



MennoHomes is now participating in **ChangeIt**, an online charitable giving program that automatically rounds up your payment card purchases and directs the rounded-up amount to MennoHomes. You have complete control over your rounding preferences and how much you give. MennoHomes will issue a tax receipt for the full amount of your donation. Learn more at www.changeitcanada.com. **Let's make change together.**

Mark Your Calendars

Out-spok'n IV for Affordable Housing – June 21, 2014



MennoHomes is holding its fourth annual bike-a-thon on Saturday June 21, 2014 at Elmira Mennonite Church, 58 Church Street West in Elmira. The start time is 9am.

There are opportunities for everyone to be involved. Bicycling, motorcycling, running or walking are all encouraged. Put together a team or do a solo ride/walk/run. Maps will be provided. Celebrate your participation by enjoying a barbeque and refreshments at the church beginning at noon. Be a lucky door prize winner!

Funds raised will support MennoHomes' new affordable housing project in Elmira. Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations. **Be out-spok'n for affordable housing!**

For more details and pledge forms, contact Dan Driedger @ 226-476-2535, or ddriedger@mennohomes.com.

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Regehr

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MennoHomes 202-50 Kent Ave. Kitchener ON N2G 3R1



Retirement Celebration for Founding President Martin Buhr



MennoHomes' founding President Martin Buhr was honoured for his outstanding contribution to affordable housing in Waterloo Region at an April 15th retirement celebration at Gale Presbyterian Church in Elmira.

It was a great evening. Thank you to the more than 150 people who came out to honour Martin, as well as those who were unable to attend but sent words of thanks and donations to MennoHomes in honour of Martin.

Our thanks to John Neufeld, the MC for the evening, and Eric Rempel, Carolyn Strathdee, and Nichelle Bauman who provided special music. Thank you also to the individuals who gave tributes to Martin during the program, to Nancy Martin who created the beautiful scrapbook for Martin, and to the many other individuals who made the evening so meaningful.



If you would like to be part of honouring Martin's stellar leadership since 2001, consider making a donation in support of the new build in Elmira by completing the attached pledge form, or by contacting Dan Driedger at 226-476-2535 or ddriedger@mennohomes.com.

New Build at Church and Memorial in Elmira



In January 2014, MennoHomes purchased 1.25 acres of vacant land in Elmira in partnership with Woolwich Community Services (WCS).

Located at the corner of Church St. East and Memorial Ave., this former foundry site will be transformed to include the new headquarters for WCS and a new MennoHomes low-rise apartment building.

Construction of the WCS building is expected to begin in spring 2014. MennoHomes will begin construction of the apartment building when sufficient funds have been raised.

Please consider making a donation or pledge to help MennoHomes with the purchase and early-stage development of this project. You will find the donation and pledge form on the back of this page.

Thank you for your support!

Yes, I want to support the purchase and early development costs for the new affordable housing build in Elmira.

Here is my gift of _____

or

My pledge for 2014 _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form to:

Dan Driedger
MennoHomes Inc.

202- 50 Kent Ave.
Kitchener ON N2G 3R1

Charitable Registration #:
86304 7015 RR0001

For further information contact:
Dan Driedger - 226-476-2535,
ddriedger@mennohomes.com.

We have a future

Luke and Holly were just 17 when they first met. Now 17 years and three children later, they are finally living on their own.

It was just before Christmas 2013 when they became the final tenants to move into the recently completed MennoHomes duplex on David St. in Wellesley.

After years of living with Luke's parents, their children (Connor 10, Elizabeth Mary 9, Carter 5) had a home they could call their own. The impossible had become affordable!

Their journey as a couple has certainly had its challenges. Just one year after they met, Luke suffered kidney failure and his plans to go to college had to be cancelled. After being on kidney dialysis for three years, he was blessed to be the recipient of a successful transplant donated by his sister. When that kidney failed in 2011, he went on dialysis again until another sister was able to donate a kidney in March 2013.



They juggle shifts to avoid child care expenses but the \$550/month in anti-rejection drugs that is not covered by their medical plan, and their limited working hours has had an impact.

In November 2013, Holly contacted the Wilmot Family Resource Center to get "a little extra help for Christmas". They were told about the possibility



Luke has worked throughout but between medical appointments and the impact of dialysis three times per week, it has been a struggle to maintain regular hours at his job as a safety inspector in the trucking industry.

Holly has some flexibility in her job working at a local kennel that has allowed her to accompany Luke on medical appointments.

of the new MennoHomes apartment and phoned immediately from the parking lot. "We had tried a couple of times to live on our own," said Holly, "but we could just never keep up." MennoHomes' policy of not requiring a deposit for the last month's rent was "huge" according to Luke. "We were finally able to move out and start a life together." added Holly, "We have a future."

They Don't Even Know

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Performed at the April 15, 2014 Retirement Celebration for Martin Buhr

There's a safe place that I call my home / some people don't even know
It's a shelter in the storm and a warm place when it's cold / and some people don't even know

There's homeless on the streets and people with nowhere to go
The working poor just at war with society's flow / they don't even know

There's a safe place they can call their home / with a future and a hope
It gives security and room to grow / and some people don't even know

I had a vision, I saw it in the night
A place for all to call home every night
It's a beautiful sight / and there's a glimpse tonight

There's a safe place to call home / no more need to move or roam
Stability, a constant in the unknown / but some people don't even know

So let's build up these cities and towns with foundations of hope
We will partner and share, we'll care and we'll work and we'll grow
We've got the love of the Father, the hands of the Son, in the Spirit we are one
Will we build on what we've done?

'Til there's a safe place all can call home / we'll work towards the goal
Raise up walls, pour foundations of hope / cuz some people don't even know.

