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36 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



'Egg'citing creations at Chris Hadfield School

Grade 1 students in Mrs. Thorne's class at Chris Hadfield School have been busy getting ready for Easter. Here, showing their creations are, clockwise from left, Saleem Qureshi, Jessica Kennedy, Amir Ali, Jordan Dunphy, Nicholas Stergiadis, Robert Wordley, Kaden McCulloch, Faseeh Ahmed, Armeena Dhillon and Michaela Waugh.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Residents oppose apartment building

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

Opposition to an apartment building proposed for the town's south end was out in full force Monday night at Town Hall.

Residents crammed into Milton Council Chambers for a public meeting on plans for the land at the southwest corner of Derry Road and Fourth Line.

The subject proposal from Summerwood Estates Inc. includes a 208-unit apartment building and 565 single detached, semi-detached and/or town-house units, up from the 518 units originally proposed since the developer has acquired more property.

Town Senior Planner Barbara Koopmans noted

the majority of the proposal is medium-density housing. But the main concern for residents who live around the land — primarily those who live in Hawthorne Village south — is the apartment building slated for the portion of the plan that's classified as high density.

Beaty Trail resident Cliff Bowers presented a petition to the Town at the meeting containing more than 160 signatures of residents against the high-density apartments.

"The reaction has been unanimous in opposition of such a development," he said.

He noted the primary concern of Hawthorne Village south residents he spoke with is the ability of current or future infrastructure to cope with the large number of occupants the proposed apartments could attract.

"The stress on Derry Road, Fourth Line and

Beaty Trail would be substantial," he said.

He added that those who signed the petition strongly believe Milton already has sufficient affordable housing, such as in the new developments west of Fourth Line on Derry Road.

Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau took exception to this statement. As someone who sits on the Milton Affordable Housing Coalition, she affirmed that there isn't adequate affordable housing in town and there's also a rental housing shortage that's primarily impacting seniors and young people.

"Every healthy community needs a range of housing," she said. "This apartment building is very badly needed by the people of Milton."

A few affordable housing advocates spoke at the meeting, like Eigil Hillerup, who's also on the
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