

## Pointing the United Way to Habitat success; Port Colborne build, initiated

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The United Way of South Niagara is building on the momentum of the Habitat for Humanity project in Port Colborne. Bill Auchterlonie, executive director of the United Way of South Niagara and Debbie Crowe, UWSN board chair, were at Rotary Club of Port Colborne this week to present a cheque for \$5,000.



Alastair Davis, chief executive officer for Habitat for Humanity Niagara, attended the Rotary lunch at San Marcos Ristorante in Port Colborne to be part of the happy occasion. He said the Port Colborne build, initiated by the local Rotary club, is being talked about across the region.

"It's moving ahead amazingly," Davis said of a project that was officially launched last month but has already made significant headway. Davis said the progress is beyond anyone's expectation.

"Just keep doing what you have been doing because you are a model of success," he told the club.

"With this donation, we have already raised more than \$20, 000," Doug Frazer, Rotarian and chair of the build committee said.

"We're thrilled to be the first Habitat for Humanity project to receive financial support from the United Way of South Niagara."

Frazer said the United Way support on the project recognizes the priority in this area to provide affordable housing. "We hope the United Way donation stimulates others to give," he added.

Rotary launched the project with a \$10,000 pledge from the club. The city also recently waived development fees for the build, which is expected to get under way in April 2008.

The land on which the home will be built was donated by Port Colborne resident Earl Ruston.

Two churches, Port Colborne Baptist Church and First Presbyterian Church, have also made donations to the project. The goal is to raise \$60,000 to build the first of what could be two Habitat homes on the corner of Highway 3 and Highway 58.

"We still have a long way to go," Frazer said.

"We are relying on the community to help us raise the money and no fundraising effort is too small. It is going to take the whole community working together to make this happen."

Anyone who would like to donate to the Habitat for Humanity project can call 905-834-3629, ext. 311.

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