

## A year late, but Gallery at Bennett Village opens

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By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



A year later than was originally planned, The Gallery at Bennett Village officially opened Friday afternoon.

The multi-purpose room at the Halton Hills Dr. building was packed for the celebration and ribbon-cutting with residents, community members, politicians and the many people who worked hard over the past several years to bring the Life Lease development to fruition. Ernie Bodnar, chairman of The Gallery Land Use Committee, said ground-breaking on the building was three years ago and the grand opening was expected to be a year ago.

"But unfortunately we initiated the project during an unprecedented boom of high-rise construction throughout the GTA. It certainly slowed down the progress."

Bodnar said it's been "a little bit difficult" getting

things done on time, and he thanked the people who had purchased suites, particularly those who bought off plans, "because they are really the ones who made this happen."

"Thank you for your patience," said Bodnar.

"We've had a little rough go for a while trying to get completed, and I'm sure the results will be satisfying for all," Bodnar said.

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott offered his congratulations and said, "our seniors deserve the very best."

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette congratulated the Bennett Health Care Board of Directors "for being so visionary."

"This is a very important project for the town," said Bonnette. He said in the past some seniors have had to leave town because there were no housing options for them.

He said the Town was pleased to make some concessions to make the project work.

John Lenz, resident spokesperson, said he and his wife were very happy to be living at The Gallery.

He thanked The Bennett Centre for sponsoring the building.

"I also want to thank you not only for building it for seniors, but actually designing it to meet our needs," said Lenz, who also thanked the staff of the building.

Lenz said moving into a construction site has presented a lot of problems, including noise, drywall dust, chasing tradespeople to get jobs done, noisy fans, defective heat pumps, and waiting five minutes or so for an elevator.

"In the grand scheme of things, they are really just inconveniences," said Lenz, who congratulated the residents for their patience.

A total of 89 of the 105 suites in the building are sold. One-bedroom suites start at \$224,900 and two bedrooms— \$306,900.

The Life Lease project is for those aged 60-plus and includes amenities such as a resident lounge, library, fitness centre, guest suite, car wash bay and walk-out terrace with barbecue.

For information visit [www.bennettvillage.ca](http://www.bennettvillage.ca).