

NEWS RELEASE

Mountain Haven Cooperative Homes Ltd. Gets Ready to Move the First Families In by the End of August

Canmore, Alberta, August 1, 2008 – Mountain Haven Cooperative Homes Ltd. will soon reach it's final goal of providing affordable housing to families currently living in Canmore. The first set of families is scheduled to move in to their new homes on August 23, 2008 with another 9 to follow on September 1st. Staged Occupancy was acquired, to allow families to move in to their buildings as they were completed. The cooperative will be fully occupied by October 31st.

Mountain Haven Cooperative Homes was born of the need for safe, appropriate, affordable and stable housing in the Bow Valley for full time residents. The membership includes several local teachers; entrepreneurs; mountain guides; health care workers; trades people – many of whom have been living in Canmore for several years – waiting for this affordable opportunity.

The Membership had input from the very beginning in regard to the design and development of the housing cooperative. They ensured that prominent environmental and sustainable features were included and that all aspects of the philosophy were met.

The co-operative has forty-three stacked townhouse units in seven buildings ranging in size from one to four bedrooms and 700 to 1500 square feet. The Perpetually Affordable Housing is located on land in Three Sisters leased from the Canmore Community Housing Corporation. There are twelve Non-Equity (rent-to-own) units and 31 Equity (for sale) units. The members felt that having a mix of equity and non-equity would help the broadest selection of Canmore residents and encourage families to remain in the Bow Valley.

Donna Kubista, mother of fourth-generation Canmorite children, who works in management at the Canmore Hospital is the Chairperson for MHCH. In 1996 she Co-founded the initiative which led to the creation of the Mountain Haven Cooperative (PAH) which was incorporated in 2003. “It’s a David and Goliath story” says Donna, “We’re a grass roots effort and we’ve faced a lot of obstacles. We’ve always pulled together as a community and we’ve done everything we’ve been asked to do. It’s extremely gratifying to see our vision come to life and the concept of perpetually affordable housing be embraced by the Town Of Canmore.”

(more)

(Mountain Haven Cooperative Homes Ltd. continued...)

With the generous help and support of consultants Lynn Hanley, Pam Iriye and Brian Scott from Communitas, (a company that builds housing cooperatives), Cleo Prelwitz and The Canmore Community Housing Corporation, the Town of Canmore, Alberta Seniors Housing, many community volunteers and a group of very hard working and dedicated members, not only will Donna finally be moving into the concept she helped start so long ago, but so will 42 other families.

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