

## Community Building

# BALNAR MANAGEMENT LTD.

Established in 1977, **Balnar Management Ltd.** manages a portfolio of rental apartment and townhouse communities, and office buildings in the Guelph, Fergus and Kitchener-Waterloo areas. As a second-generation family business which is strongly influenced by family values, Balnar Management has a long history of commitment to the growth and development of its staff, apartment communities and office buildings, and through them, to the betterment of Guelph as a place to live, work and play.

### Seniors

Many of their apartment residents are seniors. Balnar Management encourages them to remain independent and active by providing them with a number of programs and activities such as:

- Offering a one-year membership in the Guelph and Wellington Seniors Association to all residents 55 years of age and older.
- Providing meeting space and support for seniors clubs at several of their apartment communities.
- Encouraging the seniors clubs to have regular planned activities as well as special events throughout the year.
- Providing a wellness program to their seniors clubs in which Evergreen Senior Centre staff go on site to train their senior residents to lead and design fitness programs.

### Services to new Canadians

- Balnar Management has established an outreach program with Guelph's Immigrant Services.
- Immigrant Services uses their social room at The Sprucedales to connect with new Canadians who might

require their services, such as help with paperwork, referrals to community services, and tutoring. Their residents remarked, "The services come to us."

- They are expanding this program to some of their other apartment communities.

### Community involvement

- Balnar Management is a member of the Adopt a School Program which provides Guelph Storm tickets to families of students, based on merit and need.
- They support the Guelph Children's Foundation, including participating in the Adopt a Family program at Christmas.
- They support Sunrise Equestrian Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre, Rotary Club of Guelph Trillium Ribfest, and the Guelph Food Bank
- Balnar Management fosters a sense of community among their residents and staff

- They hold summer barbecues, and parties at Halloween and Christmas for their residents.
- Other activities include Aquafit, card nights, book exchanges, and movie nights.
- Some buildings celebrate Earth Day with residents and staff cleaning up the property and holding a party afterwards.

### Balnar Management is a good corporate citizen

- A large number of their staff members are loyal, long term employees. Staff training is important, particularly in the areas of health and safety, communication, and customer service.
- They have undertaken many "green initiatives" and take pride in their landscaping because they feel their residents should have more than a place to live – they should have a home.
- They maintain high maintenance standards for the interior and exterior of their buildings and their residents receive quick response times for repairs.

