

# Fall Newsletter 2022

Are you a "glass half full" sort of person? If you are reading this, I suspect you are. While it is easy to find reasons to be discouraged about any number of things in our world today, if we really look, it is also easy to be encouraged. As a community, issues such as affordable housing are being highlighted in the news *because* we care and want to make a difference. And your support of the ongoing work of organizations like MennoHomes *is* making a difference.



**Dan Driedger**  
Executive Director

Since 2017, the number of households who call a MennoHomes house or apartment their home has grown from 80 to 230, with an additional 28 currently under construction. This growth has happened in a variety of ways, but the end result is the most important piece. For households that can afford their homes, the positive impact on all aspects of their health and well-being means a world of difference.

As part of any new project, we like to check-in with tenants around the one-year mark, after the "honeymoon period", to see how they are doing. We ask how their new home has impacted their physical well-being, their financial situation, and their social/mental health. In essence, are we making a difference?

Following are some examples of the feedback we recently received:

- ***"I have been doing much better living here. I love living here and it has improved my life tremendously."***
- ***"My barrier free apartment has changed my life. I lived in my previous place for 17 years and didn't know my neighbours but here I know my neighbours, tenants are friendly, and my one neighbour has brought supper over! I feel like I want to attend events and be with others."***
- ***"I appreciate being here because I would have been on the streets because I couldn't afford where I was staying."***
- ***"Having a safe and affordable place to live helps to relieve anxiety. Life feels less stressful."***

These comments remind me that for many of our tenants, their glass goes from almost empty to potentially overflowing once they have access to appropriate affordable housing. Our Fall Newsletter contains a variety of updates regarding the work of MennoHomes. Thank you for your ongoing financial support that makes this possible. We are honoured to do help make a difference on your behalf.

[Donate](#)

## Sprucelawn Update

We started construction of our newest project at Sprucelawn Apartments for Seniors in St. Jacobs in spring. At times, progress has reminded me of an iceberg. Much of the activity has been years in planning and will never be visible. Like many worthwhile things in life, it all starts with a solid foundation and we will certainly have one at Sprucelawn. While we did experience some supply chain delays this summer, the construction team is working hard to meet our goal of providing an additional 28 senior's apartments by summer 2023.



The new addition will be a mix of 20 one-bedroom and 8 two-bedroom apartments. The need for affordable seniors housing is as urgent as ever and growing. A single pensioner who relies on government retirement income will spend 63% of their gross income on housing if they pay just the 2021 average market rent of \$1,134, or even more when compared to current market listings in excess of \$1,500. MennoHomes is targeting rent at \$497 for people on the Ontario Disability Support Program, and \$809 for general one-bedroom applications. To make this possible, we've launched a \$2 million capital campaign. It's time to ensure seniors in our community can live with dignity and in safety and comfort. Your support is needed. Please join other supporters by helping us build *A Place to Call Home*.

**Learn more:** <https://mennohomes.com/a-place-to-call-home/>

## Photo Gallery



## Staff Update

### Community Health Nurse



Karen Ehlebracht has been providing support as a Community Health Nurse (CHN) for tenants at the Waterloo Mennonite Homes location in a part-time role since 2020. In August, an expansion of this role was made possible through a new Community Wellness Program funded by Trinity United Church as well as the Community Fund and Art & Barb Janzen Fund held at Waterloo Region Community Foundation.

The role includes professional health care support to tenants across multiple housing sites, with a particular priority at 544 Bridgeport. Working within the scope of practice as defined by the College of Nurses of Ontario, the CHN is available weekly for drop-in or clinic style appointments at 544 Bridgeport, Waterloo Mennonite Homes, and Rockway Gardens Village as well as by phone or email at other times during the week. She is also available for tenants from any other MennoHomes location on referral.

Issues that can be addressed with clients include health condition monitoring (including blood pressure monitoring), consulting, mental health resources and support and health system navigation. On a community level, the CHN works closely with the Community Support Worker to address community issues using individual and group strategies. We are thrilled to have Karen more formally part of the MennoHomes team in this newly expanded role.

# SAVE The DATE

## ...for MennoHomes' AGM

We are planning to meet in person this year.

Please mark your calendar for

**Wednesday, January 25th**

More details to follow.

[www.mennohomes.com](http://www.mennohomes.com) [ddriedger@mennohomes.com](mailto:ddriedger@mennohomes.com) 226-476-2565  
CRA # 86304 7015 RR0001

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

100 - 7 Memorial Ave.  
Elmira, ON | N3B 2P8 CA

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.