



## **HABITAT HAPPENINGS – OCTOBER 2005**

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SARNIA /LAMBTON**

**NOTES FROM THE CHAIR—Art DeGroot**—Our local affiliate reached some outstanding achievements this year with the opening of the Habitat ReStore in Sarnia and the announcement of a Habitat build to take place in Spring 2006 in Oil Springs. Sales from the ReStore will enable us to support the building of Habitat homes on a continuing basis. We have come a long way in 10 years—building 10 homes within Sarnia Lambton. Volunteers from the communities and corporate support have helped to change the lives of the Habitat families.

**BREAKING THE CYCLE**—To do well in today's world, children need a good education. In order to move a family out of the cycle of poverty, especially children, they need to do well in school. Housing plays a significant role in that process. Study after study shows that housing plays the biggest part in how children do at school. Children need a secure home; a place they can be proud of to invite friends to and to show off their achievements. To reach their potential they need the possibility of going on to post-secondary education: college and or university. If we all work together Habitat can help families break the poverty cycle and have hope for a brighter future.

**THERESA TESSIER AND FAMILY TO BE NEXT HABITAT HOMEOWNERS**—Theresa Tessier and her 3 sons—Roy (13); Jacob (12), and Spencer (9), were chosen to be the recipients of the Habitat home in Oil Springs. Theresa and her children currently reside in Oil City and are looking forward to their move. Working for a Sarnia restaurant, Theresa prefers life in a small community where she has family and friends. She and her sons have been volunteering at the Habitat ReStore and cutting the lawn at the housing site towards their 500 hours of "sweat equity."

**OIL SPRINGS BUILD TO START SPRING 2006**—The excitement is building for the Tessier family looking forward to the building of their Habitat house in the Village of Oil Springs. The project led by Rev. Mark Perry, Minister of Oil City-Oil Springs Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada and several area churches-(Baptist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Independent Evangelical) have committed to raise at least \$25,000.00 for this build. The co-operation of the ecumenical community has been overwhelming. Fund raising events have included a Trillium Walk on Mother's Day 2005, a women's breakfast, garage sale, silent auction for a quilt, church suppers (November 20, Beef Dinner-Oil Springs); signing of 2 x 4's. Various contractors have stepped forward to do roofing, ductwork, siding and electrical work. Men of several area churches are geared up and itching to sign up to build the house. The Corporation of the Village of Oil Springs is excited about the build as well.

**MEET RE STORE MANAGER, RICK KEY**—Rick Key, was hired as Manager of the Sarnia Habitat ReStore and has done an outstanding job organizing sales and dealing with customers. His previous experience was in the retail grocery sector. We asked Rick the following questions to clarify what a ReStore is and what products they normally sell.

**Q: What are the most common types of product consumers can hope to find at a Habitat ReStore?**

**A:** Materials from home building renovations such as sinks, lumber, plumbing supplies, windows, doors, kitchen and bath cabinets, paint. From time to time we have some furniture—tables, sofas, chairs, china, cutlery, etc.

**Q: How is pricing established for the materials?**

**A:** We price the materials based on the condition, original retail value and discounted at approximately 50%.

**Q: How do you obtain your stock?**

**A:** From a variety of resources—Home Depot, Canadian Tire, Rona, Contractors with excess material and individuals remodeling their homes.

**Q: What are the ReStore hours of operation?**

**A:** Wed., Thurs., Fri. – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Q: If I wish to donate building materials whom should I contact?**

**A:** Call the Office at 336-7075 or the ReStore at 339-7957.

**Q: Will the ReStore volunteers pick up my donated building materials?**

**A:** Yes, if you are unable to deliver them.

**Q: What days do you accept donations at the ReStore?**

**A:** We accept donations Wed. to Sat. during store hours.

**Q: Do you have paid staff at the ReStore?**

**A:** The ReStore Manager is a paid position. The remainder of the staff is volunteers.

**Interested in volunteering at the ReStore—call 339-7957**

**FUND RAISING- Don Campbell, Chair**

We have had several successful fund raising events during 2005 thanks to the generous sponsors. These included the third annual Petrolia Garage Sale, the Toonie Week and BBQ at Wright's Family Valu Mart (Oak Acres) and Degroot's Annual Garden Tour. And, see our plans below for a concert featuring the **Three Cantors** in May 2006! As well, in 2005 we welcomed two organizations that have stepped forward to be the major sponsors for builds in 2007

- Marriott Global Reservation Sales and Customer Care – Sarnia
- Lambton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada

Both are busy fundraising in preparation for 2007.

In order to expand our building program and help more families in need of decent, affordable homes, HFH requires additional major sponsors (corporations, service clubs, churches, etc.) If your company or group is interested in learning more about these challenging and rewarding opportunities, we have volunteers available to meet with you.

**Are you a HFH volunteer from a company that offers donations to non-profit groups for your volunteer involvement? Please help us by directing you company's donations to HABITAT! Contact our office at 336-7075.**

**MEET ALLISON O'CONNOR – CHAIR, SITE SELECTION**

Approximately three years ago, Allison decided that with her youngest daughter going off to college, she would have some free time to get more involved in the community. A chance remark to a Habitat staff member, led to an interview with Chairman, Art DeGroot and election to the Habitat Board of Directors as Chair of Site Selection. Allison's duties include locating and procuring suitable properties for Habitat builds. It is often difficult to combine the right location and the right price and it can be a challenge to stay on top of the real estate market while working full time at the RBC Royal Bank.

Allison feels it is well worth the effort when another Habitat home takes shape for a deserving family. She is very excited about a future multi-family dwelling scheduled to be constructed in 2009. She is always looking for volunteers to assist her in finding possible building sites. Should you have an interest in this area please contact our local Habitat office for more information.

Allison is pleased to announce that a building lot has been purchased on Whitmore Street and will be adequate to construct a semi-detached house for two families in 2006. **Good work Allison!**

**FAMILY SELECTION – Murray Howard, Chair**

Our committee is currently reviewing numerous applications for the next Sarnia build. The Family Selection Committee is always looking for ways to find families that might qualify for a Habitat house. If you know of families living in inadequate housing, paying more than 30% of their household income on rent; have an income to make payments on an interest free mortgage and willing to partner with Habitat, have them contact our office at 336-7075 for an application.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS-IS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY A "HOUSEHOLD TERM?"**

It is an ongoing job to promote the goals of Habitat. Various methods are used to get the message across to the community—radio, community tv, newspapers, newsletters, public speaking, our website and most often, "word of mouth." As an organization we still need to make our presence known in the community in order to achieve our goals of building homes for deserving families.

Other venues to be considered are the various parades held in Sarnia Lambton each year—July 1<sup>st</sup>-Canada Day; Labour Day-Sept.; Santa Claus-November. Some of you may recall our participation in the Labour Day parade on two occasions when we won awards for our unique displays. Participants had a great time building the displays, marching in the parade. And we can't forget the "Celebration of Lights"—we could build a display featuring a mini Habitat house! Soooooo-we need volunteers (that's you), to participate in these events—sound like fun?

Contact Bette Hughes, at **336-7075**.

## **FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE – Linda Mollitor, Chair**

OUR committee is looking to expand its members now that we have 10 Habitat families and to support our ambitious house building plans over the next 5 years. Committee members include Jean Mathers and Keith Jerrett. We are currently working on an outline to assist families in the areas of budgeting, home maintenance, community resources and to prepare Habitat homeowners to be able to make informed and wise decisions through education, and seminars.

## **HOME MAINTENANCE CONTACT**

From time to time Habitat families are faced with home maintenance issues that require expertise over and above their capabilities. As well, we as builders of Habitat homes are obligated under the Ontario Home Warranty Program to repair any items that are covered by the program. Finally, as mortgagors of the Habitat homes, we should ensure within a reasonable period that our assets are protected. For these reasons we have agreed to establish the volunteer position of Habitat Home Maintenance contact within our local organization.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The Federal and Provincial Governments recently announced that \$2 million would be made available in Sarnia/Lambton for affordable housing. There is a possibility that our municipal governments could allocate funds to Habitat to provide homeownership for needy families and our local Board of Directors forwarded a request to that affect recently. According to the Sarnia Observer, September 21, 2005, some 3600 households live on social assistance and there are few options for almost 40% of households requiring affordable housing. Sixty percent of all Sarnia renters earn incomes below \$30,000 and 40% can only afford rents of between \$250 and \$500 per month. Habitat for Humanity Canada encouraged affiliates to approach their municipal governments for these funds.

## **THREE CANTORS CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF HABITAT – MAY 24, 2006**

Looking for a Christmas gift for that hard to buy for someone or even yourself? If you have not had the opportunity to experience a concert with the **Three Cantors**, mark your calendars and daytimers for **WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2006**. The performance will be held at **Grace United Church, (corner of Indian Rd. N./Cathcart Blvd.) at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets will be \$20.00 per person. Refreshments and squares to be served following the performance. CD's of their performances will be available for sale. Proceeds from the concert will be shared with the Anglican Huron World Hunger Fund and Habitat for Humanity Sarnia Lambton. Please watch our web site at [www.habitatsarnia.org](http://www.habitatsarnia.org) for more details and you can **call 336-7075 after Nov. 1, 2005 for ticket reservations.**

## **HABITAT FAMILIES IN THE NEWS:**

Congratulations to Annette Iacobelli for completing her 500 Volunteer Hours of Sweat Equity. Annette was presented with a certificate of achievement recently by the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity Sarnia/Lambton. Annette recently completed the Microsoft Certification program and is currently seeking employment to make use of her new computer skills. **Congratulations Annette!**

Melissa Davies, daughter of Mary Jean Davies of Forest graduated from the Police Foundation program at Fanshawe College (London) this past Spring. Melissa reports that the course was a great experience but very hard. She comments that, "thanks to my wonderful family who was there when I needed them because sometimes I didn't think I could make it through, but I did with their support." She adds, "all in all, my college experience was amazing." During her two-year course she was able to participate in a mock riot, a mock school shooting/hostage situation and volunteered to clean up graffiti on the streets of London. The class visited Buffalo, N.Y. for a crime conference and met with DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency), ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) and the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). Melissa feels that her best experience was the making of crime videos, fashioned after the TV show, CSI. She received her firearms certificate while at Fanshawe College. Melissa is currently working on the requirements to fulfill employment at the Sarnia border as a Customs Officer. **Congratulations Melissa!**

## **LAMBTON COLLEGE/HABITAT PARTNERSHIP-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

Habitat for Humanity Sarnia/Lambton and Lambton College have agreed to form a partnership that will benefit both parties. The College is to offer an Apprenticeship Program for construction trades—Carpenters, beginning January 2006. College representatives, Maik Luiken, Dean of Technology and Victor Alderson, Co-Ordinator of the Apprenticeship Program at Lambton met recently with the Habitat Board of Directors to discuss how the students could work effectively with the affiliate. The Apprentice Carpenters will be building garden sheds and playhouses, which could either be sold or raffled for Habitat. Future projects with Habitat would include Apprentice Electricians and Pipefitters.

## **Habitat for Humanity Women Build**

Over 16 days in June 2005, hundreds of female volunteers with Habitat for Humanity Northumberland (Coburg, Ont.), swung their hammers to raise the walls of a new home. The project was a combined renovation and new build for an addition to an 800 square foot single family home for Sislian Cameron-Walters and her 4 children.

The "All Women Build", was the only one held in Ontario in 2005 and the first ever in Eastern Ontario. According to Co-Chair Sarah Sculthorpe, "Women Build projects do not exclude men, but they do involve a special effort to get women on the volunteer team. Despite the attractive name, it isn't just about women, it's about taking collective action to move children out of poverty."

Is Habitat Sarnia/Lambton ready for an "All Women Build?"

## **NEW WEB SITE LAUNCHED:**

Be sure to check out our new web site at [www.habitatsarnia.org](http://www.habitatsarnia.org). We'd like to give a heartfelt thanks to our Web host Xcelco for all their help and hard work. It's a new logo and a new look, but the same hard working group dedicated to eliminating poverty housing in our communities, one family at a time. Be sure to watch our new "What's New" feature that brings you up-to-date information on current events, up-and-coming fundraisers, and sales at the ReStore. As a volunteer you may find an opportunity for you to help in that spot as well. Keep in touch.

**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS** – We welcome two new Habitat Board members, **Fred Darke** and **Lynda Jenkins**. Fred is a United Church minister with the Watford/Warwick pastoral charge and has extensive experience with Habitat for Humanity. He will be responsible for Faith Relations. Lynda has relocated to Sarnia from Toronto and is a recent retiree of Bank of Montreal. She will be our Volunteer Coordinator.

## **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2005 – 2006**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Art DeGroot</b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Keith Jerrett</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Dave Moyer</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Chris Hill</b>
<b>Building</b>	<b>Hank Joosse/Don Coates</b>
<b>Faith Relations</b>	<b>Fred Darke</b>
<b>Family Selection</b>	<b>Murray Howard</b>
<b>Family Support</b>	<b>Linda Mollitor</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Don Campbell</b>
<b>Public Relations</b>	<b>Linda Pickford</b>
<b>ReStore</b>	<b>Gord McPhee</b>
<b>Site Selection</b>	<b>Allison O'Connor</b>
<b>Volunteer Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Lynda Jenkins</b>
<b>Director at Large</b>	<b>Ginnette Villemaire</b>
	<b><u>Staff</u></b>
<b>ReStore Manager</b>	<b>Rick Key</b>
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	<b>Bette Hughes</b>

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