



Angel Oak announces Canada’s first sustainable, all-inclusive community project for north Guelph

[Guelph, ON – July 27, 2017] – A new, not-for-profit organization has formalized plans to create the first sustainable, integrated and all-inclusive community in Canada at Orchard Park located at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph, Ontario. Angel Oak Communities, a private not-for-profit organization, has signed an official Letter of Intent with the Ignatius Jesuit Centre (IJC) to transform the existing Orchard Park into a commercial and residential community supporting over 70 residential luxury apartments along with 30 commercial tenants.

Project developer Mark Enchin plans to enter in to a 100-year lease with the IJC to create a new sustainable co-operative, that gives people a choice in selecting an affordable alternative to conventional subsidized housing models. People can choose to purchase or rent their apartment and will have a say in the daily operations of the building.

“A supportive, independent living co-operative model isn’t really a new idea, it’s how neighbourhoods used to be,” says Enchin. “Our vision for the project is to create a fully integrated, all-inclusive community that welcomes seniors, working people, millennials, adults with intellectual and physical disabilities, and students – anyone who is interested in living in a supported, caring and sustainable neighbourhood.”

One of the unique aspects of the Angel Oak project is its model – offering life leases and rental units at affordable prices, in a building using leading technology for energy efficiency and resource sustainability. Enchin expects some of the amenities of the building will include a bakery and café, guest suites and respite care, swimming pool, greenhouse, learning centre and day programs for the entire Wellington County.

"When we first met Mark and he told us about his vision with Angel Oak, we could not believe our ears, as this had been a dream of ours for years to be part of such a community," say Guelph residents Arnie and Holly Haller. "We are very excited about what this community will be and look forward to being part of it and lending a helping hand to others."

The project is the first one for Angel Oak Communities and offers a unique location to see the organization’s vision come to life. “I started Angel Oak for very personal reasons, initially,” says Enchin. “My stepdaughter has autism and her mother and I are constantly worried about where she’ll live and thrive after we are gone. We wanted to create a future for her, not just housing.”

“We have been building community for more than 100 years at Ignatius and we look forward to the collaborative efforts that will take place within the project” says Lisa Calzonetti Director of Operations at IJC.

Enchin has already had a great deal of interest in the Angel Oak Communities concept, with the Guelph project at Ignatius and other communities around the province. “We are really excited to be creating our first sustainable community in Guelph in such a beautiful, natural setting.”

Angel Oak Communities is a private, not-for-profit organization that creates sustainable, all-inclusive and co-operative communities.

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