



Ronald P. Schlegel, OC, PhD, LLD 2017

Dr. Schlegel has been described as a social entrepreneur, philanthropist and community builder. He holds an MSc in exercise physiology from the University of Illinois, PhD in social psychology/preventative medicine from Ohio State University, Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Waterloo, and as a faculty member of UW's Applied Health Sciences, he played a primary role with only 3 other academic colleagues in developing the Department of Health Studies & Gerontology (now School of Public Health & Health Systems).

He is Chair/Owner of Schlegel Villages, a group of 18 nursing/retirement home multi-component complexes across Ontario under various stages of development. These will provide a full continuum of living and care options for about 8,000 seniors when fully developed, from independent apartment living through to semi-independent care apartments to assisted living, memory care, long term care and complex continuing care.

Ron is Chair/Owner of Homewood Health Inc. which includes Homewood Health Centre, a 312-bed residential mental health and addictions hospital in Guelph along with another two-inpatient treatment centres in Montreal and Victoria B.C. for intensive in-patient treatment. Homewood also provides employee & family assistance services (EFAP) and other outpatient mental health & addiction treatment & management programs across Canada.

As Chair of the Homewood Research Institute, he has been putting substantial effort into growing this research effort in order to stimulate clinical innovation in MH & A, taking advantage of this unique national network of treatment facilities as a "living laboratory".

Ron also developed Schlegel Urban Developments, a substantial real estate company including housing for specialty populations like adult lifestyle and commercial plazas some more recently developed as innovative new urbanism and age-friendly communities, including extensions of Schlegel Villages to become Seniors' Hubs in the Community.

Ron Schlegel is Chair/Owner of Schlegel Poultry Inc., operating some 20 farms in the area of London including major commercial turkey production farms (now the largest commercial turkey producer in Canada).

Ron is currently combining his work in health care with new urbanism to develop new community health care models, including alternatives to emergency use and hospital care, given the aging demographic profile. The Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA) was started in 2005 as a full charitable, nonprofit Institute and is presently developing a large Centre of Excellence for Innovation in Aging based on University of Waterloo's Northwest Campus of the Research & Technology Park and including all 18 Schlegel Seniors Villages as satellite Centres for incubation, acceleration, and mobilization --- a model unique in the world, and taking some 20-30 years to build. Dr. Schlegel's passion for research – driven continuous innovation with real time application underlines the RIA's goal to enhance care & quality of living for seniors through research (Waterloo), training (Conestoga College) and practice (Schlegel Villages) partnerships.