

# ELIM VILLAGE VOICE

A Newsletter by the Residents and for the Residents of Elim Village † A Caring Christian Community

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## The Great Community Challenge

In the March issue of *Elim Village Voice*, an article highlighted the donation of a digital piano to the Harrison. It was given by an Elim resident who put out “the great piano challenge” to other residents for two more pianos so that each of the three floors of the Harrison would have one. Two days after the newsletter was distributed, the Harrison had a second piano and soon after, the third one appeared. Let’s make the piano story just the beginning.

Mobility issues will prevent many Harrison residents from coming to the Oasis, the symbolic social hub of Elim, or to other parts of the village. If we are as caring and a

closely bonded community as we claim to be, then it is our collective responsibility to take a piece of the Oasis and community life down to the Harrison.

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*As the opening and newness of the Harrison wears off, the challenge to us as residents of Elim will be to find ways to connect with Harrison residents and make them feel absolutely part of the village.*

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*This picture has almost 100 residents. Imagine a group five times as large. Yes, almost 500 residents live at Elim. (A few missed the picture!) Elim is big; therefore, the great community challenge.*

Wonderful community warmth is already spreading to the Harrison (see the “Embracing Community” story on page 6) but don’t leave it to a few. Maybe each of us as individuals or as social/activity groups can find ways to embrace Harrison residents by visiting, volunteering or making other contributions. We need not all donate pianos. But we can do small things such as bringing a flowering plant to one of the neighbourhoods and labeling it, “With love from the residents of Elim Village.”

Let’s not only talk about community...let’s show it. ☐

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*“Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees, so they camped there by the waters.” Exodus 15:27 (New King James Version)*

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## Embracing Community



Margaret from the Atlin meets Margaret from the Harrison.

Harrison residents literally received a warm welcome from the two knitting clubs at Elim. The first group came to the second floor on March 19<sup>th</sup> and brought with them a suitcase full of lap quilts to distribute. "We started on these almost a year ago, long before you got here," said Willy, the group's leader. "Now we want to welcome you with them." The knitters stayed for tea and although the poor men were vastly outnumbered by a room full of chatting women, everyone enjoyed treats and the chance to meet.

The second knitting group came from the Emerald on April 5<sup>th</sup> and they went off to the third floor of the Harrison. This group had tea first and then presented over 20 colorful lap quilts and a few shawls. The recipients posed for pictures and expressed their appreciation for the quilts, asking what they could do in return. The knitters replied, "Invite us for tea once in a while so we can get to know you better."

Visit by visit "the village people" are enfoldng the new residents.

## A Day at the Beach at Elim

For a few warm days in April, these four young ladies from the neighbourhood spent hours entertaining themselves in a pool of water in the big gravel parking lot between the Harrison and the Oasis.

There's only one comment: if they had this much fun in a big puddle of water, wait till they discover the two real ponds!



## Everybody's Asking... Who is this cool dude?

This cool dude is Martin from the Diamond. Here's how he ended up plastered on a larger-than-life sign on 160 Street in front of the Elim marketing office: he loves wearing leather coats.

One day Elim's marketing staff saw a man in leather strolling past their office, thought he would make a great model and plunked him on a motorcycle for a picture. Little did they know that Martin did actually own a Harley Davidson back in the 1950s and used to be a daredevil rider, till he almost killed himself in an accident—a bit too much vitality!. Since then, Martin dumped the bike but kept the leather. So the sign is true-to-life...sort of.

