

Legalize rooming houses, reader writes

Re: 'Rooming house issue needs consistency across the city,' Editorial, Feb. 13.

In the charged debate surrounding new developments in the Woodgreen Ravine, many residents objected to this new low-income housing because of the concern of the loss of green space in their neighbourhood.

On the other hand, an equally justified argument in favour of building the developments is there are people who need affordable places to live.

Green space is not only a picturesque luxury we have in the east end, it is also vital to the ecosystem that we are part of. We are increasingly aware that these natural areas need preservation.

On the other hand, it is also a reality that there are many people out there who need affordable housing to survive. Without it, these people could be left homeless.

So how to find a middle ground?
I think part of the solution could lie in legalizing rooming houses.

MORE PEOPLE, SAME SPACE

Allowing many more people to live in what's normally a single-family house would intensify population densities in suburban areas.

This would reduce the need to build new housing units on the fringes of the city, and reduce the clear-cutting of Toronto's vital and beautiful green spaces.

Legal rooming houses could potentially satisfy the people who wish to preserve Toronto's ravines and forests, as well as the people who are in need of affordable places to live.

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