

Building hope in Port; Habitat for Humanity breaks ground for first time

By Kaesha Forand
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Habitat for Humanity builds hope one house at a time - a hope that is now becoming reality for a local family.

The Habitat for Humanity build committee broke ground Monday for Port Colborne's first build at the corner of Highway 58 and Highway 3, across from McDonald's.

Habitat CEO Alastair Davis said the ceremony marked an exciting event for the city and one for a deserving family.



"I commend the Rotary Club for taking this initiative with Habitat," Davis said.

"There's a great feeling of togetherness in this community ... You know this is going to make a lasting impact."

The couple who will move into the house later on this year with a zero per cent mortgage and affordable monthly payments was also at the ceremony. The couple's name and their three children will be announced by Port Cares later on this month.

Doug Frazer, chair of the Habitat build committee said it seemed like a long time ago Rotary began the project.

He was happy to announce the fundraising thermometer has climbed by \$10,000 bringing the total funds donated to \$50,000, just \$10,000 away from their target.

The raised bungalow could be a template for Port Colborne's next build since the lot will accommodate two houses.

Mayor Vance Badawey commented on the progress the committee has made since it erected the build sign on the property last October.

He said the community has met the challenge through numerous partnerships and community support.

"I thank Rotary and Habitat for breaking new ground in Port Colborne. I truly want to thank each and every one of you for that." Boggio Pharmacy recently contributed building supplies including trusses, shingles, interior doors and electrical materials worth \$5,227.

"We're all excited to get this one started," said Rotary president Shelley Campbell before she stepped into a back hoe cab and began excavating the property.

Frazer said volunteers are still needed, especially on May 19 for the big build, in addition to the 50 people that have already signed up.

Safety training will be provided, as well as hard hats and safety glasses. However, volunteers are asked to provide their own safety boots. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Port Cares at 905-834-3629 ext. 311.

"We invite all people to help build this house which helps keep it affordable," Davis said.

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