

OPINION

Where's housing that's affordable?

Most new subdivisions made up of expensive detached homes

After hearing what one local developer had to say about townhomes this week, we're wondering if Milton will ever see the type of affordable housing it wants and needs.

At a public meeting Wednesday night on Central Milton Holdings' proposal to build 303 homes — largely single detached, but with some townhomes — the consultant representing the developer said the townhomes are in the plans to mitigate the noise from trains going by.

There was no mention that this type of housing would be beneficial for the community as not everybody can afford the expensive single family homes being built all over town.

These townhomes were simply described as a way to create a noise barrier without building a massive berm.

So in this particular development, it would seem townhomes hold little more value than a pile of dirt.

In fact, if the developer finds that the townhomes won't mitigate train noise, then they're going to be

taken out of the plans.

It's unfortunate that affordable housing like townhouses continue to be seen as something that's not necessary — something that serves little more purpose than blocking noise for the other larger, more expensive homes in the subdivision.

Milton is in desperate need of more affordable housing.

While the Town's Official Plan calls for a variety of housing types, that's not generally happening in Milton's new growth areas.

Perhaps the Town could provide some kind of incentive for developers who are willing to build affordable housing in Milton, whether it be townhouses, apartment buildings or condominiums.

But something that's also badly needed is a mindset change when it comes to affordable development.

Both developers and residents who say, 'Not in my backyard' to townhomes and apartments need to realize affordable housing is an important part of making Milton a healthy and desirable community to live in.



Readers Write

Send us your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Ongoing support much appreciated

DEAR EDITOR:

Thanks to The Champion for organizing a holiday food drive, toy drive and certainly its annual Christmas Bureau Fund.

The fund raised \$21,418 for the Milton Salvation Army's family services. Although the goal of \$25,000 wasn't quite reached, it's still a tremendous amount that was raised, and amounted to 18 per cent of our total for the Christmas campaign.

Your support throughout the year is

truly appreciated.

Please be assured that the money will be used in the Milton/Campbellville community. We assisted more than 650 people last year through our food bank, Christmas assistance and camping programs.

Thank you again for helping us help others.

RACHEL SHEILS, COMMUNITY OUTREACH CO-ORDINATOR MILTON SALVATION ARMY

The view from here

Halton's voice heard loud and clear in Ottawa

While newly-elected Halton MP Garth Turner may not be making friends on Parliament Hill these days, he's certainly making national headlines.

As most of you probably read in Tuesday's Champion and other papers, Turner called for Liberal defector David Emerson's resignation last week, saying he should run again for his seat as a Conservative in a by-election.

That led to what Turner described as "a series of unhappy meetings" with "the party machine," including a meeting with our new prime minister.

Although speaking out may have left him on Stephen Harper's bad side, I have to respect and commend Turner for standing up for what he and many of his constituents want and believe in.

If Turner is willing to publicly push for something that would largely benefit people

half way across the country, then I can only imagine he'll put up a good fight when it comes to getting things that'll benefit Halton residents directly.

His next mission is getting legislation put in place that would force an MP who crosses the floor to go back to their constituents for support. This is something he said he's willing to introduce through a private member's bill.

I believe this type of legislation is long overdue. Voters are already saying that Canada's political system is broken, and allowing MPs to change parties with no regard for their constituents just adds insult to injury.

I would imagine Turner may once again be sharply criticized when he does come forward with the proposed legislation, but I

trust that he'll stick to his guns.

As Turner said in a statement he released this week: "Our system needs more MPs unafraid to stand up for what they believe in, in order to give the voters more power and influence. MPs need to be freer, more independent and able to act to influence policy, not just support the government. This is what I will fight for. I pledge it, despite the outcome. I have been warned of consequences but am undeterred."

If this assertion, combined with Turner's actions in recent days, are any indication of what local residents can expect of their MP, I think it's safe to say Halton's voice will be heard in Ottawa.



Melanie Hennessey

The Canadian Champion
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