

# Group home needs \$30,000 from community

Halton Adolescent Support Services (HASS) hopes to raise \$30,000 to enrich the quality of life for adolescents in a recently opened group home in Milton.

While two provincial government ministries — the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Community and Social Services — fund the facility, HASS is hoping for community support to provide "the little things that make a house a home."

For instance, executive director Ugo Felice said they would like to fill a currently empty recreation room with such things as a ping pong table.

The nine bed group home on Commercial Street sparked heavy protest among neighbours at council last year, to the extent some homeowners

sold out and moved away.

"Unfortunately that was to be expected," said Mr. Felice in an interview Tuesday afternoon. "I suppose we all have a fear of the unknown, even when the unknown has been explored."

He stressed that two other HASS facilities in Burlington, Pilkey House

(10 beds) and My Place (six beds), have been accepted and in fact supported by the community.

"I don't believe we've ever had a problem or a complaint. Hopefully we can duplicate that in Milton."

Clients of the Milton home, for the most part, come from situations where there's been a breakdown in

family life. The group home offers an environment fostering improved life skills and an eventual reconciliation with the family.

The young people, who are between the ages of 13 and 18, are expected to either work, attend school or at least be "actively looking at either option."

The first three clients were taken in less than a month ago and Mr. Felice expects a full complement by the end of spring.

Donations from the public, he said, have contributed significantly to the agency's success. This year fundraising efforts are obviously being geared toward the Milton facility.

## Country barbecue to raise \$25,000 for hospital

A country-style shindig aimed at raising \$25,000 for the hospital's audiology unit is being planned by the Milton District Hospital Foundation.

Tentatively called the Blazing Saddles Bean and Beef Barbecue, the June 16 event is expected to draw from 500 to 750 hospital boosters. Pineland Farm in Hornby, owned by former MPP Jim Snow and his wife Barbara, will be the site of the fundraiser.

A portion, or possibly all of the \$75 tickets will be eligible as a tax deduction. This detail is one that has to be confirmed by organizers. Ticket sales for

the event will be kicked off at the beginning of April. Businesses will be encouraged to book tables of 10.

Entertainment has been lined up and will include a piano and vocal duet, the Milton Choristers and a fiddler, with more acts to follow.

The Foundation is seeking corporate sponsorships for the event as well as items for a silent auction and live auction that will be held the evening of the barbecue. It is the role of the Foundation to raise funds to cover purchases of equipment not funded by the provincial government.

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