

Spring 2021 Newsletter

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It was May 6th, 2020 when we came out of our first COVID-19 lockdown and were allowed to proceed with demolition of the church at 544 Bridgeport Road East, Kitchener. And now, despite everything that has taken place in the last year, we've finally begun making those long-awaited phone calls to people to let them know that their application has been accepted.

The pure joy when they hear that good news is something I wish I could share with everyone who has helped to make this new project possible. Your support is genuinely appreciated.

I will share more details about our progress on our newest project later in this newsletter but for now I simply want to say **thank you!** You are receiving this newsletter because you have supported the work of MennoHomes. You have made a difference. In a year when there are so many reasons to feel discouraged, you have helped provide hope and made a life-changing difference in the lives of vulnerable people in our community. We are *#StrongerTogether*.



Dan Driedger
Executive Director

Out-Spok'n Bike-a-thon - June 12th

For 2021 we will once again be coming together "virtually" as we walk, hike, run, and bike on our personal routes. Everyone is invited to participate remotely.

Click the image below to register or to sponsor someone who is already registered. All donations for this year's event will go towards the final costs at 544 Bridgeport Rd.

[Register or Donate](#)

**REGISTER NOW
for
Saturday June 12th**

www.mennohomes.com

226-476-2535

**Raising funds for new
affordable housing.**



To view a step-by-step guide for registering and setting up your page on
Canada Helps click [here](#) on Guide

[Guide](#)



New Affordable Housing Project in Kitchener

MennoHomes' new affordable housing project at 544 Bridgeport Road East in Kitchener is nearing completion. It has been an incredible year but with the solid guidance of VanDel Construction and Edge Architects, along with all the suppliers and subcontractors, we are on-track for completion in late May or early June. The tenant selection process has taken place and 48 new households are eagerly packing boxes in anticipation of moving in late June and early July.

The capital campaign committee led by Carl Zehr has also made good progress this past year despite the challenges that came from not being able to meet face-to-face with people. Although tours of the site were not possible, donors have still demonstrated their confidence that the end result will be a durable and energy efficient structure that tenants can call their home. Our *A Place to Call Home* capital campaign is now just over \$4.7 million towards our \$5 million goal. To learn more about how you can help us reach that goal, [CLICK HERE](#).

Our project partners [St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church](#) and [Parents for Community Living](#) are also preparing to move into their new spaces on the main floor. Under normal circumstances, we would be busy planning to host an onsite Grand Opening. While we are unable to do that this year, we do have plans for a virtual celebration. Stay tuned!

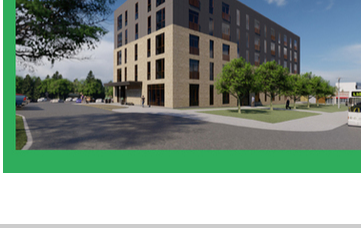


Photo Gallery



24 Mill St. Kitchener

In December MennoHomes acquired a house on Mill St. in Kitchener as part of a lottery held by the Region of Waterloo. There was no cost for the property but having been vacant for 10 years it required extensive renovations. MennoHomes has partnered with Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS) to complete the renovations needed.

MennoHomes is providing materials and supplies while MDS oversees the renovations and coordination of volunteers. Renovations began in February with completion estimated for early summer 2021.

Reep Green Solution donated a free Energy Audit which provided excellent suggestions to be incorporated into the renovations helping us achieve an environmentally sustainable opportunity for affordable housing.

To read the article MDS included in their newsletter about the renovations and the opportunity it has created for many eager and energetic volunteers click [here](#)

[Donate](#)

Annual General Meeting

MennoHomes held its Annual General Meeting virtually on January 27th. We had a very successful meeting with 87 people joining us by Zoom. Even though we couldn't meet in person it was great to "see" so many familiar faces and we were pleased to have welcomed some new ones for the first time.



Annual General Meeting - January 27, 2021

To read our Annual Report click [here](#)



Keeping our Tenants Connected!

Launched in 2013, Rogers has invested in the "Connected for Success" program to offer low-income Canadians high speed internet at discounted cost. As many households found they needed to work from home and to learn from home, the need to be connected on-line came into sharp focus over the last year. We have all become aware that having access to the internet is not a luxury, it is, without doubt, a necessity. MennoHomes has recently partnered with Rogers and we are excited to announce that Rogers is making this program available to our tenants for \$9.99 per month allowing for more households in Waterloo Region to more affordably or perhaps finally get the internet access they need.

To find out more about the program click [here](#).

MennoHomes' Team is Changing & Growing

We are both delighted and sad to announce the retirement of Karen Lebold who has been the Community Support Worker at MennoHomes since October 2007. We cannot say enough about how much Karen's commitment to MennoHomes and our tenants has meant over the years and we wish her the very best as she begins a new chapter.

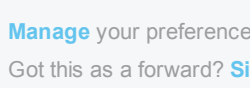


While we are sad to say good bye to Karen we are very happy to welcome Sue Martin as the new Community Support Worker. We know her dedication and enthusiasm will be a great asset to MennoHomes and the tenants she will be working with.

We welcomed another new person to the MennoHomes team, Debbie Simpson started as the new Administrative Assistant in January providing some much-needed administrative support.

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