

OPEN DOOR CONCEPTS WELLAND INC.

Information Sheet

Open Door Concepts has operated in downtown Welland since 1985. This non-profit organization was born of the interest and concern of some Welland City Councillors and other active citizens, for those people having trouble finding and keeping decent, safe and affordable housing.

In the beginning, this group entered into an agreement with the provincial government to administer a Housing Help Centre. This service was run out of the offices of the Community Resource and Action Centre, now the Hope Centre on Main Street. After the Province withdrew funding, the Region of Niagara assumed most of the costs. Many hundreds of people have been served through this agency.

At the same time, the **Open Door Concepts** group wanted to do more, and in the late 1980's they secured approval from the Ministry of Housing to construct and run a non-profit apartment building in downtown Welland. A large part of the apartments would be affordable to persons with a low-income. This building, which would be open to all, would reserve a third of its units for persons with special needs – whether physical, mental or social. Agreements were put into place with a half-dozen community service agencies, that they could refer their clients to this building for housing, while continuing to provide to the client their own specialty services.

This building – **Canal View Homes** – opened in February of 1991. By having two Lifeskills Counselors on staff, Canal View Homes has been able to offer truly supportive living in a beautiful downtown setting. This support side of Canal View Homes is funded through the Ministry of Community and Social Services, through Niagara Region.

With the provincial downloading of services to the municipalities in 1999, funding for the building project was transferred to the newly-organized Niagara Regional Housing Corporation, along with all of Niagara's cooperative, non-profit and municipal housing.

Today, **Open Door Concepts** is a Board of Directors who meets monthly to oversee the progress and direction of the **Canal View Homes** project, while maintaining a keen interest in the larger situation of affordable housing and general social wellbeing.

For further information, please call Alan King at 905 732-0400.