

LoveSong Seniors Housing and Community Hub

Project Concept:

The Emmanuel Senior's Affordable Co-Housing Committee (ESACH) is seeking to acquire and convert the Pinecrest Memorial School into a Seniors Affordable Housing and Community Hub hereafter referred to as LoveSong. The school was closed in June 2017 by the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board and was declared surplus at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 23, 2017. The property is comprised of a single building having three wings with approximately 46,000 sq. ft. of space. It is situated on a 20 acre parcel of land on the northern outskirts of Bloomfield in the County of Prince Edward.

The aim of the project is to provide affordable housing to seniors who are at an increased safety risk in their homes but who can still live independently with varying levels and the right mix of support services. Many seniors in Prince Edward County are unable to find decent, safe and affordable housing options that meet their needs as they age. Some seniors are at an increased safety risk in their homes while others are unable to return home from hospital and turn to long-term care facilities as the only affordable housing option.

Our plan is to renovate the school to accommodate fifty housing units, of approximately 400 sq.ft. Each unit would be equipped with bed/sitting area, servery including fridge/microwave/counter/sink and private bathroom with walk in shower. The facility will provide shared lounge, kitchen, dining and laundry facilities with access to an open three season courtyard (existing).

The existing gymnasium will serve both the residents of LoveSong as well as members of the surrounding community with access to recreational and cultural activities including fitness classes, theatre, and hobby/meeting facilities - a cultural hub for Bloomfield.

The large 20 acre site could provide space for a community garden, farmer's market and would also lend itself to a potential partnership with Habitat for Humanity to establish an all encompassing community where families and seniors benefit one another through shared skills, interests and activities.

Independent living will be encouraged while ensuring that support services are available to those residents requiring assistance. The LoveSong community will promote a sense of belonging, offering purpose and building on the strengths of each individual resident. Residents will be encouraged to contribute and support one another through active participation, whether being a representative on the Board of Management, assisting in meal preparation, gardening, music/entertainment programs, library, or visiting programs. Opportunities to share talents and skills will be celebrated.

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Five of the 50 units will be set aside for short stay respite care to provide a supportive environment for seniors recuperating from an accident or injury thereby minimizing hospital stays and providing relief to care givers. A wellness centre will be incorporated into the design including on-site access to services such as a physician/nurse practitioner, physiotherapy, dietician and foot care. Collaborative partnerships will be established with the Local Health Integration Network, VON, The Prince Edward Health Team and The Prince Edward County Community Care for Seniors Association and Community Living PE thereby facilitating a pooling of resources through a team based approach tailored to each resident's service level requirements. This approach will enhance existing collaborative relationships among the various service provider organizations and will lead to a more efficient and cost effective service delivery model while addressing the expanding needs for services by the aging population in our community.

Service provision in support of residents/Community will include:

- Meal preparation
- Light Housekeeping
- Medication prompts
- Laundry
- Running Errands/Shopping
- Transportation to/from health care appointments
- Foot care
- Physiotherapy
- Pooled resources for personal care support