton, is appealing to the communities to turn the situation around.

"We need the community to step forward," she said, explaining there might be someone who has a piece of land they want to donate to the non-profit organization or sell at a fair market value.

Ms Goetz said she knows suitable land will eventually be found in Milton, it just takes time.

"It is possible," she stressed. "I know the land is there, it's just not discovered."

In Acton, excavation of a building site is expected to begin next month, Ms Goetz said, and in Burlington, Habitat Halton is in the final stage of discussions with a land provider. In Georgetown, a piece of land will soon be handed over.

Habitat for Humanity is known for its slogan of providing a hand up — not a hand out — to families in need.

Families chosen to benefit from Habitat for Humanity work alongside volunteers to build their homes. In fact, they must contribute 500 volunteer hours toward them.

And the homes aren't free. The families purchase them at a lower-than-market-value cost, and pay a no-interest, no-profit mortgage.

Habitat for Humanity is able to offer the houses at a low price because the building materials are donated and there's no charge for the labour.

## Town in need of affordable housing

Milton, Ms Goetz said, is greatly in need of affordable housing as the town grows. Habitat Halton receives calls from Miltonians in need each week, she said.

"We have a rapidly expanding community with escalating house prices," she said. "The upward pressure on rental accommodations makes the struggle even harder to make ends meet each month."

The poverty rate in Milton is about six or seven per cent, she said, and that will increase along with the population.

She said the need isn't always visible. Oftentimes, it's a matter of tenants paying an unreasonable portion of their pay toward rent.

It's not just individuals who can donate land. Habitat for Humanity also sometimes receives land from companies and all levels of the government, Ms Goetz said.

Karl Reichert, who's on Habitat Halton's site selection committee for Milton, said Milton's high priced real estate — arising from the small number of available sites — is one of the reasons it's hard to find land.

"There are only eight vacant properties in Milton and at this point, they're all too expensive," Mr. Reichert said.

He added the committee's difficulty finding an affordable piece of land points to the bigger issue of a lack of affordable housing in Milton.

"Milton has difficulties in providing affordable housing to many of the people who work here."

But things are looking up, he said. In fact, the committee has targeted a piece of land it's hoping to acquire.

"It has some difficulties associated with it. But we're working on it, and there's some optimism of success."

The Town of Milton will be directly involved, he said, adding, "We'll see how we make out."

He echoed Ms Goetz' appeal to the public, adding it's quite possible someone knows something the committee doesn't about a plot of land.

One of the requirements is that the land be in town, rather than in rural Milton.

"It needs to be in the urban centre with all the services," he said.

Mr. Reichert said it's important in a town that hasn't yet had a Habitat build that people understand it's not a matter of families putting their ballots into a hat for a free house.

The sweat equity the families must invest is just one of the ways they're taught responsible home ownership, he said.

He added stipulations are put in place so families can't turn around and sell the homes to make money.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at [sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com).

# SUMMER HOLIDAY CAR GUIDE



## When rust appears act promptly

— Continued from Page 12 —

• If your car has already begun to rust, don't despair. As long as it isn't bad enough to require body work, a rust control chemical can still penetrate the rust, preventing further oxidation and stopping the spread of corrosion.

• Find an environmentally safe product, preferably one that has a hydrocarbon (oil) base.

• Insist on watching the technicians to make sure they do the job knowledgeably and with care. (For example, they should spray the rust control product into hidden areas such as the top of the gas tank.) If they won't let you watch, take your business where the service is better.

• Keep your vehicle clean and, during the winter months, salt-free; clean the wheel wells frequently with a power washer.

• Promptly touch up door dings, scratches and rock chips, which are opportunities for rust.

- News Canada

Brian and Aileen would like to welcome Randy Mitchell.  
(Randy is a former co-owner of Unicorn auto)

Due to real estate issues, Unicorn Auto was forced to close. Randy brings with him 30 years of automotive experience, and he invites all his past customers and new ones to Brian's Auto.

**Thank you Milton for Nominating us Favourite Auto Repair and Service Centre!**

# Brian's

Auto Repairs & Tire Centre For all Your Auto Needs!

**390 Ontario St. N. Unit #1, Milton**  
 HOURS: Mon. - Thurs. 7-6, Fri. 7-5:30, Sat. 8-12 **875-1522**

## GOLD MEDAL MAINTENANCE SERVICE

- ✓ Lube, Oil & Filter Change
- ✓ Top-up of Washer Fluid **ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$39.95**
- ✓ Tire Rotation
- ✓ Peace of Mind Inspection
- ✓ Provide Written Report on Findings

Show your support for our Olympic team!  
**FREE complimentary Roots Team Canada T-Shirt** when you take advantage of this service!

**905-878-8877**  
 81 ONTARIO ST. N. MILTON  
 one block north of the Milton Mall Visit us at [www.miltonchrysler.com](http://www.miltonchrysler.com)

[www.dcsdetailing.com](http://www.dcsdetailing.com)

# DCC Detailing

Scratch Removal - Paint Restoration  
 Interior and Exterior Detailing  
 Engine Shampooing  
 Stain Removal

**Competitive Prices**  
 Call and book your appointment today!

**905-693-1533** 547 Main St. East Unit 25  
 Milton, ON

## Perfect Tones

Sound & Security

# CD Players

starting at **\$129.95**

**Blaupunkt Indianapolis CD34 200 Watt**

**547 Main St. E., Unit 24, Milton**  
**905-878-9956**

Summer here, some are not, so...  
 Come on in for our

## Mid Summer Vacation Special!

Oil Change includes **10 point inspection!** **\$33.95\***

WE WILL CHECK:

- Belts
- Hoses
- Tires
- Tire Pressure
- Suspension Components
- Exhaust System

Plus we'll top up all your fluids!

Call for an appointment today! 905-875-3673  
 \*Up to 5.0L of oil, plus taxes and full synthetic oil extra.

# GALLINGER

FORD LINCOLN

655 MAIN STREET EAST, MILTON  
 Visit us at [www.gallingerford.com](http://www.gallingerford.com) (905) 875-FORD  
 A Tradition of Value & Trust since 1967  
 SALES • LEASING • SERVICE • PARTS • COLLISION CENTRE 3 6 7 3