

EXCITING CHANGES ARE HAPPENING AT SHOW!!

While changes can sometimes be hard and present challenges, they are also a time to look back and see all that has been accomplished and achieved.

Your support means the world to us. Which is why, we wanted to share with you some important news. Gael Gilbert, SHOW's Executive Director, has announced her retirement after 10 years at SHOW.

If you have worked with Gael, you know she is so passionate about the organization and the work your donations have supported. Although Gael will be missed tremendously – by our Board, staff, tenants, and volunteers – she has no doubt left her mark at SHOW.

Beyond her awards, accolades, and professional accomplishments, she has created true friendships and relationships with many of our tenants. She is often the first one they meet, helping them navigate their journey to their new home. It is because of Gael each of our tenants is welcomed to SHOW with all the necessities that they need including a brand-new bed complete with linens, groceries to get them started, and a teddy bear and chocolate to comfort them as they settle into their new home.

We know you, like all of us, will miss her dearly. But, we also know you, like all of us, will continue to support those in our community who so desperately need access to supportive and affordable housing. Gael had this to say about her time with SHOW -

"It has been 10 years I'm incredibly proud of, however my accomplishments and the milestones SHOW has achieved would not be possible without the unwavering support of SHOW's Board of Directors, the dedicated staff, and our generous donors and volunteers. It has been a true honour to work alongside all these



Gael Gilbert became the Executive Director of SHOW in 2011



Gael getting ready to get her hands dirty prepping a unit for a new tenant



Gael and Program Manager, Brian Paul accepting the 2017 Sybil Frenette Award for Outstanding Housing Creator

individuals. I will also carry a special spot in my heart for many of the tenants and individuals that were housed by SHOW."

In working closely with the Board of Directors, Gael hopes to transition to retirement by the end of 2021 or early 2022. Gael has committed to helping onboard and support the new Executive Director to ensure a smooth transition and the very best for SHOW's tenants, staff, donors, and volunteers.

If you have any questions at all, please let us know. And please be assured that your donations and support will continue to help individuals in KW access supportive and affordable housing.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT: AL HAYES

With you by our sides, we said goodbye to two longstanding board members this past August. In fact, through support from our generous donors, we were able to raise over \$5,000 to establish the Mark Crowell and Tim Sothern Tenant Wellbeing Fund. It is now time for SHOW to welcome a new President to our Board: Al Hayes.

Many of you will know Al, he has been an active member of our community for many years. He brings to SHOW a wealth of community knowledge, his time on the Chamber of Commerce chairing the Physician Recruitment Committee to his past Presidency of Rotary Waterloo, his activism with various fundraising initiatives within our community, and his long-time employment with WalterFedy.

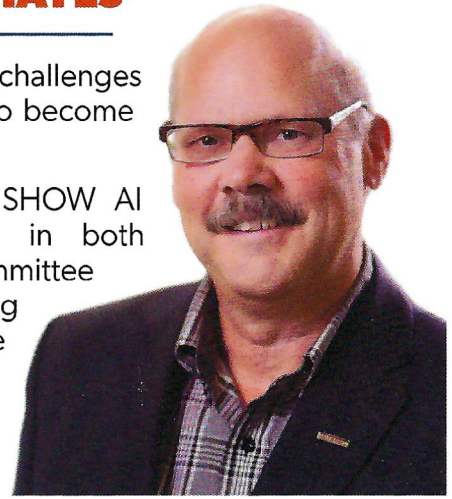
It was through his connections at Rotary Waterloo, and his volunteerism with his fellow Rotarian's that he was able to connect with several of SHOW's tenants. Al remembers hearing a tenant speak at a Rotary meeting about what it meant to be low-income with limited access to suitable housing in the Waterloo Region, Al was disheartened to learn that so many

were facing the same challenges and he was moved to become involved

During his time at SHOW Al has been involved in both the Housing Committee and the Fundraising Committee, where he has given both his time and expertise to assist SHOW in addressing the need for affordable housing options.

Al believes that both the private and public sector need to work collaboratively to ensure that community services and supports don't become beyond the reach of the average person.

SHOW staff and tenants are looking forward to forming a closer connection with Al as he moves into this new role and are excited for the new perspectives and outlooks that come with new leadership.



A TENANTS PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT SHOW MEANS TO THEM

Life circumstances are not always kind, one never knows when disaster will strike or when everything we know is about to change. Sometimes choices are not our own and we end up living a life we never thought possible.

I was one of the lucky ones. I had a wonderful childhood, a loving family and I grew up with all the confidence and self-worth necessary to lead a happy and successful life.

All that changed as I passed my first 1/2 century on this planet. In quick succession I lost my first-born son, I lost my wife, and then my home.

To become homeless is to lose everything. Losing your possessions is the easiest part of all that. What's hard is the loss of self, your confidence, your dignity, everything you spent your life building disappears.

The experience of homelessness can be utterly dehumanizing, and for someone with no experience of street life and culture, can be profoundly traumatic.

When I was accepted at SHOW all of that changed. I had my own space again. I had my own life again and was finally able to start grieving my losses. SHOW has let me do all that and more. There is always someone to talk to if I need to talk. We have our own little community, and we try to support each other as much as we can.

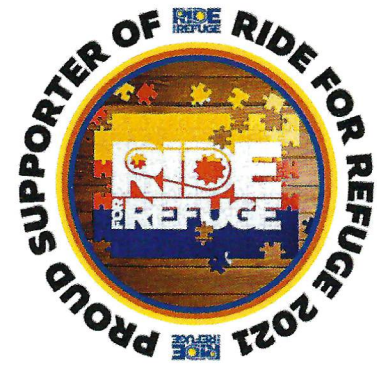
My hope is that those who support us will read these words and come to understand that although we're all responsible for our own lives, our society has cracks. And, God forbid you fall into one of these cracks, you would be very lucky to end up in a place like SHOW.

RIDE FOR REFUGE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS

This was SHOW's 4th year participating in Ride for Refuge and its shaping into our best year yet!

For those of you that rode with us on October 2nd, we want to thank you! With more than 9 teams, and 125 unique donations the impact of your support was deeply felt.

Along with our participants and donors, we also had support from various community organizations with our 2021 Ride for Refuge Campaign.



At RLB, we are more than accountants. We are people who believe that trust built through strong relationships is the foundation for growth. Our team will help guide you through all stages of your business with services like Accounting, Tax Planning, Business Valuation, Business Planning, HR Consulting, Estate & Trust, and Bookkeeping services.

We are thrilled to support SHOW during this year's "Ride for Refuge." After another challenging year facing a pandemic, we know now more than ever the importance of having a safe home to turn to. The work that SHOW does to provide housing and education to the vulnerable population is crucial.



For over 25 years among organizations across Ontario, Wilmot Technologies has provided leading technology consulting, support, deployment and infrastructure expertise. Both commercial and retail, local and provincial, rely on Wilmot Technologies to help them meet their particular Information Technology challenges as they adapt to the digital economy.

Daily we see the great work SHOW provides to our community. It is great to see an organization take the well being of its members both from a comfort and technical level. In today's technology driven world, everyone at the SHOW facilities feels they have the chance to be connected.



G.R. Garrity Appliance Services Ltd. has been proud to provide service and parts for a wide variety of commercial businesses, with an even wider variety of cooking appliances, in Guelph, the Tri-Cities and beyond for over 30 years. We have been family owned and operated from the start and pride ourselves on our honesty and integrity, and firmly believe that you'll see the difference when you choose our company.

We are happy to support different organizations within our community, and when we were given the opportunity to be part of the wonderful work Supportive Housing is doing by sponsoring the Ride for Refuge, we were thrilled to be in a position to contribute to their cause. We would like to thank Supportive Housing for all they do for the members of our community who need it most.

A big thank you to everyone that supported our 2021 Ride for Refuge Campaign – we wouldn't be so successful without support from people like you!!



BY THE NUMBERS!!

While we may not have all the final numbers for a couple weeks yet, we can't help but get excited for all you helped us accomplish during this year's Ride for Refuge!!!

- 9 = The # of teams that participated
- 29 = The # of participants
- 129 = The # of donors
- \$16,000+ = Funds raised so far!!!

WHAT DOES YOUR DINING ROOM TABLE MEAN TO YOU?

As you enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday with your families and friends, please take a moment to think about all of the tenants at SHOW that are so thankful, everyday, for the support that you provide. Whether it's a donation of hygiene items, a snack for tenants to share, or a donation to our Tenant Wellbeing Support Fund, those supports mean everything to us and our tenants.

As rents increase in our community, often outpacing incomes, many community members are facing homelessness. Seniors, people often with no support system, continuously fall through the cracks in our very



fractured housing system. Neither CPP nor ODSP have kept pace with the cost of living, and as a landlord I would find it enormously difficult to have to tell an 80-year-old he must choose between eating or paying rent. Affordable housing is a very large part of the answer.

While showing units at 144 Erb, I often hear comments about the amount of downsizing that will be required

for some to move into a SHOW unit "Where will I put my dining room table...?" was a question I heard numerous times. For so many of us, the table is where the family gathers for meals, the place where holidays are celebrated, a place where memories are made - and most recently, the place where many of us are working as we stay safe from COVID-19.

As I wrote that piece, sitting at my own dining room table I had a light bulb moment. One of the spaces being renovated at 144 Erb Street East was intended to be used as a staff/meeting room - what if, instead of installing desks and chairs, we installed a dining room table? And what if the shelves were stocked with all the required essentials to host a dinner? A plan began to take shape. Rather than a conventional office we will renovate that space as a room that tenants can reserve to host family dinners, holidays, and celebrations with staff using it as the need arises.

Staff at SHOW look forward to this time next year, when the renovations are all completed, to see our tenants creating new memories, happy moments, and traditions in their shared dining room and to sharing pictures with you as the renovations happen.

You can count on my support for SHOW!

FALL21 - 943

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

I wish to donate: \$100 \$50 \$30 Other _____

I wish to pay by: cheque VISA Mastercard

Name on Card: _____ CSH# _____

Credit Card #: _____ Expiry date: _____

Cheques are payable to Supportive Housing of Waterloo. Gifts of \$10.00 or more will be receipted for income tax purposes and are also accepted online at:

Showaterloo.org or at showthewayhome.org



Want to read about the impact of your support direct to your e-mail inbox? Simply visit www.showaterloo.org and fill out the form in the "Contact Us" section.