



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 15, 2009, The Blue Mountains, Ontario

The Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains are pleased to announce that the agreements necessary to secure the proposed site of a new Community Health Centre are now in place.

A four-way arrangement has been completed between the Town, landowner Nick Angelotti of Applewood Developments, Thornbury Village Cidery and North East Grey Health Clinics Inc.

Through these agreements, the Town has acquired two pieces of property on Highway 26 just west of the Thornbury Village Cidery on the understanding that these lands will be used as the site for the Family Health Centre.

As well, the agreements clear the way for demolition of the former office structure attached to the Cidery. Today, Mayor Ellen Anderson assisted Andre Corbeil, President of Thornbury Village Cidery, to kick-off the demolition project.

“We’re thrilled to know that these arrangements have become reality and that we now have the land assembled for our Health Centre,” Mayor Anderson said. “So much has been accomplished here. We have secured property for the Health Centre. We have helped launch a Community Improvement Project by one of our successful businesses. We have a this very generous contribution to our community by one of our local developers. This is the Spirit of The Blue Mountains coming through again.”

Mr. Corbeil said his company will be salvaging reusable materials from the demolition and will donate them to either victims or the August 20 tornado or to Habitat for Humanity.

“This project means we will have a piece of Thornbury that will be well-looked-after and well-maintained for many years to come,” Mr. Corbeil said. “We are proud to part of a project that will revitalize Thornbury’s downtown area.”

Although Mr. Angelotti was unable to attend, his contribution to the project won praise from the Mayor and members of the North East Grey Health Clinics team.

North East Grey Health Clinics is a non-profit corporation of community volunteers dedicated to recruiting new physicians to The Blue Mountains and Meaford and to establishing community medical clinics in each of those communities.

Lynn Johnston, Chair, North East Grey Health Clinics said, “I too want to thank Mayor Anderson and her fellow councilors and Paul Graham and his staff for their support in helping us move forward with this important project.

“Health care is vital to every citizen of The Blue Mountains and my team is honoured to play a role in helping to secure more medical practitioners for our area. The fund raising team is fully committed to raising over \$4 million, approximately \$2 million in each of The Blue Mountains and Meaford, to build two health care centres to attract and retain medical practitioners in our town and to continue to support the Meaford hospital.

“As you know, The Blue Mountains campaign is in phase one and we launched our drive to secure funds, in July, 2008. By September, 2008, we decided to put our efforts on “pause” because of the severe economic downturn. This after a significant improvement in the stock market and some other positive economic signs, I am pleased to tell you that we are re-launching our fund raising efforts.

“To date, we have raised more than \$1 million in commitments and pledges for The Blue Mountains health centre, including an initial donation of \$275,000 from Town Council. We still have a long way to go, but with everyone’s generosity, I believe we can attain our target of \$2.3 million. We believe our project is fundamental to supporting our community-at-large and to enhance the growth of this great town which we are so lucky to live in.

“We need all citizens to pitch in and give whatever they can. No donation is too small.”

Wayne McFarlane, North East Grey Health Clinics Fund Raising Chair added, “A couple of weeks ago, several of our friends and neighbours’ properties and farmlands were hit by a severe tornado. I am proud to announce this morning that our board and fund raising leadership team would like to donate 100 per cent of the proceeds raised at one of our next fund raising events to the Tornado fund raising project in support of the apple growers and farmers in the Valley and those people who sustained damage to their properties in Georgian Peaks Ski Club area.

“In addition to this gesture of financial support, we also will be prepared to support any ideas to help the tornado fund raising team. These steps are paramount to making The Blue Mountains a great place to live, to work and to retire.”