
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2008HSD0059-001351
Sept. 8, 2008

Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Vancouver Island Health Authority

\$18-MILLION CAMPUS OF CARE OPENS IN SOOKE

SOOKE – The Province and community partners are providing Sooke seniors with access to more housing options with the opening of Ayre Manor Lodge, a new \$18-million campus of care combining 25 assisted living apartments and 32 residential care beds.

“Our government is committed to providing a range of housing options to accommodate all the levels of care seniors require,” said Health Services Minister George Abbott. “Ayre Manor Lodge offers a campus of care that will allow seniors to remain in their homes and community as their care needs change.”

Ayre Manor Lodge provides a campus of care model that offers independent housing, assisted living and complex care all in one location. Campuses of care embrace the philosophy that seniors should be able to age in one place.

“Being part of a momentous project like Ayre Manor Lodge is very rewarding,” said Sooke Mayor Janet Evans. “I am thrilled that Sooke seniors now have a campus of care that will give them the opportunity to remain in their community.”

The Province, through BC Housing, is providing ongoing subsidies for housing and hospitality for 10 of the assisted living suites and a rent supplement housing subsidy for another 10 of the assisted living units under the Independent Living BC (ILBC) program.

The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) is providing annual funding for 30 of the residential care units. VIHA is also providing personal care services for twenty assisted living units (ten of which also receive hospitality services and rent subsidies) under ILBC. The Capital Regional District (CRD) provided municipal reduction levies and project development funding.

“For communities like Sooke with a growing seniors population, enhancing access to multiple levels of care options is a top priority,” said VIHA board chair Jack Kreut. “This modern new facility has significantly increased our care capacity and is enabling safe, affordable living for Sooke seniors, with the right supports in place.”

“We believe the development of affordable housing is essential for the well-being of people and communities,” said CRD board director Dean Fortin. “Ayre Manor Lodge embodies this mission by providing varying levels of care under one roof, allowing residents to remain in their community as they age.”

The new assisted living units provide residents with personal care, hot meals, housekeeping, laundry services, recreational opportunities and a 24-hour response system. The residential care component of the new facility offers private rooms and provides health care services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society currently operates 18 independent housing cottages for seniors at the same location.

The development is operated by the Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society (SECHS) in partnership with Beckley Farm Lodge Society, a not-for-profit seniors' care provider that also operates Beckley Farm Lodge in Victoria.

"Our mandate is to provide seniors with affordable housing options," said SECHS board chair Jerry Van Ek. "With the support of our partners, our society has realized a vision it has been working towards for 40 years, to meet the needs of seniors in the community."

These new units are part of the British Columbia government's commitment to provide 5,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted living units, and supportive housing with home support units by the end of 2008. To date, 10,135 new and replacement beds and units have been built, including 4,538 net-new. British Columbia's health system will benefit from more investments like this over the next three years as part of government's \$2.7-billion health sector capital plan.

-30-

Contact:	Rachel Nelken BC Housing 604 439-4183 604 505-8428 (cell)	Shannon Marshall Vancouver Island Health Authority 250 370-8270
	Jerry Van Ek Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society 250 642-5463	Mayor Janet Evans District of Sooke 250 642-1634 250 415-6003 (cell)
	Dean Fortin Capital Regional District 250 217-9273 (cell)	

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.

BACKGROUND

2008HSD0059-001351
Sept. 8, 2008

Ministry of Housing and Social Development
Vancouver Island Health Authority

AYRE MANOR LODGE

Ayre Manor Lodge located at 6754 Ayre Road in Sooke, combines 25 one-bedroom assisted living apartments and 32 residential care beds into a campus of care within the same building, for a total of 57 new beds and units.

Twenty of the 25 assisted living suites are subsidized through the Independent Living BC (ILBC) program. Eligible residents pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for their units and services, which include weekly housekeeping and linen services, 24-hour response, personal care services, and social and recreational opportunities. The remaining five units will be market assisted living units.

Thirty of the 32 residential care beds are subsidized through Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). The other two residential care beds are private-pay hospice units. The units are built to current complex care guidelines, meaning they are single occupancy rooms with a private washroom. VIHA also provides personal care for 10 of the assisted living units and personal care and hospitality services for the other 10 units under the ILBC program.

The three-storey building also has dining rooms, meeting rooms and courtyards. There are 18 pre-existing independent housing cottages on the Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society property, which will bring the total number of beds in the campus of care to 75. Four levels of care are offered on-site: independent housing, assisted living, complex care and hospice.

Partnership Funding

Total capital cost of this project is \$18,312,579

- The **Province** provided \$15.12-million in interim construction financing.
- The **Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society** provided the land, valued at \$2.89 million.
- The **District of Sooke** provided \$180,824 in reduction of municipal levies and has waived property taxes since 1997.
- The **Capital Regional District** provided \$22,959 in reduction of municipal levies as well as a \$63,000 loan for project development funding.
- The **Sooke School District** also provided \$35,796 in reduction of municipal levies.

Operational funding includes:

- The **Province**, providing housing and hospitality subsidies of up to \$4,374,421 over 35 years.
- **Vancouver Island Health Authority** is providing annual funding of \$2-million for the 30 residential care beds, \$148,000 for 10 assisted living units and annual operational funding of up to \$350,000 for personal care services.
- Beckley Farm Lodge will operate the facility on behalf of Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society.

Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society

Founded in 1968, the Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society provides a range of housing and care options on the Ayre Manor property, primarily to allow the residents of the Sooke region to age in place, surrounded by friends and family. The society currently operates 18 independent living cottages for seniors at the same location

Contact: Rachel Nelken
BC Housing
604 439-4183
604 505-8428 (cell)

Shannon Marshall
Vancouver Island Health Authority
250 370-8270

Jerry Van Ek
Sooke Elderly Citizens' Housing Society
250 642-5463

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.