

Campbellford - Island Park Retirement Suites open  
by Esther Schuette 06.24.05  
Community Press

The Nautical Lands Group, who's head office is located in Ottawa, has opened their latest independent living retirement community on Trent Island. They purchased the land from Larry Healey and construction began in the spring of 2004. On Sunday, June 19, they opened their doors to the public for the ribbon cutting ceremony and an open house tour of the new building. Guests were graciously met by Karen Newell, the administrator and encouraged to wander at will through the open suites or into the dining room where the strains of songs like "Old Cape Cod" drifted through the air courtesy of a live, five piece classic swing band.

The building has three floors, employs 21 staff and offers 85 suites with balconies or ground patios and is currently about one third full. A typical floor contains a two-bedroom suite as well as a number of one bedroom and studio apartments. The spacious dining room is located on the lower level, as well as a tuck shop and beauty salon. Besides the elegant surroundings and the usual three meals a day plus snacks, weekly housekeeping, and activities and social programs, The Island Park Administration has gone the extra mile in providing additional services. There is 24-hour staffing including personal support workers and a nurse. Each client is provided with a waterproof wrist transmitter that they can use to summon emergency response if necessary. Two furnished suites are available for family or friends who come to visit for a few days or a weekend, and if you are on holiday for more than 14 consecutive days, a rent rebate can be arranged. Karen says the ages of their clients vary and "sometimes a ninety-year-old can be more active than a seventy-year-old. But, as any of them become less independent, they can take more advantage of the support services provided." She said safety is the main issue, when thinking of moving from a retirement building to a long-term care facility. If eventually a client needs more services than are provided at Island Park, Karen and her staff would help them find a situation more suited to their needs.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, Mayor Hector MacMillan presented Karen with a certificate from the Trent Hills Municipal Council stating "Congratulations on your grand opening. We wish you much success in your efforts to provide quality service to our municipality."

For price lists and further information you can phone Island Park Retirement Suites at 653-3100.