

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF CO-OPERATIVES ARE:

1. VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the co-op is open to anyone who accepts the responsibility of membership.

2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

All members have an equal say in the running of the co-op.

3. ECONOMIC MEMBER PARTICIPATION

All members contribute in a fair way to the costs of running the co-op.

4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Co-operatives are autonomous organizations controlled by their members.

5. CO-OP EDUCATION

Co-operatives provide education and training for their members.

6. CO-OPERATION AMONG CO-OPERATIVES

Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-op movement by working together through local, national regional and international structures.

7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focussing on member needs and wishes, co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

WHAT IS A HOUSING CO-OP?

- A community without a landlord or individual mortgages. People from a mix of cultural and economic backgrounds collectively run the property.
- Is based on self management, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.
- Believes in the values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

HOW TO APPLY...

Anyone interested in co-operative living is required to apply to the co-op for membership, and attend an orientation and interview session. Members applying for attendant care must also have an assessment done, in order to ensure that the project can meet their needs.

Applications are available from the co-op office which is located on the ground floor in the apartment building.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



**Shamrock
Co-operative
Homes Inc.**

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Shamrock Co-operative Homes Inc.



A UNIQUE COMMUNITY



More than just a place to live!

446 Kingscourt Drive
Waterloo, Ontario
N2K 3R9

**“You see things, and you say why?
But I dream things that never were:
And I say why not?” (Shaw)**

Shamrock Co-operative Homes Inc.

Accessible, Integrated
Housing in Waterloo

A UNIQUE WAY TO LIVE

Shamrock Co-operative Homes Inc. is a 90 unit apartment and townhouse complex which integrates persons with disabilities and able bodied people in a member run, non profit co-operative community setting.

Opened in August 1990, Shamrock meets the need for affordable well maintained units in the Waterloo Region, with security of tenure, self management, education and a wholesome sense of community.

BARRIER FREE DESIGN

Shamrock is architecturally barrier free. All of the units, at a minimum have a wheelchair accessible front door. This feature allows a person in a wheelchair to visit their neighbour without barriers. Twenty (20) of the project's 90 units are totally wheelchair accessible, allowing a person with a disability the chance to live independently.

Other features include an accessible playground and community centre, flower boxes that are wheelchair accessible and sidewalks with curb cut throughout the co-op.

In 1992 Shamrock won the CMHC Housing Award for concept and design, and also the Jim MacDonald Award for social change for its contribution in making 19 of its units and the apartment ground floor totally accessible, as well as providing 24 hour attendant care support service.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR...

Shamrock Co-op has:

- 44 one and two bedroom apartments and 46 three and four bedroom townhouses (includes wheelchair accessible units)
- Community Centre, member and guest parking, community room, sports pad, children's playground, common laundry room, laundry hook-up in townhouse units, refrigerator and stove in all units. (some townhouse units have central air.)
- 24 hour attendant care support and services for physically disabled members, available through the Independent Living Centre (ILC) office.
- Close to Highway 86 and 401, Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier Universities, Public and Separate Schools, Conestoga Shopping Mall, parks, banking institutions and other neighbourhood services.

MANY FIRSTS

Shamrock is a community with many firsts, such as our attendant care project which is the first of its kind in a co-op setting in Canada. Shamrock provides 24 hour attendant care to twelve (12) members with disabilities.

Another first is our unique arrangement with the Red Cross Homemakers who are responsible for homemaking tasks.

HOW WE WORK

Shamrock Co-op is based on the principle of participatory democracy, and it is operated by the members. This means there is no landlord. The co-op is administered by a Board of Directors who are elected by the membership to oversee the functions of the co-op.

Each member through their ongoing participation on a committee, or by carrying out assigned tasks, assists in the day to day functioning of the co-op. This type of involvement helps to keep housing charges as affordable as possible, and also assists members in learning new skills.

General Member meetings are held at least twice per year, and all members are required to attend. Many issues are decided at these meetings, and everyone has a voice in decision making at the co-op.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY

The basic responsibilities of co-op members is to pay their housing charges on time, contribute to the ongoing operation of the co-op by either serving on a committee or carrying out assigned tasks, keeping the unit and co-op property in good condition, and helping to build a safe and healthy community.

