

News Release

January 16, 2012

FIRE SAFETY FIRST

Caledon Fire Department has conditionally approved the fire safety plan for Oliver House. The conditions require that the owner of Oliver House ensure the effectiveness of the fire safety plan by ensuring that:

- Supervisory staff are aware and informed of any situation at the facility,
- A method is in place to account for evacuated residents and prevent re-entry to the building,
- The owner will advise the Fire Department of any changes to the Home for Special Care program requirements.

In the fall of 2009, the Caledon Fire Department inspected and conducted a fire drill at Oliver House. The results of those events led to a requirement that an adequate fire plan be developed to protect the residents of Oliver House.

The Caledon Fire Department requirements were over-turned by the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Fire Safety Commission. The Caledon Fire Department has continued to press for more protective measures at Oliver House and has pressed the Provincial Government to require that all care facilities be retrofitted with sprinklers.

“Our ongoing concern has always been to ensure that the residents of Oliver House and all the residents of Caledon are safe should a fire occur,” said Fire Chief, Brad Bigrigg.

Over the last month, the Ontario Fire Marshal has resolved the remaining and outstanding issue of the number of staff at the facility at all times. With the resolution of the OFM, “...the evacuation procedures and other identified supervisory duties cannot be safely accomplished with fewer than two staff within the building for the duration of the evacuation phase of a fire emergency,” the Caledon Fire Department has conditionally approved the fire plan.

Staff psychiatrist, Dr. Peter Moran, has committed that the residents are aware and can adequately respond to an emergency evacuation.

With the undertakings by the OFM and Dr. Peter Moran, the Caledon Fire Department has increased confidence that the fire safety plan will improve the safety of the residents of Oliver House.

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