

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

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## **Community Members Establish Habitat for Humanity Chapter and Launch “Building Futures in Magnetawan” Affordable Housing Project**

*Applications Now Open for Two-Bedroom Affordable Home Planned for  
February 2024 Occupancy*



*Pictured (L-): Magnetawan Chapter Members Sherri Clark, Mark Langford, Bill Bishop, George Brooks, John Hetherington*

*Absent: John Fincham*

**Magnetawan, ON** – The newly established Magnetawan Chapter of Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North (OGN) announced that the Municipality of Magnetawan’s application for a land donation at 26 Last Street was approved by council today.

“This is a day of firsts,” says third-term Municipal Councillor, Deputy Mayor, and Chapter Chair John Hetherington. “We’re thrilled to celebrate this donation and launch our partnership with Habitat for Humanity as their first chapter in our municipality. The property on Last Street will be the site of OGN’s first modular build, and we couldn’t be happier for our community.”

The members of the newly created Magnetawan Chapter are no strangers to community service. Comprised of municipal influencers, a fifth-generation area builder, and professionals from real estate, banking, and education, the group has the experience and local knowledge to move this project forward. Three of the members serve in the local Lions Club, whose fundraising efforts resulted in the construction of Magnetawan's Lions Club Pavilion.

Local builder and chapter Construction Chair, Mark Langford, traces his area roots back to 1870. Drawing on his successful experience in community development, Mark is fully committed to seeing the completion of Habitat's first affordable home project in Magnetawan. "I'm excited to be working with Champoux Homes," says Langford. "They're an established Canadian company whose modular designs and build techniques make them a perfect fit for this project, and the land is build-ready and zoned for purpose. This is going to be a lovely home for a local family."

At approximately 946 square feet, with two bedrooms and one bathroom, the single, detached modular home will have an unfinished basement with roughed-in plumbing. Suitable for small families or individuals, the home will be situated on a municipally maintained road with access to town amenities.

"I'm very happy to be part of this project," says Fundraising Chair Sherri Clark. "My daughter and her family have been in a Habitat home since 2019, and I've seen first-hand the positive impact that affordable, suitable housing can make. We're well on the way with our fundraising efforts, but you'll see us around the community as we look for continued local support for this project."

The application process is now open. "Need and the ability to make affordable monthly payments are fundamental elements for eligibility for this equity building opportunity, but partnership with Habitat is just as critical," declares Hetherington. "Habitat homeowners must commit to a contribution of 500 volunteer hours supporting the project. But just as important is the family's willingness to represent Habitat with kindness, integrity, and a passion for community."

Details about the program, process, and eligibility criteria are available at <https://www.habitatgatewaynorth.com/affordablehousing#qualifies>. The first phase is determining eligibility. Review the eligibility criteria and complete the first step in the application process at <https://www.habitatgatewaynorth.com/affordablehousing>.

### **About Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North**

Amalgamated in 2014, Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North is a not-for-profit organization working toward a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to call home. Habitat for Humanity brings communities together to help families build strength, stability, and independence through affordable homeownership. With the help of volunteers and Habitat partner families, we provide a solid foundation for better, healthier lives in our service area, in Canada, and around the world. Our region serves communities across central and northern Ontario, including Orillia, Midland, Muskoka, Parry Sound, North Bay, and Sudbury. Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Canada, which was established in 1985 and has grown to become a leading global not-for-profit working in more than 70

countries. For more information, visit [www.habitatgatewaynorth.com](http://www.habitatgatewaynorth.com) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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