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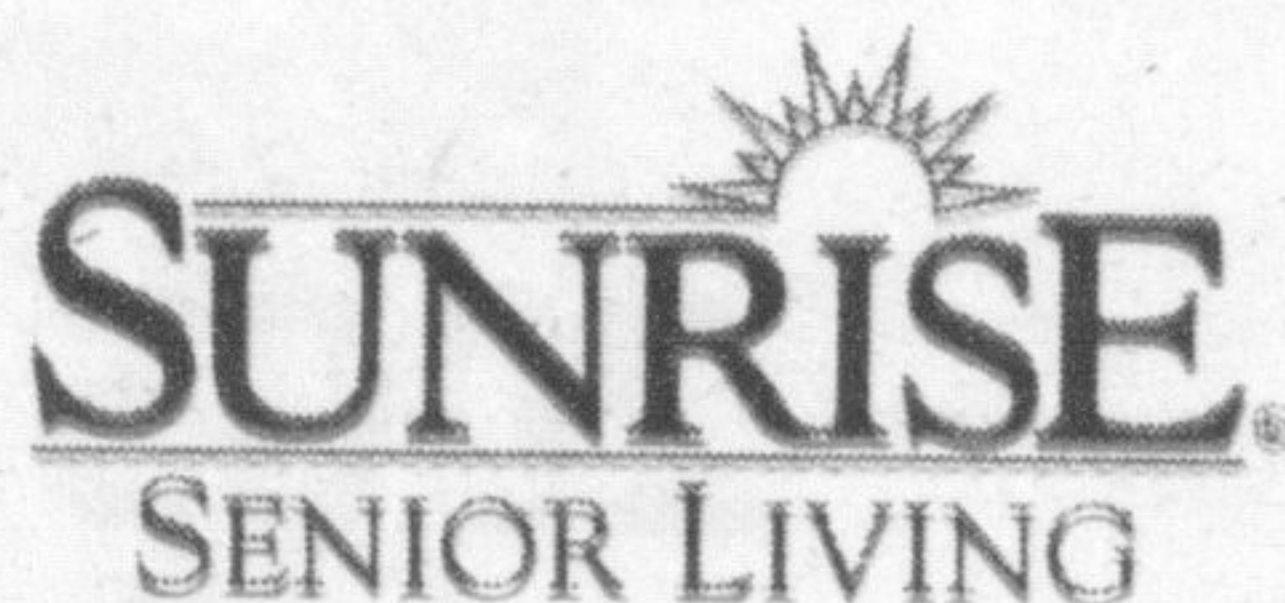
Date July 2 & 3 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Place Sunrise of Erin Mills

Call 905-596-0004 for details or to book a tour.

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Uncertainty about school building funding remains

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in its long-range accommodation plan to build four elementary schools in each of the region's four municipalities — Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.

Earlier this year, the Province introduced funding formula changes — introduced by the former Conservative government — that no longer requires the board to close

schools to free up pupil space to build schools. But staff at the time said it wasn't made clear how construction would be funded. Ms Kisko said the uncertainty remains.

"Funding for new schools hasn't really been addressed in the Halton situation," she said in an interview, given the housing explosion occurring throughout the region. "We absolutely need special attention on this right away. We have an accommodation pressure."

Oakville Trustee Mary Chapin said the budget isn't unexpected. More than three-quarters of the budget go to administrative costs, like teachers, and these are obligations that have to be met by the budget.

The pressing concern, she said, is how new school construction will be funded. While it won't necessarily affect the upcoming budget, she said the implications for the 2006/07 budget, and beyond, could be huge.

Ms Chapin said the funding mechanism must be sorted out to ensure students are in the schools where they need to be.

"If we don't get some positive news with regard to capital projects, we're in deep trouble."

The public will get a chance to view the budget July 6 at the former Percy Merry School building on Britannia Road at 7 p.m.

The budget goes before trustees for ratification the following night, July 7, at the board's Guelph Line headquarters in Burlington.

The budget has to be submitted to the ministry by July 15.

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