### Habitat for Humanity London Inc.

Volume 6, Issue 1

October 2005

## HOPE & HAMMER

Habitat for Humanity London Inc. Unit #10-45 Pacific Ct. London Ontario N5V 3N4 Tel (519) 455-6623 Fax (519) 455-8479 Newsletter Editor - Melissa Tann

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#### Six different

#### Playhouses!

- Train Station
- General Store
- Bank
- Post Office
- Police Station
- Ontario Cottage



# Playhouse Project: Check out this year's "Dream Build"

We are well underway on our third annual Playhouse Project, "The Dream Build". We have decided to work with the theme of London's 150th Birthday Celebration. You can expect to see period detail in craftsmanship and accessories that will astound you! Our goal this year is \$60,000... the funds needed to build a decent, affordable home for a new partner family in London.

This year, Masonville, White Oaks and Westmount Malls have agreed to host the event during the November and December promotion. We are building six children's playhouses, designs donated by local architects and built by sponsor employees or our volunteers. Each of the six playhouses is sponsored at \$2,500 to cover the costs of the materials to build them. Little ones can't resist them at \$2 a ticket!

This project could not be possible without the unwavering support of the following wonderful people:

The Playhouse Committee!
Carl Krizan (Chair), Rick
Mommersteeg (Warehouse
Mgr.) Judy Ann Sadler (White
Oaks Ticket Organizer), Anne
Pavlosky (Westmount Ticket
Organizer), Donna Krotz
(Printing and Sponsor Database Mgr.), Mike Collins (Plan
Developer), Richard Voros



Unfinished children's "School House" playhouse

(Ticket and Print Designer), Helen Tostevin (Masonville Ticket Organizer) and Matt Salki (Transportation Coordinator). You are absolutely amazing people! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Our House Sponsors! Neal, Pallett & Townsend LLP, Pacific Western Bank of Canada, 3M & 3M Retirees, The London Firefighters, Union Gas and our newest member, Farhi Holdings Corporation.

Our Architects and Designers with all the vision! Paul Chapman, Marsh Katsios Architects, The R.A.I.C. Syllabus Student Association and the Forest City Decorative Artists.

Our Multi-Talented Build Teams! Union Gas, The London Firefighters, "Sylvie's Team + John", our own Habitat Team, The London Police Department, The City of London Employees and the 3M Retirees.

We can still use more ticket booth volunteers. Please find 4 hours in your busy schedule over November and December, and gift it to us... we really need all of you! Please call Lee at our office to donate your time. 455-6623 ext.221

I look forward to reporting the results of this exciting project in January,

Coleen Crncich
Resource Development
Manager
Habitat for Humanity London

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accessible home.

### Build Update '05

It is strange at this time of year to not be with all of the volunteers on the construction site. As many of you know, the building project for 2005 took place in the spring. We spent many weeks in the unseasonable cold of March getting the site ready for the build volunteers. The format and timing of this year's construction differed from projects in previous years because we wanted to accommodate the student-led initiative from the Richard Ivey Business School.

In 2006, however, we will be returning to a late summer/ fall schedule. I guess everyone prefers the heat and the pesky wasps over the snow and the rain!

There have been number of firsts this year. It was the first time we have built 3 homes. It was the first time we have built a wheelchair accessible home. And it was our first year without Clarence Pulham. Many of you had the chance to meet Frank Caruso, the Construction Supervisor on this year's build. We have achieved our best marks yet from the municipal building inspector. The continued, excellent work of volunteers and trades has made our Habitat homes as good as many of the home-builders in the city. As a result of our partnership with Energuide for Homes we have achieved energy efficiency ratings in our homes that are well above the industry standard for This home construction.

means that the Habitat families will have reduced heating costs---this helps to keep our Habitat homes affordable.

We are now looking beyond 2006, beyond the Smith Street homes for the next phase of Habitat home building. By the time we see you at next year's build we hope to have our next parcel of land and be in the development stages of the next project. We want to build new partnerships with community organizations, businesses and social and civic agencies to make more affordable housing available to low-income families in London.

With your continued support and assistance we can make a difference.

Julie Coley Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity® It was the first time we have built 3 homes. It was the first time we London Inc. have built a wheelchair

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL'S NEW LOGO

Through building Habitat we strengthen humanity, and now our logo unifies us worldwide!

The new Habitat for Humanity International logo will be used to identify all HFH organizations around the globe.

Within the logo, the human

forms stand united in common purpose, their arms lifted to act on the world's need for decent housing, not hanging idle as if the work were complete. The rounded edges suggest a search for harmony, the universality of family, and the gentleness of spirit that

springs from the heart of Habitat partners. The roofline represents shelter, to be sure, but also symbolizes the Habitat mission under which peopled of all races, ages, and religious beliefs come together for the common good.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

Ron Gasparetto — Chair Jackie Westelacken - Secretary Brian Morris Carl Vella Scott Gray Tony Cirelli

Julie Coley—Executive Director

Laird French — Past Chair Abbie MacMillan — Fund-raising Chair John Flemming Kim Wood Ron Ellis Sarah Angood

Gerry Pieroni-ReStore Manager

#### Staff

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### What's New at the ReStore

If you have been to the Habitat for Humanity London Re-Store over the summer you may have noticed a few changes. The ReStore is undergoing a "facelift" with an emphasis on health and safety. The leading cause of accidents in the workplace are "slips, trips and falls" and this means housekeeping has been the first order of business. In order to de-clutter, the ReStore closed for one day during the summer to allow staff and volunteers to sort through donations, remove anything that would not sell, and reorganize the storage and display areas.

With better housekeeping practices well underway a new policy regarding donations was instituted. Donors must contact the ReStore before donations can be picked up or dropped off in

order to assess the viability of the item's "salability". We appreciate all donors desire to contribute to the work of Habitat for Humanity London and ask that you work with us in our efforts to make donations of materials raise funds, while maintaining a environment that is safe for staff, volunteers and customers alike. Our new policy assists in keeping donations limited to popular items that sell quickly. This prevents clutter and overcrowding in the Re-Store and reduces the risk of slip, trip and fall hazards.

Along with the ongoing improvement in the management of our inventory, worker safety needs have been assessed and a fire safety plan is underway. You will continue to see changes at the ReStore and we hope that you will find them positive ones. If



you have any comments or concerns please speak to Gerry Pieroni, our ReStore Manager, or Lee Jones, Volunteer Program Manager.

We are pleased to introduce a new face at the ReStore. In September we welcomed Jane Saunders in the role of ReStore Assistant Manager. Jane is taking on the challenge of the Assistant Manager's job with great enthusiasm. Jane comes to us with many years management experience with Goodwill Industries and a variety of other retail and supervisory roles. Please feel free to stop and introduce yourself to Jane next time you're in the Re-Store.

Gerry Pieroni ReStore Manager

### Message from the Chair

I have always been intrigued by the transition of seasons from summer's humid, steamy air to fall's dry, crisp breeze, from a time of shining green trees and lawns shifting to the colorful displays of leaves and eventually the snow covered landscape which follows.

Parallel to the physical changes that accompany the entrance of autumn, each person takes stock of their life, bidding farewell to a summer rich in memories of warmth and welcoming future happenings that may involve less warmth but still are life giving. I am extremely excited to be part of such a wonderful organization of volunteers, partnering families, sponsors

and staff. Following this theme of reflection, the Board of Directors have endeavored to partake in a review of our mandate because it is said you cannot move forward if you do not know where you've been. This exercise will greatly benefit our ability to assess our current productivity, aid us in establishing goals and guide us to future success for our partnering families, volunteers and the community in which we serve.

Land development, innovative housing designs, alternative construction methods, Re Store & Facility review, these are just a few of the items which will be discussed and analyzed by the Board of Directors. The New Year pre-

sents us with many challenges and opportunities and I am confident that we will continue to grow and expand our organization to better serve our families.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support for Habitat for Humanity London Inc. and our goal of eliminating poverty housing. Your contributions do not just build houses; they build homes and nurture lives.

Ron Gasparetto

Chair, Habitat For Humanity London Inc.

Through building Habitat we strengthen humanity

### Habitat for Humanity London Inc.

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

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

A Hand Up not a Hand Out

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR VOLUNTEERS!**

Each year Habitat for Humanity London builds six playhouses with the help of corporate donations and volunteer labour. These magnificent playhouses are displayed and then raffled off in time for Christmas. See <a href="https://www.habitat.london.on.ca">www.habitat.london.on.ca</a> for photos of the 2003 and 2004 playhouses.

We have "kicked it up a notch" this year by setting our fundraising goal at \$60,000. This year Westmount Shopping Centre, Masonville Place and White Oaks Mall are joining forces to host our six playhouses for the months of November and December. The playhouse draw will be held December 23rd.

We need help with ticket sales at all three of London's major malls.

Ticket sellers staff a booth for 4 hour shifts and would be responsible for selling tickets, depositing tickets into appropriate boxes, tracking tickets and cash sales.

Volunteers are required to have a good command of the English language and excellent customer service skills.

Volunteers must agree to commit to a minimum of 2 four hour shifts but would be welcome to sign up for more!

Ticket booth hours are the same as the mall's beginning November 8 and ending December 22.

If you are interested please contact Lee Jones, Volunteer Program Manager, Habitat for Humanity London at Ijones@habitat.london.on.ca or 455-6623 ext. 221

### A Season of Giving

Please remember Habitat for Humanity London during the upcoming season of giving. Suggest HFHL as the benefactor of proceeds made during Christmas parties or other fundraising initiatives at your workplace. Consider making a donation to HFHL on behalf of the person on your list "who has everything." Donations can be made to the HFHL office or online at www.habitat.london.on.ca.

HIHL is a registered charity. Donations from individuals receive a tax receipt.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Andy Soltys HFHL Volunteer 2001 to 2005

Andy Soltys passed away after a courageous battle with cancer, on Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 As a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters - Local 1946, he joined Local 1946 members on the Watson Street Habitat for Humanity London construction site. In 2002 Andy became a part of the Habitat Build Committee and assisted with the development and construction of the house building projects on Josephine Street, Julia Court and Smith Street.

This year Andy was part of the planning for the 2005 construction project but was unable to participate due to his failing health. Many of the

build volunteers on the 2005 Smith Street project missed Andy's smile, his easy-going manner and his charm. We are better for having known Andy and were blessed to have him as a member of our organization. He was a good friend and colleague.

#### Larry Burridge

Larry Burridge passed away suddenly on June 22nd, 2005. He was a dedicated volunteer at the Habitat for Humanity London ReStore. His presence will be greatly missed by family and friends.

