

**Our Housing-Scape Update**

An advantage to small town living is that it is fairly easy to separate the talkers from the doers. All you have to do is watch.

A hot topic during our recent municipal election was housing and many candidates, including those elected, spoke about the housing needs in Kenora and made promises about filling the large housing gaps that exist in our city. It helps that the federal government recently announced a National Housing Strategy which invests significant money into much needed social housing across the country and making sure our community is designated to receive a share of that funding will need to be a priority for the new council. As well, the national strategy requires matching provincial funding and the Ontario government's position on this topic is still not clear. It will need the attention of the new city council to ensure that housing supports from both levels of upper government are invested here in Kenora.



*Jennifer McKibbon, Co-Chair*  
*Diane Pelletier, Co-Chair*  
*Nan Normand, Secretary*  
*Keith Myshkowsky, Treasurer*

<i>Deborah Jonassen</i>	<i>Jen Carlson</i>
<i>Gord Day-Janz</i>	<i>Betty Getson</i>
<i>Judy Underwood</i>	<i>Adam Ward</i>

The housing gaps in Kenora are not just in social housing and appear across the housing spectrum from an emergency shelter to transitional housing to rental housing to market homes. It is encouraging that the coming year will see the opening of the new emergency shelter in the Knox United Church building that will provide 24/7 access to shelter and food along with programming to support the homeless and vulnerable in their journey to wellness.

Appropriate and culturally safe housing for those from other communities who find themselves in Kenora as part of the court system are being developed and improved in the city. Council will have to resist efforts by the NIMBY folks and approve the required zoning changes this critically necessary housing requires while there is the funding and the will among agencies and government to get it done.

A growing gap in affordable housing for seniors and families continues to be an important need and Kenora Non-Profit Housing Corp is working to develop a new multi unit building to meet it but the project is in its infancy with many hurdles ahead that threaten the possibility. Council will need to continue to do their part to ensure the hurdles they have control over are overcome and we see a much needed new affordable apartment building built in Kenora.

Housing Forums in the region – both recently in Sioux Lookout and planned for Kenora in November – are bringing together keen minds and research to identify housing options, gaps and solutions for small northern communities like Kenora and bodes well for the potential of the coming years – as we watch the new council make good on their campaign promises to take a leadership role in filling the gaps in the housing needs in Kenora.

## Local Housing Projects Progress

Sometimes we are so busy focusing on needs that we forget to celebrate the progress made. Here are our local good news stories:

1. Habitat for Humanity is nearing completion of its third family home build in Kenora.
2. Kenora's fulltime emergency shelter will be operating by February. The great news is how the community has woked together to fill the temporary services gap.
3. After years of struggling to meet the needs of those in the community on bail bonds, KDSB and the Ne-Chee Centre have taken over operation of the Northland and will be constructing supportive housing that better meets the needs of this population. This is another example of community collaboration to enhance local services.



## Minto Summerfest

Bringing services to the neighbourhood, 13 agencies provided information and resources to the Minto neighbourhood during the annual Summerfest held August 21. Live music by Jesse McIsaac and tasty refreshments kept the event festive. Over 250 burgers were served up and the cotton candy spun out to the delight of the kids. This year, the event finished up with lawn races to promote physical well being.

## Summer Street Picnics

A series of street picnics helped our more marginalized citizens celebrate summer. Live music by Jacob Boutwell and Alisha Morphet lifted spirits while delicious feasts reminded participants of better times. The Ladies in Black and Lakeside Baptist joined other volunteers in providing fine dining.



## Stuff-A-Boat Food Raiser

Treaty 3 Police took home the top honours in their efforts to food-raise for local emergency food suppliers. Other participants include MNR & Kenora Fire Crew Services, Kenora EMS and the OPP. The total donations tallied up 2572 pounds of food and \$2328.54 in cash. K-Sports provided the big boat for storing donations.



*It's Coming (so start planning)....*

## Week of Action Against Poverty

February 10—16, 2019

For more information call Nan at 807-468-8888

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

[Making Kenora Home](#) (facebook community)

### 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*