

HOPE & HAMMER

Habitat for Humanity London Inc. Unit #10-45 Pacific Ct. London Ontario N5V 3N4
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Newsletter Editor—Melissa Tann

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*"Opportunity is missed
by most because it is
dressed in overalls and
looks like work."*

Thomas Edison



HFHL 2006 Build Committee Update

The build committee first met in March 06 and has been actively working toward our 2006 build of the last 2 units at 58 Smith St.

Our pre-build schedule will commence on August 8, 2006 and be completed by August 31, 2006. The blitz build is scheduled to start on Saturday Sept 9th, 2006 at 8:00AM and continue for 3 weeks with our goal being to have the homes completed by Sept 30th and our dedication being held on October 1, 2006.

This year, in order to provide a better quality experience for all volunteers we will be booking volunteers in "crews" each requiring a 'crew leader.' Lee Jones, HFHL Volunteer Program Manager, will be actively recruiting for experienced volunteers, or those with previous construction experience, to take on the roll of 'crew leader' for a least one shift. We will also be reducing the number of volunteers per day and restricting some days to full day registration. Along with providing an improved experience for volunteers we need to fine tune the process in anticipation of future builds where more houses will be built at the same time. Register early to avoid disappointment!

We are also providing some skills training workshops this year prior to the build. These workshops will be in working with power tools, priming and



Gerry Pieroni, HFHL London ReStore Manager, presents Brian Clydesdale, a long-standing ReStore volunteer, with a Volunteer Appreciation Award at the HFHL Annual General Meeting held at the Central Library May 16, 2006.

painting, and trim work. These workshops will be held in conjunction with health and safety training. All volunteers will be required to attend basic construction health and safety training (or provide proof of this training) in order to work on the site this year. These workshops will take place at various times the evening of August 1, all day August 26 and again the evening of August 29. A nominal fee will be charged to help cover costs. Details will be available shortly.

We have advertised twice for the Build Superintendent and lead carpenter positions. We have received several resumes and the committee will interview selected candidates and make recommendations

for the position. We expect to have this completed shortly.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Lee Jones or Steve Parker.

Registration packages are coming soon!

We look forward to seeing you all in September!

Steve Parker
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Lee Jones
Volunteer Program Manager
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ReStore Hours:
M-F 9-6, Sat 9-4
Phone: 519-659-1949

"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life."

Jane Addams



TIME TO OPEN DOOR AND FACE HOMELESS CRISIS BY HELEN CONNELL

Reprinted with permission from Helen Connell, Executive Director of the United Way of London & Middlesex. First printed in the London Free Press May 20, 2006.

On any given night in our city, thousands of children snuggle into their beds. The little ones will have a story read to them; the older ones will negotiate the right to read one more chapter before it's lights out.

Their parents will get some peace and quiet; maybe just put their feet up for a few minutes knowing that, despite a few bumps along the way, life is good.

Also, on any given night in our city, between 20 and 30 children will be tucked into a bed at Rotholme, a shelter for women and children operated by Mission Services.

Their parents will spend another night wondering how it came to be that they and their children are homeless – and worrying about what will become of them.

Everyone at the shelter will do their best to make it as normal an experience as possible for the children. But they really know it's not normal at all, and it's not right.

The London Homeless Coalition recently released a report card on homelessness in London. Families are the fastest growing segment of London's homeless population. The number of families seeking shelter at Rotholme has increased by 16.6 per cent over the previous year.

Shelter beds throughout the city were used more than 188,000 times in 2005. Among those who are disproportionately over-represented among the homeless are aboriginals, immigrants, youth and people with mental health issues.

Canadian Mental Health Association findings show 30 to 35 per cent of the homeless

in general, and upwards of 75 per cent of homeless women specifically, have a mental illness. The stress of being homeless and the lack of medical support undermine their ability to cope.

Each person that relapses and ends up back in a mental-health facility costs Ontario taxpayers \$10,000 a month.

That same \$10,000 could be so much better spend providing social housing that would enable people with mental-health issues to remain in the community.

The trench that separates those who are wealthy from those who are poor continues to widen and, as it does, people with resources become less able to appreciate, let alone empathize, with what it means to be poor.

It's recommended that families not spend more than 30 per cent of their overall income on housing. If you have a family income of \$120,000, even if you spend well over 30 per cent paying down your mortgages quickly, you can make do on what remains.

That's not so easy when your family income is \$20,000 a year – or less – and half is going to rent.

Statistics gathered by the homeless coalition found 45% of all renters are spending more than 30 per cent on rent, and 22.7 per cent were spending more than half their income on rent.

The coalition report notes that a single person on Ontario Works receives \$536 in assistance each month, which includes a shelter allowance of \$355. Unfortunately, the average bachelor apartment rents for \$489 a month, which leaves that person with \$47 a month to cover food, clothing, transportation and anything else they need.

Perhaps that helps explain why churches, shelters and

other community groups are dishing up 10,000 meals a week.

There are currently about 7,500 subsidized housing units in London, with about 4,000 individuals and families on the waiting list. Only 26 new affordable housing units were created in 2005, with 119 more expected to come on the market before year end.

These kinds of numbers, however, are also one of the reasons why homelessness isn't at the top of the local or national agenda: The problem appears staggering, the price of fixing it overwhelming.

But there is much we can do.

Provincial and federal governments can stop their squabbling and put a rush on creating the affordable housing they promised. Government incentives creating affordable housing must be more strategically targeted.

The best way to ensure people have housing is to ensure they have sufficient income to do so. That means raising social assistance and focusing on getting those who are unemployed the education and skills to allow them to compete effectively in the job market.

And we can make a difference as individuals, for example, by getting a better understanding of homelessness. We can donate our time and money to support non-profit organizations working with the homeless or nearly homeless. We can let politicians at all levels of government know affordable housing is a vital issue.

The crisis surrounding affordable housing is a big one, but it's not going to fade away because we ignore it.

The sooner we come up with a coordinated plan for dealing with the short and long-term issues the better it will be for all of us.

LEGAL COMMUNITY BUILD 2006

The London Legal Community, including the University of Western Ontario Law School, Police, Probation Office, court staff, jail staff, judiciary, individuals of the Middlesex bar and local law firms have united to raise the \$70,000 required to sponsor a Habitat for Humanity London construction project in September 2006.

We have raised \$8,000 so far through in-house pizza lunches, t-shirt sales, bake sales and donations and the enthusiasm is building with the following events planned.

For ticket information to the Pub Night or the Gala, please contact Coleen Crcich at 519-455-6623 ext. 228 or email at coleen@habitat.london.on.ca

Upcoming Fundraising Events

PUB NIGHT

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Cuff's Lounge, 330 William

Time: 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 Includes chicken on a bun, beans, coleslaw
125 Tickets printed

MIX & SIP...The Ultimate After Work Party! (Open to Legal Community Only)

Thursday, July 20, 2006

The London Club

Time: 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$50

300 tickets available

GALA

Friday, August 25, 2006

Great Hall, UWO

Time: TBA

Tickets: \$125

300 tickets available

Dinner & Live Entertainment

Details to follow



HFHL staff visited the Habitat for Humanity Edmonton ReStore as part of the Habitat for Humanity Canada Annual General Meeting and Conference May 24-27, 2006.

Profile of a Volunteer – Ron Ellis



This column takes a look at who our volunteers are by asking them to tell us a little about themselves and why they volunteered. This time we asked Ron Ellis to share with us.

- 1) *How long have you volunteered for HFH London?*
- I filled out my application on November 24th, 2004 and began working with Habitat shortly thereafter.
- 2) *Why did you choose to volunteer?*
- I always wanted to volunteer for Habitat because I agree with the philosophy of giving people a hand up, not a hand out. I also like to build and it is great to be able to see the physical results of the hard work done by all our volunteers.
- 3) *What volunteer job do you currently do for HFH London?*
- I am a member of the Board of Directors and the London Legal Community and Friends Home Sponsorship subcommittee. The subcommittee's goal is to raise sufficient funds to sponsor the build of one home for the September, 2006 build.
- 4) *What has been your favourite project or area of work for HFH London?*
- I would have to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working on everything I have done with Habitat. If I had to pick one thing, I would say being a Board member has been my favourite project because the Board has been very active in the last year and a half with strategic planning (and many other projects) that will allow Habitat to continue to grow and serve the community.
- 5) *What have you found most rewarding about your experience as a volunteer with HFH London?*
- I have attended all of the home dedication ceremonies in the past year and a half. It is great to see our partner family on the day when they actually achieve their goal of home ownership. It makes all our hard work worthwhile.
- 6) *What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?*
- My marriage of 19 years and my two wonderful children.
- 7) *What is the most interesting place you've visited?*
- Cave Diving in Mexico
- 8) *What's your favourite quote?*
- "If you can't be a good example to others, at least you can be a horrible warning."

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We're on the Web!
habitat.london.on.ca

A Hand Up not a Hand Out

ReStore

ReStore Hours:
M-F 9-6, Sat 9-4
Phone: 519-659-1949

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2007

Chair

Ron Gasparetto

Vice Chair

Ron Ellis

Treasurer

position vacant

Carl Vella

Kim Wood

Scott Gray

David Leckie

Toni Cirelli

Carl Krizan

Laird French

Abbie MacMillan

Recording Secretary

Kathleen Gahagan

Executive Director

Julie Coley

Volunteer Program Mgr

Lee Jones

Resource Dev Mgr

Coleen Crncich

ReStore Mgr.

Gerry Pieroni

Habitat London is gearing up to increase our capacity to build more homes for London families. Please keep in mind that while Habitat values all of the time donated by its volunteers, we also need cash donations. Think about becoming a community builder by making an individual donation or a monthly donation to Habitat for Humanity London.

DONATE ONLINE OR BY MAIL

You can now donate online at www.habitat.london.on.ca by clicking on the 'Canada Helps' icon on the main page. There are several categories to choose from: Building on Faith 2006, Law Community Build 2006, or

2006 General Donations. You can make a one time donation or donate monthly. Canada Helps sends you a tax receipt and your donation will be sent to Habitat London. To donate by mail, fill out the card

below and send it to Habitat for Humanity London Inc., #10-45 Pacific Court, London, Ontario, N5V 3N4. Please help support Habitat for Humanity London in 2006!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Method of Payment:

☐ Cheque (made payable to Habitat for Humanity London Inc.)

☐ Visa

☐ MC

Card Number _____

Expiry _____ Signature _____

☐ I would like to make a one time donation of \$ _____

☐ I would like to make a monthly donation of \$ _____



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