



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Father Earl Talbot of Holy Rosary Church and Mayor Gord Krantz toss the first shovels of dirt at the ceremonial sod-turning for the Marian Courtyard Seniors Residence. Construction of the non-profit retirement complex beside Holy Rosary Church is slated to begin by the end of the month. Here, members of the project's board of directors and contractors look on.

At long last, retirement centre backers rejoice

By KAREN SMITH
The Champion

Volunteers who have worked steadily for more than two years to open a non-profit seniors' residence beside Holy Rosary Church broke new ground Saturday.

Construction of the \$6 million Marian Courtyard Seniors Residence was launched during a ceremony at the Martin Street site.

"We can't believe it. It's been so long," said an ecstatic Martha Gleeson, chair of the project's board of directors.

While construction of the four-storey building east of the church is expected to begin by the end of the month, Ms Gleeson said it's hard to believe the concept has finally come together.

Members of the church first discussed building a retirement residence on the site six years ago and they have spent the last two-and-a-half years selling units and gaining government approvals.

"We haven't popped champagne bottles but we're very tempted," she said. "They're on ice."

Ms Gleeson said 35 of the residence's 50 self-contained units have been sold, giving the board enough capital from down payments to start construction. Units range in price from \$94,000 to \$160,000.

Designed by architect Victor Heinrichs, the residence's units feature six different floor plans with limited options to customize.

Units are available in one-bedroom, one-bedroom plus a den and two-bedroom layouts. Selected units allow for optional solariums and fireplaces.

A heated underground parking garage will provide security and convenience.

The building's design is architecturally integrated into and compliments the existing Holy Rosary community, Ms Gleeson said.

Planned amenities include a dining area, library, games room and wellness centre.

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Benefit for children of crash victim

A benefit concert will be held in support of the children of three men who died in a tragic car crash two months ago.

Longtime Campbellville resident and musician Bert Tarrant, 33, was one of three passengers killed in a June 19 crash on Hwy. 403 in Hamilton.

The rhythm and blues guitarist, who had moved to Kitchener, left behind two children aged 13 and 9. Also killed were musicians Alan Affeldt, 34, and Donald Woods, 42, both of Kitchener, who had three children between them.

Organized by Mr. Affeldt's brother Glen, the concert 'Let Their Music Live On' will be held at Bingeman's Marshall Hall in Kitchener Saturday, Sept. 12 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Doors will open at 7 p.m.

The event will feature Ontario musicians and bands performing music the men enjoyed. Tickets, which cost \$10, can be purchased at the Nascar Pit Sports Bar on Main Street.

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