

BUILDING OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

OUR MISSION

As stewards of a one-of-a-kind space, The Mount Community Centre contributes to well-being by increasing access to housing, food and community services.

MAY
2020



Campaign Co-Chairs
Neil Hamilton & Kate Ramsay

KEEPING CONNECTED & INFORMED

Despite the restrictions to our lives over these past months, we are heartened by the signs of spring at The Mount Community Centre. The good news that the government has allowed work in community gardens has given tenants and volunteers at TMCC an opportunity for a welcome break from isolation. We know of the incredible health benefits of being outdoors – getting outside, with a purpose, provides joy in an otherwise challenging time. We are grateful too for the volunteers who have been on the grounds for (socially distanced) property maintenance, including helping to relocate our rose bushes so construction could commence, and further bring the vision of TMCC to life.

TMCC has been fortunate to be a partner in Shared Dreams – a residential project to provide a space to live on their own, with dignity, for five individuals with a combination of physical challenges and developmental delays. We are excited to share that the Shared Dreams units are now complete, and we look forward to our new tenants moving in in the near future.

Just prior to the pandemic, construction began on five lower level housing units at TMCC. As an essential service, the housing construction was allowed to continue, though in a more restricted manner. Thank you to all parties

involved with construction, you are helping us move closer to providing these units to individuals in need.

Plans for the veranda rebuild are ongoing, despite a delay experienced as a result of the pandemic. We are optimistic that we'll soon be able to renew these distinctive features and provide critical access to TMCC.

This 'quieter' time has provided us the opportunity to focus on raising the profile of The Mount Community Centre in the greater community. Through social media, we have been focusing on various areas, programs and people at TMCC and it has been noticed by local media as well. If you do not follow us on social media, we encourage you to seek us out on Instagram (@tmcc_campaign), Facebook (@TheMountCommunityCentre) and Twitter (@TheMountPtbo).

On behalf of the TMCC Board and Campaign Cabinet, we want to express our appreciation to the staff and volunteers who continue to support the tenants and maintain momentum for the vision of TMCC – especially during these unpredictable times. We wish you and your families health and safety!



Staying Positive and Finding Happiness in Difficult Times

Being isolated during this pandemic is not fun and, with social distancing measures, it's easy for people to become lonely and stressed. But, what better place to be than outdoors and away from others than in your own backyard and gardens. And that's what Ken Johnson, residential tenant and volunteer at TMCC, has been doing to fill his days.

In 2016, Andi van Koeverden, Director of Strategic Advancement, approached Ken to help with some projects. "Ken is a valuable part of our volunteer team and has contributed so much to the property," beamed Andi. Being active and outdoors, volunteering gives him a sense of well-being, as well as satisfaction, and he feels sharing his skills and experience with others and giving back to his community is not only a good thing to do but it is also incredibly rewarding.

Ken says that he started volunteering as a way to keep busy, and find meaning and purpose in his life. He believes that sharing his skills and experience with others and giving back to his community is not only a good thing to do but it is also incredibly rewarding. "One of the best things about volunteering at TMCC is meeting the other volunteers," says Ken. As a member of 'The Crew', a team of regular volunteers with a variety of skills and work experience, Ken helps with painting, stripping hardwood floors, and renovating rooms.

"Ken is a tireless volunteer. With a 10-acre property and a building to care for, there are dozens of landscaping and gardening tasks to accomplish," says Dianne Nielsen, Community Garden Coordinator at TMCC. "Ken's sense of humour and his willingness to pitch in, make him a "go to" guy, whenever I need help. His laughter is infectious and he can bring a smile to anyone's face."

Recently, tenants at TMCC wanted a place where they could meet and enjoy the peaceful scenery. Ken created a space using found treasures from the Mount property. He calls it "an eclectic, Medieval, Norseman themed space" for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Ken's work at TMCC is just one of the reasons why he was given the City of Peterborough's a Civic Award for Volunteerism last year. Ken is humble about the award saying "I'm not here for awards, I'm here to help and I am one of many TMCC volunteers that give up their time and energy for the love of what we do and where we live."

Everyone has their own way of coping and staying positive, constructive and finding happiness during this difficult time. By volunteering at The Mount Community Center and reflecting on the positives in his life, Ken feels less overwhelmed and stressed by this present world event.

Written by Nancy Sharpe, TMCC Director of Communications



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Remembering Bill Pyle

The Mount Community Centre (TMCC) mourns the loss of a champion volunteer with the passing of Bill Pyle on March 19, 2020.

As a commercial realtor, Bill would frequently work on developments with my clients. I learned he was an honourable, compassionate man of high integrity and a genuinely nice person who was respected by all those who worked with him. Bill battled thyroid cancer for most of the time I knew him. He handled this with courage and faith. He never focused on his illness, instead chose to focus on the goodness of others.

Our careers overlapped once again when Bill was retained to sell the former Mount St. Joseph on behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Several years after the Sisters sold the property, Bill was called upon to assist in the sale of the property to the Peterborough Poverty Reduction Network (PPRN) which would later transfer it to TMCC.

I often joked with Bill that with his significant experience we needed him on the TMCC Board. While he couldn't join the Board while we were finalizing the purchase of the property, Bill was recruited to join the Board soon after and started contributing immediately. I was always impressed with his commitment, the extent of his contribution and the respect that he showed to everyone.

Bill's professional expertise assisted the project in many ways including property values, leasing, building maintenance and more. His contributions were huge and had a direct impact on the strategic direction adopted by TMCC.

He will be missed as a strong advocate for TMCC vision and providing safe and affordable housing for all. He will be remembered as a person of strong faith and commitment to family. I will remember him as a good man and a friend.

Reflections by Steve Kylie, TMCC Board Chair

BUILDING OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN FORM

Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. _____

Address: _____

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themountcampaign.ca

☐ YES! I AM INTERESTED IN BUILDING OPPORTUNITY

☐ I wish to support the Campaign through a gift of:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other: _____

Payable by cheque to The Mount Community Centre

☐ I would like to speak to someone about supporting the Campaign

☐ I am interested in a tour of TMCC

☐ I am interested in volunteering for the Campaign

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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