

McCallion Centre opens in January

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The new Sam McCallion Day Centre will be a haven for local Alzheimer patients and their families when it opens next month.

The centre, named after Mayor Hazel McCallion's late husband, who suffered from Alzheimer Disease until he died in May, is located in Port Credit at the corner of Queen St. E. and Briarwood Ave.

"We were thrilled to name the centre in honor of the Mayor's husband," said Davis.

"He was well-known in the community in his own right, so it's fitting."

"The day centre will provide social and support services in a protective setting," said Alzheimer Society executive director Maureen Davis.

"Families can leave their loved one there to get some relief from care-giving."

People can get a ride to and from the centre in the organization's new eight-

seat, wheelchair-accessible van.

The centre's \$391,000 annual operating cost will be picked up by Ontario's Ministry of Health.

A similar centre is slated to open in Brampton next March.

Meanwhile, there are already waiting lists for programs and services at the new centre, where they can accommodate 15 people per day.

The new centre will offer meals, a bright decor, security and activities.

"It will be a model for the province," said Davis.

The centre will be open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

The staff-to-patient ratio will be 1:3.

More than 4,000 people in Peel have the disease. Most are over 70-years-old, but a handful are under 50, said Davis.

The Alzheimer Society of Peel's new office is just around the corner on Briarwood Ave.

The official opening is slated for Jan. 29. January is Alzheimer Awareness month.