By NORMAN NELSON

Milton's newest matchmaking service, more than halfway into its first year of operation, has helped put a roof over the heads of approximately 60 tenants.

The brainchild of Milton Community and Information Services, the

service - called the North Halton Housing Registry - strives to ease the housing shortages in Milton, Georgetown and Acton by matching landlords with tenants.

The program is funded jointly by the Province and Halton Region.

Thus far, about 164 tenants have

registered with the program as compared with only 62 landlords, and the registry is now mounting a big push for potential landlords to step forward.

With the rental market operating just about at capacity, and no relief in sight, registry co-ordinator Anna

Matheson said it makes sense to "utilize existing housing."

Although the extra income is a big attraction, homeowners get involved for a number of reasons, she said.

Some have a big house and want to having people around; some can

work out an arrangement with a tenant to do babysitting or chores.

By far, the most prevalent commodities are basement apartments and spare rooms, which can run anywhere from \$275 on up dependput the extra rooms to use; some like ving on the place. Houses or townhouses rent from \$1,000 and up, and apartments . . . well, you have to find one first.

Most local apartment buildings, she added, have lengthy waiting

Two apartments above downtown Milton businesses went for \$900 (two bedrooms) and \$1,000 (three bedrooms).

"Some people still phone expecting a four-bedroom house for \$600," she

The registry basically acts as a facilitator to help bring tenants and landlords together.

Potential tenants are screened to determine the type of housing they need and are provided information on their rights and responsibilities as tenants.

For the homeowner, the registry helps determine the kind of tenant wanted and provides advice for interviewing and following up references.

However, the decision to interview a potential tenant or offer a room is up to the homeowner.

The housing crisis affects everyone - businessmen and women, singleparent families, abused women, post-secondary school students and seniors.

But Ms. Matheson concedes she has to contend with landlords' stereotypical views of the ideal She's single, more than 25 years of

age, has a good job, is well groomed, doesn't smoke and has no pets. Meanwhile, single prents, she said, can literally find themselves left.

out in the cold Often, with the dozens of calls the registry receives each week, she has to put on the hat of an advocate, referring clients to an appropriate support agency.

For instance, a single mother unable to come up with first and last month's rent was referred to Halton Region's social services department.

In another case, a ride was provided to a Hamilton hostel for a Milton youth who found himself without lodging after his parents had separated.

A more typical scenario, however, was a call from a man who had just separated from his wife.

"We found him a basement apartment," said Ms. Matheson. For more information call 875-3822.

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CORRECTION

There was an omission in the Milton Builders

Hardware ad on, Nov. 2nd. It should have read



The Canadian Champion regrets any inconvenience caused by this ommission



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