What is Can-Voice?

Can-Voice is the London Psychiatric Consumer/Survivor Initiative recognized and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Can-Voice was created in 1990 as a way for London Consumer/Survivors to come together for support, sharing of knowledge and friendship.

A Consumer/Survivor is someone who has used mental health services for any reason at some point in their life.

Can-Voice is a pro-consumer organization. We believe in the right of Consumer/Survivors to make their own responsible choices and in their right to use a variety of treatment, services and approaches. We also believe in the right of Consumer/Survivors to learn from the consequences of their choices.

The members and staff of Can-Voice created Willow Creek House as a way to assist Consumer/Survivors to find safe, affordable housing. A fire in a condemned house next door to our former offices, which resulted in a death of a Consumer/Survivor, was the motivation. Due to Can-Voice's efforts, 8 additional affordable rooms are available in London for Consumer/Survivors of the mental health system.

Can-voice is a member operated peer support self-help organization for the education and empowerment leading to recovery of consumer/survivors of the mental health system.

"Helping others to help themselves"

We are very grateful to those who contributed to the creation of Willow Creek House:

The Ontario Ministry of Health And Long Term Health
The Tepperman Family
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.
The Blackburn Foundation
Sisters of Saint Joseph's
Many other organizations, businesses and individuals

Contact Betty for more information 519-434-8303
How Do I Apply?

Detach this part and fill out the following information. Forward to: Can-Voice, 450 Spruce St., London, Ontario. N5W 4P3 or Fax to: 519-434-1048, attention: Betty Edwards. Upon Receipt of this form, an appointment will be arranged for an interview.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________
Postal Code: _______________________
Phone: ____________________________
Age: ______ Gender: Male Female
Self Referred
Or referred by: ________________
From (Organization) ______________

1. Do you have a history of mental health illness? Yes No
2. Do you want to live with others? Yes No
3. Are you willing and able to help make meals and do chores? Yes No
4. Are you able to look after your own medications and bathing? Yes No

Willow Creek House

Is located in East London on a two acre site next to the Can-Voice Activity Centre. Although it is near Dundas street and First Street, which is close to bus and shopping, it has the atmosphere of being in the country.

Features:
- Renovated in 2006
- Bedroom freshly painted upon move-in
- Lockable single rooms
- 2 1/2 shared bathrooms
- Common kitchen and 3 gathering rooms
- On-site laundry
- Small refrigerator in each room
- Furniture provided
- Some hygiene and all laundry products provided
- Make your own breakfasts and lunch
- All meals and provided from co-op kitchen contribution
- Some peer support available
- Weekly house meetings
- Near-by Activity Centre for social and mental health activities.

What is unique about Willow Creek House?

This is the first residence in Canada, and perhaps the world, which is owned and operated by psychiatric consumer/survivors. The residents plan and work together to create a home without professional assistance. It is next door to an activity centre which offers many activities and events.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who operates Willow Creek House?

Willow Creek is owned and operated by Can-Voice. The residents have weekly meetings to organize chores and address communal issues.

What Staff Supports are available?

Can-Voice provides maintenance and security of the property and a Peer Support Specialist is available five days a week to consult about the challenges of living in a group. Staff is also available at the Can-Voice Activity Centre next door.

Must I give Up My Personal Support Professionals?

We encourage every resident to have a personal support network such as a case worker and psychiatrist. PACT and ACT teams are welcome if support with medications, chores or hygiene is needed.

What is the cost per month?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>$315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Utilities</td>
<td>$139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-op Kitchen</td>
<td>$275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost Per Month</td>
<td>$729</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>