

The Corporation of the County of Hastings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPPORTING HASTINGS & CENTENNIAL MANORS

At today's County Finance Committee meeting, the issue of Belleville's apparent refusal to support the 2018 budgets for Hastings Manor in Belleville and Centennial Manor in Bancroft was discussed.

"The responsibility for providing the best possible care to our vulnerable seniors in both Manors is something every member of Hastings County Council takes seriously," said County Warden Rodney Cooney. "Running a 24 hour, 7 day a week long-term care facility is always challenging but we are proud of the work that our staff do day in and day out to make sure the residents of both Manors are comfortable and well cared for," added Cooney.

"Our budgets for the Manors are fair and reasonable given the challenges we face this year," said Long-term Care Committee Chair Paul Jenkins. "The Joint Committee which includes members for both cities and the County, went through the budgets in detail as they do every year and recommended them to County Council for approval. Both the County and the City of Quinte West have supported the financial needs of the Homes," added Jenkins.

"If we did what Belleville City Council wants, there is no question that resident care will be dramatically reduced," added Chair Jenkins. "At Hastings Manor we would need to cut 12,178 Personal Support Worker hours. That really means a cut of 33 hours per day of care. To give it a human perspective we would need to lay off 6.25 full time PSW staff," said Jenkins.

"It would be even worse at Centennial Manor", noted Warden Cooney. "The Belleville cuts would translate into 17,882 fewer PSW hours or 9.17 full time staff losing their jobs."

“We are not going to do that to our most vulnerable seniors at either Manor. Not on our watch”, stated Warden Cooney.

“I think we need to put this issue into further context,” stated Finance Chair Rick Phillips. “The impact of the increase on the City of Belleville’s tax levy this year for operating the Manors is .38%. That’s one-third of one per cent. Surely, the City with its economic growth and access to windfall casino revenues can afford to pay their fair share as set out in our Agreement”, stated Phillips.

“To be clear, we will be sending Belleville the bill for their portion of the Long-term Care budgets and we expect payment in full as per the Cost Sharing Agreement”, stated Warden Cooney.

“We are of course pleased that the City of Quinte West has supported this and the other shared services budgets,” stated Warden Cooney. “We would also welcome any public support from the City of Belleville in our efforts to obtain more provincial government funding to assist our operations,” added Cooney.

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Additional Background

- The current cost sharing agreement between the County, Quinte West and Belleville was renewed in 2001 at the time of the amalgamation of Thurlow with Belleville.
- The 2001 Agreement also carried on a similar sharing arrangement that dated back almost 50 years in the case of Hastings Manor.
- Hastings Manor has 253 beds and Centennial Manor 110.
- The current wait list to move into Hastings Manor is 278.
- The current wait list at Centennial Manor is 79.
- The increase in the 2018 for all shared services including Long-term Care increased by 3.5%

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