

News Release

The Evergreens Foundation Celebrates 50 Years of Service

April 11, 2010 marks fifty years since The Evergreens Foundation was established to administrate seniors' housing on behalf of the Province of Alberta. The purpose of the Foundation was and is to provide housing for Alberta's senior citizens at affordable costs. Their supportive living facilities are located in rural towns so seniors can remain in or near their home communities.

The first site managed by the Foundation was Parkland Lodge in Edson. The early years of expansion saw the inclusion of Sunshine Place Lodge in Evansburg and two Senior's Apartments, namely Heritage Court and Heatherwood Manor, in Edson. Over the years, Parkland Lodge has seen two structural additions, bringing its total accommodations to 55 units. The old Sunshine Place Lodge has since been replaced by a new facility which is now attached to Pembina Place, operated by the Good Samaritan Society. Progress has continued throughout the years, with new lodges being built in Hinton, Grande Cache and Jasper. Additionally, The Evergreens Foundation has taken on some facilities previously operated by other groups, such as the Lion's Sunset Manor in Hinton and Pine Grove Manor in Jasper.

Besides seniors' housing options, the Foundation provides housing to lower income families and individuals in one, two and three bedroom housing units in Edson and Hinton. These projects are funded by the Alberta government. Most recently, administration of Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs' rent supplement programs has added a substantial workload to the Foundation.

Presently, The Evergreens Foundation employees nearly 100 staff members, including 7 Site Managers, who are directed from a Central Office in Hinton. A Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from each of the participating communities (Yellowhead County, MD of Greenview, Hinton, Edson, Jasper and Grande Cache) directs the Foundation through its Chief Administrative Officer. As mandated by Alberta Seniors and Community Supports, each of the aforementioned communities provides financial support to The Evergreens Foundation through an equalized assessment process. This funding helps to offset some of the operational costs incurred by the Foundation.

Looking to the future, The Evergreens Foundation is anticipating changes, primarily in seniors housing options. More and more seniors are staying in their homes longer. Many of such individuals are in need of Assisted Living supports by the time they leave their homes, which is beyond the Supportive Living services that housing foundations normally offer. The many changes in the health care system have added to the challenge of meeting seniors' needs. Jasper's Alpine Summit Seniors Lodge was the first step into offering Designated Assisted Living services and is acting as a pilot project for

Evergreens. The next fifty years could see many more changes for The Evergreens Foundation!

Additional information:

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO): Tina Szegi

Board Chair: Mayor Greg Pasychny, Edson

Vice Chair: Councillor Gloria Kongsrud, Jasper

Members: Mayor Louise Krewusik, Gr. Cache

Councillor Bill Bulger, Hinton

Councillor Bill Velichko, Yellowhead County

Councillor Billy McDonald, MD of Greenview #16

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