

Renovations at Allendale set to begin

Needed renovations at the Allendale long-term care facility are slated to start this month.

The Region has awarded a contract for the work — which includes upgrades to the flooring and mechanical systems — to Steelcase Construction Inc. The project is expected to take about one year to complete.

“The renovations will improve comfort for all residents, staff and visitors to Allendale,” said Halton Commissioner of Social and Community Services Adelina Urbanski. “We are taking steps to ensure that disruptions and noise as a result of the construction is minimal. In particular, we have been working closely with residents and their families to help ease the transition during the renovations.”

During the renovation period, residential living areas will be closed on a rotating basis so that work is occurring in vacant areas. Residents will be temporarily transferred to another area in Allendale while construction activities are underway.

In order to do this, Allendale had to temporarily reduce admissions to reach a vacancy level of 25 beds. The facility will return to a 200-bed capacity once construction is complete in 2009.

The long-term care home needs to replace the floors as they're deteriorating from the wear and tear caused by wheelchairs and motorized scooters continually being used on them.

The Region is also making several upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

The majority of repairs and renovations being conducted are required to ensure that Allendale complies with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care standards for long-term care homes.

In addition to the required repairs, the Region is making improvements to the painting in Allendale as part of its commitment to ensuring a warm and welcoming home for residents and their families.

Residents, families and staff have been updated regularly about the plans for renovations. A renovation hotline and e-mail address have been established for anyone who has questions about the work.

To reach the hotline call (905) 825-6000, ext. 8040. Questions can be e-mailed to renovations@halton.ca.

The Region will continue to provide regular updates to residents, families, staff, volunteers and community partners who provide services at or near Allendale.

Regional council gets high marks

Most local residents say they're happy with the work of the current regional council.

According to a poll recently conducted by Environics Research Group, 85 per cent of Halton residents asked are either very or somewhat satisfied with their regional government. That's higher than the satisfaction levels in Peel, York and Durham, which sit at 77 per cent, 73 per cent and 64 per cent respectively.

Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr said the results are something that both council and staff can be proud of.

“We're very pleased that people feel this way. We'll work hard to continue to earn the trust of the people of Halton. Even though we're in the lead, we want to continue to get the numbers up.”

He attributed the high marks to several of the Region's initiatives, such as the GreenCart program, which started earlier this year. “We've had tremendous support for the GreenCart. Environmental initiatives are very important.”

He also said that Halton managed to reduce the tax rate at the regional level this year by 0.6 per cent. “People feel they are getting a good value for their dollar.”

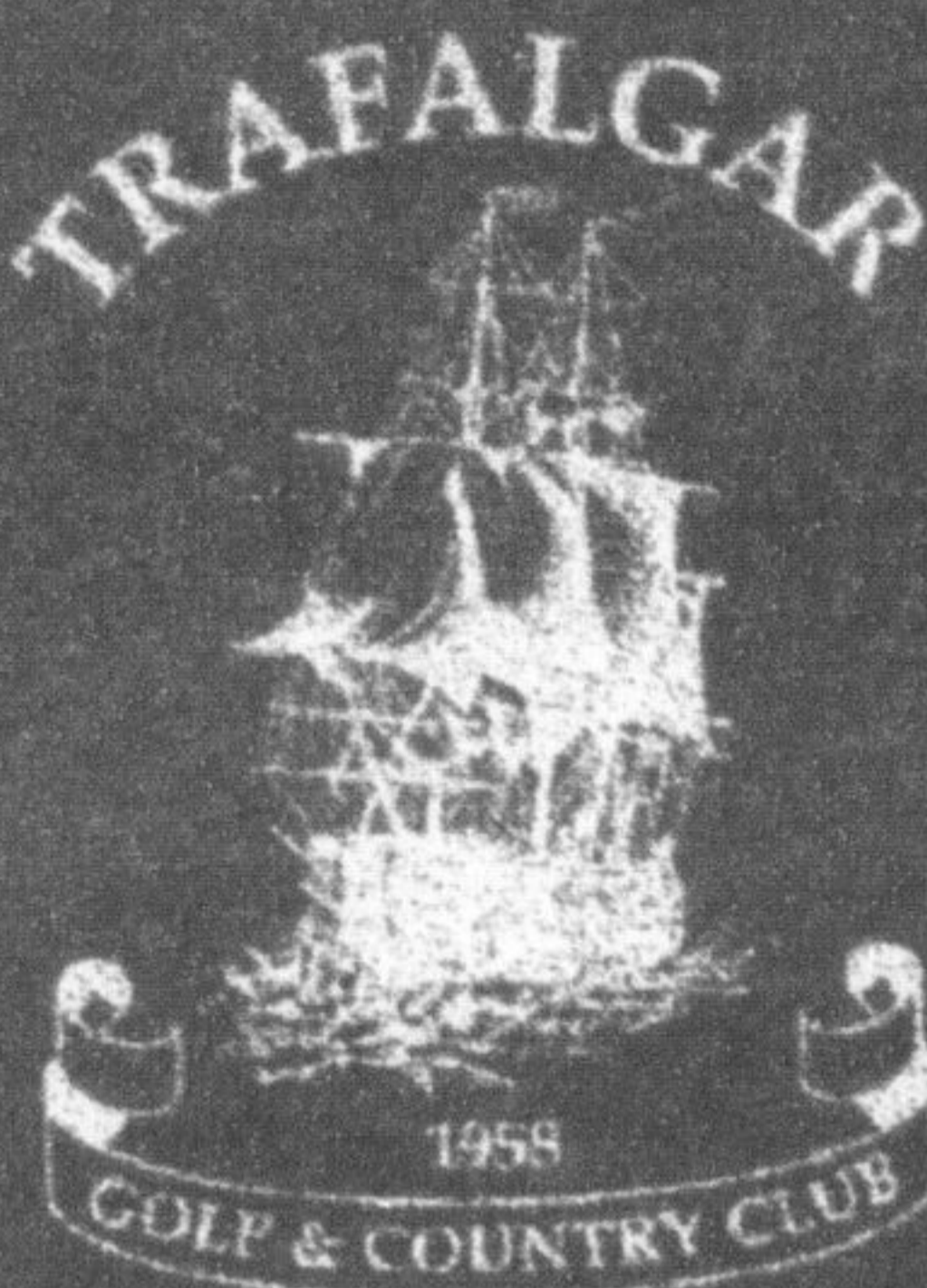
According to the numbers from Environics, the satisfaction rate with regional council has fluctuated substantially over the years and has jumped from 41 per cent in 1993 to 85 per cent now.



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