

Like me, you may be appalled to know that sex trafficking is not just something that happens in other countries. In Canada, primarily youth between the ages of 12 and 25 are affected. It is the third-largest criminal activity after guns and drugs, according to Crime Stoppers. And contrary to popular opinion, 80 percent of human trafficking victims in this country are Canadians. In Ontario, many of these victims are moved every few days between motels and strip clubs along Highway 401 and the QEW.

The concept of Elora House stemmed from a local conference held by Guelph Police and Victim Services. According to Elizabeth Kent, Executive Director of Victim Services, Wellington County, finding shelter for Human Trafficking survivors is extremely difficult, often the only resort is to put them into hotels – hotels often being the setting of their exploitation.

Elora House offers safe temporary private rooms, in a confidential location (somewhere between Guelph and Elora), basic needs, advocacy, referrals, and supportive programming. The leadership team is comprised of staff who are experienced with human trafficking and domestic violence survivors and the goal is to provide 4 to 6 weeks of accommodation with restorative care and trauma therapy as the first stage in an individual's recovery.

The house is 100% donor-funded and our donation would be put toward the need for continual operational funds such as staffing, programs, and meals.

I first heard of Elora House in an article about a covid-friendly walk being organized by a group called The Coldest Night of the Year. Their walk is on Feb 20, 2021. You can sign up on [their website](#) if you're interested in joining.