



PRESS RELEASE



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New Affordable Housing Units Open in Oxford County

WOODSTOCK, Ontario, June 17, 2008 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the County of Oxford today held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of 12 new units at Homestead Christian Care’s Blossom Park Supported Independent Living Apartments, an affordable housing project that provides rental units for lower-income families and individuals under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

Dave Levac, Member of Provincial Parliament for Brant, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Watson, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Oxford Warden Paul Holborough; Woodstock Mayor Michael Harding, and federal officials attended the ceremony.

“The Government of Canada is committed to making affordable housing available in Ontario and across Canada for those who need it most,” said MP Dave Mackenzie on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada. “Here in Woodstock, these new apartments will help lower-income families and individuals, access safe, affordable and quality housing, and build a stronger future.”

“Affordable housing is a key part of the McGuinty government’s strategy to build stronger communities and a stronger Ontario,” said MPP Levac. “This project will help lower-income individuals with special needs live with dignity and independence in their own communities.”

The \$2 million project is sponsored by Homestead Christian Care and received a total of \$1 million under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program. The addition will provide 12 new units of affordable housing for low-income individuals with special needs. The federal and provincial allocations to the project were complemented by more than \$475,000 in municipal financial incentives.

“Homestead Christian Care and its commitment to Oxford County residents is to be applauded,” said Warden Holborough. “Affordable housing remains a priority with the County and on behalf of the citizens of Oxford, I would like to congratulate all who participated and will continue to participate in this successful venture.”

“On behalf of the city of Woodstock, I congratulate Homestead Christian Care on the development of this facility,” said Mayor Harding. “In cooperation with all levels of government, the faith community has come forward and provided a much needed service to our community.”

“Homestead Christian Care appreciates the help of our supporting community, the City of Woodstock and Oxford County, and both the federal and provincial governments for making this new facility possible financially,” said Grace Miedema, Community Support Coordinator for Homestead Christian Care. “These new ‘supported living’ units will help towards our goal of providing hope and homes to members of our community who are often marginalized by mental illness.”

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The Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program 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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