



Shovels are in the ground. Photo credit, Phil Barnett.

A message to Old Grace Housing Co-op members

We are now entering a new phase in the life of the Old Grace Housing Co-op. Construction has begun with site fencing and survey work. Pile driving and other foundation work will begin in earnest this coming week. Our volunteer photographers have been recording developments on the site, and a photo library is being developed on our website, under the tab [Watch us Grow](#).

On Thursday, August 11 we had our official sod turning event. More than 70 members and supporters gathered at the site on a gloriously sunny day to celebrate our progress. Speakers included the Honourable Scott Fielding (Minister of Housing), Bill Dinsdale (Assinboine Credit Union), Blair Hamilton (Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada), Cynthia Neudoerffer (Wolseley Residents Association) and Sandra Hardy (OGHC President). You can read our media release [here](#) and see a slide show of photos from the event [here](#).

Many thanks go out to the co-op members who organized the event, made media arrangements, took all the photographs and organized the post-event reception. We'd also like to thank Assiniboine Credit Union for the podium and umbrellas; Concord Projects for the golden shovels, hard hats and site arrangements; and Saint Margaret's Anglican Church for hosting the subsequent reception.

The sod turning event attracted media coverage from CBC Radio Noon, the CTV breakfast show, the Winnipeg Free Press, the Metro, and the Wolseley LEAF. We've seen an uptick in website visits and new memberships and expect increased interest in our few remaining suites. A listing of the available suites can be found here <http://www.oldgracehousingcoop.ca/available-suites/> Members who apply for a suite now will still have an opportunity to request minor modifications to their suites at no additional charge, including the choice of a barrier-free shower or a bathtub / shower combination. After the first week in September, that option will no longer be available due to the construction schedule.

We are still waiting for news on our proposal to Manitoba Housing for the building on the Preston site. Further development of that proposal is on hold, pending the Province's decision on financial support. We understand there may be changes within the department of Housing following the change of government and that is slowing the decision process. We hope to get their response within the next couple of months.

Sandra Hardy, President