

Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 1: April, 2012

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Nan Normand, secretary
Pieter Joubert
Peter MacDonald

Fay Clark, treasurer
Judy Underwood

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*

Thoughts of Nan

by Ralph Page

Recently there have been changes at *Making Kenora Home*. Nan Normand stepped down as co-chair in January 2012. I have been asked to write a few words about Nan who has been involved with *Making Kenora Home* from the very beginning of the process.

Nan was instrumental in ensuring that an organization (*Making Kenora Home*) emerged from public meetings which were held to deal with housing issues facing the community at the time. The issues at the time – the Adams Block fire, the Norman Hotel being torn down to build a condo, plus an increase in street people - were all on Nan's radar and motivated her, I think, to become so involved.

Nan Normand and Selen Alpay were the first two co-chairs of *Making Kenora Home* in 2006. I stepped in as a co-chair in 2007 when Selen moved to British Columbia. And Nan and I have been co-chairs ever since until last January.

Nan has worked tirelessly throughout and has always championed the cause for the most marginalized citizens in our community. Nan supported Elder Nancy Morrison in developing annual events, such as the annual Pancake

Breakfast, the summer street picnics and the Christmas Sharing Circle held at the Kenora Fellowship Centre.

In addition to being co-chair of *Making Kenora Home*, Nan was also very involved in establishing the Annual Week of Poverty events, as well as in the development of the booklets published each year by *Making Kenora Home*.

I think that *Making Kenora Home* would not be where it is today without Nan's involvement. When asked what did she take from her years as co-chair, Nan said, "Looking back, I delight in seeing the growth of *Making Kenora Home* as an organization. Being witness to community engagement has made it all very worthwhile. As well, the numerous incidents of individual, caring actions reinforced over and over again that people do care about others, want to be involved and want to make a difference."

While Nan has *stepped down* as a co-chair, she will still be on the Executive as Secretary, along with myself, Diane Pelletier the other Co-chair, and Fay Clark our Treasurer. And I am sure that we will continue to be inspired by Nan.



Nan at the booklet launch at Ho Jo's

Kenora Affordable Housing Project

On April 1st, two very happy families moved in to their new homes built by the *Kenora Affordable Housing Group*. To celebrate the completion of the first two (3-bedroom) housing units, Dufresne Furniture Store held an "appreciation day" on March 30th. There are 8 more (3-bedroom) housing units to be built for this project. The Kenora Affordable Housing Group (KAHG) wishes to thank those who contributed to fundraising activities behind this success - Making Kenora Home, Keystone Locks, Act Local, Bake sale, Cupcake Sale, Donation Containers, & individual donors.



Peter Maniconi (Dufresne's), Colette Surovy (KAHG), Don & Rita McCormick (Keystone Lock & Safe)

KAHG continues to work towards their goal of raising \$10,000 for appliances for the 3-bedroom units to match a donation by the Dufresne Charity Challenge. They are approximately halfway to their goal. Businesses are being approached to place donation boxes that look like miniature fridge and stove sets in

their establishments. Funding provided under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy fund through the United Way of Simcoe County will provide real refrigerators, stoves, washers, and dryers for a 7-unit Transitional Multiplex scheduled for completion by fall of 2012.

This project was made possible when Aamikkowiish Non-profit Housing and the Kenora Affordable Housing Group applied for and received 2.89 million dollars in funding from the First Nations, Inuit, Metis, Urban Rural (FIMUR) rental housing program. The units will be managed by Aamikkowiish

Non-profit Housing. A rent supplement agreement with the Kenora District Services Board for the ten 3-bedroom units will ensure that these homes are affordable for low income families.

This is a real local success story and Making Kenora Home congratulates all of the partners who are making it happen!

Donation Boxes

KAHG has created donation boxes that look like miniature fridges and stoves. They will be placed around town. Donations to these boxes will help match the \$10,000 donated by Dufresne Furniture to provide appliances for ten 3-bedroom family units. The project consists of a total of 17 new housing units in five separate structures:

- ◆ Six 3-bedroom units in three duplexes
- ◆ Four 3-bedroom units in one four-plex
- ◆ Seven transitional units in one multiplex

The rental supplement from the Kenora District Service Board (KDSB) will assist families on a long-term basis who will be living in the 3-bedroom units. The seven-unit multiplex is more for families in transition who will then be moving on to other housing once they get on their feet. They could move into one of the 3-bedroom units or into a house of their own.



Gingerbread Lane

Another successful Ginger-bread Lane with over 50 entries was held at the Jubilee Church Hall on December 3rd. We have Brenda Jorgensen and Patti Dryden Holmstrom to thank for the artful arrangements, and the 68 people who attended the event to thank for the nearly \$300 that was raised.

The Bethesda Mary Ruth group donated fruit breads and organized the kitchen for the tea. Volunteers included 6 students and a Japanese exchange student who found the gingerbread concept confusing but interesting. Special thanks to Marie Morrison who encouraged entries from diverse sources, Eva Acree whose cookies were the hit of the sales table and Mac's Angels who provided musical entertainment. Ginger and Snap, our dancing mascots, cavorted about with glee while Melanie Kozak kept the children's activities table busy with seasonal crafts.



Habitat for Humanity

Since July 2011 when the establishment of the Habitat for Humanity Kenora Chapter was announced, they have been very busy preparing and organizing for their first build in this community in 2012.

The family has been chosen, the land has been purchased and fundraising is underway.

The approximate cost of the build is \$125,000. Of this amount \$62,500 will come from *Gifts in Kind*, such as materials, products and labour. The other \$62,500 needs to be raised in cash. Support in the community has been outstanding and they are closing in on 50% of their goal. You will see volunteers selling

"shingles" for \$2 a piece at Canadian Tire and other locations throughout the month of April.

Habitat homes help working families who earn too much to be eligible for rent subsidies but not enough to own a home, by providing them with an affordable home at a mortgage rate they can afford, giving them a hand up, not a hand out. Mortgage payments are returned to the local Habitat account to finance future local builds.

If you want to help by donating *Gifts in Kind* or funds or want to help with fundraising contact Ralph Page (407-8978) or Thelma Wilkins-Page (547-2363) for more information

Week of Action Against Poverty

2012 Report

The week of February 12th was declared by Kenora Council to be the Week of Action Against Poverty for 2012. Most donations went towards the two housing builds scheduled for this year, namely the Habitat for Humanity build and the Kenora Affordable Housing Group's seventeen unit project for women in transition. Fund raising activities ranged from a pool tournament to a charity crafts sale to presentations to our local politicians. Actions seemed smaller in scale than in the past, but more personalized, and covered a broad spectrum ranging from lock systems, donated by Keystone Lock & Safe for the women's transitional units to hand-knitted items, courtesy of the Kenora Metis Warmth and Wellness Group, to a beauty makeover by Melanie for one of the moms attending the Minto Family Resource Centre. Of course concerts and cupcake sales also popped up through the community.

Keynote events included the Act Local concerts, the Poverty Challenge, the Homeless In Kenora Book Launch and Prayers from the Pulpit.

Each year there is a noted trend that emerges - this year it was donations made by persons who were not financially comfortable themselves. People receiving ODSP disability benefits

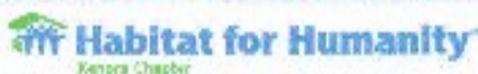
from the Ontario Disability Support Program worked at the Red Ribbon campaign and made their own donations to charities. Patrons of the Fellowship Centre offered to help other agencies in town with small tasks as a show of appreciation.

Media coverage remained excellent. To date there have been 13 articles in local newspapers and another 5 articles noted in local newsletters. These articles were communicated extensively to other communities, particularly after one article was picked up by the Huffington Post webnews. At that point we could no longer count postings. We were pleased to see Ontario Public Housing Association report on our activities. Within short order, Dan McNeil of the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) included comments on housing costs in Kenora as part of an interview on the higher costs in the north that are borne by the KDSB. There were also five radio spots reported and 9 Kenora online postings.

Making Kenora Home would like to thank everyone who participated and helped make the 2012 Week of Action Against Poverty a success and we look forward to seeing even more participation in 2013.



Support your Habitat for Humanity Chapter by donating items to the



ReStore

DROP-OFF CENTRE

Saturday, May 26, 2012

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

City of Kenora

Operations Centre

60, 14th Street North (Barsky's Hill)

The mobile Habitat ReStore is coming to town! Come support your local Habitat Chapter by donating items for resale by the Habitat ReStore.

Check your home, office, garage or warehouse for gently used, unwanted or discontinued items. We'll accept office furniture, tables, lamps, kitchen cupboards and building materials, to name just a few.

Please note the listings below for full details on item acceptability. A tax receipt will be provided for items with a market value of \$75 or more.

Come and drop in at the ReStore Drop-Off Centre and show your community support for Habitat for Humanity!

Trade donated by
Crestline Realty



ACCEPTABLE DONATIONS

- Appliances: Washers, Dryers, Stoves, Portable dishwashers (7 years or less)
- Antiques
- Bathtubs: Claw Foot, Jacuzzi (Whirlpool) (No hot tubs)
- Cabinets: Modular Component Units
- Car port (New Only Please)
- Windows - Up to 60" (No Sliding Glass)
- Doors
- Lighting Fixtures
- Kitchen Sinks
- Lumber: Clean, No Nails, 4 ft.
- New Molding
- Medicine Cabinets
- Plumbing Fixtures and Accessories
- Furniture: Dressers, Tables, Kitchen Chairs, etc.
- Hardware

NOT ACCEPTABLE DONATIONS

- Paint and Toxic Materials
- Used Carpet
- Used Beds and Mattresses
- Furniture, with any type of fabric
- Computers or Monitors
- Televisions
- Small Appliances
- Appliances that don't work
- Blinds or Components
- Housewares
- Fluorescent light Fixtures
- Used Windows over 6 ft.
- Lumber: with nails or under 4 ft.
- Shower Doors

