

Opinion

Local residents facing housing crisis need our help

Statistics — included in a story published elsewhere in this newspaper — show a crucial need to help those facing a housing crisis in Halton, and specifically Milton.

Some 626 single individuals and 153 families in Halton were placed in emergency shelter in 2013, according to Donna Danielli, executive director of Milton Transitional Housing (MTH).

Milton, which accounts for 20 per cent of Halton's population, experienced more than 150 of those housing emergencies.

Considering that just last week Halton Region declared an extreme cold weather alert — designated whenever the temperature, without wind chill, is forecast to dip below -15 C — the statistics become even more alarming.

MTH provides subsidized bridge accommodation with counselling for people in housing crisis to give them the time and support they need to recover from the crisis and return to housing independence with dignity.

The work of this group is invaluable, and an upcoming fundraising event for MTH deserves the community's support.

The Milton Fashionista Flip will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Southside Church, 7480 Derry Rd., just west of the Milton Sports Centre. Fashionista Flip will feature women's apparel, jewelry, and accessories with every donated item at the event, being sold for \$2.

Donations are being accepted at MTH, 420 Main St. E., or at The Vacuum Shop, 785 Main St. E., where tickets to the event, which cost \$10, are also available.

Danielli said the event will give women a chance to renew and refresh their wardrobes since every item sold at the event is only \$2.

For information on Fashionista Flip, contact Danielli at (905) 699-7433 or donna.danielli@miltongtransional-housing.ca.



Rural Roots

In 1886, the Credit Valley Railway came to Campbellville. Two years later, C. Lewis built the Ontario Terra Cotta Brick Co., making pressed and ornamental bricks. In 1899, M. Crawford purchased the property, converting the brick plant to a saw mill and coal business, which he operated as Murray Crawford Ltd. In 1957, the saw mill was gutted by fire. However, the smoke stack, office and warehouses were saved. Following the fire, expansion took place operating as Crawford Lumber and Fuel until 1977. The property was sold in 1980 and after alterations, 'The Lumber Yard Flea Market' opened. The property has since been sold and redeveloped for retail and restaurant use.

— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Nasagiweya Historical Society

Up Front

Pan Am Games hype officially begins with velodrome opening

I've always maintained that you need to understand a sport before you can really appreciate it.

While that still holds true, my minimal knowledge of track cycling — something I'll need to rectify quickly as the Pan Am Games draw near — certainly didn't hinder my enjoyment of the official opening of the Milton Cisco Velodrome recently.

Trust me folks, this is a sport that needs to be seen up close and personal. TV just doesn't do it justice.

One of a slew of reporters at the Canadian



Steve LeBlanc

News/Sports Editor

Track Cycling Championships — in sharp contrast to the monopoly I usually hold at local sporting events — I must say I was quite impressed with how well run our velodrome's first event was.

Athletes from across the country all sang the facility's praises, and to say the volunteers — and even a couple of fellow reporters — were eager to offer assistance and expertise would be putting it mildly. All this made me even more excited about my leap into track cycling coverage and the opportunities that it will entail.

For those who've already got the Pan Am Games buzz — or are interested in catching it — a community day open house at the velodrome is slated for Family Day, February 16.

Do I dare hope for a chance to take the new track for a test spin myself? Hey, I'm game. Just need to get that proverbial green light.

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