



MennoHomes Inc.

a response to need for affordable housing

Spring 2019



Dan Driedger
Executive Director

Spring Update

I've been thinking about the value of partnerships lately. The collaborative approach in responding to the need for affordable housing has been central to the work of MennoHomes since our first project in 2004.

On Village Road in Kitchener, we partnered with Faith Lutheran Church to use excess land they intentionally made available to us for affordable housing. Our Rockway Gardens apartment building in Kitchener was only possible due to a generous gift of land from Eastwood Mennonite Community Homes.

The semi's in Wellesley were framed over the course of a long weekend by Old-Colony Mennonite Church volunteers as part of a "barn-raising blitz". A semi in Elmira was built in large part by students from Elmira District Secondary School. We have duplexes that were moved from Waterloo to new locations rather than ending up in a landfill. The Foundry apartment building in Elmira was the result of a close partnership with Woolwich Community Services, and our last project for a refugee family is an ongoing partnership with St. Jacobs Mennonite Church.

What a list! And this doesn't include other valued partners such as donors, volunteers, government funders, and other social agencies. We can achieve so much more when we work together. That "barn raising" approach is one of the reasons our community is so vibrant, innovative, and caring. We are blessed.

This collaborative approach will continue with a new project that is in partnership with St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kitchener. Located at the corner of Bridgeport and Lancaster, it is a partnership that will transform not only that site but the lives of the people who will one day call it home. Stay tuned.

Congratulations Martin Buhr!

Martin Buhr, President Emeritus of MennoHomes, was inducted into the Waterloo Region Hall of Fame on Sunday April 28, 2019.

Martin has been a leader in addressing poverty and serving those in need in our community. He co-founded the Food Bank, helped establish St. John’s Kitchen and served as the House of Friendship’s Executive Director from 1978 to 1998.

In retirement, in 2001, he co-founded MennoHomes and served as its President until 2013. During that time Martin helped to build 105 affordable rental housing units in Waterloo Region.

As a lead cyclist in the House of Friendship’s annual Trek4Kids campaign and in the MennoHomes annual Bike-a-thon, Martin raised around \$500,000 for the two agencies.

Martin’s grandchildren have joined him in serving Saturday suppers at Stirling Avenue Mennonite Church during the winter months for those whose financial and other support systems are limited, and in supporting food drives like the annual “potato blitz”.

From Martin’s words at the induction ceremony: *It was a privilege to be a change agent in the lives of thousands. When invited to join the cause, tens of thousands of donors and volunteers responded over the years to fight poverty and its associated adversities. Together we did literally produce a "Mighty Flood of Justice" in a torrent of healing love. Saying "yes" to the call to serve has been thoroughly rewarding. Thank You, Waterloo Region.*



Spotlight on Rockway Gardens Village

by Karen Lebold, Community Support Worker

In the spring of 2007 MennoHomes opened the 50-unit apartment building at 1420 King Street in Kitchener. This facility, across from Rockway Gardens, offers safe and secure affordable rental housing for 55+ seniors. There is public transportation at the door and Rockway Seniors Centre is across the street. Over the years, tenants have developed a caring spirit for one another, showing concern for fellow tenants when ill or in the hospital.

Over the past year several tenants took a major role in providing and caring for the potted plants on the patio. This was to make the building more attractive and encourage tenants to use and enjoy the outdoor facilities.



good attendance with friendly relationships being fostered among the tenants. Tenants are also encouraged to use the community room year-round for regular or impromptu games, puzzles, movies, or group activities.

Some activities enjoyed by the tenants are: Valentine Tea; Soup & Sandwich Lunch; May 24 BBQ; Tea on the Patio; Canada Day Party; Sundaes on Sunday; Hot Dog & Corn Supper; Oktoberfest Sausage & Sauerkraut Supper; and Christmas Dinner & Party.

An active social committee of tenants meets monthly to plan social activities to build community. All tenants are welcome to attend these meetings to offer suggestions and help organize activities. The plan is to have a monthly activity open to all tenants. There is generally

YES, I want to support MennoHomes projects to build affordable housing in Waterloo Region.

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

CRA# 86304 7015 RR0001

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

www.mennohomes.com

Affordable Rental Housing in Waterloo Region

CMHC 2018 Rental Market Report for Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo

- The overall vacancy rate increased to 2.9%, as compared to 1.7% in 2017.
- The 1,666 rental apartments added in 2018 is the second highest annual increase in history.
- The vacancy rate for 3+ bedroom units fell to 1.7%, a historical low not seen since 2001.
- The average rent was \$1,138, up by 5.7%, well above the 1.8% provincial guideline.
- Average rent for
 - Bachelor - \$796
 - 1 Bedroom - \$1,021
 - 2 Bedroom - \$1,210
 - 3+ Bedroom - \$1,254

Low-income families in Waterloo Region face a housing crunch

spokeonline - December 1, 2018
by Terry Foster

"The region has become unaffordable. The number of applications we get for affordable housing has increased by 25% each year for the past two years. There are over 4,000 households on waiting lists to get into more affordable housing but the ones currently living there aren't able to transition out. The difference between the maximum rent in affordable housing and the average market rent is just way too high, so even once people are in a better financial position they still aren't able to afford market rent."

Mina Fayez-Bahgat, Manager,
Waterloo Region Housing.



OUT-SPOK'N

BIKE-A-THON

FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SATURDAY

JUNE 22nd 2019

REGISTRATION AT 9:00 A.M.
OR
REGISTER ONLINE NOW!
MENNOHOMES.COM

WALK, RUN, BIKE,
FOLLOWED BY A BBQ LUNCH

ELMIRA MENNONITE CHURCH
58 CHURCH ST. WEST, ELMIRA

CONTACT: DAN DRIEDGER
226-476-2535
ddriedger@mennohomes.com

CRA # 86304 7015 RR0001 All donations gratefully received.

EDGE ARCHITECTS

Josslin
Insurance
a Real Insurance broker

KINDRED
Credit Union

VAN-DEL
CONTRACTING LTD

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Regehr Printing courtesy of Waterloo Printing
www.mennohomes.com



MennoHomes 202-50 Kent Ave. Kitchener ON N2G 3R1 226-476-2535