

Media Release  
October 5, 2020

## **Habitat for Humanity Launches First Virtual Fundraiser: *BUILDS IN MOTION***

*Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North begins fundraising for 2 homes in Bala*



*Picture:* Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North CEO, Kimberley Woodcock, launches the organization's first ever virtual fundraising event, *BUILDS IN MOTION*, in support active build projects across the Ontario Gateway North territory, including two safe, decent, and affordable homes in Bala, set to break ground next year.

MUSKOKA, October 5, 2020 – Through shelter, they empower. Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North is proud to launch the organization's first ever virtual fundraising event, *BUILDS IN MOTION* ([www.buildsinmotion.com](http://www.buildsinmotion.com)). The impact of COVID-19 is the main driver for the event. A virtual fundraiser is only one way that Habitat for Humanity is adapting to the 'new normal' and the event also marks a renewed commitment by Habitat to deliver safe, decent, and affordable homes in our local communities. Now, more than ever the services of Habitat for Humanity are needed. "Stay at home sounds like good advice until you consider the many who live in unsafe, unsuitable housing and, worse, those who have no home at all." said Kimberley Woodcock, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North.

*BUILDS IN MOTION* is running throughout the month of October in support of a number of active build projects across the Ontario Gateway North region, including two new, energy efficient homes in Bala that offer accessibility features.

On September 23, Phil Harding, Mayor of the Township of Muskoka Lakes, members of the Township of Muskoka Council, and the Muskoka Lakes Adopt-a-Home Team of Habitat for Humanity gathered to unveil the site of the homes, located at 1016 Elm Street, Bala.

“We know that a safe, decent and affordable home plays an absolutely critical role in helping families to create a brighter future, one filled with possibilities, progress, and community contribution.” said Kimberley Woodcock, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North. “Through developing affordable housing, we bring communities together to empower local people in need of a hand up.”

The future Habitat homes in Bala are no ordinary affordable homes. Not only do they offer desperately needed supply of quality housing units, they have a social conscious too. The 2022 build project looks beyond the construction of our homes to the well-being of the residents. These energy efficient homes will ensure a low cost of operating and they will offer numerous accessibility features. They remove many environmental barriers to provide a sense of possibility, freedom, and hope for people currently isolated and limited by an inaccessible home.

“We invite the community to join *BUILDS IN MOTION* in support of affordable housing in Muskoka. We are seeking additional partnerships, corporate sponsors, and major donors,” added Ms. Woodcock, “to join in the successful delivery of these age-friendly, affordable homes. The affordable housing crisis affects everyone in the community, and we invite all to participate in the solution.”

To join the effort or find out more about how you can help, go to [www.buildsinmotion.com](http://www.buildsinmotion.com) or contact Donelda Hayes, Ward A Councillor of the Township of Muskoka Lakes at [DHayes@muskokalakes.ca](mailto:DHayes@muskokalakes.ca) or Kimberley Woodcock, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North at [ceo@habitatgatewaynorth.com](mailto:ceo@habitatgatewaynorth.com).

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

Amalgamated in 2014, Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North is a non-profit organization working toward a world in which everyone has a 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 homeowners 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 non-profit working in more than 70 countries. For more information, please visit [www.habitatgatewaynorth.com](http://www.habitatgatewaynorth.com).

For more information:

Kimberley Woodcock  
Chief Executive Officer  
Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North  
(705) 646-0106 x206  
[kwoodcock@habitatgatewaynorth.com](mailto:kwoodcock@habitatgatewaynorth.com)