



THE ANCHOR

A collaborative neighbourhood

Questions & Answers

What is The Anchor? | The Anchor is a collaborative neighbourhood created by The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, Julian of Norwich Anglican Church, and Ottawa-based affordable housing charity Multifaith Housing Initiative. The Anchor's primary guiding objective is to create a collaborative community that maximizes land use for the purpose of social good and quality of life.

The property, located at the corner of Merivale Road and Rossland Avenue, will be comprised of approximately 60 units of affordable housing, a community garden, public greenspace, community gathering space, and space for worship. The project seeks to reimagine and redevelop the existing 2 1/2 acre property on Merivale Road in a way that will...

- Be founded on the principles of collaboration, ecological responsibility, inter-faith understanding, openness to diversity, and intergenerational engagement
- Respond to needs and gaps in our community, including affordable housing and accessible community space
- Be done in partnership with other organizations and residents who are committed to the social good

The Anchor will be the sixth affordable housing community of Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI), an Ottawa-based charitable non-profit that provides affordable housing. It is being strengthened by The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and the parishioners of Julian of Norwich Anglican Church who are leaders in creating inclusive programming and supportive housing that seeks to strengthen individuals and families in the neighbourhoods in which they serve.

Guiding Principles |

- The Anchor is a collaborative redevelopment that aims to transform a property on Merivale Road into a diverse combination of affordable housing, community activities and supports and community place-making that will increase the quality of life for the residents, church parishioners, and the broader neighbourhood through a mix of housing (affordable and below market), community space, green space and worship space.
- This land transformation is led by an equity partnership between Julian of Norwich Anglican Church (the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa) and Multifaith Housing Initiative and will be strengthened by additional partners who will add vibrancy through activities, services and support.

Supporting Objectives |

- The physical space will be designed to foster an integrated community, and continued collaboration and connection between the partners, parishioners, tenants, neighbours and homeowners.
- Space and governance will be designed to foster collaborative community development.
- Accessible, inclusive, and inter-generational community space will be a key priority.
- Development to a high environmental standard with an emphasis on greenspace and community space will be a goal.
- Development, financial and governance decisions will prioritize the creation of a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive community for all.

The formal name of the project is The Anchor. Why is that the name? | We believe that the creation of a safe and supportive community is the way in which individuals and families can root themselves in a particular place. To anchor oneself in a particular place is to see oneself as a valuable member of a neighbourhood. As one of the most visible residential communities on Merivale Road, in the Cityview area, we want to demonstrate that it is people and families that provide the anchor to this vibrant area of the City of Ottawa.

What is Multifaith Housing Initiative? | Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is an Ottawa-based registered charity that aims to provide and promote safe, affordable, and well-maintained housing in inclusive communities and to mobilize resources for these purposes. MHI was established in 2002, after religious leaders in the broader Ottawa region realized that the city suffered from a significant shortage of affordable housing, and teamed up to try to solve the problem. Today, MHI's membership consists of approximately 80 faith groups, including congregations from the Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian communities. MHI currently has 179 rental units that house between 300 and 400 residents at any given time. MHI has five affordable housing sites:

- **Kent House**, located downtown
- **Blake House**, located in Vanier
- **Somerset Gardens**, located in Centretown (MHI owns 10 condo units there)
- **The Haven**, located in Barrhaven
- **Veterans' House**, located in Rockcliffe

For more information about MHI, visit www.multifaithhousing.ca.

Who are Julian of Norwich Anglican Church and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa? | Julian of Norwich Anglican Church is a Christian community that has been part of the Cityview and Nepean community for over 60 years and is part of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. Participants in the life of the Julian of Norwich Anglican Church commit to creating a welcoming space where all can enter as they are and to

actively live out mission and ministry by serving and caring for people and the environment. The Anglican tradition has always been founded on creating community and providing strength in grassroots ways to the neighbourhoods in which it exists.

What do MHI and Julian of Norwich Anglican Church hope to do as partners? | In short, both MHI and Julian of Norwich seek to enable and strengthen community. Of course, we are well aware that community already exists in many ways in and around Julian of Norwich Anglican Church. Currently the communities within our church building include members of the church and extended friends and family who gather for worship, meet together to cook meals, study and discern together, meditate and pray, organize and sell items to the surrounding residents through our Workshop and Nearly New Shop, hold annual events like the Christmas Bazaar and Pancake Supper, and more. Additional community organizations utilize the current building space to run children's programs, provide addiction support, run senior programs, and host fundraising activities (and more!).

The redevelopment project seeks to continue, strengthen, and expand the opportunities for quality of life by both extending our ability to be a community space resource and responding to the current affordable housing crisis that exists in our municipality.

As partners, MHI and Julian of Norwich Anglican Church will work with residents, church members, other not-for-profit organizations, individuals and families to continue to foster a vibrant neighbourhood for all.

What will The Anchor look like? | The Anchor design is **not complete yet**, and we expect more detailed architectural designs to be available for viewing in early 2022. The proposed Anchor property, bordered by Merivale Road, Withrow Avenue, and Rossland Avenue, will include a mid-rise building, stacked townhouses, residential and community parking, and a central courtyard with community gardens, outdoor gathering space, and children's play area. The Julian of Norwich Anglican Church will include a flexible worship space, and an outdoor community gathering space. You can check out some proposed architectural renderings at www.multifaithhousing.ca/theanchor.

What type of residential units will exist on the property? | Though there will be a mix of unit sizes, from studio to three-bedroom units, there will be an emphasis on two- and three-bedroom units to respond to the current need for affordable family units in the city.

What about cars and parking? | Most car traffic on the property will continue to occur in the same location that car traffic and parking currently happen on the property (the main parking entrance will continue to be on the Rossland side of the property across from the gas station). A small amount of parking spots will be accessible on the Withrow side in driveways located in front of the proposed

townhouses. Unlike other high-density development projects proposed in the area, we are aiming for a more modest sized residential development that will not see an increase in car traffic much above the current car traffic found on the property on Sundays or any other day of the week. In addition, we will continue to encourage more sustainable methods of transportation with the incorporation of the transit stop on the corner of the property that will be linked with a community outdoor plaza welcoming area, bike parking areas, and at least one parking spot provided to a car sharing program.

When will The Anchor be open? | The Anchor is an exciting community construction project that will take place in phases over 24 months. The earliest that construction is anticipated to begin is late 2022 into 2023. We could see residents move in and neighbourhood activities begin as early as 2024.

How will residents be selected for The Anchor? | For subsidized units: The Social Housing Registry of Ottawa will begin offering applicants on the registry list units at The Anchor when the time comes. For more information about applying for affordable housing through the registry, visit www.housingregistry.ca. For average market rent (full price) units: MHI will accept applications directly. More rental-related information will come available at www.multifaithhousing.ca/theanchor later in the development process.

Do you have to be religious to live at an MHI site, to volunteer with MHI and participate in the community life at The Anchor? | No. The “multifaith” aspect of MHI simply refers to the fact that our voting members consist of faith groups. (Faith communities pay a \$100 membership fee each year; in return, they are invited to appoint a representative from their congregation to vote at MHI’s Annual General Meeting.) If you belong to a faith group that is not yet a member of MHI, please consider learning more about our membership process by visiting www.multifaithhousing.ca/members. There is no expectation for any particular religious affiliation or any religious affiliation at all.

Why is it important to build affordable housing? | There are an astonishing 13,000+ households on the Social Housing Registry of Ottawa’s waitlist for affordable housing. As such, MHI feels it has a moral duty to increase the supply of quality, safe, beautifully designed affordable housing in our city.

How do individuals and organizations get involved in The Anchor? | MHI and Julian of Norwich are looking forward to working with organizations to ensure that the spaces that we create are an asset to the neighbourhood. Organizations who seek to provide program support at The Anchor are encouraged to call 613-686-1825 to discuss opportunities. Individuals who want to volunteer should sign up at www.multifaithhousing.ca/volunteer. Program and volunteer opportunities are likely to emerge in the fall of 2022.

How do I support and learn more about the partners involved? |

Stay updated on The Anchor project by visiting www.multifaithhousing.ca/theanchor. You can also stay updated on our partners:

➤ **MHI**

- **Website:** Stay updated on all things MHI at www.multifaithhousing.ca!
- **Join the volunteer team:** Apply to volunteer with MHI and support their efforts to provide affordable housing in Ottawa at www.multifaithhousing.ca/volunteer.

➤ **Social media:**

Twitter: @mhiottawa

Facebook: @mhiottawa

Instagram: @mhiottawa

LinkedIn: Multifaith Housing Initiative

➤ **Julian of Norwich Anglican Church**

- **Website:** Learn more about the church at www.julianofnorwichottawa.ca.

➤ **Social media:**

Twitter: @julianofnorwichottawa

Facebook: @julianofnorwichottawa

Instagram: @julianofnorwichottawa

➤ **Anglican Diocese of Ottawa**

- **Website:** Learn more about the Anglican Diocese at www.ottawa.anglican.ca.

➤ **Social media:**

Twitter: @OttawaAnglican

Facebook: @OttawaAnglican

Instagram: @OttawaAnglican

LinkedIn: Anglican Diocese of Ottawa



At left: Existing church & site shown in yellow. To check out architectural renderings of the proposed site, visit www.multifaithhousing.ca/theanchor. Image credit: Figurr Architects