

SPRING EDITION 2018

Rooflines

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WATERLOO REGION



**every
one**
deserves a decent
place to live





A warm, welcoming, Wellesley Township embrace.

When and where HabitatWR begins to build has a lot to do with real estate opportunity, proven need within a community, staff research, manpower and a community's openness to welcoming our organization. Wellesley did just that. With flying colours. Thank you to all the local residents, neighbours, council, business owners, students and teachers in the township (nestled in the northwest corner of the Region of Waterloo), that contributed time, food, dollars, and skills to the Queen's Bush Road project in Wellesley Township.

With a little help, Habitat homeowners are able to achieve the strength and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves and their families. They are empowered to overcome the barriers that so often stand between their families and healthier and more financially stable lives.

Meet Melissa, Detlef, Bruce and Clyde

Our new home [in Wellesley] is right across the street from my parents, where I grew up. We have already planted produce at my parents' place, just enough for our own table. But when we move into our new home, we are forging ahead with our dream to farm. We hope to start a Community Supported Agriculture project, where our neighbours have a membership and receive a weekly box of fresh, healthy produce. Grown by us, with so much care and love.

It's been absolutely amazing for our family, and especially our kids, to watch our home emerge from a grassy, empty lot, through digging the big hole, pouring the foundation, watching the walls go up, and the roof being built. The boys can see where their bedrooms will be, where our kitchen will be. Bruce in particular really gets it: he understands that this is ours, forever.

Since I've been volunteering on the site, I keep running into people I've known my whole life. Everyone is so excited about the Habitat build. Everyone is coming together, supporting the project to bring our family back to the community. There is a real spirit



of welcome. And the staff and Team Leads on the build site...wow. They say, "Here, you do it. You can do it. I'll show you how, but you can do it." You can see the pride in what they are building, their dedication. Wellesley people are the best people! It's humbling and inspiring to be around these people, and know they will be our neighbours!

We build. You build. Strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership.

Thank you

Share your thoughts:

Do you have a story to tell about the Wellesley Township project? Want to hear more about our home dedication event, or get involved in our next project?



Contact Jennifer Young jyoung@habitatwr.ca

Meet us here



Wellesley home dedication (where we officially celebrate new homeownership):
May 31st

AGM: **June 6th**

Annual Golf Tournament at Rebel Creek:
June 7th

Manulife's Women in Leadership
(Women Build) Event: **June 18th - 22nd**

For more info about our events, contact
Jennifer Young: jyoung@habitatwr.ca

Looking to make some home improvements?

Contact our ReStore Salvage Team – we take out your old kitchen for free, and you get a tax receipt!



FOR DROP-OFF SPECIFICATIONS
please visit our ReStore Donate page
www.habitatwr.ca/donate-0

WOMEN BUILD JUNE 2018

Proudly sponsored by



Manulife Women in Leadership Summer event

Join us as we celebrate Women in Leadership
June 18th - June 22nd

Together with Manulife, Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region is hosting a week-long event in June, “Women in Leadership” event on our current Kehl St. Kitchener, build site. Women in Leadership will not only empower women, unite friends, family, and coworkers - it will be an event that helps raise funds, raise roofs, raise hope and confidence of women within our community. Women will have the opportunity to build alongside our partner families, combine efforts, develop and teach others their handywoman skills, as they lay bricks, pound nails, build doorways and create hope.

Participants will have opportunities to attend Manulife speaker series on various topics (TBD):

- Women in Leadership
- Women’s Health/Mental Health
- Women in STEAM (science/technology/engineering/arts/math)
- Female Entrepreneurs

For more information about how to get involved please contact:
Janine Armstrong | 519-501-6814



I’ve been a volunteer on the Habitat Waterloo Region build site at Kehl Street for the past few summers and I love it! I’ve always had an interest in home improvements and renovations and this is a good way to put those interests to good use and learn some new skills. I love the idea of donating my time and it feels great to be doing something different than my day job once in a while. It’s an extremely rewarding experience no matter what your skills are because there’s always someone there to show you the ropes!”

– Jen

Being a part of Women Build Week 2017 was truly an amazing experience. Working alongside other volunteers and the homeowners themselves while feeling like a community, was very powerful and inspiring. It’s a volunteer opportunity that I would recommend to anyone looking to gain hands on building experience while making a difference”

– Jill

INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP BUILD WEEK?

Contact Rebekah Wiesel rwiesel@habitatwr.ca





Communitech took a break from building tech to help build homes for local families in need

We're excited to announce that our Waterloo Region technology sector organizations are giving back!

Communitech has been sending members from the tech community to the Habitat for Humanity build site on Kehl Street in Kitchener in late 2017 and early 2018. There are still many opportunities to become involved.

Communitech member companies are invited to participate by sponsoring teams of five or more to help build and fundraise for Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region. Working alongside future Habitat homeowners, team members roll up their sleeves and work together to help families build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership.

Habitat's team-building opportunities are an experience like no other. When your team arrives on the build site, their job titles will disappear. Employees of all skill levels – beginner to professional – learn useful skills as they work side-by-side in a safe environment under the leadership of experienced Habitat team leads. While the work will be challenging, it will also be rewarding. Together, your team will have fun, connect with their fellow colleagues in a truly meaningful way, and leave the build site proud of their accomplishments, their colleagues, and their organization.

They'll also be part of your company's legacy of giving time and financial support for a worthy community organization.

Notably, Miovision has been quick to jump on board and become involved as a meaningful way to create a give-back experience for their employees. **Watch for them on our build site during summer 2018!**



INTERESTED IN THE BUILD?

This is a wonderful chance to engage your start-up, organization or network, while literally building a stronger community.

You'll need a team captain to be the main point of contact for your team, a desire to engage your community in fundraising on behalf of HabitatWR, and to register five volunteers for your build day.

For more information or questions, email beisan.zubi@communitech.ca. Like and follow along with them on Twitter @Communitech.

If you are a Technology North organization looking to provide your team with an impactful team building experience, please contact Rebekah Wiesel rwiesel@habitatwr.ca

If you have a fundraising story that you would like to see featured here (and elsewhere), contact Jennifer Young with HabitatWR: jyoung@habitatwr.ca.



150 reasons to love our volunteers

2017 was the year we celebrated Canada's 150th Birthday. To celebrate, we took the time to celebrate our volunteers who gave over 150 hours of their time throughout the year. The Canada 150 for 150 Volunteer Challenge was a nationwide movement led by Volunteer Ottawa in partnership with Volunteer Canada and Volunteer Centres across the country.

The Volunteer Action Centre of KW helped HabitatWR celebrate our volunteers who hit the 150 hours in 2017 by collecting those names and delivering certificates signed by the volunteer's local Member of Parliament. Seeing the smiles on the faces of

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Volunteers are at the heart of Canadian communities. Volunteering creates a positive ripple effect transforming the lives of the people who volunteer and the people who benefit.”

(quote from www.volunteer150for150.ca)

our dedicated volunteers when they received their awards was impactful...volunteering also brings happiness to the volunteer!

HabitatWR celebrated 44 of our volunteers who gave 150 hours in 2017. 32 of them gave well over 150 hours – 15 of them volunteered more than double that – and one even gave over 1,000 hours in one year. These volunteers commit their volunteer time on our Board, at our build sites, in the kitchen or office, as well as in our ReStores. Truth be told – most of our volunteers would give their time even if we didn't give them certificates or hosted events in their honour. **They are that amazing.**



We host a number of events that celebrate our volunteers throughout the year. Join us during National Volunteer Week (April 15th - 21st, 2018). Contact Janine Armstrong for more information: jarmstrong@habitatwr.ca

44 volunteers gave **150 hrs** in 2017

32 gave well over

**150
hrs**

15 of them

**doubled
that**

1 volunteer gave over

**1000
hrs**



Sensational Salvagers

Our wildly successful salvage program celebrates 25 years this year, in no small part due to our invaluable volunteers. What is our ReStore salvage program? Run by a team lead employee/contractor, this skilled and dedicated group will remove your unwanted items for free (usually homeowners would pay a hefty fee for item removal using other services); we then resell these usable items to the public.

Let's take a moment to get to know two of our crew members Boyd and Doug. These two first met while on a 2013 Weber St. salvage where they removed useable items from over 40 homes set for demolition. Boyd Manwell and Doug Snyder have been instrumental since that time in helping HabitatWR raise money through our ReStore program.

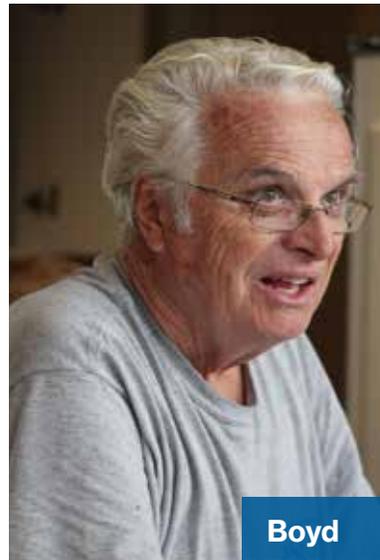
Boyd, a jack-of-all-trades, has put his extensive experience working for public utilities to use on our salvages; his specialty is plumbing. His interest in jigsaw puzzles most likely helps him in this task as well; he always states "turn the water off before beginning work!". Boyd's first experience with HabitatWR was on the 1993 Jimmy Carter Daniel Avenue build.

His interest in Habitat surfaced again in 2005 when he gave his time to help on our build on Everglade Crescent and then on Cherry Street. In addition to the fact that salvaging is "good exercise at my age", his love of volunteering and helping people less fortunate than himself are why he donates his time.

Doug brings his years of mechanical skills to helping us on our salvages. His introduction to HabitatWR was through a

circuitous route. Singing for the police choir (25 years this April) brought him to many fabulous locales both abroad and at home. One of these included a fundraiser in Canton, Ohio where a performance for an audience of 1200 people raised enough money to build an entire house for Habitat for Humanity. While singing with the group he met a veteran HabitatWR volunteer, John Black, who introduced him to our salvage program. He feels the salvage component of our ReStore is extremely important in terms of the benefits gained by the homeowners, the ReStore, and our build sites. His motivation to volunteer is "to give back to the community" to which he has historical ties (Snyder Flats in Bloomingdale are named after his grandparents).

While both Boyd and Doug's altruism are priorities for volunteering with the ReStore, both agree that "one of the highlights of being on salvage is working with the crew." We enjoy working with you gentlemen too.



INTERESTED IN BEING ON OUR SALVAGE CREW?

Are you renovating or remodelling and want your tired old kitchen removed for free? Drop our Salvage Co-ordinator a line to get in touch and learn more.

Chris Tomlin ctomlin@habitatwr.ca

Salvage is a FREE* service. **That's right, removing your kitchen is FREE.**

You receive a tax receipt for your donation *certain conditions apply

