

# New Bobier Home construction on target

On schedule and progressing well, the new Bobier Home is really taking shape. It is expected to have all of the exterior work completed by the beginning of November. Excavating for the link between the Home and Caledonia Gardens has also begun.

Shortly after the official sod turning on April 27th, 1996, work crews from H.I.R.A. Construction prepared the site for excavation. Supervised by the architectural firm of Me-Kinda Snyder Partnership and the County's Building Committee, H.I.R.A. and many sub-trades have been working diligently to meet their construction deadlines.

"The framing and roofing are near completion and the building is really beginning to take shape", said Dunwich Deputy Reeve Rien Van Brenk, Chairman of the County's Homes and Social Services Committee.

The general contractor, various sub-contractors, architects, engineers and owner representatives from the county meet every two weeks to review progress and to re-

solve any problems that happen to arise.

"Regular communication amongst all parties at the site has enabled the project to progress in a smooth and orderly fashion", said Elgin County Councillor and Building Committee Member Vane Chute. "It is nice to see that level of co-operation from all parties."

Operated by the County of Elgin, this new 57-bed, \$4.7 million facility will serve all of West Elgin. The connection link between the Home and seniors apartments is being constructed at the same time. The purpose of the link is to allow residents of both locations to intermingle and enable seniors to remain independent in their own homes longer yet able to access the Home's services.

Working to complete the project on budget, a more efficient air recycling system has been approved to replace the unit originally called for. The cool-fog humidification system will be more cost efficient and is expected to pay for itself in the next few years. A total of

\$40,000 had originally been included in the budget but approval for the new \$83,000 cool-fog system has been given. The difference will be taken from reserves to cover the initial cost and will be paid back through operations savings.

Fundraising has already begun with \$15,026.00 raised to date. Fundraising committee chair Leta West stated that

canvassers will be covering the area until October asking for donations. The motto of the capital campaign is "Caring for Seniors" with a goal of \$665,000.00 to help purchase items such as hi-low gatch beds, and arm chairs and furnishings, among other items.

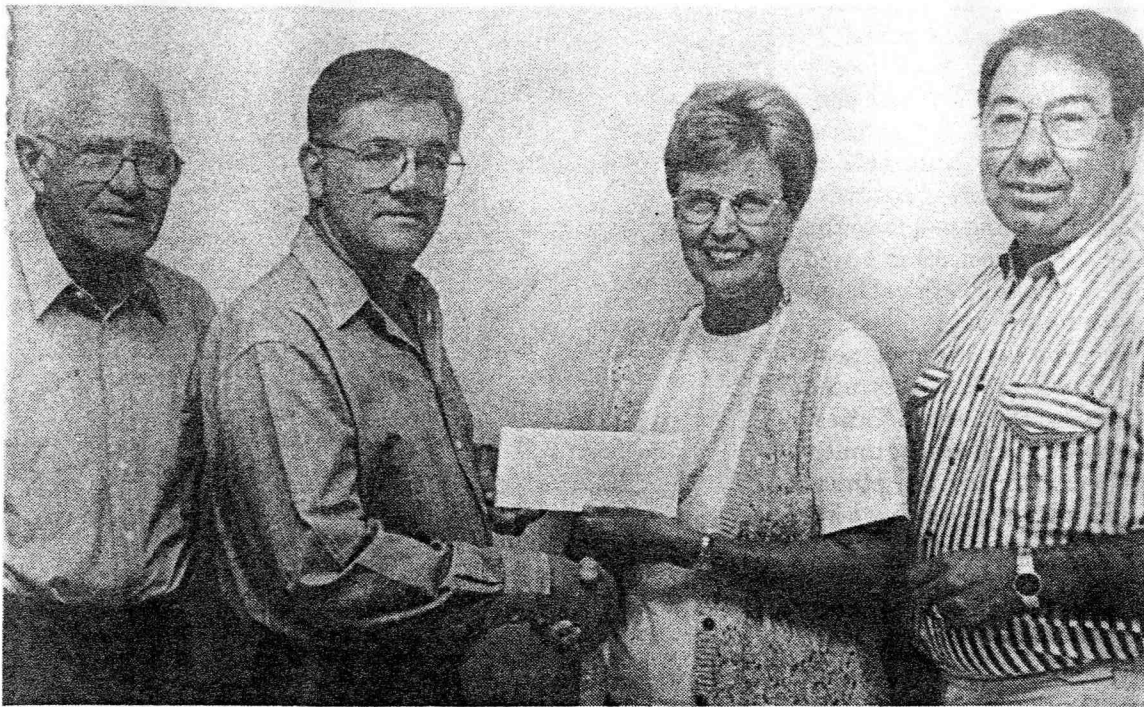
At a site meeting on Wednesday, August 28th, Deputy Reeve Van Brenk said, "It's

like a dream come true... after over 10 years of hard work".

The target area for this Elgin County project is from the Kent-Elgin County line to Shedden and Fingal. The fundraising committee has other events planned such as the Bobier Home Fall Classic mystery team golf tournament.



**BOBIER HOME PROGRESSING RAPIDLY** – Construction of the new county-owned Bobier Home is on schedule. It is hoped to have all of the exterior work completed by the beginning of November. Pictured, left to right, County Administrator Mark McDonald; Building Committee member, Bayham Reeve Vane Chute, and Dunwich Deputy Reeve Rien Van Brenk, Chair of Elgin County Homes and Social Services Committee, look over the plans and check the progress of construction of the new 57-bed facility at a recent site meeting.



**HIGHLAND GAMES DONATION** – The Bobier Home fundraising campaign got a boost thanks to a \$5,000.00 donation from the Dutton Highland Games Committee. Making the presentation on behalf of the Games Committee are Chieftain Norman McWilliam, left, and President Dan Moore to fundraising chair Leta West and Fred Boyes, administrator Elgin County Homes for the Aged.



**BOBIER HOME CAPITAL DONATIONS** – The "Caring for Seniors" Bobier Home Capital Campaign received two more donations recently. The Church of Nativity ACW gave \$1,650, the cost of a single private room and the Bobier Home Auxiliary will furnish a semi-private room with a donation of \$3,100. Pictured accepting the donations is Leta West, campaign chair, centre, from ACW treasurer Eileen Hull, left, and Auxiliary President Rena Campbell.



**FUNDRAISING PLEDGE MADE** – The Dutton Food Market has teamed up with Knechtels to create a fundraising program for the Dutton Bobier Home Building project. Five cents from every Knechtel product sold will go towards the \$5,000.00 pledge. It is expected to take one year to meet the goal. Store owners Luis Leonardes, left, and Charlie Ivan, right, unveiled the program with Leta West, Bobier Home capital campaign chair, last week.



**BOBIER HOME BECOMING REALITY** – The new Bobier Home is one step closer to becoming reality. Ground breaking on the project is set to take place on April 27th. Here, Dunwich Deputy Reeve Rien Van Brenk, chair of Elgin County Homes Committee, left, director of Elgin County Homes Fred Boyes and fundraising chair Leta West go over the final plans for the new home.

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## Turns Sod

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which will boost the local economy.”

Peter North, Elgin MPP, was also unable to attend Saturday's ceremony. Bob de la Penotier, Mr. North's assistant, brought the MPP's regrets and stated that the construction of a new Bobier Home has been of primary interest to Mr. North since his election in 1990. He brought different ministers to the existing facility as a way to convince them that a more modern Home was needed.

With \$650,000 to be raised by the area, Leta West, fundraising committee chair, encouraged everyone to get involved. "If you want to leave footprints in the sands of time, you'd better wear work boots!" said Mrs. West.

The fundraising was kicked off by the Bobier Home residents. Jean Edwards, president of the resident's council, presented a cheque for \$1,000.00 to get the ball rolling.

### Like a Mustard Seed

Reverend Evelyn McLachlan, Ministerial Representative Bobier Home Pastoral Care, blessed the ground and project. Using the parable of the mustard seed, Rev. McLachlan said that many seeds had been planted to get to this day but that this is not the end, as the vision and dreams continue.

Funded in part by the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program, the federal and provincial governments each contributed \$484,000 with the remaining \$4.7 million coming from Elgin County.

The new Bobier Home is hoped to be ready for occupancy in Spring 1997.



**SOD TURNING CEREMONY** – A large, enthusiastic crowd braved the cold wind on Saturday to witness the official sod turning for the new Dutton Bobier Convalescent Home. Helping do the honours are, left to right, Dutton Reeve Hugh MacGinnis, Dunwich Reeve Peter Hentz, Gordon Flum, a resident of the Bobier Home, Warden Harry Mezenberg and Dunwich Deputy Reeve Rien Van Brenk, chairman of Elgin County Homes Committee. Elgin-Norfolk MP Gar Knutson and Elgin MPP Peter North were unable to attend the ceremony but sent representatives to take part. Construction of the new 57-bed home will now get under way. It is hoped to be ready for occupancy in one year's time.

# Turn sod for new Bobier Home

It took 10 years of work and planning but the day finally arrived when the ground was broken for the new Bobier Convalescent Home. A large crowd braved the chilly temperatures on Saturday, April 27th for the official sod turning at the new site. Construction of the new 57-bed facility will now get under way.

### Project Began Locally

Fred Boyes, Director Elgin County Homes for the Aged, acted as master of ceremonies for the event. Dunwich Township Deputy Reeve Rien Van Brenk, Chairman Homes and Social Services Committee, commented that many years ago the Reeves and councils of Dutton and Dunwich instigated this project, and with the help of Elgin County Council it is now a reality. He stated that he was pleased with this project because it will mean that seniors can be looked after the way they should be.

### A Great Day

A great day for Dutton said Reeve Hugh MacGinnis. Emphasizing that the new Bobier Home is an Elgin County project not just a West Elgin project, Reeve MacGinnis said that this new Home will benefit all Elgin residents.

"The only happier day will be the ribbon cutting," said Reeve MacGinnis.

### Recognize Effort

Dunwich Reeve Peter Hentz echoed this feeling saying that this project has been looked forward to and is now finally becoming a reality. Warden Harry Mezenberg, Aldborough Township Reeve, also expressed his pleasure that the Bobier Home is one step closer to becoming a reality. The Village of Dutton and Township of Dunwich need to be recognized for their efforts with this project and their commitment to seniors.

Past Warden Vane Chute, who has served several years

on the Homes Committee, was also recognized for his dedication to the project. It takes a group effort to make things happen and he thanked the various people such as the councils, ministries, staff and residents, who have already dedicated many hours of their time, with many more hours of work yet to be put in before the new facility is completed.

### Offer Services

Gar Knutson, Elgin-Norfolk MP, was unable to attend the ground-breaking ceremony. Eva Richardson, his assistant, brought his greetings as well as a flag for the new Home. In a press release Mr. Knutson said, "In addition to representing a haven for convalescent seniors, this Home will offer a wide range of home support services which will encourage seniors to remain in their own homes. The construction phase will also create 85 jobs

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