

## Update on Area Meetings...

In March 2005 Wellesley Mennonite Church hosted MennoHomes for Wellesley and Wilmot Township churches. Pastors, mission reps and interested people met to discuss the need for affordable housing in their area. On September 22, MennoHomes had the opportunity to discuss affordable housing needs in the Woolwich Township area hosted by Floradale Mennonite Church.

## Annual General Meeting

MennoHomes Inc.'s members and interested people, please join us for a light meal, and updates on the work of MennoHomes since November 2004!

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 23, 2005

W-K United Mennonite Church

With our program feature: Affordable Housing Advocacy.

Led by - Chaplains Margaret Nally and Brice Bahmer



MennoHomes Board of Directors

Martin Buhr, Chair,

Stirling Ave. Mennonite Church

Rick Cober Bauman, Vice Chair

Tavistock Mennonite Church

Gerald Morrison, Treasurer

St. Jacobs Mennonite Church

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Murray Leis

Crosshill Mennonite Church

David Erb

Erb Street Mennonite Church

Margaret Nally

Kitchener House Church

Mike Strathdee Ex-officio

Mennonite Foundation

For more information, please contact:

Martin Buhr,  
Board Chair  
pama@sympatico.ca  
or, 578-5546

Dorene Rudy-Snyder  
Community Worker  
mennohomescw1@sympatico.ca  
or 519 498-6181

MennoHomes Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization founded in 2001 under the sponsorship of MCC Ontario as a response to the need for affordable housing.



# MennoHomes Inc.

a response to need for affordable housing

October 2005

## Stirling Ave. Refugee Home is Ready

In the fall of 2004, Community Justice Initiatives informed their landlord, First Mennonite Church, that they intended to move out of First Mennonite's house at 39 Stirling Ave. in Kitchener as of April 2005. After discussions within various committees and within the congregation, First Mennonite decided it best to sell the property, preferably to MennoHomes, for a refugee housing project.

Thus, in November, 2004, Scott Albrecht of First Mennonite Church approached Martin Buhr to see if MennoHomes Inc. would be interested in purchasing the property to be used as an affordable rental unit for refugees. First Mennonite offered the property to MennoHomes below market value, acknowledging MennoHomes' mandate and realizing that the house needed a lot of work to bring it to livable standards. It didn't take long for MennoHomes to say "yes" to this new opportunity.

A Steering Committee was struck to finalize the details of the sale, the working relationships between the various parties (MennoHomes, First Mennonite, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario), what repairs were needed to the house, and how refugee families would be identified and supported.



In July and August of 2005, volunteer work crews worked diligently to clean, paint and repair the house for our first refugee family. MennoHomes found contractors to do the work that volunteers could not do. The Refugee Committee of First Mennonite began putting into place the structures

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**Help MennoHomes continue to respond to the need for affordable housing**

MennoHomes is launching a \$500,000 campaign to help fund the new seniors housing project and 39 Stirling Refugee House.

To date we have raised \$280,000 in cash and pledges. We have another \$220,000 to raise.

*"Blessings to you all, as you continue to help us all participate in making affordable housing a reality for more families in our community."*

-a donor.

For more information, please contact;

Martin Buhr,  
MennoHomes Inc.  
Board Chair  
578-5546  
pama@sympatico.ca

You can help through a one time gift, or pledge for each of the next three years.

Gift Enclosed

Pledge for 2005

Pledge for 2006

Pledge for 2007

Gift-in-kind

(such as land, house, building for conversion to housing).

In the event MennoHomes has a house needing renovations and/or an addition, I would like to contribute my labour in the area of:

- ☐ Excavation and Site Prep

☐ Concrete work

☐ Plumbing/Electrical

☐ Finish carpentry
- ☐ Framing

☐ Drywall/Painting

☐ Other

Name

Address

Telephone

email

Please return to:  
MennoHomes Inc.  
50 Kent Ave.,  
Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1

Thanks for your commitment to Affordable Housing!

### 39 Stirling Ave. continued...

needed to support a refugee family. Then, through Mennonite Central Committee, the Refugee Committee of First Mennonite found a family of nine from Afganistan that would be the first occupants of the Refugee House at 39 Stirling Ave.

This is an exciting venture for First Mennonite Church and MennoHomes Inc. Both organizations feel God's leading in this endeavour. They encourage other churches prayerfully to explore a similar venture. Please feel free to contact First Mennonite Church 744-6574, or MennoHomes Inc. for further information.

### “The Village” (just off Westmount on Village Rd.) update...

- The Village is now one year old
- Parents and children are enjoying the spacious green lawns, the closeness to schools, to shopping and to transportation.
  - Friendships are being formed between tenants and their children. Two women have become good friends, do their shopping together, and plan social events for their children. They said they probably would never have met if it hadn't been for The Village!
  - Many children enjoyed camp at the Steckly Heritage Farm, and the Summer Splash program at Chandler/Mowat Community Centre.
  - We welcomed two new families this summer. Once again, Kathy Bauman presented a knotted quilt to each family on behalf of MennoHomes Inc.



Pleasant backyard spaces for The Village.

### New Property Manager

We want to acknowledge the contribution Joan Pries from CityCorp Property Management gave during our first year. She helped us walk through the construction challenges and property maintenance issues – caring deeply for our tenants. We will miss Joan.

Dubrick Property Management is our new Property Management firm. We look forward to working with them.

### Camelot, Fisher-Hallman Rd., Waterloo

MennoHomes and Blaze Properties formed a partnership to build 25 one bedroom units. All 25 units have been rented.



Flowers border downstairs entry.

### Eastwood Seniors' Complex

After interviewing several firms, the Board of Directors of MennoHomes Inc. unanimously selected Architecture Incorporated/Brian L. Shantz Ltd. as architect and primary consultant. This fall, work will begin on site planning and conceptual drawings for vacant land beside Eastwood Community, Kitchener.

Have you visited our new website?  
[www.mennohomes.com](http://www.mennohomes.com)

Special thanks to Larry Shantz owner of Webdzines from St. Jacobs Mennonite church, who volunteered his time to produce MennoHomes website. [www.mennohomes.com](http://www.mennohomes.com). Thank you, too, to Execulink who offered to host our website.