

Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Issue 1: Spring 2016

Kay'shi'daay'ing - Where We Live

Local Need: Local Action: Local Heroes

Understanding of the impact of unaffordable, inadequate and inaccessible housing has increased in Kenora. It impacts all of us and the solutions lie within us as individuals and as a community. Stepping into the overwhelming need around us with limited financial resources can be daunting. Seeing the actions undertaken is reassuring. Knowing those who make the commitment to act is inspiring. They are our local heroes-people who follow through on good intentions and make change happen. They are self-motivated and unassuming. They serve out of the public eye. They don't see themselves as heroes but we do. Here is a sampling of Kenora's blessings:

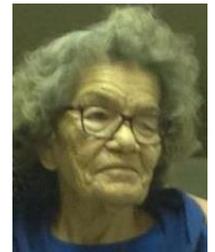


Caleb & Seth Marquis

These boys began with a challenge to donate 1,000 pairs of socks to the emergency shelter. They surpassed their goal. Their current project is fundraising for a playground at Saakate House. For further information check their Facebook page at Philanthro-Bros.

Nora Silk

She will shrug and tell you that "it's something to do" but you will find Nora Silk doing it at the Agape Table, Helping Hands, Jubilee and Fellowship Centre. Where there is work to be done, you will find this lady quietly serving in the background

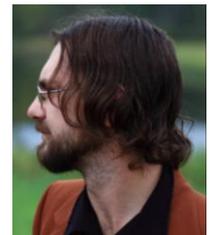


Cynthia Peloquin

She would rather that the camera never catches her but this lady and her team of volunteers deserve to be recognized for their work with Helping Hands. Concerned about the lack of a hot supper during our cold months. Cynthia pulled together a secular grassroots group without funding or sponsorship to serve up food to the neediest in our community. To learn more about this program, go to Helping Hands on facebook.

Mike Procyshyn

This musician organized his first charity concert in 2007. Since then he has organized and performed for causes including the Salvation Army Christmas Marathon, Habitat for Humanity and local food banks. Mike Procyshyn's self-deprecating humour hides a heart for community.



Wendy Langlois

Wendy Langlois is tireless in her promotion of the good work done by her colleagues in the Ladies in Black knitting circle. Believing that every effort counts, the men and women of the circle patiently work at traditional home arts to bring warmth to all who might need a hat or scarf or mittens. Like Cynthia, she will put her volunteers forward for recognition without taking credit for her own hard work in coordinating the program's efforts. Wool supplies and crafts people are always being sought for this worthwhile endeavour.

Now, name five of your own local heroes and then celebrate living in a community with heart!



Community Safety & Well Being Plan

The Kenora Substance Abuse & Mental Health Task Force (KSAMHTF) has presented their plan to address social issues and promote community well-being through leadership, engagement and collaboration. The plan is a blueprint for action. With over 30 agencies represented, KSAMHTF will be the catalyst for interconnection between agencies, resources and partners. Plan priorities include supporting those in need, a safe community, our youth and stigma reduction. The importance of housing is reflected in the Community Safety & Well Being Plan's objectives. Initial supporting actions include creating an inventory of housing resources and programs, developing the local housing continuum model and developing comprehensive housing program guidelines. To review the plan, go to www.ksamtf.ca . For commentary, log onto their facebook page at Ksamh Task Force.

Zoning The Emergency Shelter

The hottest topics in the coffee shops are usually fuelled by caffeine and opinions without facts. Here is preparatory information to contribute to the latest buzz on emergency shelter zoning.

1. The Kenora Fellowship Centre is terminating their emergency shelter operation. The daytime programming and transitional housing program will continue.
2. Nechee Friendship Centre has agreed to take on the operation of the emergency shelter program.
3. Currently there is no allowance for zoning a new location for an emergency shelter.
4. The City of Kenora has proposed the inclusion of emergency shelter operation within commercial and/or industrial areas.
5. Despite any zoning changes, the City of Kenora maintains the right to site approval of any relocation plan therefore any objection to the zoning change based on a specific site is premature.

At the public meeting on April 14, 2016, KDSB CAO Henry Wall presented research on the usage of the local emergency shelter. In 2015, a total of 569 individuals stayed in the shelter for 2182 nights with an average stay of 3.8 nights. The need for emergency shelter transitioning to a new location presses on the community. Our response must be to contribute constructive comment rather than disparaging blockages. Understand the facts and be part of the solution.

*Did you know...?
...that after age 65, only 22% of Kenora seniors have affordable housing?
...that in 2010 there were 173 children and youth in Kenora living with their grandparents?
...that Ontario's average cost for retirement and/or assistive living residences is \$1,000.00 a month higher than Manitoba's average?*

Seniors Housing Forum

The Age-Friendly Community Steering Committee hosted a Senior's Housing Forum on March 30, 2016. Presentations were made on local need, resources and options. Interest was high and there are subsequent presentations being planned by developers. Making Kenora Home released their Housing Kenora's Seniors Report which is available for review at www.makingkenorahome.ca.

Week of Action Against Poverty



Check out our website at www.makingkenorahome.ca
For further information call Nan at the Northwest Community Legal Clinic 468-8888.