

For immediate release
September 24, 2019

More affordable housing options coming to West Niagara

Grimsby, ON – Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln and area landlords have launched Friendly Housemates projects in Beamsville and Caistor Centre to address the lack of quality, affordable housing in the region.

Friendly Housemates matches prospective tenants with and without an intellectual disability who want to live together and create a community within their home. They share in the cost of rent and utilities, while Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln provides support to the tenants who have an intellectual disability.

“More and more, affordable housing is becoming scarce for members of our community, and what is available is often out of reach for low-income earners,” said France Vaillancourt, Executive Director of Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln. “Even when people can secure a one-bedroom apartment, they may find themselves with very little money left over at the end of the month to pay for utilities, food, and other necessities.”

According to housing statistics from the Niagara Region, the vacancy rate in 2017 for one-bedroom apartments was 1.4% and the average rent was \$822. A single person on ODSP can receive a shelter allowance up to \$497 a month, along with additional funds for basic needs.

“There’s also the issue of loneliness and whether the person feels safe in their home,” added Vaillancourt. “Our hope is that through our partnerships with area landlords, tenants can engage in activities of mutual interest, develop new relationships and skills, and have more income to spend on things like food, clothing, and transportation.”

The agency is in search of community members who want to be a part of Friendly Housemates. There is a three-bedroom townhome in Beamsville and a four-bedroom farmhouse in Caistor Centre that are available as of November 1st. Rent is \$750 per person and includes all utilities. Ideal candidates are recent retirees, newcomers to Canada, and post-secondary students. Every person who is interested in the housing model must complete an application form and take part in an interview.

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For further details on Friendly Housemates, contact Becky Harris, Supervisor of Supported Independent Living at 905-563-4115, ext. 252 or by email at bharris@cl-grimsbylincoln.ca. Information is also available on Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln's [website](#).

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Founded in 1968, Community Living Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln provides person-centred services to more than 300 children, youth, and adults living with developmental disabilities. The agency's goal is to promote the rights, dignity and inclusion of people with diverse abilities as they live, learn, work and participate in all their community has to offer.

For interview requests and photos, please contact:

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