

Welcoming Concordia Village 5

Concordia Wellness Projects, the assisted living and wellness organization, began construction on its fifth building on Aug. 22

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Concordia Wellness Projects held the official groundbreaking ceremony for the Concordia Village 5 project on Aug. 22.

Following speeches and a land blessing, shovels entered the dirt and the projected two-and-a-half year-long construction phase finally set sail.

"There's such a need for housing in not only our community, but the broader (city), and especially so for assisted living facilities," said Darren Klassen, CEO of CWPI. "And we're just very excited to be able to bring this project forward."

The seven-storey building will have 175 residential units, two thirds of which will be assisted living. A number of the units — 10 per cent, according to Klassen — will be affordable housing, as well, to keep up with the current housing crisis and growing wait list.

Currently, there are over 350 people waiting for a unit at centres one through three, and only 285 units exist overall.

"We're constructing the building to a very high standard," he continued. "The individual shouldn't have to settle with something that's not top notch. So a big part of what we're doing is building a really high quality building that can provide this great community for people, but do it at the most affordable prices possible."

"Because there's a lot of our population that just cannot afford luxury living. And we're hoping to fill that need as part of our commitment."

Klassen feels strongly about the people living in the existing facilities, he said. His sister has always been a teacher, and, since taking on his current role, he has been able to relate to her fulfilment in watching her students thrive through Concordia's growing community.

"It's a real passion for me, to be able to fill that need (of housing). I have aging parents and I see that there's a lot of people in their boat that just don't have places to live. And if we can provide that to them, that's very meaningful ... So what we're building, we're not only building in a physical sense, but creating something," he said.

The final building, to be located on the 5.8-

acre lot on Concordia Avenue, has the potential to connect with Concordia Village 3, but this possibility has not yet been confirmed.

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At press time, there are plans to eventually develop an adjoined health and fitness centre, along with some additional apartments, but this is not expected to be confirmed until phase one of the build is complete.

Next April, CWPI will celebrate its 20th anniversary with the release of a book.

For questions or updates, reach out to Char at ccorlett@concordiavillage.ca

Photos by Emma Honeybun

Following a land blessing, as well as a speech by Concordia Wellness Projects CEO Darren Klassen, construction for the Concordia Village 5 project officially began on Aug. 22

