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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Supportive Housing Apartments Opening in May

BROCKVILLE – An eight-unit residence for people in need of housing, mental health and addictions support was announced today along with new provincial funding.

The Pixie Place Apartments sign was unveiled by officials, who then toured the Perth Street site named after the late Pixie Trip, the first Housing Manager for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. Pixie was passionate about caring for our most vulnerable citizens and enabling creative housing solutions.

“Through the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) almost \$1.6-million has been provided from the provincial government to take a former church and repurpose it into eight bachelor apartments,” said Counties Joint Services Committee Chair Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Mayor of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

Homelessness is a growing issue in the United Counties, Ms. Smith-Gatcke said, citing a report and survey completed last fall identifying approximately 200 people from throughout the region as being homeless or in emergency shelters.

“The Joint Services Committee and Counties staff have been working hard at developing innovative solutions to the housing crisis and homelessness,” said Warden Roger Haley. “These solutions require partnerships between all levels of government and local community agencies. Today’s showcase is an excellent example of how local solutions that are provincially supported can make a difference,” the Warden said.

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes, attended the unveiling and announced an additional \$724,400 for the Counties Community and Social Services Division to address homelessness and housing insecurity.

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"Our government's Social Services Relief Fund is providing immediate housing and homelessness relief in communities across Ontario," Minister Clark said. "As Ontario turns the corner on COVID-19, the province continues to support innovative solutions like these new accessible housing units in Brockville to keep our most vulnerable safe and housed," the Minister said.

This is the fifth SSRF intake for Leeds Grenville, bringing the United Counties total to \$6.7-million since the program started in March 2020.

Pixie Place has been funded through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). The renovation by Competitive Renovations Inc., of Brockville, has been coordinated by the United Counties, which owns the building and property. The project is in partnership with the Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health (LLGAMH), which will manage the units and link tenants to supports.

Patricia Kyle, CEO of LLGAMH, said priority will be given to people receiving service through the local Addictions and Mental Health office and who are on the By-Name-List for homelessness. Questions about eligibility will be answered by her agency.

"We are excited about this new collaboration with the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville," Ms. Kyle said "Pixie Place will provide a welcoming space for people experiencing homelessness who have mental health or substance use issues, and our Agency will be there to support them. This is an exciting day," she said

Located at 100 Perth Street, two of the eight apartments are barrier-free with a lift at the rear of the building and onsite laundry facilities. Residents will be close to downtown and amenities, including public transportation, parks, grocery stores and employment opportunities.

"On behalf of Brockville City Council, I am very pleased to see this valuable new facility coming to fruition, with heartfelt appreciation to all those involved in adding this much-needed housing in our community," said Brockville Mayor Mike Kalivas.

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The Counties is very focused on limiting climate change impacts from its operations. The building redesign has incorporated many energy-saving elements, including 97% efficient gas-fired, on-demand water heaters. Each unit has an energy recovery ventilation system that transfers heat from the outgoing air to warm the incoming air, providing an energy recovery value of 80%. Energy efficient air-source heat pumps provide heating and cooling for each unit. The system, combined with Energy Star windows and doors, will potentially save 50% on conventional heating costs.

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