



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **New Affordable Housing Project Opens in County of Oxford**

**WOODSTOCK, Ontario, May 23, 2007** — Canada’s New Government, the Government of Ontario and the County of Oxford held a ribbon-cutting ceremony today to mark the official opening of the Homestead Christian Care Supported Independent Living Apartments, an affordable housing project provides rental units for lower-income families and single persons under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

Dave MacKenzie, Member of Parliament for Oxford and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; County of Oxford Warden Paul Holbrough and Woodstock Mayor Michael Harding attended today’s ceremony.

“This project will help many lower-income individuals with disabilities access quality, affordable housing,” said MP MacKenzie. “Canada’s New Government is very proud to have made a significant contribution to this project, which will provide safe and supportive housing for those who need it in this community.”

“The McGuinty government is committed to providing affordable housing to help families and individuals with disabilities to live independently and with dignity,” said John Gerretsen, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “This project is a tangible result of the different levels of government working together with community partners to improve the quality of life for vulnerable residents.”

The \$1.2 million project, including \$525,000 from the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 15 units at 373 Blossom Park Road in the City of Woodstock. The project is sponsored by Homestead Christian Care.

County of Oxford Warden Paul Holbrough commented, “On behalf of the residents of Oxford County, I congratulate Homestead Christian Care on the completion of this project. The County of Oxford looks forward to an enduring relationship which provides supportive services to the residents of Oxford, allowing affordable choices in housing for people in our community.”

Woodstock Mayor Michael Harding said, “Affordable supportive housing for those of us living with mental health issues is urgently needed here in our City and throughout Oxford County. I am proud of the efforts and commitment that Homestead Christian Care has made to the City of Woodstock and to seeing that this need is being met today.”

Federal and provincial funding was complemented by more than \$228,500 in municipal financial incentives.

“Homestead Christian Care is thrilled by this opportunity to expand our supportive housing program in Oxford County,” said Jeff Neven, Director of Operations. “We appreciate the contributions of all levels of government, along with members of this community, in making this new facility a reality. Your support guarantees that these units will stay affordable for our tenants.”

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The new Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two senior levels of government. In total, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest at least \$734 million in the program, which will provide affordable housing for 20,000 households in Ontario.

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