

# Housing for seniors is conference topic

What do seniors want in housing? "That's easy," says Lillian Morgenthau, president of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons. "They want independent living — and adequate, not luxurious but adequate, comfortable housing."

"We have to find space for some 7.2 million Canadians who will be retired 20 years from now — not institutional housing but retirement accommodation."

This is central to the theme of Canada's first-ever national conference on Housing Options for Older Canadians, to be held in Halifax, Oct. 17 to 20.

The conference, sponsored by Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation, a pioneer and leader in developing housing for Canadians for 42 years, will bring together experts in gerontology and seniors' organizations with builders, developers and architects, financiers, health care professionals and other key players in the housing industry.

Morgenthau notes that mobile home centres are making a comeback for this reason.

"You not only buy a home but a community. You buy people with your own likes and dislikes...you have people who are interested in you and whom you're interested in."

She says that alternatives to institutional care is very much on the minds of Canada's seniors.

"Builders and developers are looking at this now and they are building retirement centres and retirement homes that are not institutions but capable of looking after people in a dignified and pleasant manner."

Francine Beaugard of the National Advisory Council on Aging says health and health concerns are still foremost in most seniors' minds but what they want most is to remain in their communities and continue living as independent people.

Running concurrently with this, she adds, is the concern of having enough income to support an independent lifestyle.

Alison Bowick, executive director of the Canadian Long-Term Care Association, says the biggest problem seniors face is getting the kind of support services they need to maintain their quality of life and their independence — whether making meals, buying groceries in the winter or assistance in bathing.

"If seniors are going to live in their own homes," she says, "two things are necessary:

"An early alert response system in every community — so that when they need help they will be able to get it quickly.

"Equipment support — hospital-type equipment, bedding with rails, bathtub assistance, etc. — as well as outside support services for family care-givers."

Bowick also sees an evolving role for nursing homes.

"We're looking at our nursing homes not only as long-term care facilities for the frail, elderly but as outreach service centres to the community — providing meals on wheels, clinics for foot care, day care, respite care as well as palliative care."

"The nursing home of the future will be looked at as the hub of health care to support the elderly, not only the individual's home but as he or she needs to move into a facility."

There needs to be a lot more focus on aging and the aging process itself, she feels.

Hon. Stewart McInnes, minister of public works and minister responsible for CMCH, regards the conference as one of the most important developments undertaken by the national housing agency.

"We are dedicating our inquiry to the whole well-being of seniors on a 24-hour basis. That means more than accommodation. We have to discover formulae that will make it possible for seniors to maintain a worthwhile, independent lifestyle."

Registration fee for the three-day conference is \$250 and up — with a discount for seniors who pay \$175.

Details are available from any CMCH office or by calling the conference secretariat in Ottawa at 613-748-2895.

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### CORRECTION NOTICE

Due to the manufacturer's inability to supply, the following products advertised in today's (this week) Shoppers Drug Mart flyer will not be available at all stores. Prostyle European 1500W Hair Blower \$15.99 each and Prostyle Curling Iron 3/8" or 5/8" \$5.99 each.

Shoppers Drug Mart sincerely regrets any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

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# Real Estate

Economist & Sun / The Tribune

## Home of the week

This upgraded bungalow at 9 Arrowflight Dr. in Markham is the Economist and Sun Tribune home of the week. The house is listed with Century 21 Armour at \$267,700. It features a combination living and dining room with hardwoods under broadloom. The kitchen was refinished two years ago with pot drawers, a microwave shelf, a built-in garbage drawer, garburator and under-cabinet lighting. The master bedroom has been enlarged by combining two bedrooms and offers his and her closets and a makeup table. There is one other bedroom on the main floor. There's a jacuzzi tub in the bathroom. In the basement there's a wet bar with built-in refrigerator and finished recreation room with fireplace. There are two bedrooms and a three-piece washroom on this level. For more information about this home call Don's Steel at 474-2121.




