

## A village for aging veterans: 'You can be busy all the time'



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The two-building Perley Rideau Seniors Village recently opened on the grounds of the Perley and Rideau Veteran's Health Centre on Russell Road,.

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Frank Cauley and his wife, Barbara, are among the new tenants enjoying the \$43-million Perley Rideau Seniors Village.

The two-building village, which recently opened on the grounds of the Perley and Rideau Veteran's Health Centre on Russell Road, was completed on time and on budget, says Daniel Clapin, executive director of the health centre's foundation.

The buildings, with 139 apartments purpose-built for seniors, are now more than 90-per-cent occupied.

"This offers a secure living environment for a senior citizen," says Clapin. "All of the washrooms, hallways, kitchens, shelving, everything has been designed with a senior in mind."

The village concept means seniors will be able to take advantage of all the amenities at the neighbouring health centre, including the pharmacy, dentist, barber shop, chapel and cafeteria.

The foundation has launched a \$5-million capital campaign to support the village project. The public phase of that campaign will kick off in June.

The Perley Rideau is committed to ensuring that 20 to 30 per cent of village apartments are occupied by Canadian Forces veterans. The other units are available to the public.

The village features apartments for independent and assisted living, along with others for seniors who have early to mid-stage dementia.

The municipal, provincial and federal governments have contributed \$5.4 million to the project with the understanding that the Perley Rideau will offer 45 units at below-market rates. The city will provide rental subsidies to those seniors who qualify.

Frank and Barbara Cauley volunteer in the health care centre's pottery studio, and take advantage of its many services and social events.

"There's all kinds of entertainment," says Cauley. "The coffee club meets twice a week, bands come here. You can be busy all the time. So we enjoy it."

The Perley Rideau plans to add other amenities to its seniors village, including a gym, physiotherapy room, and wellness centre.

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