

NON-SMOKING POLICY TO BE DEVELOPED

The Region of Waterloo has introduced a Non-smoking Policy for its rental units, the ones it owns and administers directly. By modeling a template, the Region also encourages all suppliers of Affordable Housing to move in the same direction. In essence the policy bans smoking inside rental buildings, including the units smokers occupy, and limits smoking outside to a distance of 5 meters away from doors and windows used by tenants and the public. However, there is an introductory mechanism when a landlord moves to a Non-smoking policy. Existing tenants who smoke shall be allowed to continue smoking in their units until they either vacate that specific unit or agree to sign a waiver. It has been found that even some smokers wish to co-operate and voluntarily offer to alter their leases to make their units smoke-free.

The reasons for considering a Non-smoking Policy are two-fold: for the health of the individual, and for the health of the building.

Given that a typical concern expressed at all-tenants meetings is that of the prevalence of second-hand smoke, in spite of valiant efforts to reduce its spread, MennoHomes will initiate a process at The Rockway Gardens Village in early 2011, involving all tenants, to see how and when we can introduce a Non-smoking policy at 1420 King East, Kitchener. Our expectation is that the policy will be patterned after that of the Region's. And we hope to be able to connect tenants, when requested, to smoking cessation resources.

“Follow us on Facebook. MennoHomes now has a Facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/MennoHomes/>

If you are on Facebook, join the page (become a Friend) to see pictures of past housing projects, as well as news about fundraisers and the status of upcoming builds.”

Mike Strathdee

Dorene Rudy-Snyder



MennoHomes Inc.

a response to need for affordable housing

FALL 2010

ELMIRA BUILD 2011

By the end of October this year, MennoHomes expects to become the owner of a residential lot in Elmira already zoned for a semi-detached building. It is located on Centre Street near Church.

Plans are already underway to begin work on an “*Elmira Build*” by the summer of 2011. The two units will be built to provide affordable housing to two large rural families in urgent need of adequate and safe housing. Our recent “*Wellesley Build*”, on Pond View Drive, successfully demonstrated that families can look forward to better health and greater savings where new and energy-efficient housing is available.

MennoHomes will be eager to work with Woolwich-based churches, trades, suppliers and volunteers in the same positive manner as was done in Wellesley in 2009. Please see the list of “10 Ways To Participate” for how you, whether skilled or unskilled, could get involved in the Elmira Build 2011.

BUILD MOMENTUM AT NOVEMBER AGM

Monday, November 22, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Front and centre at our 2010 Annual General Meeting, MennoHomes will welcome your participation in brainstorming local involvement in the Elmira Build 2011. *Come to the St. Jacobs Mennonite Church* and get on board with the process. Refreshments will be served before, during, and after the meeting to keep you fueled for the planning process.

After the AGM opens with a short business session (financial reports and elections), our guest speaker will draw a link between income and healthy levels of food and shelter securities. MCC Ontario Poverty Advocate, Greg deGroot Maggetti will share his recent experience taking the \$20@week food challenge and will bring video tape segments of actual community-based interviews with persons struggling daily — not just for one week — to achieve security of food and shelter. Too frequently the choice is between one or the other, or worse yet, meeting neither need adequately.

The role played by Affordable Housing providers, such as MennoHomes, is to get closer to meeting both needs. As the story on the Columbian refugee family shows (page three), if the rents are reasonable, it is possible to save towards buying one's own home.

Updates on Fundraising Concerts

MennoValley Sound Concert raised \$7,250 for which we are very grateful! Thanks to the wonderful band for their ministry of music. Special thanks to all the church secretaries who kindly sent out their church group e-mail notifying the change of venue to Steinmann's Mennonite Church. This proved to MennoHomes the e-mail system indeed works as no one showed up at The Healing Barn!

Next Fundraising Concert is

Menno Singers
Saturday, May 14, 2011
7:30 p.m.
Floradale Mennonite Church
\$20.00@ ticket plus freewill offering.
Receipts only for freewill offering gifts. Refreshments after the concert.

You can help through a one time gift or a pledge for each of the next two years. Still need to raise \$18,000.

Here is my:

Gift enclosed: _____

Pledge for 2011 _____

Pledge for 2012 _____

Gift in kind _____
(such as land, house, building for conversion to housing)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

e-mail address _____

Please return pledge & donation to:

MennoHomes Inc.
50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener, ON
N2G 3R1

For further information:
Contact: Martin Buhr 519 578-5546
Or, pama@sympatico.ca

Good News for the Gonzalez Family

Eulogio Mejia , Laudina Gonzalez and their four children were forced out of their home in Columbia. They moved from place to place in Bogota for three years trying to eke out a living until they were sponsored by First Mennonite Church to come to Canada.

They arrived in Kitchener in September of 2008 and moved into 39 Stirling Ave N, MennoHomes Refugee House where they were model tenants, working hard to take care of the house as if it was their own. With ongoing support from First Mennonite Church, they started looking for work almost immediately. They were willing to do whatever job they could find for the first while. In September of 2009, both parents along with their oldest son, Anderson, started working at Research In Motion Park as cleaners. While they work every evening their oldest daughter, Diana, cares for their preschool sweetheart, Laura. Fourteen year old, Yerson, has been going to school and has become fluent in English.

This family has worked so hard they were able to purchase their own home.

On September 25, after living in Canada for exactly two years, they moved into their own semi detached, three bedroom home. The basement was not finished, so Eulogio went and looked at a couple of other places to see what to do and right away they began work to finish their own basement. Three weeks after moving in, the basement looks like it has been professionally insulated and strapped.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of this family in a very short time and are very happy to have been able to give them the helping hand they needed to start a happy and blessed life here in Canada. The Spanish Ministry at First Mennonite Church has been greatly blessed by the active participation of the Gonzalez family.

Rosanne Argueta

First Mennonite Church

*The picture in front of the house is;
Eulogio Mejia, Yerson Mejia,
Diana Mejia, Laura Mejia,
Laudina Gonzalez, Anderson
Mejia.*



10 WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN MENNOHOMES ELMIRA BUILD 2011

1. Pray for the project and the families who will live there
2. Invite a MennoHomes speaker to talk about the Elmira Build
3. Help us find a Project Manager for the Elmira Build
4. Donate materials and supplies for the Elmira Build
5. Make a "Welcome To Your New Home" quilt or comforter
6. Take a Special Offering in support of the Elmira Build (call it the Mortgage Reduction Project)
7. Have your Sunday School do an Elmira Build project
8. Volunteer to provide support services to a family
9. Volunteer to paint or help with cleanups
10. Offer your skill as a tradesperson

**As always MennoHomes
is grateful for your support!**