

Langs Farm gets \$8M in grants

Langs Farm Village Association is one step closer to its dream of expanding its headquarters into a new one-stop-shop wellness centre, thanks to \$8 million in funding announcements Friday.

The community association plans to build a 40,000-square-foot wellness centre on Concession Road – across from St. Michael Catholic School – that will provide health and social-oriented programming for everyone from infants to seniors.

Currently, the group serves as a facilitator for 15 partners, offering 18 different programs. Not only will the association have more space at its new location, it will also be adding programs. When the new centre opens – its first phase to be completed in 2011 – it will take in a program for frail seniors, which is currently operated at the Allan Reuter Centre.

The larger wellness centre will make it easier for residents, young and old, to access community health and social services, all in one place, said Bill Davidson, Langs Farms executive director.

“Everything will be under one roof,” he said.

Although the association is running its own capital fundraising campaign, plans got a big kick start thanks to Friday’s federal and city funding announcements.

Gary Goodyear, Cambridge MP and Minister of State responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, said FedDev’s community adjustment fund will be giving just under \$4.9 million toward the project. He said the funds will not only benefit local health priorities but will also create 117 jobs through construction and 20 full-time jobs at the wellness centre.

Cambridge Mayor Doug Craig said the city will be contributing \$3 million to support the Langs Farm project as it dovetails well with the city’s own age-friendly initiatives.