

## Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars

### Out-spok'n III for Affordable Housing – June 22, 2013

MennoHomes is holding its third annual bike-a-thon on Saturday June 22, 2013 at Elmira Mennonite Church, 58 Church Street West in Elmira. The start time is 9am.

Bicycling, motorcycling, running or walking are all encouraged.

Put together a team or do a solo ride/walk/run for 5, 7, 10, 14, 21, or 28 kms. Maps will be provided. Celebrate your participation by enjoying a barbeque and refreshments at the church from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Be a lucky door prize winner!

Funds raised will support MennoHomes' two-year \$250,000 campaign to provide affordable rental housing for five families. Thank you to MAX Canada, Mennonite Foundation of Canada and Mennonite Savings and Credit Union for sponsoring the event. Contact Martin Buhr for more information and pledge forms, 519-578-5546, pama@sympatico.ca. Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations. **Be out-spok'n for affordable housing!**



### Benefit Concert for MennoHomes with Jim and Jean Strathdee

- Oct. 30, 2013



Join us on October 30, 2013 at 7:30pm at Calvary United Church in St. Jacobs for a benefit concert with internationally known artists, Jim and Jean Strathdee.

Jim and Jean sing with thousands of people each year as they offer their music in worship, concerts, conferences, retreats, and workshops. They see their music as an agent of personal and social transformation, and like to be involved with fund-and consciousness-raising events where ecumenical and inter-faith communities come together to make a stand for positive change.



## Leadership Transition at MennoHomes

MennoHomes has been blessed by the inspired leadership of Martin Buhr from its inception in 2001 to the present day.

After 12 years of tireless work on behalf of MennoHomes, Martin has decided to retire from his daily active engagement as President and will continue to offer his gifts to the Board and the organization in other ways beginning in November 2013.



The Board of MennoHomes greatly appreciates Martin's willingness to provide ongoing guidance, support and insight into how MennoHomes can continue to fulfill its mandate to build good, affordable and supportive rental housing for those most in need.

The Board has begun a search for the new Executive Director. Please go to [www.mennohomes.com](http://www.mennohomes.com) to see the job posting for the Executive Director position – a 60% full-time equivalent position to begin employment in September 2013. The deadline for applications is May 30, 2013.

The Board of MennoHomes extends its heartfelt thanks to members, donors and supporters for their life-giving support and for their ongoing prayers for Martin and all those who are served by MennoHomes.

The Board plans to celebrate Martin's contribution to MennoHomes with an event in his honour in the fall. More information on this will follow in the coming months.

## \$70,000 needed to reach the MennoHomes 2-year \$250,000 campaign goal

In 2012 MennoHomes launched a two-year campaign to raise \$250,000 to purchase or build an additional five rental units for the large rural families MennoHomes aims to help.

3 units on Ratz Street in Elmira  
2 units on David Street in Wellesley

To date, \$180,000 has been generously given, leaving \$70,000 to be raised to reach the campaign goal of \$250,000. Your donation could support the following:

Paint - 1 gal.	\$40
Shingles - 4 bdles	\$100
Paint - 5 gal.	\$200
Window	\$400
Appliance	\$600
Flooring	\$1,000
Shingles - 60 bdles	\$1,500
Stairs	\$3,000
Kitchen cupboards	\$4,000
Furnace	\$7,000

Please consider making a donation or pledge to make the five rental units for five families a reality. You will find the donation and pledge form on the back of this page.

**Thank you for your support!**

**Yes, I want to support  
MennoHomes' campaign to  
provide affordable rental  
housing for five families.**

Here is my gift of \_\_\_\_\_

or

My pledge for 2013 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:  
MennoHomes Inc.  
50 Kent Ave.  
Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1

Charitable Registration #:  
86304 7015 RR0001

For further information, or if you  
would like to contribute to the  
**Special Needs Fund**, contact:  
Martin Buhr - 519 578-5546,  
pama@sympatico.ca

**Waterloo Region Developing a Ten-Year  
Housing Action Plan**

Ontario's new Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy requires municipalities to develop 10-year plans to address local housing and homelessness needs. In response, the Region of Waterloo is updating its housing plan with an emphasis on community consultation and engagement. The first of two community consultations was held on April 17, 2013 in Waterloo, with Martin Buhr and three MennoHomes' Board members participating. The Region expects to have the 10-year plan developed early in 2014.



Just over 3,000 households are on the Waterloo Region's housing waiting list, a number that hasn't changed over the past five years. The actual need is higher, as those in need of affordable

housing often do not bother to register, or give up because of the long waiting period.

In order to better understand the housing needs in the Region and to determine MennoHomes' housing priorities for the next few years, MennoHomes organized briefings from the Region's housing staff. Jeff Schumacher, Supervisor of Housing Supply Initiatives, gave a presentation at MennoHomes' AGM in November 2012, and Deb Schlichter, the Director of Housing, met with the Board of MennoHomes in February 2013.

Government funding for affordable housing is essential. In March 2013, the Canadian Government renewed its commitment of \$1.2B to affordable housing across Canada and the Territories. There is hope that the Ontario Government will match the Federal amount allocated to Ontario.

*Research has demonstrated that when decent, affordable and stable housing is provided, the prospects for health, education and employment are improved. Decent affordable housing offers hope for the future.*

**Update on the new rental units**



Mike and Rob Gondosch stand in front of the duplex they donated and reconstructed for two large families at 11 Ratz Street in Elmira. Families for the two units have been chosen, with the first family moving into their unit in May 2013.

Construction of the duplex for two large families at 146 David Street in Wellesley is now underway. The basement has been completed and occupancy is planned for September 2013.

**In Memory of Hyacinth McIntosh**

*by Karen Lebold, MennoHomes' Community Support Worker*

Hyacinth was one of the first tenants to move into one of MennoHomes' units on Village Road. Hyacinth, along with her husband Kison Johnson, became a well-known and valued part of the community there. Hyacinth was the mother of three daughters - Nadine in Jamaica, Debra in Boston, and Lisa in Kitchener.



Hyacinth and Kison cared for their young grandchildren while their daughter worked. Their home became a hub for their family and the community. It always felt good to receive her "Have a blessed day!" at the end of a telephone conversation or on leaving her home.

MennoHomes, through the "Special Needs Fund", was able to assist Hyacinth with a family emergency. Her family and her God were a very important part of her life. Hyacinth passed away on April 8, 2013. We will miss her cheerful smile and happy outlook.