

Battle Over DND Lands Is Officially Over

The Canadian Government will be selling its Oakville Barracks, otherwise known as the DND Lands (Department of National Defence), to its Canadian Lands Corporation (CLC) for future redevelopment.

Located in the area of Dorval Drive and Rebecca Street, the Region had initially hoped to spend \$100,000 refurbishing three vacant homes on the property for use as transitional housing to families in crisis. While this proposal has long been a sticking point for local residents, the real deal breaker was the unanticipated cost of maintaining the communal water system.

Ward 5 Councillor Jeff Knoll, President of the Halton Community Housing Corporation, explains, “Due to the lead pipes, the water on the premises requires special treatment. As the DND currently has residents at the Barracks, they are maintaining that system.” The Department of National Defence would not continue to do so once they vacate—leaving the Region to absorb a \$50,000 expense per year.

Says Knoll, “The Federal Government has been supporting these houses, in this ghost town-like setting, for more than 10 years now. What a shame when you consider the 1800 families on the Region’s transitional housing waiting list. People are living in shelters, we’re forced to ship them out of our community or put them up in substandard motels.”

The formal transfer of the property to the CLC is expected to be completed in 2009 while redevelopment could be achieved as early as 2011. As the local planning authority, the Town of Oakville has an oversight role in the planning and future development of these lands. Says Mayor Rob Burton, “Insert quote please.”

Ward 2 Councillor Fred Oliver also looks forward to the property's development potential. "Renovating the three existing properties would have been too costly to taxpayers," he said.