

# Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS  
FOR HOMELESSNESS

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Issue 1: Winter 2017

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

#### Living Beyond Ourselves

It has been a decade since Making Kenora Home committed to the vision of a community in which all members have homes that are affordable, adequate and accessible. This goes beyond the provision of housing. It is a vision that will create a community that is inclusive, supportive and caring. It is a vision that requires every community member to live beyond his or her own self-interest. The call to collaboration will enable Kenora to become an exemplar of healthy community living.

It has always been easy to make excuses about the state of our community—"We have a homelessness problem because too many people come into our community with problems of their own"... "It's the government's mandate to deliver social housing"... "People are homeless because of their own behaviour"—These are the excuses that are easily identified as blatant self-interest.

A more insidious excuse making comes disguised as good intentions—"I'm not against having an emergency shelter but not in this location"... "Everyone needs housing but our neighbourhood isn't suitable for those kind of places"... "Yes, the city should do something but they better not raise my taxes"—We have to be vigilant against these murmuring whispers that stack up "but"resses against forward social movement.

There is an old story that teaches us about self-interest and community. A wise old person was asked to explain the difference between heaven and hell. He said that hell was six people chained around a delicious pot of soup. Each person has a spoon with a long handle. Sadly, no one is able to bend their elbows thus each is unable to bring the spoon up to their own mouth. As a result, each is held starving while seated around the soup. Heaven is the same thing except, each person has committed to feeding to someone who can be fed by the same long spoon. By serving each other, they are all fed and satisfied.



This is the year in which we need to act as a community to serve our community. Confront the excuses directly. Reveal the "but"s as imposters. Take responsibility for our future as a caring community.

#### Local Housing News & Upcoming Events

**KDSB** is receiving a budgetary increase under the CHPI (Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative) to ensure that local emergency shelters are adequately funded.



**Week of Action Against Poverty** is February 12-18, 2017. Commit to an action or join in an activity to shine a light on the heart of our Kenora.



The **Kenora Managed Alcohol Program (MAP)** has been funded by the Northwest LHIN to provide a proven harm reduction program to those with severe alcohol addictions through the Morningstar Detox Centre.

The **Our Emerging Adults-Bringing Transitional Youth Into Community** conference is scheduled for Feb. 13. For further information 468-8888.



## Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation Campaign

### *Minto Summerfest*

On July 27, the annual neighbourhood picnic brought bubbles, a BBQ and a bike give away to the residents of the Minto housing complexes. Community partners including the OPP, Firefly, Treaty 3 Police Services, Triple Play, BBSS, Northwest Health Unit and the Kenora Fire department joined others in celebrating the day while providing useful information on local services. Children swarmed the firetruck and lined up for cotton candy in this family friendly event.



### *Street Picnics*

August's street picnics were well supported this year by many groups including St. Thomas Aquinas's Youth in Philanthropy Lakeside Baptist Youth Group, Kenora Metis Council, ONWA, Northwest Community Legal Clinic, Women In Black and Women's Place. The Freaky Green



Beetles kicked off the series and got the dancers up and celebrating while diners enjoyed a Southern BBQ. The following weeks included an Italian feast, a fresh fish fry and the traditional Thanksgiving dinner.



### *Gleaning Project*

KACL-Arts Hub teamed up with Making Kenora Home to collect surplus

produce at the conclusion of the Farmers' Market. Volunteers transported the food to local emergency food providers. This very successful initiative distributed an average of 12 boxes of fresh vegetables weekly to those in need of nutrition.

### *Stuff A Boat Foodraiser*

Kenora Fire Management Headquarters won the annual food-raiser competition. Together with the OPP, Kenora Fire Department, Ornge, Treaty 3 Police and Emergency Medical Service a total of 4,272 pounds of food and \$1,343.96 was donated to local food banks during the month of August.



Join us for the  
**MKH Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 7, 5 p.m.**  
**Northwest Community Legal Clinic**

*Reporting to the Community*

Check out our website at

[www.makingkenorahome.ca](http://www.makingkenorahome.ca)

For further information call Nan at the Northwest Community Legal Clinic 468-8888.

## 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*