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NEWS RELEASE

H. J. McFarland Home Receives Prestigious Accreditation

Picton, ON – At a presentation at the January 24, 2005 Council Meeting, Mayor Finnegan and County Council honoured staff from the H. J. McFarland Home for the Aged for receiving accreditation for the Home from the Canadian Council on Health Services.

The strictly voluntary accreditation process was initiated by staff in October of 2002 with the final accreditation received on January 11, 2005. The initiative involved an evaluation guided by nationally developed standards and facilitated by external surveyors with expertise in the delivery of long-term care.

“Our staff, led by Administrator Ellen Gervais and Project Co-ordinator Phyllis Cole, invested countless hours of personal time and effort to this project”, said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. “We are very proud, both of the status attained by the Home through this accreditation, and of the staff who demonstrated such dedication and determination to achieve this goal.”

The purpose of accreditation is to promote excellence in patient care in homes for the aged. The process has several phases: a self-assessment, which includes staff at all levels, resident representation and community partners which are grouped into four teams: Human Resources, Information Management, Environment and Leadership & Partnership. Following the self-assessment, a facilitator visits the home for a period of up to three days. The surveyor interviews all members of the teams and residents and reviews all files and pertinent information. A survey is completed and sent to the Canadian Council Health Services Accreditation offices for approval.

The H. J. McFarland Home for the Aged is one of several long-term care facilities in the County of Prince Edward and the only municipally operated facility. It has been in operation since 1975 and currently has 84 residents. The Home is presently expanding its Willow Wing to improve the quality of life and care of residents suffering from dementia.

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For further information, contact Mayor Leo Finnegan or Commissioner of Corporate Services Gayle Frost at 613-476-2148.