

MapleRidge apartments opening in Sydenham

DEC 12, 1990 "THE HERITAGE"

By Cy Chapman
Heritage Staff

A \$2 million dollar 30 unit seniors and special needs complex in Sydenham, will begin housing tenants sometime this month according to a spokesperson for the Loughborough Housing Corporation.

The MapleRidge Seniors Apartments will feature 30 apartments including two handicap suites, six two-bedroom apartments and 22 one-bedroom apartments. The construction on the facility began last January but due to inclement weather the project is just beginning to open its doors.

The facility is the second of its kind in Sydenham and will be located next door to the MeadowBrook Seniors Apartments. Both buildings are owned by the Loughborough Housing Corporation, an independent corporation which receives funding from the Ministry of Housing.

The new seniors apartments will consist of 10 marketing apartments, with rent set at the lowest possible unit per rent available on the market set by the Ministry of Housing. The other 20 units will be "rent geared to income." apartments. These units are rented to tenants at a cost of 25% of the individual's monthly income.

Sandra Weston, Administrator of the Loughborough Housing Corporation, manages the everyday activities at the two buildings. She says the official opening at the site will not take place until the spring, but that the corporation plans to start housing people in the next couple of weeks.

"We will be housing people right now, and we expect to have the facility filled by sometime in March."

Weston says so far the response to the new facility has

been very positive.

"Before you can apply for assistance for a project like this you must complete a needs survey in the community," she said. "We found that response to very encouraging. One of the reasons we applied for the new facility is because we had a four month waiting list for MeadowBrook. We already have a waiting list for the market apartment at MapleRidge."

Weston says the newest building is also unique to the area because it will house residents with special needs.

"Because we are in the country people who need a lot of support services are not plentiful. But we do have a few people who have a slight disability or are on a disability pension, and can look after themselves in a smaller space," she explained.

Weston said the difference between a seniors complex and a nursing home is the amount of care needed by residents of a nursing home.

"We don't provide any care

for the tenants in our buildings," she said. "I am the only staff here, although residents do have homemakers and nurses come into their apartments. But when they reach a point when they can no longer look after themselves then they turn to the nursing homes."

Seniors are classified as 60 years and older, while special needs is classified as 30 to 60 years old. The MeadowBrook facility was originally open for business in 1984.