

# Summer Update 2020

## Summer Update

Dear Friends,

My mother used to have a hot pad hanging in her kitchen with the following saying: "*The hurrier I go, the behinder I get*". It's one that has stuck with me over the years. For me, it is a reminder that when work and life seem overly busy, I need to be careful not to spend so much time running around that nothing gets accomplished.

While COVID-19 has certainly slowed down the pace of some activities, it has also been an extremely busy time for us at MennoHomes. The need for affordable housing has not gone away. This crisis has highlighted the essential importance of having a safe and secure place to call home. It's hard to physically isolate yourself if appropriate housing is out of reach.

Our summer newsletter is a chance to share with you some of what is underway. You are receiving this update because you have supported the creation of affordable housing through MennoHomes. **Thank you!**

Please be sure to click the links below that will provide more detailed information for our various updates. I also invite you to contact me directly at [ddriedger@mennohomes.com](mailto:ddriedger@mennohomes.com) or 226-476-2535.



Dan Driedger  
Executive Director



## New Affordable Housing Project in Kitchener

MennoHomes' new affordable housing project at 544 Bridgeport Road East in Kitchener is happening. Construction is well underway and progress at the site can be seen daily. It may be difficult to observe from the road so be sure to follow our progress as updates are posted to the photo gallery linked below.

Phase 1 of this redevelopment will create 48 new residential homes with a mix of one and two-bedroom units. The waiting list for affordable housing in Waterloo Region has grown to over 5,000 households in the past year. The \$5 million A Place to Call Home capital campaign was launched earlier this year to raise the funds necessary to complete this project.

**[Click here to learn more about this new project.](#)**

[Donate](#)



## Out-Spok'n Bike-a-thon raises \$66K!

What an incredible event. We were quite nervous to see how our first virtual bike-a-thon would take place this year. With COVID-19 now part of our everyday lives, it was great to have an opportunity to get outside, stretch our legs, and help raise funds for some much needed affordable housing.

This was our 10th bike-a-thon. For the past number of years, participants and sponsors have come together to raise approximately \$50,000 annually. Not knowing how things would turn out this year, we set a more modest goal of \$40,000 and were thrilled when donors surpassed that two weeks before the event. In the end, this year's event raised **\$66,530** that will go directly towards the construction of new affordable housing that is now underway in Kitchener. Wow!

Thank you to everyone who participated or donated towards this year's event. You are all *Champions of Affordable Housing* and your efforts will make a difference for years to come.

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## Investment Readiness

MennoHomes was recently awarded a grant administered by the Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation as part of the Investment Readiness Program.

MennoHomes will be exploring partnership opportunities with other local housing providers so that together, we can have a greater impact in responding to the need for affordable housing. We have some exciting ideas in mind. Stay tuned!

Investment Readiness Program funded by the Government of Canada's SI/SF Strategy,



Annual General Meeting - January 31, 2020

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