

New Slocan City Suites celebrated by residents

submitted

It gives 'aging in place' a whole new meaning. The grand opening of Slocan City Suites is set for Thursday, September 27, starting out with a symbolic Hike to Housing from the Slocan Legion at 5:30 pm.

"I get to stay here in Slocan," says Dawn Anderson, who, with her husband Alf, will soon call Slocan City Suites their new home. "One of my worst fears would be having to leave Slocan and all our friends once we couldn't manage our own home," she said. The move will be a big adjustment, "from a big place to a small place, from living in a country setting to living close to people. We still do things, and I just hope I can make room to sew. But we like people, we will have fewer responsibilities, and I like the look of the place."

Joining the celebration is 93-year-old Lydia Kania, who raised almost \$8,000 for the Slocan project during the

three-day Hike or Bike for Housing in 2016. Kania brought in almost the same amount for Passmore Lodge 20 years ago, even though she has never applied for tenancy in either place. She raised so many pledges in her door-to-door campaign that one wag claimed people posted notices saying, "Lydia's been here already."

Why does she care so much? "It matters because we're country people and we don't want to move into the city," she said. "We want to stay in the community we helped to build, with our people. For me, it was a joy to do this; you get to meet so many nice people."

Everyone is welcome to join the celebration, which starts with the three-block hike from the Legion to the Suites, brief remarks from dignitaries, tours, then back to the Legion for a celebration, followed by the Slocan Valley Seniors' Housing Society AGM for those who wish to stay.