

## **Kay'shi'daay'ing - Where We Live**

### **Easy Sells & Hard Builds**

Finally housing is on everybody's agendas but developing awareness is only a step towards accomplishment. Because of complex funding formulae, no social housing development can be undertaken without multiple layers of negotiated partnering. It is challenging to navigate through any development involving so many personalities and diverse political stances. Shared responsibility does increase project resources but it is a model that can collapse in its own complexity. We appreciate the efforts made by those visionary developers who press on through the muck to lay foundations for a better future.

There is a fiscal reality to this new awareness of our housing crisis-money is finite and the need stretches across our nation's vast geography and populations. Prioritization is a cruel necessity. As a community housing advocate, Making Kenora Home has identified specific local needs but has refused to rank the projects for prioritization. Housing for seniors and veterans are an easy sell. These projects are the apple pie of social housing-the sweet projects that satisfy the most stakeholders. Our prioritization of children as a society leads us to try to provide affordable family focused housing. These units have been the historic mainstays of social housing. On the margins are those who remind us of how difficult life can be when we are not privileged, healthy and able. These are the individuals who were marginalized because of their heritage, personal histories, addictions and disabilities. These are the citizens who aren't wrapped in mainstream social respectability and whose needs are difficult to meet within the housing spectrum. These are the hard builds. These are the builds to divide our community.

Standing for the easy sells is expedient. Standing up for the hard builds is more challenging. When we stand up for the hard builds we have to recognize our own vulnerabilities. When we stand up for the hard builds we extend ourselves out as targets for the prejudices of others. When we stand up for the hard builds we have done the research and the careful consideration required for successful outcomes. Making Kenora Home commits to the hard builds as well as the easy sells.

*Jennifer McKibbon, Co-Chair*

*Diane Pelletier, Co-Chair*

*Nan Normand, Secretary*

*Keith Myshkowsky, Treasurer*

*Deborah Jonassen      Jen Carlson*

*Gord Day-Janz      Betty Getson*

*Judy Underwood      Adam Ward*

*Char Rammage      Allison Crewe*

### **Care for all of Kenora!**

#### **What is Making Kenora HOME?**

*A concerned group working on solutions for homelessness in our community.*

#### **Guiding Principles**

- ❖ **EQUALITY:** *We are all created equal within this world that we share*
- ❖ **INCLUSION:** *Every person living in Kenora is a part of our community*
- ❖ **SHARING:** *As a community we must care for each other*
- ❖ **SELF DETERMINATION:** *Each person has the right to choose his or her own path providing that path does not hurt another*
- ❖ **EMPOWERMENT:** *We are accountable for our own actions and need to look inward first*

## Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation Campaign

This year's campaign reminded us that there is much goodness in Kenora. All of the activities were well supported and the outcomes were beneficial to all who share life in our community.

### Minto Summerfest



The annual neighbourhood celebration was well attended by families and service agency representatives. Information was disbursed and connections were made to better support community living for all.

### Summer Street Picnics

Five community picnics were held at the Fellowship Centre in August. The focus was on sharing good times as well as special summer themed meals. Our volunteers were unexpectedly honoured with a presentation by the patrons of the Fellowship Centre.



### Stuff-A-Boat

Kenora's emergency service partners again competed to benefit local food security programs. A total of \$2,852.59 in cash and 2,512 pounds of food was collected. K-Sports and Safeway host the event. Treat 3 Police Services won for a second year.



Other participants included, Kenora Fire & Orange Services, OPP and MNR Fire Services.

### Compassionate Kenora

It was a difficult summer for those who value a community mindset of sharing, inclusivity and kindness. Out of the rockiness a new on-line presence emerged that united voices that typify the goodness of Kenora. For a quick uplift, click into the Compassionate Kenora facebook page.



### Walk to the Rocks

Citizens walked to the rocks which were laid to discourage drug user gatherings as a reminder that as a community we need to pro-actively develop responses to help those who are suffering from addictions rather than put up barriers. There have been two walks and more are planned.

### National Housing Strategy Enacted

On June 21, 2019, our national parliament formally recognized housing as a fundamental human right under Bill C-97. It is an important milestone in Canada's right to housing movement and an asset in political accountability for provision of social housing where needed.



In ancient times, the governments organized public sanitation that recognized our human need to relieve ourselves. These public washrooms were open 24/7. Our bodily needs haven't changed over the millennia but Kenora is lagging in meeting this need.

For more information call Nan at 807-468-8888  
[www.makingkenorahome.ca](http://www.makingkenorahome.ca) (web site)  
[Making Kenora Home](#) (facebook community)

*Coming Soon...*

**Week Of Action** (February 9-15, 2020 )  
*Demonstrating the Heart of Kenora*