

Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

NEWSLETTER

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Kay'shi'daay'ing - Where We Live

Riding the Edge

As a community, Kenora has come together and made its demand for affordable, accessible and appropriate housing known. Citizens have grown frustrated with awareness activities and reports on the need for affordable housing. They want to see action. It is time to build inclusive housing. This requires capital investment.

The City has advocated to senior government officials and gotten our municipal house in order with planning and by law reviews. The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) has written their 10 year plan and hired staff to focus on housing development. The recent signing of the Investment in Affordable Housing Extension program will bring nearly 2.7 million dollars over a six year period for local affordable housing. It is envelope funding which will allow the KDSB flexibility to allocate housing dollars towards locally prioritized needs. These announcements raise us up with hope to the edge of our vision.

The KDSB serves a large area and Kenora is only one of many communities. Aging social housing stock is a liability. Existing housing renewal needs are expected to cost \$1.9 million. The special purpose reserves for new housing will have increased to \$783,241 by the end of the fiscal year. That doesn't build much. How that money will be allocated has local advocates riding the visionary edge with fear.

Despite recognizing that Housing First will result in a savings of \$22 for every \$10 invested, there is still no national housing strategy. The legislation that brought CMHC into existence in 1946 to begin investment into social housing was ended in 1993. Investment has been dwindling over time and at the present rate of decline, is expected to hit ground zero in 2022.

In Kenora we are struggling to bring our vision into construction. Gains have been made as noted in our annual housing report card but losses erupt. The Managed Alcohol Program is moving forward but at a cost of 14 housing units. The Fellowship Centre's emergency shelter program limps from month to month and the roof is literally falling in. So many good people have stepped forward to provide hot meals, a warming place and washrooms to those with homes but the need keep rising as Kenora's available affordable housing continues dropping.

We can be overwhelmed by the needs that assail us or we can choose to take the ride. Like a rollercoaster, the height ascended with hope instantly dips into a downward rush into fear and then, just as we face the crash, the ride switches again. Through twists of excitement and panic, the ride rolls to the end of the rail. That is the time when we stand up, step out and celebrate arrival at our actualized vision. Kenora will be a caring community with adequate housing for all.



Week of Action Against Poverty (WAAP)

Eight years of this unique local “evention” has brought us together as a community. The grade five class from St. Louis who made the first donation to Habitat are now young adults who have seen the first build completed and the second begun. The young entertainers who brought a rocking edge to the first Home-Aid concert are raising their families in Kenora. Those who have taken the Walk in Our Shoes Challenge have



227 pairs of socks!
St. Louis takes action
during WAAP!

gone on to share what they've learned into the broader world. The seniors who did the first

telephone tree in support of affordable housing are now facilitating discussion groups on age-friendly communities. WAAP participation requires thoughtful consideration of the type and target of chosen actions and brings us into contact with a diverse array of interesting neighbours whom we haven't met before. This is community enrichment.

Our 2015 WAAP stretched out in many directions. Students experienced the impact of poverty through experiential activities. Seniors talked about the cost of aging. Service providers planned strategies for ensuring local food security at the Food Action Symposium. Groups began challenging each other provide a meal through local soup kitchens. The activity report is long and is available on our website at

www.makingkenorahome.ca

Great & Grand News

**From the Stage to the Streets sponsored by First Baptist Church and Trylight*

Theatre raised \$1500 to benefit the Fellowship Centre!

**Project Homefind has helped 25% of their clients to move out of the shelter and into homes of their own!*

**Kenora's participation in the national Coldest Night of the Year walk raised \$15,000 for Jubilee Church and Fellowship Centre*

**The Out In The Cold fundraiser by the Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force(KSAMHTF)-Housing Pillar launched the Build Kenora Strong campaign with revenues nearing \$15,000.*

**The initial VI-SPDAT community data has now been posted to our website*



Build Kenora Strong, One Home At A Time



KSAMHTF-Housing Pillar's fundraising campaign continues with all monies raised going towards construction of local affordable housing. More events will be scheduled. Toques are available at Canadian Tire, Johnson's Pharmacy, Prelude Travel, Sure Thing,

The Zen Den, McTaggarts and City Hall.

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*