

Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

NEWSLETTER

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Kay'shi'daay'ing - Where We Live

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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*

Habitat for Humanity-Coming Soon to Kenora.

After a lengthy period of negotiation, we are delighted to advise Habitat for Humanity of Winnipeg has agreed to establish a Chapter here in Kenora. This is great news as it now allows us to start a working committee, fundraise, select a family and identify volunteers all designed with one thing in mind which is to build much needed and affordable housing in Kenora for low income families who dream about owning their own home.

Most of 2011 will consist of preparatory work and getting ourselves into a position to be able to construct a house. Ralph



Page of Making Kenora Home is leading the steering committee through the initial development phases. If anyone is interested in being part of the steering committee and helping with the preparatory work please contact Ralph directly at 407 8978. He would love to hear from you. Volunteers for the actual build will be looked for much later on in the project.

Stay tuned as we move forward on this very exciting project.

Excitement Building

Kenora is buzzing. Where do you think the Kenora Affordable Housing Group will build their 17 units? Do you think the Fellowship Centre will continue to operate their emergency shelter fulltime? Where do you think the first Habitat build will be erected? Questions are rising from the coffee shops. Some are surprised. Others know that this is five years of advocacy coming to fruition.

The success of these proposals relies on many community partners. Making Kenora Home advocated-vociferously-but it is the commitment of local citizens that moved these projects forward. Elected officials in particular took hard hits publicly in the process as did the District Services Board. In many cases they were only the

messengers for political decisions made further afield. Despite the bruises, all came together to make it work.

Kenora is a community that cares. We have also taken hits but battered, we continue on. We are the only community that stages a Week of Action Against Poverty that involves the entire City in a multitude of freely created endeavours to help our fellow citizens. Each action comes from the heart. We have elected representatives, organizations, musicians, artists, athletes, business, churches, schools and service agencies dedicating the week to do just one act of commitment against poverty. It is the communal effort that has brought us this far and it is the community that will bring us to our vision.

Check our website - www.makingkenorahome.ca

Week of Action Against Poverty

The poverty awareness week in Kenora is a unique event that is not held anywhere else in North America. The week has been officially proclaimed by Mayor and Council. The commitments that are put forward show the creativity and caring of our citizens. Week of Action Against Poverty is about personal commitment in our own community. Small, focused acts can change the world and we have the power collectively to create a more caring, inclusive community that people want to reside in. As an attractive community we will also draw investors who want to be part of our hometown.

Events

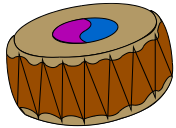
Because the actions taken by community members are often not reported until the week happens, we cannot tell you all that will be occurring. The following are events that have been scheduled by press time:

- ❖ Prayers from the Pulpit-On Sunday, Feb.13 - local congregations will unite in prayers to alleviate poverty in our community. This is an initiative of the Kenora Ministerial Association.
- ❖ Wear Red Day - February 14 is the city's day to flash their red in awareness of Week of Action Against Poverty. Everyone wearing red is to call into the Northwest Community Legal Clinic at 468-8888 to report participation in this event for the community count.
- ❖ Pancake Brunch - At 2 pm on Feb. 16, the HUB of Making Kenora Home will be hosting a community brunch at the Kenora Fellowship Centre. Come out and join us in sharing a meal.

- ❖ Homeless in Kenora Booklet Launch - HoJos is hosting the annual launch on February 15, 4 pm-6 pm. The fourth edition, *Dreaming of Home*, focuses on the housing affordability wall the keeps local families from achieving stability. Shirley Hanslip will be enhancing the event with an exhibition of her vocal stylings.
- ❖ A Walk in Other's Shoes - Local citizens have accepted the challenge to live on \$7.00 a day for 5 days to experience the challenges facing those on social assistance. The blog event () is scheduled for February 11-16. Join in their recorded experience. Join our bloggers for soup and a presentation of their newly gained perspectives at the Kenora Fellowship Centre at noon.
- ❖ Act Global Act Local - tentatively scheduled Feb 18 with locations to be announced



Christmas Sharing Circle



Nancy Morrison again led the traditional sharing circle at the Kenora Fellowship Centre. The drum, led by Andy White from Naotkemeg-wanning, called the participants to a greater understanding of

ourselves as humans. A tasty meal of traditional Anishinaabe foods was provided to the delight of the patrons. Later gifts of thermal socks and mitts were distributed. The Nechee Centre youth group (UMYAC) did the wrapping of the gifts as their offering to the festivities.

Gingerbread Lane

Beaver Brae Student Council gave Gingerbread Lane a boost with their participants. A preliminary competition, judged by Mayor Canfield, Principal Breutsch and Mr. Wickham, provided the bulk of the entries to the December 12 tea. Youth also volunteered as servers and

as dancing gingerbread men who literally took it to the streets to promote attendance at the event. The children's activity table was a popular venue as they decorated the individual gingerpeople donated by Safeway. Funds raised went towards the Christmas Sharing Circle held for patrons of the emergency shelter.

