

## **Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario and Habitat for Humanity Brant-Norfolk Affiliates Announce Their Amalgamation**

Jan 8, 2021, London ON – The Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario and Habitat for Humanity Brant-Norfolk affiliates are pleased to announce an amalgamation that will serve more families and individuals in Brantford and the counties of Brant, Elgin, Middlesex, Norfolk, Oxford and Perth.

“We are very excited about this announcement,” said Alan MacKinnon, Chair, Board of Directors — Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario, “One thing is constant for everyone in the world: No matter where we come from or how old we are, we all need a safe place to live in order to thrive. Owning a home in a safe and decent environment provides the kind of strength and stability every family deserves. There is an increasing demand for affordable housing creating barriers for many families - this merger will help us with the scale required to fill this need for more families.”

Steve Roorda, Chair, Board of Directors — Habitat for Humanity Brant-Norfolk, echoed this excitement and said, “With the help and hard work of our donors, volunteers, and staff, more families will have affordable places to live, spaces where they can live healthier, gather together, build memories and plan for a brighter future. That’s really what this amalgamation is all about.”

The two organizations are coming together as one Habitat affiliate to build strength, stability and self-reliance in the communities they serve through affordable homeownership for low-income families and individuals.

The new amalgamated affiliate will operate as Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario and will serve the aforementioned six bordering counties and Brantford, operating the ReStore - a social enterprise, in nine locations, that will continue to generate revenue to fund operations by selling new and gently used building supplies and furniture, diverting tons of goods from landfill annually.

“A Habitat home is a strong foundation for a family, an opportunity on which they can build a better life. Strong and stable homes help build strong and stable communities. This is why Habitat Heartland Ontario is thrilled to join forces with our friends at Habitat Brant-Norfolk,” said Brian Elliot, CEO Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario. “This amalgamation is an opportunity for growth that brings together our two affiliates under one common goal, to strengthen our communities by partnering with families and individuals to help them achieve affordable homeownership. We will grow together as one team, combining our expertise, operational capabilities and resources to ensure our work in the communities we serve is wide-reaching and inclusive. We believe that every one of us deserves a safe, decent, affordable place to live, and our past success in expanding territories will serve us well as we strengthen our joint mission.”

Habitat Brant-Norfolk also shared this message.

“By growing together with our friends at Habitat Heartland, we honour the extraordinary value of every volunteer, community partner, staff member and Habitat homeowner for their commitment and investment to help us serve and continue to grow,” stated Dan Brooks, CEO Habitat for Humanity Brant-Norfolk. “More than 20 years ago, Habitat for Humanity Brant-Norfolk was founded in the local community as Habitat Brant by a determined and forward-thinking volunteer group, through the Community Resource Centre. In 2015, Habitat Brant expanded to include Norfolk County. This amalgamation with our friends at Habitat Heartland is a natural next step for both affiliates to efficiently and effectively respond together to the growing need for affordable housing. We are rooted firmly in our shared values, partnership and a history of open exchange and resources. Together we grow to help people build and improve places to call home and with a shared belief that affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities, where people can thrive together.”

Both organizations have a solid history of working together through ReStore operations and projects and have individually managed growth extremely well over the last decade as they expanded territories. The act of coming together with this common vision, creates an entity that is a major player in the realm of affordable homeownership.

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**About Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario:**

Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario believes that everyone has the right to the confidence, security and hope that a home provides. Affordable homeownership is key to building strong, equitable and thriving communities. By mobilizing volunteers and community partners, Habitat Heartland provides opportunities for families in Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford and Perth counties to achieve affordable and sustainable homeownership. For more information, please visit [www.habitat4home.ca](http://www.habitat4home.ca)

**About Habitat for Humanity Brant-Norfolk:**

Founded in 1999, Habitat for Humanity Brant-Norfolk is a nonprofit housing organization. We bring communities together to build strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership. We believe housing is a human right and everyone deserves a safe, decent and affordable place to call home. With the help of volunteers, donors, and community partners, we have built or improved over 20 homes locally, in Brantford, Norfolk County and the County of Brant, in partnership with working, lower-income families in need of safe, decent, and affordable housing. To learn more about us, please visit our website at [www.habitatbn.org](http://www.habitatbn.org) or give us a call at 519-759-8600.