



## The Value of Interdependence

There has been a literal “buzz” around the Ray of Hope Community Centre for the past couple of weeks - the buzz of saws, pounding of nails and drilling of screws which is all part of our Community Centre renovation project. In partnership with the Waterloo Region Home Builders’ Association (WRHBA) and their members like Conestoga College, we are well on our way to redeveloping the Centre’s physical space into something that will bless our friends and guests.

“By upgrading our facilities, we’re ensuring that our community will have access to safe, quality care for many years to come. It will give us the opportunity to expand our core services, and add a mix of new programming to meet the ever-changing needs of our community.” – Ken Wideman, Manager of Volunteer Services

The Conestoga College Women in Skilled Trades (WIST) students worked week one on the project and did an outstanding job in setting up their counterparts – 2<sup>nd</sup> year Renovation Technician students who were eager to get the work underway and continue on schedule. As the Reno Tech students worked throughout the week they completed the balance of the framing, witnessed the Electrical and HVAC subtrades in action, finished sound insulation to office walls, completed drywall install, dealt with the inevitable renovation surprises and are now in the middle of the time consuming drywall mudding and taping as they prepare the walls for paint.

The students, along with WRHBA member representatives, are building a reception area, dedicated offices for staff, and two program areas. When completed, these first few pieces of the Master Renovation Plan will allow for better engagement of visitors and volunteers upon entering the Centre and more flexibility in what program space can be offered to our regular smaller groups. When the entire renovation project is complete, the Community Centre will be able to offer our friends and guests a spacious food room and storage area to help distribute 12,000+ food hampers annually; an expanded certified kitchen where 200+ daily meals will be served directly through a new servery; a big and bright dining room with enough space to use round tables and a retracting wall which creates the drop-in area; lots of usable storage space, as well as family and accessible washrooms.

“One of the values we have at Ray of Hope is interdependence, accomplishing so much more when we work together with people who have complementary skills. That is why we are so excited to have this partnership with WRHBA and Conestoga College, knowing that the work being done will help us to create space for more partnerships where we can serve our community together.” – Harry Whyte, CEO

For further information on Ray of Hope and/or WRHBA please visit: [www.rayofhope.net](http://www.rayofhope.net) - [www.wrhba.com](http://www.wrhba.com) - [www.renomark.ca](http://www.renomark.ca).

*Since 1946, the Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association (WRHBA) has been "the voice of residential development and construction industry"—one of the most vital and enterprising industries in Canada. WRHBA represents over 220 member*

### Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association

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*companies comprised of all disciplines involved in residential construction. WRHBA is built on a vision to be a leader in supporting our industry by fostering a vital membership through advocacy, resource sharing and education and in its commitment to improve new housing affordability and choice for new home purchasers and renovation consumers through positively impacting legislation, regulation and policy that affect the industry at all levels of government.*

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