

Francophone seniors get Provincial boost as work to build community continues

As work continues to build a community for Francophone seniors in Aurora's southwest, Communauté du Trille Blanc (CTB) has received a financial boost to support its ongoing initiatives.

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy recently presented the organization with a grant of \$57,640 for the Village Vitalité initiative, which helps to promote the independence and wellbeing of Francophone and Francophile seniors across York Region.

"Ontario's Francophone and Francophile seniors deserve opportunities to remain active, engaged, and connected in their own language and community," said MPP Gallagher Murphy. "I am proud to see our government investing in services that celebrate and support the vibrant Francophone community in Aurora and beyond."

The contribution to Communauté du Trille Blanc is part of a \$23 million Ontario-wide investment supporting nearly 420 Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs) programs, including 97 new initiatives.

"Through a variety of activities, including educational workshops, social events, and support sessions, the organization creates a welcoming, engaging, and inclusive environment," said the Province on CTB. "Programs are offered both in person and online and include pickleball, yoga, meditation, walking groups, card and board games, workshops on wills and powers of attorney, Canada Revenue Agency information sessions, restaurant outings, and annual holiday celebrations."

Communauté du Trille Blanc is the driving force behind a planned Francophone seniors community on Bloomington Road, just west of Yonge Street, behind Cardinal Carter Catholic High School and the York Catholic Education Centre.

Announced last summer, it is intended to serve as a central hub for a multi-purpose community not only serving French-speaking seniors through programs, but a 160-bed long-term care residence and, eventually, multiple housing types, a community centre, and five acres of recreation space which will be developed by the Town of Aurora.

The land was deemed surplus by the Government of Ontario transferred to CTB through fundraising and an essential \$10 million donation made to the project by philanthropists Steve and Carole Mirkopoulos.

"This site will be transformed into a new planned community anchored by a 160-bed, fully air-conditioned long-term care home operated [by the CTB]," said Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care, at the time of the announcement. "A new, modern 160-bed long-term care home, five acres of recreational land on the western parcel, which will increase the level of resident activity while, at the same time, help reduce social isolation, a French village, a campus of care that includes different types of housing, and a French-language hub - a continuum of health and community services for residents."

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