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## *Creating a place to call home*

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# Fall Newsletter 2023

**Dear Friends,**

Right now, as you are reading our Fall Newsletter, 28 households are preparing to move into their new affordable homes at Sprucelawn Apartments for Seniors in St. Jacobs. As the boxes are being packed and decisions are being made about what to keep, I'm sure a flood of memories will also be part of the process. The journey that leads someone to a place where access to affordable housing is necessary is likely one that is filled with mixed emotions.

However, the emotions that new tenants repeatedly share with us upon discovering that their application has been approved are those of joy and hope. Joy from knowing that their financial situation and living accommodation are both about to improve dramatically, and hope for the future since the weight of carrying these concerns has been lifted.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have helped to make this possible. Thank you! As you read some of the updates in this newsletter, I trust that you will be both inspired and encouraged that together we are making a difference. While 28 households, compared to a regional waiting list of over 7,500 may seem insignificant, for each one of those households it means the world to them. **Thank you** for your financial support that is making this possible.

**Dan Driedger**

*Executive Director*



Dan Driedger  
Executive Director

**DONATE NOW**

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## Tenant Story

**“You’ve given us hope!”**

It was an offhand comment from Lynn who, with Clint, will be moving into Sprucelawn Apartments for Seniors in St. Jacobs in November. Her comment continues to come back to me as I reflect on my conversation with them. It reminds me that while we are an organization that builds affordable housing for people with low incomes,

we actually provide so much more. As our new name suggests, we go beyond simply making housing available. **We provide hope, community, a sense of dignity and self-worth, and a place to call home.**



Lynn and Clint’s journey may be unique to them, but sadly it’s not an isolated story. They worked hard, contributed to the community, and looked forward to a modest retirement. A combination of bad advice, bad luck, and poor health changed all of that, wiping out their savings and leading them in a direction they never anticipated. Yet, they carried on with a “glass half full” attitude. Clint was still able to work. They hoped they could figure it out.

What they didn’t expect was that their landlord would sell their townhouse complex to a developer. With only 90 days to find something new, they ended up 40 minutes away paying \$1,850 a month instead of \$1,000. At 75 years old, Clint took a job working at Walmart to help cover the difference.

Our phone call to let them know they would soon be calling Sprucelawn home has changed everything for them. **It has given them hope.** Our phone call to let them know they would soon be calling Sprucelawn home has changed everything for them. It has given them hope. Beginning in November, Sprucelawn Apartments for Seniors will be helping to provide hope to 28 new households. For people like Lynn and Clint, it will become a place that they can call home.

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## Sprucelawn Update

As noted in my opening remarks, new tenants are currently pack and preparing to move into their new homes. Likewise, the various workers who have been working diligently to put the final touches on construction are also beginning to pack up their tools and move onto their next project.



The addition at Sprucelawn Apartments for Seniors, almost doubling in size to 58 apartments, was originally envisioned by the Sprucelawn board in 2012. An incredible amount of planning and preparation was done prior to Beyond Housing becoming involved in late 2021. Since then, as with most construction projects, there have been periods of obvious construction, and other times when the site might have appeared less active. Through it all, everyone has been working with the same purpose in mind, to provide these affordable apartments as soon as possible.

In November, the new tenants will begin moving into their new homes. Hurray! We hope that they will find it a place where there is a sense of community and where they can truly feel at home.

While construction is being completed, there is still approximately \$400,000 in fundraising required towards our capital campaign to ensure Sprucelawn remains financially sustainable long-term. Your gifts will make a difference. **Please contact Laverne Brubacher or Dan Driedger to learn more about how you can become involved. 226-476-2535 or [sprucelawn@beyondhousing.ca](mailto:sprucelawn@beyondhousing.ca)**

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## Photo Gallery



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## Out-Spok'n for Affordable Housing raises over \$82 000

Thank you!

Our 13th Out-Spok'n for Affordable Housing bike-a-thon was held on June 10th. It was a perfect spring day and we are thrilled that an estimated 60 riders, walkers, (and even paddlers!) collectively raised over \$82 000. Thank you to everyone who supported their efforts by sponsoring them. This year we again hosted a hybrid version of our bike-a-thon. Some participants did the traditional ride on the Kissing Bridge Trail, while others participated remotely at a location and time that was convenient for them.

Regardless of how they were involved, everyone helped make affordable housing possible at Sprucelawn Apartments for Seniors in St. Jacobs. To catch a glimpse of the event, you can check out our photo gallery from the event [HERE](#)



# THANK YOU!

*\$82 190 raised for  
affordable housing*

[www.beyondhousing.ca](http://www.beyondhousing.ca)



## Thank you, Brad!

When The Foundry in Elmira opened in 2017, Brad Roth was not only a new tenant but also our onsite custodian and key holder. During that time, he has always been available to make sure the building was well-maintained.

In September, Brad officially retired and while he won't miss the knocks on his door at various times of day to help respond to an issue, he will continue to enjoy being part of the community of friends and neighbours that has developed at The Foundry.

In retirement, Brad is looking forward to spending time camping along with a trip to see the Grand Canyon. Thank you Brad for your years of service, and all the best in the years ahead.



## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The Board of Directors for Beyond Housing is inviting you to submit suggestions for new Directors.

As a valued supporter of Beyond Housing, we are contacting you directly to share this invitation.



Names should be submitted to Dan Driedger, Executive Director, by NOVEMBER 10th.

This process concludes with the election or appointment of directors at Beyond Housing's Annual General Meeting in January 2024.

\*\*More details are available here: [Director Recruitment](#)



**CLICK HERE**  
*TO LEARN MORE*



"We need to ensure there are affordable places in our community for seniors, where they can also live with dignity" - Laverne Brubacher

**A PLACE TO CALL HOME**

**Sprucelawn**  
APARTMENTS FOR SENIORS



## SAVE THE DATE

Beyond Housing's  
Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, January 31st  
2:00pm

[www.beyondhousing.ca](http://www.beyondhousing.ca)



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