

A new home for the Mya Family

“MennoHomes were planned and built by God-loving people who made sure that whomever lives in this home will be comfortable and cozy.

They made the homes modern and pleasant for us. We are living comfortably and as a result, taking keen interest in keeping our home in great shape. That we are happy and comfortable has made us look forward to a bright future: full of hope, achievements, rewards and prosperity. Thanks to everyone who contributes in any way to MennoHomes.”



Quote from the Mya family, pictured above, who live in one of MennoHomes' semi-detached units on Pond View Drive in Wellesley, and who participated in the bike-a-thon.

Annual General Meeting – Monday Nov. 25, 2013

You are invited to MennoHomes' Annual General Meeting, to be held at 7pm on Monday November 25, 2013 at the new MCC Ontario building at 50 Kent Ave., Kitchener.



MennoHomes will be moving into its office at 202-50 Kent Ave. by the end of October. Join us on November 25th to welcome Dan Driedger as the new Executive Director of MennoHomes, and to celebrate the beginning of the next chapter of the MennoHomes story.

A New Executive Director for MennoHomes



Dan Driedger is MennoHomes' new Executive Director as of October 1, 2013.

Prior to joining MennoHomes, Dan was the Resource Development Director at Mennonite Central Committee Ontario, a position he held for five years. Earlier in his career, Dan held a variety of management positions with a Waterloo, Ontario manufacturer of automation systems.

“I'm excited about working with MennoHomes” said Dan. “Their hands-on approach to addressing the need for affordable housing and vision for increased response to that need is inspiring.”

“MennoHomes' search committee was impressed by Dan's passion for affordable rental housing, his professional experience and his knowledge of MennoHomes' constituency,” said Gerald Morrison, Chair of the MennoHomes Board. “Dan has the skills MennoHomes needs to build on the good work done by our founding President Martin Buhr.”

Dan and his wife Darlene live near Drayton, Ontario. They have three young-adult children and are members of Community Mennonite Fellowship in Drayton.

Dan will be moving into the new MennoHomes office in MCC Ontario's new office building at 50 Kent Ave. in Kitchener by the end of October.

Come and meet Dan at MCC Ontario's Open House on Saturday, November 9th from 3 – 5 p.m. Contact him at ddriedger@mennohomes.com or 226-476-2535.

A few facts about poverty in Waterloo Region *

- More than 1 in 10 people live in poverty.
- 12.2% of children below the age of 17 are living in low income households.
- 37% of low income people are working and 68% of them are working full-time.
- Between 2000 and 2005 there was a 24% increase in the rate of working poverty among Ontario's working-age population.
- Research shows that providing emergency services to manage homelessness is 10 times more expensive than providing affordable housing and support to end homelessness.
- Social assistance payments are far below the poverty line. It is very challenging to budget if you don't have enough money to meet your basic daily needs.
- 1 in 5 Aboriginals live with low incomes.
- In 2006, 30.2% of immigrants in the previous five years lived with low incomes.
- The wealthiest groups in our community have about seven times the income of the poorest.

*from the Region of Waterloo's document, *Poverty Myth Busters for Waterloo Region*

Please support MennoHomes' important work to build affordable rental housing for those in need.

Send your cheque to:

MennoHomes Inc.
202-50 Kent Ave.,
Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1
www.mennohomes.com

Charitable Registration #: 86304 7015 RR0001



The MennoHomes Board is planning a spring 2014 celebration to mark the extraordinary service of retiring President Martin Buhr – stay tuned for the announcement.

New affordable housing project planned in Elmira

MennoHomes is planning to develop a residential apartment building in Elmira to help address the need for affordable rental housing in Woolwich Township.

The project is the result of a partnership with Woolwich Community Services in the joint acquisition and development of a parcel of land on Church Street.

While the project is still in the planning stages, once its scope is determined, MennoHomes will be launching a capital campaign to fund the project.

Bike-a-thon raises over \$78,000 for affordable housing

MennoHomes held its third bike-a-thon, **Out-spok'n III for Affordable Housing**, on Saturday June 22nd, 2013. The bike-a-thon surpassed its goal of \$70,000 to raise over \$78,000 in support of the campaign goal of \$250,000 for five affordable housing units.

More than 80 people were involved, including participants, volunteers and special guests. The showers didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the riders, runners and walkers.



From left to right: Martin Buhr, Founding President, MennoHomes; Deb Schlichter, Director of Housing, Region of Waterloo; Harold Albrecht MP, Kitchener-Conestoga; Mayor Todd Cowan, Township of Woolwich; Michael Harris MPP, Kitchener-Conestoga; Stephen Woodworth MP, Kitchener Centre; Bonnie Bryant, Julie-Anne Herteis and Allan Poffenroth - Councillors, Township of Woolwich; Gerald Morrison, Board Chair, MennoHomes (not pictured, Ken Seiling, Regional Chair, Region of Waterloo; Catherine Fife MPP, Kitchener-Waterloo).

Foodland, No Frills, Kitchen Cuttings, At the Crossroads Family Restaurant, Home Hardware, Mac's, The Robin's Nest, Elmira Golf Club, Elmira Gift Outlet, McDonald's, New Orleans Pizza, Michael Harris MPP, Waterloo Printing, Margaret and Bob Nally, Wellesley Mennonite Church and Chateau Gardens Elmira.

A special thank you to the volunteers, riders and walkers, as well as to their sponsors for making the bike-a-thon such a success.

Mark your calendars – Out-spok'n IV for Affordable Housing is scheduled for June 21, 2014 in Elmira.

Following the lunch, representatives of local, regional, provincial and federal levels of government offered brief comments affirming the work of MennoHomes as a leader in developing affordable housing in the region.

Thank you to Elmira Mennonite Church for hosting the bike-a-thon and to our sponsors for their financial support - Mennonite Foundation of Canada, Mennonite Savings and Credit Union, and MAX Canada Insurance Company.

Thank you to the following individuals and businesses who provided in-kind donations:

Update on the four new rental units



The duplex at 11 Ratz Street in Elmira (shown at left) was completed in June and tenants moved into the units over the July 1st weekend.

The duplex at 146 David Street in Wellesley (shown at right) will be completed in October. The first family, parents with six children, will move in at the end of October. The second unit will be occupied soon after.



The Board of MennoHomes acknowledges with gratitude -

- Mike and Rob Gondosch, for their generous donation of three 4-bedroom units salvaged from a fourplex they owned in Waterloo,
- Arnie Bender, for serving as project manager during the construction of the duplex at 146 David Street,
- Wellesley Mennonite Church, for providing hospitality to the Old Colony Mennonite crew during the "barn-raising" and for supplying the appliances for 146 David Street, and
- Rev. Jacob Reimer and the volunteers from the Old Colony Mennonite Church, for their help in building the duplex at 146 David Street.