

You are Invited!

MennoHomes Inc.  
2009 Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, November 25, 2009  
Elmira Mennonite Church  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

“Reflections on Gratitude and Celebration!”

### *Benefit Concert*

Come and enjoy Menno Valley Sound at the Healing Barn  
1433 Berletts Road, St. Agatha  
Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 7 p.m.  
Bring a chair if you can.  
Freewill offering. Proceeds to MennoHomes.

### *Ride for Affordable Housing*

There will be a MennoHomes Ride for Affordable Housing on Sunday afternoon, October 25. 66 kms to raise \$66,000. The 22 km route runs from 50 Kent Ave (MCC Offices), along the Iron Horse Trail to Laurelwood and Beringer Road in Waterloo adjacent to Laurel Conservation Area, and return. Three loops will be 66 kms.

All riders are welcome, whatever the distance you choose to ride. Those wishing to explore participation as riders, please contact Martin Buhr of MennoHomes at 519-578-5546 or email: pama@sympatico.ca

Already committed to ride are participants from the following churches: Breslau (Lily Hiebert Rempel & Eric Rempel), Crosshill (Jamie Gerber), Floradale (Fred Redekop), Rockway (Brian Hunsberger), St. Agatha (Jenn White), St. Jacobs (Oscar Weber and team), Stirling (Ron Rempel), Wannars (Dale Cressman) and Waterloo North (Boyd & Elaine Snider & Peggy Snyder); also Martin Buhr of the MennoHomes Board who plans to ride the full distance.



# MennoHomes Inc.

a response to need for affordable housing

Fall 2009

## Give God the Glory!

Old Colony construction crews and leaders, MennoHomes Board members, and MCC reps met for prayer and devotions on Friday, September 4 at 7:30 a.m. in Wellesley. Everyone was reminded to remain faithful to God.

The construction project on this Labour Day weekend was blessed with glorious sunshine and an overall desire to work together. The construction crews with over 30 men from Aylmer and Niagara worked long and continuously Friday and Saturday and then came back again on Monday morning to fulfill their commitment to framing and roofing 2 semi houses. In addition, the Old Colony leaders provided and served the noon meal and snacks for the work crews.

Imagine taking a time off without pay so that you could volunteer on the work site or help your spouse prepare home cooked wholesome meals and deliver them to the worksite. Attitudes of humility, generosity and service were prevalent throughout the entire weekend of the “barnraising blitz” in Wellesley.

So what was the motivation? “A desire to praise God as we worked together and through these efforts wanting to give God the glory”.

Lily Hiebert-Rempel  
MCC Representative



September 4, 2009



September 22, 2009

## **Can You Help Us Raise \$133,000 more?**

To meet its funding requirements, MennoHomes has to contribute \$528,000. With \$128,000 already in hand, the fundraising goal is \$400,000. So far, we've received \$187,000 in cash and pledges. Together with sweat equity (\$80,000) we have a total of \$267,000.

*Left to raise is \$133,000.*

*Some suggestions for designating your \$'s:*

*Sponsor Appliances!*

Furnish a set of Energy Star-rated Stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer. Estimated value \$2,000 for all four. Consider sponsoring one appliance for \$500 – or all four for \$2,000.

*Sponsor a Bedroom!*

Each unit will have four bedrooms. You can sponsor a bedroom for \$20,000. or, maybe pledge a gift of \$10,000 over two years.

*Ride For Affordable Housing  
Information on back cover.*

*Menno Valley Sound Fundraiser  
Information on back cover.*

*Or,  
Offer yourself, labour or materials  
through “Barnraising Ideas”!*

- General Labourers for:
- Drywall
- Finish carpentry
- General cleanups
- Painting
- Landscaping/Sod

*You can help through a one time gift or a pledge for each of the next three years.*

Here is my:  
Gift enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge for 2009 \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge for 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge for 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Gift in kind \_\_\_\_\_  
(such as land, house, building for conversion to housing)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return pledge & donation to:

MennoHomes Inc.  
50 Kent Ave.  
Kitchener, ON  
N2G 3R1

For further information:  
Contact: Martin Buhr 519 578-5546  
Or, pama@sympatico.ca

## “Menno Synergies”

When MennoHomes was founded, a corporate name was chosen that was to represent the many and varied pieces of the Mennonite constituency. The hope of the founders was that the corporate brand would reflect the co-operation evident at the time of its founding and, with time, continue to draw the many positive and creative forces in the Mennonite sphere together in a collective and unified response to the need for affordable housing.

As MennoHomes begins its Wellesley project, it is with profound gratitude that the “Menno synergies” prayed for and hoped for can be seen materializing in ways that cause us to celebrate.

For example, with the Wellesley “barnraising” we can identify the following constituent pieces working together, as a synergetic force for good:

- MennoHomes Inc
- MCC Ontario and its constituent churches
- Mennonite Foundation of Canada
- Mennonite Savings and Credit Union
- MAX Canada
- Old Colony Mennonite Church
- Conservative Mennonite Church
- Canadian Mennonite

And on October 24 a local band, Menno Valley Sound, will perform a fundraising concert in support of our latest project.

A special thanks to everyone involved. The hopes and prayers of the founding board are becoming a powerful reality of the Christian church in action.

Martin Buhr  
President  
MennoHomes Inc.



Thanks to MAX Canada, Mennonite Foundation of Canada and Mennonite Savings and Credit Union for sponsoring the suppers on Friday, September 4 and Saturday, September 5, 2009 for the “Barnraising” Build in Wellesley.

## Good News Story

The “Special Needs Fund” is used to assist tenants during difficult times. How it is used varies and is at the discretion of the Community Worker with approval from the Board.

The availability of this fund was most helpful to a 60 year old woman living in one of our facilities. She took a retraining course after being unemployed for some time. She was still unable to obtain employment after completing this course. When she fell behind in her rent payments, I met with her to see if we could come up with a plan to avoid eviction.

She was ineligible for Ontario Works as the amount she was collecting from Canada Pension Plan was about the same amount as the benefit she could receive as a single person with no dependants. Needless to say, she had a major shortfall each month to meet her living expenses. We arranged an interest free loan from the Special Needs Fund, as she did not want a free hand-out, to pay for one month’s rent while she continued to seek employment.

Now she is employed. Beginning at minimum wage, she has worked up to a management level. She has repaid almost the full amount of her loan, planning to make her last payment soon.

Because of the Special Needs Fund, this woman was able to stay in her home with her dignity intact.

Karen Lebold  
Community Worker  
MennoHomes Inc.

### *Response to MennoHomes and MCC request for Billets!*

We wish to thank the fourteen billets who so generously offered their homes and breakfast for Friday, September 4, 2009. All of the Old Colony Low German Speaking men were billeted by friends and relatives in Crosshill, so our homes were not needed.

- Lily Hiebert-Rempel, MCC, Dorene Rudy-Snyder, MennoHomes