

For Immediate Release
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**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NORTHUMBERLAND DEDICATES THREE HOMES
IN PORT HOPE “WHERE HARCOURT MEETS HOPE ST.”**

Port Hope, ON – On Friday April 20th local dignitaries, Habitat for Humanity Northumberland staff and volunteers, Port Hope community members came together “Where Harcourt meets Hope St.” to welcome three local Port Hope families to their new homes. The homes at 26 Hope St., 75 Harcourt St. and 77 Harcourt St. have been under construction since June of 2017 and, after months of hard work and over 300 hours contributed by local volunteers, Habitat Northumberland is ready to turn the keys over to the Armstrong, Wright and Smoke/Canniff families. This ceremony marks the 51st, 52nd and 53rd Northumberland County families to purchase an affordable home through the Habitat for Humanity homeownership program.

When Habitat for Humanity Northumberland partnered with the Municipality of Port Hope, the Province of Ontario, Northumberland County, the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, and TVM Group to acquire the old playground from the Dr. Powers School property, Habitat embarked on a new type of project for the development of affordable housing. Less than 7 years later, Habitat is completing the final homes in this small subdivision which has already helped 5 other local families achieve the dream of homeownership. Following the dedication of these three homes there is one home left in this subdivision, 28 Hope St., which will be completed and dedicated to the future homeowner family later in 2018.

The construction of these homes has truly been an effort spanning the Port Hope community and beyond. Over 15 teams of volunteers have worked on the construction of these homes, completing tasks that include building the foundation, framing the walls, insulating, installing siding, drywalling, painting and completing all of the interior finishes. In addition to the teams of volunteers, dedicated volunteers who come out on a frequent basis have been integral in ensuring these homes are completed. Finally, the sweat equity hours completed by the families, including team build days with their friends and family, are a key part of the Habitat volunteer labour program. All of these volunteers have contributed to ensuring that these three families can achieve strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership.

Donors and sponsors are critical to Habitat’s ability to build affordable houses. For this project major contributors included Cameco Corporation, Genworth Canada, RBC Foundation, Community Power Northumberland, Filosa Estates, Best Woodworking, and our local RONA stores. Numerous additional contractors, suppliers and service providers partnered with Habitat to ensure that these homes could be built affordably. Additionally, individual donors contributed over \$10,000 in cash to the construction of these homes. This money was raised through the Port Hope Campaign which was spearheaded by Dee and Patrick McGee, who agreed to take on the role as “Champions” of this campaign.

This project also allowed Habitat Northumberland to partner with Northumberland County and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services to provide the families with access to down-payment assistance funding to finance the construction of the homes. The partnership with Northumberland County allowed Habitat Northumberland to access federal and provincial affordable homeownership funding through the Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) to support the construction of 75 and 77 Harcourt St. This affordable homeownership funding is also supporting the Habitat project in Brighton which will be dedicated in early May. Habitat Northumberland’s partnership with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) allowed access to funds to support the construction of 28 Hope St.

OAHS's mandate is to provide safe and affordable housing to urban and rural First Nation, Inuit and Métis people living off-Reserve in Ontario. This is the first time Habitat Northumberland has partnered with OAHS but is looking forward to working with them on future off-reserve housing projects.

While Habitat recognizes all of these contributors to the construction of these homes, the dedication ceremony is ultimately all about the future homeowner families. Scott and Julia Armstrong and their three daughters are receiving the keys to 75 Harcourt St. Jennifer Wright and her three sons received the keys to 77 Harcourt St. And finally, Brian Canniff, Samantha Smoke, their two daughters and one son received the keys to 26 Hope St.

“The dedication ceremony is the culmination of months of work, sweat and tears and it is truly my favourite part of the Habitat program,” says Meaghan Macdonald, Executive Director. “When all of the volunteers, contributors, staff, and community members make a circle to pass the keys, we are acknowledging everyone’s role in supporting these families as they worked to make the dream of homeownership a reality. Now that each family has the keys to these Habitat houses it is their turn, as homeowners, to turn these houses into homes.”

Habitat Northumberland is currently completing the last two houses from 2017 and will be working to build five more houses in 2018. For more information on how to get involved in the build please contact volunteer@habitatnorthumberland.ca or visit www.habitatnorthumberland.ca.

About Habitat for Humanity Northumberland:

Founded in 1998, Habitat for Humanity Northumberland is a non-profit organization working towards a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat for Humanity brings communities together to help families build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership. Habitat for Humanity Northumberland and its volunteers have assisted 53 partner families in obtaining affordable homeownership and 8 families maintain affordable homeownership.

Habitat for Humanity Northumberland is one of 56 local Habitats working in Canada. Habitat for Humanity Canada is a member of Habitat for Humanity International, which was established in 1976 and has grown to become a leading global non-profit working in more than 70 countries. For more information on Habitat for Humanity Northumberland, please visit www.habitatnorthumberland.ca.

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