



PRESS RELEASE



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Construction Begins on Affordable Housing Project in Owen Sound

OWEN SOUND, British Columbia, July 11, 2008 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the County of Grey today celebrated the start of construction of Bluewater Ridge, an affordable housing project that will provide 37 rental units for low-income families and individuals under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

Larry Miller, Member of Parliament for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; Carol Mitchell, Member of Provincial Parliament for Huron-Bruce, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Watson, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Grey County Warden Kevin Eccles; and Owen Sound Mayor Ruth Lovell attended the sod-turning 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 Miller. "Here in Owen Sound, these new rental units will help lower-income families and individuals access safe, affordable and quality housing, and build a stronger future."

"Increasing the quality and availability of affordable housing across Ontario is a priority for the McGuinty government," said MPP Mitchell. "This project will help lower-income households in Owen Sound live with dignity and independence, in a safe place they can call home."

The \$3.9 million project is sponsored by the Owen Sound Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation and received a total of \$2.3 million under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program. The development will provide 37 new units of affordable housing for low-income families and individuals, some with special needs. Federal and provincial allocations to the project were complemented by more than \$527,000 in municipal financial incentives.

"A strong community needs to address the many varied sectors of society with equal enthusiasm," said Warden Eccles. "This project will continue in the spirit of Grey County's vision, as a place where all are welcome and have the opportunity to prosper."

"We are grateful that all levels of government have worked together to make this possible and at the same time, are mindful that much more needs to be done," said Mayor Lovell. "We hope we can continue to work together as we deal with increasing demands for this type of affordable accommodation."

"This Board feels it necessary not only to build quality accommodation, but also to build a strong sense of community in all our projects," said Kenneth Thomson, Chair of the Owen Sound Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation. "We are very happy that our staff and volunteer Board have had so much direct input into the Bluewater Ridge buildings now being built on this historic prospect of the South Ordnance Reserve on Owen Sound."

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

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in the program, which will provide affordable housing for 20,000 households in Ontario.

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