

Out-Spok'n IV Raises \$44K for Elmira Project

On Saturday June 21, 2014 over 80 riders participated in Out-Spok'n IV for Affordable Housing, raising \$44,482 for a new 3-storey apartment building to be built in Elmira.



The day started early with 14 riders taking part in the 75km ride from St. Jacobs to the Shand Dam near Fergus and back. A group of 15 motorcyclists did a roundtrip back-roads tour between Elmira and Paris. Another 50 cyclists and one runner enjoyed a variety of

distances from 14km to 30km on the Kissing Bridge Trail between Wallenstein and West Montrose. A highlight for many of the riders included a midway stop in West Montrose for ice cream.

The event wrapped up at noon with a BBQ lunch and short program that included Regional Chair Ken Seiling and local MP Harold Albrecht. *"It was a fun day for a great cause. Glad to support this important work. It was a great warm up for the Tour de Waterloo"* said Marilyn Wideman of Elmira.

A number of local businesses generously supported the event through donations of food and door prizes. Corporate sponsorships were provided by Mennonite Savings and Credit Union, Mennonite Foundation of Canada, and MAX Canada Insurance. Thank you volunteers, riders and walkers, and sponsors for making the bike-a-thon such a success.

Mark your calendars – Out-spok'n V for Affordable Housing is scheduled for Saturday June 20, 2015.

Tina's Story

"I want to give my children a chance to do something, to have a great future" was the comment that Tina Schmitt made to Dan Driedger, Executive Director of MennoHomes, when he met with her in October 2014. There is no doubt that this determined young woman will succeed. In many ways she already has.

Her story is one that new immigrants often face after arriving in Canada. After emigrating from Paraguay in 1995 at the age of 10, she started school with no knowledge of the language or culture. And though school was a challenge, it was something she longed for when four years later her family moved again to Mexico and her schooling ended with only grade seven.



Fast forward to 2012 when Tina found herself as a single mother of two children living in a small apartment in Elmira. With only a part-time job and limited education, she was determined to start over. In her words *"I wanted to do more with my life."*

At the invitation of a friend she began attending a young mother's group at Floradale Mennonite Church led by Shirley Redekop, the Family Outreach Worker/Program Coordinator for Carizon Family and Community Services. She also began taking evening classes to obtain her Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate, and five months later was ready for her next challenge, going to Gina's College for a diploma in hairstyling.

Shirley encouraged Tina to apply for affordable housing with MennoHomes. She was thrilled when her application was accepted. Not only does she have a well-built house to provide a stable home for her family, the rent at 65% of the average market rate means she is able to provide her children with some activities that many families take for granted, such as music lessons. Through Woolwich Community Services they are also enrolled in Jumpstart, a program that helps cover the cost of sports equipment and/or registration fees for low-income families.

Recently graduated from college, Tina knows that there is still much work ahead but she is excited about the future for herself and her children. *“I want to get a job, begin paying off my student loans, and get to a position where we can move out and another family can move in. I just needed help getting started.”*

Elmira Project Update

At the beginning of January 2014, MennoHomes purchased 1.25 acres of vacant land in Elmira in partnership with Woolwich Community Services (WCS). MennoHomes' portion was just over \$500,000. Located at the corner of Church St. East and Memorial Ave., this former foundry site is being transformed into the new home for WCS and a new 25 unit low-rise apartment building for MennoHomes. The environmental contamination was removed at a cost of \$70,000.

The new MennoHomes structure will be the only fully accessible affordable rental apartment building in Elmira. It will contain 14 one-bedroom, 9 two-bedroom, and 2 three-bedroom units. The installation of services is being coordinated with WCS to avoid unnecessary disruption and costs later.

Site plan and zoning approvals are in place and MennoHomes is moving forward with project drawings and budgets, with construction of the apartment building anticipated to begin in spring 2015.

Your commitment now of donations and pledges are critical. Please partner with us and respond to the need for affordable housing by completing and returning the attached tear-off slip.

New Build at Church and Memorial in Elmira



On June 3, 2014 MennoHomes and Woolwich Community Services (WCS) held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of their joint building project at the corner of Church St. East and Memorial Ave. in Elmira. MennoHomes Executive Director Dan Driedger is pictured above, second from right.

Construction of the WCS building is underway with completion expected by the end of November 2014. MennoHomes is working to begin construction in spring 2015 pending sufficient funding.

Your donation now will be used for the land purchase and early-stage development of this project.

Your longer-term commitment is also important as we work to move the entire project forward. Please complete and return the donation and pledge form on the back of this page.

Thank you for your support!

**Yes, I want to support the
new affordable housing
build in Elmira.**

Here is my gift of _____

and/or

Here is my pledge of _____

for _____ years.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form to:

Dan Driedger
MennoHomes Inc.
202- 50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener ON N2G 3R1

Charitable Registration #:
86304 7015 RR0001

For further information contact:
Dan Driedger - 226-476-2535,
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www.mennohomes.com



MennoHomes Annual General Meeting and Fundraising Concert

Saturday Nov. 22, 2014

7pm

**Waterloo North Mennonite Church,
100 Benjamin Rd., Waterloo**



A bit of business and a great evening of music - bring your friends.

Free admission with all donations going to support MennoHomes' affordable housing project in Elmira.

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Printing courtesy of Waterloo Printing

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