Halton Rent Bank gets financial boost

Province's funding increased to help area residents

The Province has boosted funding for the Halton Rent Bank by almost $160,000, helping local residents with short-term rent arrears avoid losing their homes.

The Tuesday announcement saw $158,828 allocated to Halton of the $4.8 million that was distributed to rent banks across Ontario.

"Our provincial Rent Bank program has assisted thousands of tenants to avoid eviction and remain in their home," said Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn. "By increasing funding of this important program for the second year in a row, we're helping to ensure the housing stability of more tenants who are at risk of homelessness."

Tenants with lower incomes may apply to the Halton Rent Bank to receive short-term financial assistance to address rent arrears. If a tenant's application is approved, the outstanding rent is paid directly to the landlord on behalf of the tenant.

Tenants can apply for financial assistance from a rent bank no more than once in two years and receive maximum assistance of two months' rental arrears.

In 2004, the program began with an initial allocation of $10 million distributed among municipalities in Ontario. Following an additional investment of $4 million last March, over 8,000 households have received assistance and avoided eviction.

Miltonians to have say on pesticide use issue

Local residents will have a chance to voice their thoughts on the cosmetic use of pesticides at a special town council meeting that's been slated for April 2.

The session, which will start at 6 p.m. at Town Hall Victoria Park, is a result of a motion council passed last year that directs the initiation of a public process on cosmetic pesticides.

"Milton council values public input on a topic of importance to many residents and businesses in Milton," said Mayor Gord Krantz. "This is an opportunity for the public to share their thoughts on this issue."

Due to the anticipated number of speakers and to ensure all members of the public who want to speak have an opportunity to do so, the time limit for each person has been set at five minutes.

Anyone wishing to talk at the meeting is asked to call the Town Clerk's office at (905) 878-7252, ext. 2131, for more details and to register.

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