

# FROM THE EDITOR

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## Between Our Covers

**L**ivable Peel is a new initiative by the Region of Peel to promote long-term planning by balancing the social, economic, environmental, and cultural needs of the region's residents. At a recent conference, nearly 200 people gathered to hear from a wide range of speakers on topics relating to managing the impact of growth.

Of particular interest was a session titled "Put a Roof on it: Meeting the Needs of Peel's Current and Future Residents." By the year 2051, Peel is expected to grow by at least 500,000 people, and over 40 per cent of that growing population will be over 55. This statistic brought to light an emerging concern for homebuyers—universal housing options. This term refers to designing barrier-free housing not only for people with disabilities, but also for those who want to stay in their current homes as they age. In "Universal Appeal" (p. 48), Sherry Hinman takes a closer look at the benefits and challenges of building accessible housing.

According to Hugh Heron, president of Heron Group of Companies, builders need to look ahead when planning communities so that they will be able to better serve current and future homebuyers.

"There's not a builder out there who won't customize a home to make it more accessible for people with special needs," he says. "We want people to be able to build their dream home and stay in it."

Cheers,  
Amy West