

**Housing hard times**

**Tough market for lower income residents**

By PAUL MITCHISON  
Special to The Champion

It's tougher than ever to find a place to live if you're on a fixed income in Halton.

And people depending on welfare are increasingly forced to spend more of their income on rent, according to the Halton Housing Coalition, a volunteer organization concerned with affordable housing issues.

A family of four on social assistance, paying average rents in Halton, now has less than \$300 a month to cover other costs, such as food and clothing, according to the coalition.

That distressing fact, and others, are contained in the first report card issued by the coalition last week. The next is to be issued in another six months.

"Hopefully this will raise some awareness of the situation of affordable housing," said Ted Hildebrandt, chair of the coalition.

"And with the Mike Harris government looking at getting rid of rent controls, and other measures, we'll be keeping close track of all affordable housing issues."

The coalition said in Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills, there is a \$270 gap between the average three-bedroom unit, and the maximum shelter component of social assistance — the portion of a person's welfare cheque meant to be designated for housing.

The gap in Oakville is an even higher, at \$358.

Figures from the organization say about 25 per cent of Halton households can't afford the average rent for a three-bedroom home, based on shelter

costs not exceeding 30 per cent of household gross income.

Newspaper-advertised rents tended to be higher than those in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's rental survey.

Other information from the report:

- In Halton, the October 1995 vacancy rate was less than one per cent, compared with 1.9 per cent in Hamilton. The coalition said three per cent is considered healthy.

- The waiting list for subsidized housing remains high. In April of this year, the Halton Housing Authority had 1,200 applications on its waiting list.

- The last rental housing units to be built in Halton were started in 1994. Last July, the province cancelled 247 affordable rental housing units slated for construction in Halton.



Walter Mulkwich

**No protest to scheme for water surfaces**

By BRAD REAUME  
The Champion

Despite rumblings that Burlington's political heavy hitters are increasingly wary, a grand-scale plan to quench north Halton's thirst for water moved another step forward last week.

Halton regional council approved a short list of companies to draft proposals for solving regional water woes in Milton and north Oakville. Council also agreed to begin discussions with Peel Region about piping water over from Halton's eastern neighbour.

Several members of council had warned they would protest the measures because they felt development in Halton would only proceed on the backs of local taxpayers, many of whom would realize little benefit.

As matters stand, regional council is contemplating either driving a water pipeline north to Milton from Lake Ontario, hooking into Peel's water supply, or both. Cost estimates range into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Burlington Mayor Walter Mulkwich, a leading figure in the skeptics' camp, argued that the short list of companies should not be formalized until after discussions with Peel were complete.

"I can envision a Halton-Peel Water Authority for example," said Mayor Mulkwich. "It is not prudent to approve the short list until the process of discussion occurs. We would be sending out the wrong message to these companies."

Mr. Mulkwich questioned the level of local economic benefits and had reserva-

• See OPPONENTS page 20

Thank you to the following individuals, Companies and Service Clubs in Halton Region, who donated over \$500 to CNIB during the 1995/96 fiscal year. Your support has allowed CNIB to provide services to blind, visually impaired and deaf/blind individuals in the Halton community:

- Burlington Nelson Lions Club
- CHWO Radio 1250
- Community Foundation of Oakville
- Georgetown Lions Club
- Oakville Beaver
- Mr. & Mrs. George W. Radford
- Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 136
- Standard Products (Canada) Ltd.
- Tartan Color & Chemical Inc.
- Town of Oakville
- United Way of Burlington, Hamilton/Wentworth
- United Way of Halton Hills
- United Way of Milton
- United Way of Oakville

CANADA'S LARGEST MATTRESS FACTORY DIRECT • CANADA'S LARGEST MATTRESS FACTORY DIRECT

the Sleep Factory

since 1978

Seniors Discounts

**One Week Only**

Sale ends Sat. July 13

## FACTORY DIRECT BUYING MATTRESS SALE

THINKING OF A NEW SLEEP SET, ACT NOW! AND SAVE FROM CANADA'S LEADING SLEEP SPECIALISTS

<p>mattresses from <b>\$49</b></p> <p><b>NO payments NO interest for ONE year or NO PST &amp; GST</b></p> <p>ON ANY MATCHING MATTRESS SET SEE STORE FOR DETAILS O.A.C.</p>	<p><b>POSTURE CARE</b></p> <p>10 YR GUARANTEE</p> <p>SINGLE MATTRESS SET \$230 <b>\$139</b></p> <p>DOUBLE .179 SET 299</p> <p>QUEEN .209 SET 349</p>	<p><b>COMFORT SLEEP</b></p> <p>15 YR GUARANTEE</p> <p>SINGLE MATTRESS SET \$200 <b>\$179</b></p> <p>DOUBLE .199 SET 339</p> <p>QUEEN .229 SET 399</p>	<p><b>ORTHO PRACTIC</b></p> <p>20 YR GUARANTEE</p> <p>SINGLE MATTRESS SET \$370 <b>\$219</b></p> <p>DOUBLE .269 SET 429</p> <p>QUEEN .299 SET 469</p> <p>KING .449 SET 719</p>
	<p><b>ORTHO ELEGANCE</b></p> <p>25 YR GUARANTEE</p> <p>SINGLE MATTRESS SET \$400 <b>\$279</b></p> <p>DOUBLE .319 SET 539</p> <p>QUEEN .359 SET 579</p> <p>KING .509 SET 889</p>	<p><b>ORTHO LUXURY</b></p> <p>25 YR GUARANTEE</p> <p>SINGLE MATTRESS SET \$500 <b>\$379</b></p> <p>DOUBLE .419 SET 689</p> <p>QUEEN .449 SET 729</p> <p>KING .599 SET 1049</p>	<p><b>ORTHO ULTRA</b></p> <p>30 YR GUARANTEE</p> <p>SINGLE MATTRESS SET \$800 <b>\$459</b></p> <p>DOUBLE .479 SET 759</p> <p>QUEEN .519 SET 829</p> <p>KING .669 SET 1199</p>

<p><b>MATES BED</b></p> <p>2 large storage drawers <b>\$179</b></p>	<p><b>CAPTAIN'S BED</b></p> <p>4 large storage drawers <b>\$219</b></p>	<p><b>FUTON</b></p> <p>Includes mattress &amp; frame <b>\$149</b></p>	<p><b>DELUXE FUTON</b></p> <p>Includes mattress &amp; frame <b>\$199</b></p>	<p><b>CAROUSEL IRON BED</b></p> <p>Available in assorted colours <b>\$99</b></p>	<p><b>FUTON SOFA BED</b></p> <p>Available in black or white <b>\$279</b></p>
<p><b>CORNER BUNK</b></p> <p>Incredible value <b>\$599</b></p>	<p><b>3 PERSON BUNK</b></p> <p>Single over double <b>\$229</b></p>	<p><b>DIVAN DAY BED</b></p> <p>Enamel finish <b>\$89</b></p>	<p><b>CANOPY BED</b></p> <p>Double or queen <b>\$289</b></p>	<p><b>CHRISTINA IRON BED</b></p> <p>Available in black or hunter green <b>\$159</b></p>	<p><b>FUTON BUNK</b></p> <p>2" iron single over double <b>\$329</b></p>

the Sleep Factory

**MILTON Factory Outlet**

**The Sleep Factory**

246 MAIN ST. E. 878-4606

CLOSED SUNDAY

AJAX • GUELPH • CHATHAM • MILTON • OAKVILLE • HAMILTON • GLOUCESTER • BRAMPTON • MISSISSAUGA

OAKVILLE • BURLINGTON • MILTON • MEADOWVALE • OTTAWA • NEPEAN • BARRIE • ORILLIA • BRANTFORD • BURLINGTON • CAMBRIDGE • HAMILTON • KITCHENER

MEADOWVALE • OTTAWA • NEPEAN • BARRIE • ORILLIA • BRANTFORD • BURLINGTON • CAMBRIDGE • HAMILTON • BARTON • KITCHENER • LONDON • BURLINGTON