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Summer Newsletter 2024

Dear Friends,

Summer greetings! I hope this email finds you well and enjoying some of the benefits of summer in Southwestern Ontario.

On behalf of the board, *I'm pleased to share that over the course of the summer, we have reached the*

capital campaign goal of \$2.5 million for Sprucelawn Apartments for Seniors in St. Jacobs. While tenants began calling Sprucelawn their home in early winter, the capital campaign led by Laverne Brubacher was still hard at work.

The combination of *Martin Buhr's 85th Birthday Ride* (\$103,101.70), our annual *Out-Spok'n for Affordable Housing Bike-a-thon* (\$76,378.00), and new donations have moved us just past our \$2.5 million goal. **Thank you for your strong support that made this possible.** We will still be carrying a considerable mortgage and donations to help address that are certainly welcome. We are happy to be officially closing the public capital campaign that made the addition at Sprucelawn possible.

Of course, the need for affordable housing has not disappeared. While 28 new households at Sprucelawn finally have homes they can afford, there remain over 8,000 households on the waiting list in Waterloo Region. Our work is not complete. We continue to explore new opportunities and hope to make some announcements about future projects in the coming months. Stay tuned.



Sincerely,

Dan Driedger

Executive Director

DONATE NOW

Out-Spok'n for Affordable Housing raises over \$76,000

Thank you!

Our 14th Out-Spok'n for Affordable Housing bike-a-thon was held on June 8th. It was a perfect spring day and we are thrilled that an estimated 60 riders, walkers, collectively raised over \$76 000. 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!

**\$76,378 raised for
affordable housing**

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Community Garden Update

Summer is a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors. One of the “*Beyond*” things we do at Beyond Housing is to plan events, with support from Sue Martin our Community Support Worker, for tenants at 3 of our apartment buildings. So far this summer we’ve had BBQ’s, summer-themed Pictionary, mini car races, afternoon movies, and campfires. These activities not only enhance the summer experience for people at these locations, they also help to prevent social isolation and build relationships.

At 544 Bridgeport our 5 garden beds are thriving! Tenants are growing various vegetables and flowers! If a gardener has too much, they often share it with other tenants who did not get a garden this year. We have first-time gardeners to life-long gardeners participating in the garden beds. The gardens bring tenants together. Some participants did not know one another very well prior to having gardens next to one another, and other tenants just enjoy seeing what the gardeners are growing. Many good conversations happen in the garden area, feeding the body and the soul. 😊

Notice to Members

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

Names should be submitted to Dan Driedger, Executive Director on or before September 30th to be include.

This process concludes with the elector or appointment of directors at Beyond Housing's Annual General Meeting in January 2025.

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



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