

Nithview Community Homes expanding to meet demand in New Hamburg Groundbreaking expected in 2021

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Steve Lichty, CEO of Tri-County Mennonite Homes, stands with the first, ground sample stake driven in preparation of the Nithview Community expansion. The new, 4 storey, longterm care addition will stretch across the west lawn and adjacent empty lot on Boullee Street. - Lisa Hagen

With the senior population growing rapidly in Canada, Nithview Community/Tri-County Mennonite Homes in New Hamburg is taking proactive measures to house the burgeoning demographic. Two independent building projects are in the works with ground breaking anticipated for 2021.

A four-storey, long-term care facility is slated for the lawn and empty lot west of the current campus on Boullee Street. Another four- storey, independent living, apartment building is planned for a lot on Neville Street known as Peterson's Hill. Together, the new buildings will increase space from the current 200 units to 400 units.

"A quarter of the population will be seniors very soon," stated Steve Lichty, chief executive officer of Tri-County. "We have a lengthy wait list of people who want to stay in New Hamburg."

Tri-County Mennonite Homes has been working on getting approvals in place for the last year.

“It’s refreshing to see how excited the community is about this place and how pleased we are about the strong support we’ve been getting from the Township of Wilmot,” said Lichy.

The long-term care building will be designed and decorated more like a home and less like an institution. Keeping in mind that 70 per cent of long-term residents live with dementia, the building’s square ring footprint will eliminate dead-end wings that are confusing. The ring will also create an accessible, secure, centre courtyard for residents to enjoy at will.

The independent living apartment will have one and two bedroom units available with underground parking. Residents there will be able to access recreational options at the main campus.

“The saddest thing to see is when people have to move in and we can’t accommodate them because of lack of space,” said Lichy. “I didn’t have room for a 90-year-old man recently. To see him cry because he had to give up friends and familiar surroundings to move to Kitchener, broke my heart. Hopefully, the new buildings will help.”

<https://www.therecord.com/news-story/9676506-nithview-community-homes-expanding-to-meet-demand-in-new-hamburg/>