

Making Kenora HOME

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
FOR HOMELESSNESS

NEWSLETTER

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Kay'shi'daay'ing - Where We Live

Anticipation As Political Groundwork Develops

The work of local affordable housing advocates is beginning to shape the political landscape. Since spring we have received the Kenora Strategic Plan, the Official Plan/Zoning By-law Review (draft) and Keewatin Community Improvement Plan. In addition, Realizing the Dream-Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy has been released. Each document is a piece of the affordable housing puzzle and as they are fitted together, a picture emerges.

Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy encourages homelessness measurement, promises an update to the Affordable Housing Strategy and commits to enhancement of CHPI. Solidly, an additional \$65 million will be added to supportive housing. Another \$16 million will be used for housing partnerships leveraged between District Services Boards (DSB), Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and the Initiative for Affordable Housing (IAH). The IAH will be extended for another 5 years and will have an investment of \$400 million that will be matched by the federal government.

Kenora's Strategic Plan reported that enabling affordable housing is one of the community's top four priorities. The citizen consultation undertaken clearly spoke. In addition the City has set goals and corporate actions within this document to support affordable housing development. The draft Official Plan/Zoning By-law Review has included a new section on affordable housing and operationalizes the City's commitment with suggested planning incentives and direct supports.

The provincial strategy is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/home-and-community/realizing-our-potential-ontarios-poverty-reduction-strategy-2014-2019>. The municipal documents can be reviewed at <http://www.kenora.ca/cityhall/city-services/planning-property.aspx>.

Gleaning Project Looks for Sponsorship

For the last four years, the Gleaning Project has been sponsored by BDO under their Community Contribution Day program. After each farmer's market, volunteers check with the vendors for donations of leftover produce to local food banks. Hundreds of pounds of goods and fresh vegetables have been distributed through the Gleaning Project.

Pauline Palichuk reports that "The Gleaning Project is rewarding because food that might ordinarily be wasted is put to good use. The vendors are very generous and the freshness of the Farmer's Market's donations is certainly appreciated." As a corporation, BDO encourages community service through their policy that provides a paid work day for employees to act locally. "I think it's great because it shows BDO's social consciousness as an employer. Our employees find that participation is a good morale builder as we give back to the community together."



BDO Volunteers-The Gleaning Project

After initiating and facilitating the Gleaning Project to its present status, the community committee has decided that it is time for a change as they focus on their community endowment fund. Again, BDO's corporate office steps up to match all of the staff contributions to the fund. A new project year is the Spaghetti Dinner scheduled for October 8, 5-7 pm at the curling club. Advance tickets are available from BDO (adult \$10, child \$5). The Fellowship Centre and Salvation Army will be the beneficiaries of this fundraising event. Change always brings mixed feelings and although the new activities are exciting, there is sadness attached to saying goodbye to the Gleaning Project. They hope that another organization will step up to continue the work that they began and encourage other groups to consider committing for 2015's market season. For further details, contact Nan Normand at 468-8888.



Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

August's annual campaign launched with Mintofest- the neighbourhood festival that promotes community integration. As usual the Circus Kids, live music and cotton candy set the pace for booths providing local program information. Stuff-A-Boat expanded into a weekly competition between emergency service providers as they collected food and cash donations for local food banks. Although The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services, Kenora Fire Management Services took home the trophy, the community won with the receipt of \$2636.31 and 960 kg of food donated to alleviate hunger. In addition, the LOWDH staff did a workplace drive and the Kenora Labour Council collected money at their Labour Day event to benefit local soup kitchens. The summer street picnics were anticipated events with live music, excellent dining and camaraderie. The campaign finished with the Thanksgiving Feast on August 30.

Check out new items on our website-

www.makingkenorahome.ca

Join us for the
MKH Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 5 p.m.
Northwest Community Legal Clinic
Reporting to the Community

Project Homefind Launched

The Kenora Fellowship Centre is pleased to be the recipient of funding through the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Outreach Communities Initiative and United Way of Greater Simcoe County for Project Homefind which will build on their transitional project and create a community measurement protocol. There will be a community presentation on October 28, 7 p.m. at Minis Hall with Iain DeJong of OrgCode as the keynote speaker. Mr. DeJong has received multiple awards for his work with affordable housing and homelessness initiatives across North America. His measurement tools are being used by the provinces of Alberta and Newfoundland as well as several states and in cities as part of their homelessness strategies.

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*