

SPOTLIGHT ON HOMES

ARE YOU RENTING NOW?



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MODEL
AS SEEN NOW
FOR SALE

MOVE TO WEST WATERLOO

Only 1 lot left to build a 30' series home on a beautiful crescent in Clair Hills. Homes are 1713 or 1833 sq. ft. Monthly payments from \$1325.* P&I. Come out and see our 2 exciting Model homes. Visit us at 417 Bamberg Crescent – Take Fischer-Hallman or Erbsville Rd. from Erb St. to Keats Way and turn left. Follow to end of road and turn left on Lucerne Cres. Watch for model home on left. Victoria O'Grady, Sales Rep Especially New Homes Inc. Brokerage, at 519-745-6306 or 519-886-9797 *based on \$409,900 purchase price with 20% down at 5-year interest rate of 2.69% and 30-yr amortization.

THE ENCLAVE IN
Clair Hills
NO COOK HOMES

HOURS
Sat. & Sun. 1-5 pm
Mon. Wed. 2-7 pm



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OUR LAST BALSAM POPLAR LOT!



RD013358689

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From \$453,550

Hours: Sat. & Sun. 1-5 pm, Mon. - Wed. 2-7 pm

Visit our sales office and 2 models at 417 Bamberg Cres. - Take Fischer - Hallman or Erbsville Rd. from Erb St. to Keats Way and turn left. Follow to end of road and turn left on Lucerne Cres. Watch for model homes on left.

Victoria O'Grady Sales Rep
Especially New Homes Inc.
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MOVE TO WEST WATERLOO NOW



RD013358651

Ready for you to move in. 9' ceilings, gas fireplace, 11' island in kitchen with 42" upper cabinets complete with pantries and built-in, hardwood and ceramic tile floors. Second floor family room with vaulted ceiling, 3 bedrooms and ensuite off master with 5' shower. \$409,900

OPEN HOUSE SAT. & SUN. 1-5, MON. - WED. 2-7

Come to Sales Office at 417 Bamberg Cres.
- take Keats Way from Erbsville Road and
turn left and watch for signs.

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LACKNER WOODS



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Call Pattie O'Reilly
SALESPERSON FOR ESPECIALLY NEW HOMES INC., BROKERAGE
519-740-7100 or 519-886-9797
grandridge@cookhomes.ca



RD013358385

Building a home anybody would be pleased to visit

BY SYDNEY ATWOOD

The journey home can be stopped by a single set of stairs. Even just a few steps can amount to an insurmountable barrier for a new parent juggling groceries with a stroller, the athlete recovering from an ankle injury, or the grandparent wanting to visit family.

Enter: VisitAble Housing.

VisitAble Housing or "Visit-Ability" is the concept of designing and building homes with minimal accessibility features. VisitAble homes provide easy access on the main level of a house for anyone regardless of their mobility status. A VisitAble home is welcoming to visitors of all ages and levels of mobility.

VisitAble homes have three basic accessibility features on the main entrance level:

- No-step entrance (at the front, back or side of the house)
- Wider doorways and a clear passage on the main floor
- A main floor bathroom that can be accessed by visitors who use mobility devices

These three features set a standard to ensure that anyone with mobility limitations can easily visit and access the main level of a home. The benefits also extend to residents for everyday living at any stage or situation in life. With a more accessible home, carrying in groceries, large items, or even furniture, becomes a safer and more manageable task. Families with children in strollers don't have to struggle with steps or narrow hallways. VisitAbility design features would also allow more seniors to remain in their homes.

"Having all housing in our community be VisitAble would certainly benefit our community, as we need to be totally inclusive. It's not just about looking at people in wheelchairs. We all have life



VisitAble housing means housing that is inclusive to all members of the community, regardless of their mobility. Such homes require a no-step entrance, wider doorways and clear passage on the main floor and a main floor bathroom.

challenges where VisitAble housing would be a great help," noted KW resident Kevin Young.

The VisitAble Housing Project is a partnership project with the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies, the Social

VISITABILITY CONTINUES ON H7

Some tips for condo buyers

- Opt for the highest square footage you can afford. Smaller units are more difficult to resell.
- A stately view will help make your day-to-day living more enjoyable and serve to impress future buyers.
- Even if you don't use a parking space, you can rent it out and future buyers will appreciate the availability of parking.
- Likewise, a locker is highly recommended since storage in a condo usually comes at a premium.
- Find out if occupants of the building are primarily owners. A higher ratio of renters could make resale more difficult.

As selection within the condo market is ample, this presents plenty of opportunity to ensure the choices you make add up to a good investment.

More information is available at www.royallepage.ca.

News Canada

VisitAbility, from H4

Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo, and local community representatives who form the Kitchener-Waterloo VisitAble Housing Task Force. The project aims to put VisitAble Housing on people's radar and to make VisitAble Housing a commonplace reality in Waterloo Region. The Task Force has already created resources on housing VisitAbility to help professionals and home seekers identify whether a home is VisitAble, and if it has any other accessibility features.

"Recently, I saw blueprints for a 1997 home that clearly met the three basic VisitAble features for its first floor. It was exciting to see the forethought from almost twenty years ago," Trudy Beaulne pointed out. Beaulne is the Executive Director of the Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo and Task Force Coordinator for the KW VisitAble Housing Team and wishes more builders would use this common sense approach to building homes that work for anyone.

The Neighbourhoods of Bridgwater development in Winnipeg, Manitoba is the first in Canada to incorporate all three VisitAbility features into 50% of over 1000 single-family homes. Currently, more than 200 VisitAble Homes have been built and occupants offer positive feedback about the features.

Mary Pappert, a local advocate for appropriate and affordable housing, agrees that Waterloo

Region needs more VisitAble housing. Mary, who uses a walker, and her late husband, who used a wheelchair, faced many barriers, both physical and social, due to inaccessible housing.

"We had an insurmountable challenge visiting our two daughters and their families. Both daughters lived in homes with steps at every entrance. One daughter had a bathroom on the main floor, but it was too small. The other daughter did not have a bathroom on the main level. Neither house was VisitAble for their father."

"The Social Planning Council is leading this project locally, because this is such an important need in our community", commented Trudy Beaulne. "If homes had been built VisitAble from the get-go, our current housing stock could serve our present population from "cradle to cane". Houses would provide easy access for all. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Let's not lose any more time. Starting today, we must design homes with inclusive and accessible features to accommodate the needs of our entire population. VisitAble Housing is an important first step."

For more information on VisitAble Housing and the project, visit www.waterlooregion.org/visit-able.

Sydney Atwood is a VisitAble Housing Project Worker at the Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo.

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