PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2 (PG) (VIOLENCE) STAR & STROLLERS SCREENING

MONKEY KINGDOM (G) NO PASSES FRI 3:50, 5:55, 8:05, 10:25; SAT 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 5:55, 8:05, 10:25; SUN 1:40, 3:50, 5:55, 8:05, 10:25; MON-THURS

MONKEY KINGDOM (G) STAR & STROLLERS SCREENING, NO PASSES

DOLPHIN TALE 2 (G) SAT 11:00

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Milton Transitional Housing gets major shot in arm

By Steve LeBlanc CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Nestled in a corner of Habitat Halton's Milton ReStore last Thursday afternoon, Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris offered her appreciation for the work of Milton Transitional Housing (MTH).

Moments later, the agency's representatives had ample cause to return that gratitude.

In fact that was something of an understatement when Naidoo-Harris officially announced that MTH would be receiving an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant of \$218,000 over the next three years. The funds will allow MTH to more than triple its number of temporary housing units — from three to 10. In addition, some of the money will go toward expanding services, increasing staff and covering operational expenses.

"I know it's grey outside, but we've got some news that I'm sure is going to warm us all up," beamed MTH Executive Director Donna Danielli just before Naidoo-Harris made the



Milton Transitional Housing's Arnold Huffman (far left) and Donna Danielli (far right) and Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris accept an appreciation plaque from Bill Allison of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Steve LeBlanc / Canadian Champion

announcement.

Danielli and MTH Board Chair Arnold Huffman spoke about how their organization had three "graduating clients" last year — moving from temporary accommodations to long-term housing — and how the grant will allow them to build on that success.

A MTH supporter before being elected last year, Naidoo-Harris described the group as a 'bridge' and 'lifeline' to those in need.

"You make a difference in so many people's lives, so that our neighbours don't fall through the cracks," said the Halton MPP, who heard from MTH representatives that finding affordable housing in Halton can be particularly difficult for single men and that MTH's temporary units are available to clients for anywhere between six and 24 months. "I can't think of a more deserving group (for funding) than you."

Before thanking Naidoo-Harris and

the OTF, Danielli mentioned how she had just spoken to a 22-yearold Milton man who though having a job was unable to afford first and last month's rent for an apartment and that these funds will allow her organization to help people like him.

NEWS

"To be able to go from three to 10 units now is incredible," added Huffman, who noted how MTH has an abundance' of great volunteers and that Habitat Halton has been a strong supporter through the donation of both office space and phone/Internet access at the Milton ReStore.

Also on hand for the announcement was OTF Halton-Peel grant review board member Bill Allison, who echoed Naidoo-Harris' sentiments.

"Groups like this (MTH) help make your community a healthier, more vibrant place. This group has so much potential."

Steve LeBlanc can be reached at sleblanc@miltoncanadianchampion.

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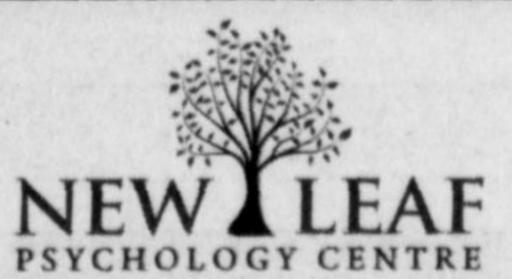
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