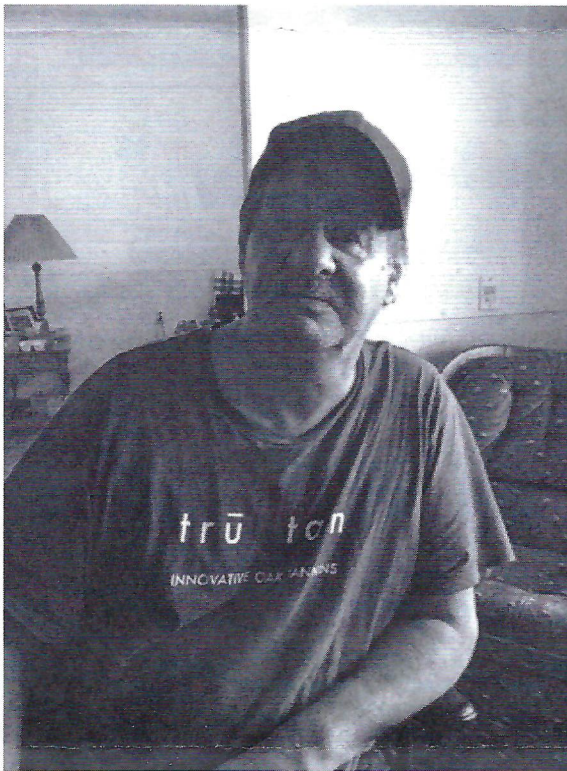


From Desperation to Hope Renewed

Gael Gilbert,
SHOW Executive Director

Three of our units at SHOW are deemed “accessible”, meaning that someone using a mobility device, a walker or wheelchair can be accommodated. The demand for such space far outstrips availability which is most unfortunate. Given the multitude of supports often required by the tenants in these units, determining whom we can house can be difficult.



Our newest tenant, Michael, moved into an accessible unit in February. His story, like so many, is filled with heartbreak, challenges, and desperation. He was the 13th of 14 children, born to a family in northern Ontario. His family life was filled with abuse and addictions, and the moment he turned 16 he escaped, or as he said “when the police could no longer force me to return home”.

Michael made his way south, and secured a job in a factory, married, raised a son and lived what appeared to be a typical life. The demons of his past though followed him, and alcohol soon became the numbing agent.

Twenty-seven years of marriage could not trump the addiction issues, so he left his home and pursued a treatment program. Five years of sobriety ended when Joe felt the weight of loneliness descend, and inebriation again followed.

Winter is unkind, and never more so than for someone who has given up on living. Michael passed out in a snowbank, having decided that there was no point to surviving any longer. When he awoke, he was in hospital minus both legs and a hand. Had it not been for the support of two community outreach workers, who visited him every day, Michael would have given up entirely. What followed was a placement in a nursing home where his physical needs could be cared for but not yet his emotional needs. In fact, his three roommates were all quite dysfunctional and the loneliness he had been

experiencing worsened. It was one of those remarkable outreach workers (and a past tenant of SHOW) who brought him to our attention and introduced us to Michael. It has been six weeks now since he moved in, six weeks since I watched him sob in his wheelchair, tears of joy, that he now had a home where he could live with dignity and a community of tenants and staff who would all ensure that he felt accepted.

There are days when I find my role challenging, and then there are the days that make it all worthwhile, knowing that we can make the difference between hope and despair. In the end, SHOW is all about helping those who have given up – or have been given up on – to find stability and happiness.





Brenda Halloran Joins SHOW

SHOW is delighted to announce that former Mayor Brenda Halloran has joined the Board of Directors, as of January 2015. Ms. Halloran's commitment to ensuring housing for all in our community, her desire to have services available in Waterloo, her deep passion for service, and her wealth of knowledge are a tremendous gift to SHOW and to the larger community. We look forward to her many contributions in the coming years.

SHOW Board of Directors

Barry Cull, Chair

Tim Sothern, Treasurer

David Sunday, Secretary

Michael Schmitt, Vice Chair

Horace Coelho

Mark Crowell

Brenda Halloran

Chris Kotseff

Suzanne Tebbutt

Jennifer Thai

John VanBruwaene



About SHOW

Mission, Vision and Values

Our mission is to collaboratively provide housing and a continuum of supports to those who have experienced homelessness and encountered barriers to achieve their fundamental right to safe and affordable housing.

Our Vision: To create a community where affordable housing and supports are available to all.

Our Beliefs:

- Housing is a fundamental right.
- The principles of 'housing first' guides our mission.
- The principles of harm reduction guide our practice.

Our Values:

- Inclusive: welcoming and open to all.
- Collaboration: working in partnership with community to provide supports and services.
- Respect: treating all people with dignity.
- Trust: providing an environment of safety, confidentiality and security.

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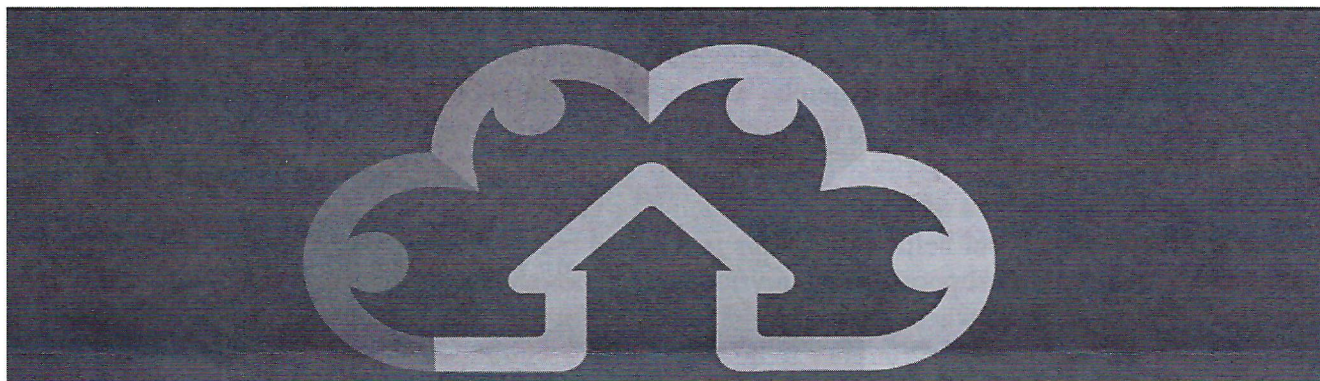
Editorial Committee: Grant Birks, Editor, Karen Gastmeier

Supportive Housing of Waterloo (SHOW) is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to design, build, and operate permanent, affordable supportive housing in Waterloo to house those who have experienced persistent homelessness in Waterloo Region.

www.SHOWaterloo.org

SHOW Welcomes a New Partner

The Hoarding Project at SHOW recognized that a partnership with the Wilfrid Laurier School of Social Work would be an invaluable asset for furthering learning and research into hoarding and related issues. We are very pleased to announce that we will be jointly hosting a conference as described below. We encourage all who have an interest in this area to attend.



Towards Hoarding Responsive Communities Symposium

Brought to you by

The Manulife Centre for Community Health Research & Supportive Housing of Waterloo

This symposium will examine community supports, service gaps/needs, and interventions centered on hoarding, focusing specifically on Southwestern Ontario. We will explore the role of individual and community-based interventions and develop working groups to address and alleviate the impact of hoarding on communities, families, and individuals. This symposium will bring together local, national and international academics, professionals, and service providers to strengthen communication among stakeholders and work towards a hoarding responsive community approach.

June 18 & 19, 2015

Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work
Wilfrid Laurier University
120 Duke Street W., Kitchener, ON

**Over 15 workshops and
presentations to choose from!**

Register on Eventbrite at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/towards-hoarding-responsive-communities-symposium-tickets-16190210355>

Cost: \$40.00

Need accommodations?

Book with Crowne Plaza in downtown Kitchener using code "SIRG Conference" for special rates.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Gail Steketee

Dr. Steketee is the Dean and a Professor at the Boston University School of Social Work. Dr. Steketee has taught and conducted research on cognitive and behavioral treatments for anxiety disorders. She currently conducts NIMH-funded research on behavioral and cognitive treatment for body dysmorphic disorder (BDD), and assessment and treatment for compulsive hoarding problems, including in elderly people, with colleagues at Smith College and Hartford Hospital. She has published extensively in these areas, including books on obsessions and compulsions, compulsive hoarding, as well as articles and chapters.

Dr. Christiana Bratiotis

Dr. Bratiotis is an assistant professor at the Grace Abbot School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research looks at multi-disciplinary responses to social problems, community interventions and evidence-based treatments for Hoarding Disorder.

Dr. Steketee and Dr. Bratiotis are two of the authors of "The hoarding handbook: A guide for human service professionals."

For questions please contact: Jennifer Gordon at jegordon@wlu.ca or 519-884-0710 ext. 5296

Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council



What's Next for SHOW?

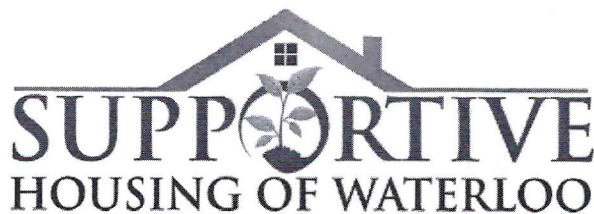


We are contacted by numerous agencies and individuals looking for affordable and supportive housing on a daily basis. It is heartbreaking to have to turn people away. SHOW's target is to create 300 units of housing so no one in our community will have to be homeless or very poorly housed. We plan to collaborate with other agencies to create an "intentional" community whereby we can work together to provide the supports and services needed to ensure housing stability and improved health for so many who currently struggle.

We have a conditionally accepted offer on a 15-bed building very close to our current location but we need your help to make this purchase a reality. I know you are inundated with requests for support from a myriad of very deserving causes but please keep SHOW in mind when you make your gifts during this Easter season. Your support makes all the difference to our tenants and without your help we would not be able to continue the amazing work done by our staff. We thank you for your past support and hope you will stay on this journey with us into the future.

Gael Gilbert

We have a conditionally accepted offer on a 15-bed building very close to our current location but we need your help to make this purchase a reality.



Yes! I want to make a sustaining monthly contribution to the health & welfare of SHOW's residents.

Name: _____
 Complete Address: _____
 Email: _____ Telephone: _____

I wish to donate: \$362 \$100 \$50 \$30 Other _____

Yes! I want to make a one-time contribution to the health & welfare of SHOW's residents.

I wish to donate: \$362 \$150 \$75 \$30 Other _____

I wish to pay by: Cheque Visa

Name on Card: _____ CSC#: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Expiry date: _____ All cheques are made 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 <http://showaterloo.org> .

I/we wish to remain anonymous.