

Ganohkwa Sra Grand Opening

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Ganohkwa Sra Chairman of the Board, Wilma General receives a plaque from the Chairman of the board of the Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, Claude Bennett. He said her endurance paid off.

and children of Six Nations. Trained and supportive staff will provide emotional support through individual and group counselling sessions for women and children in crisis. Other areas of support include providing education, housing, legal and community resources.

The capital cost needed to build the emergency shelter was provided through CMHC's Project Haven Program, which is a federal program created to meet the

immediate short term needs of abused women and their children.

Under the program, CMHC provides eligible sponsors with financial assistance in the form of fully-forgivable loans for up to 100 per cent of the project costs. The federal government's commitment of approximately \$749,000 was secured by a 15-year forgivable loan from CMHC. CMHC works with the Ontario Ministry of Community

and Social Services, which cost-shares operating funds with the municipality.

Everything went as planned for the grand opening celebrations, even the weather cooperated. Treasurer Belva Montour acted as Mistress of Ceremonies. She introduced all the board members and staff, which are Chairperson, Wilma General; Secretary, Alice Bomberry, other members of the board, Shirley Farmer, Elva Lickers, Margaret Porter and Dorothy Russell. Staff are Director, Reva Bomberry; Shelter Services Supervisor, Evelyn Maracle; Community Services Supervisor, Gina VanEvery; shelter counsellors, community counsellors, community educators, volunteers and student placements.

There were a number of guest speakers prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony which took place at noon with board members Shirley Farmer, and Alice Bomberry holding the ends of the ribbon while it was cut by Peter Friedmann, Area Manager, CMHC; Bob Brant, Assoc. District Manager, INAC; Wilma General; Chief Councillor Steve Williams and Tom Goff, Organization & System Development.

Bennett said he was delighted with the opportunity. He said it was living proof of the programs success. He also said it shows that endurance can pay off, referring to all the work General put

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