



MennoHomes Inc.

a response to need for affordable housing

Fall 2019



Dan Driedger
Executive Director

Fall 2019 Update

In our spring newsletter I hinted at an upcoming partnership with St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kitchener. St. Paul's is located at the corner of Bridgeport and Lancaster.

The congregation has been going through a discernment process, and like many churches and organizations they recognize that to remain relevant they need to serve the local community. As a small aging congregation, they wrestled with how to make the biggest impact. The answer was literally at their back door.

With a 2-1/2 acre parcel of prime real estate, located on two bus routes and straddling the border



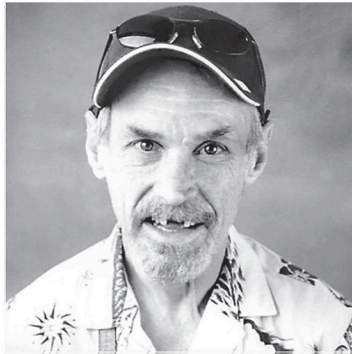
between Kitchener and Waterloo, the church site is ideally situated for the creation of much needed affordable housing. We were thrilled when the congregation reached out to MennoHomes to lead the redevelopment that will include ongoing worship space for the church as well as 48 new residential apartments.

In mid-October, the Region of Waterloo identified it as a priority project and approved funding of \$3.8 million to help kick-start the project. We are now working at finalizing the plans and budget.

We will be sharing more details at our Annual General Meeting on January 30, 2020 but if you would like to learn more now, please feel free to be in touch. Your support is what makes new homes possible for those in our community who would otherwise struggle. Thank you!

A MennoHomes Tenant Story

Karen Lebold, Community Support Worker



Several years ago Darren Needham came to live at Rockway Gardens Village, 1420 King Street East in Kitchener. We were introduced to Darren through the Working Centre in downtown Kitchener.

Darren had suffered major injuries as well as a stroke which left him unable to use one side of his body. He had great difficulty with

balance, walking and speech. His limitations frustrated Darren but he was determined to live independently and do things himself.

There were challenges as Darren developed relationships with other tenants in the building, but as time went on tenants came to accept Darren for who he was, and some of them created a special bond with him. Only on occasion would he ask for help with his meal preparation. He responded with appreciation in his own way.

Darren had a very rich life with all his friends in downtown Kitchener. He was a friendly fixture at the Working Centre, St. John’s Kitchen, Kitchener Market and generally on the streets. He needed a motorized chair to go about his travels and used public transit to get uptown.

He developed good relationships with everyone and was on a first-name basis with city staff. His love and appreciation of nature had a great impact on people as he sat making friends and feeding peanuts to chipmunks.

Every Sunday morning, Darren participated in the service at St. Mary’s Church, rain or shine, often from outside. He used every day to the fullest!

Darren passed away on September 2, 2019 after suffering another stroke a week earlier.

Out-Spok’n IX Raises \$55K

On Saturday June 23, 2019 more than 75 riders and volunteers participated in Out-Spok’n IX, MennoHomes’ annual bike-a-thon, raising \$55,120 for the construction of new affordable housing in Waterloo Region.



After registration, cyclists headed out on the Kissing Bridge Trail between Wallenstein and West Montrose. A stop for ice cream was a highlight for many. Earlier in the day a group of cyclists took part in the 75km ride from St. Jacobs to the Shand Dam.

Thank you to the participants and their sponsors and to Elmira Mennonite Church for once again hosting the bike-a-thon and the BBQ lunch.



Thank you also to the businesses who provided donations of food and door prizes. Corporate sponsorships were generously provided by Kindred Credit Union, Van-Del Contracting, Edge Architects, and Josslin Insurance.

Be sure to mark Saturday June 27, 2020 on your calendar for next year’s bike-a-thon.

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

Thank you



The 2019 living wage rate for Waterloo Region is \$16.35 per hour.

The living wage calculation is based on a Canada-wide framework using a reference family of four with two working adults and two children ages 7 and 3. The living wage is calculated as the hourly rate at which this family can meet its basic needs, once government transfers are added and deductions subtracted.

The living wage calculation includes basic items such as food, shelter, clothing, communication, medical, transportation, childcare and several other household expenses.

There are currently 252 Living Wage certified employers in Ontario, with more than 50 in Waterloo Region.

Employers who have made the commitment to pay workers a living wage report higher morale, greater employee retention and lower absenteeism.

Paying a living wage is good for business, for employees and the community.

ontariolivingwage.ca

Thank you Maverick



Maverick Horst of Elmira wasn't exactly sure what he was signing up for when he volunteered this past summer to maintain the flower beds at *The Foundry* in Elmira.

As a student entering grade nine, he wanted to get a jump start on completing the volunteer hours of Community Involvement required for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

He did know that this would be a "hands on" way of helping MennoHomes keep the apartment building in Elmira looking well cared for. He could also see the immediate impact of his work as thistles and other weeds were removed and the flower beds were freshened up with a new layer of mulch.

I enjoy the outdoor work and helping people. I would be happy to help out again next year.
Maverick

On behalf of all the tenants at *The Foundry*, thank you Maverick for a job well done.

AGM – January 30, 2020

Join us on Thursday January 30, 2020 for the MennoHomes AGM in the Community Room on the second floor of the MCC building at 50 Kent Avenue, Kitchener. The business meeting will start at 2pm, and refreshments will be provided.

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



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