



# North House Newsletter

March 2008  
1st Quarter  
Newsletter

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## Hot off the Press .....

Be sure to attend our one day conference on April 24, 2008 on Housing Strategies for Small Towns and Rural Communities. Housing providers, community leaders, workers and representatives from all government levels will participate in presentations and workshops on topics such as WrapAround, Funding, Poverty and Planning. The event will be held in Port Perry. **A full program/speaker outline and details, with a registration form, can be found on page 5&6 or our website – [www.northhouse.ca](http://www.northhouse.ca)**

## Message from the Board

As the new chair of the North House Board I look forward to the coming year and working with a team of dedicated individuals, both staff and volunteers. When we make a commitment to act as one ... the sky's the limit. Our team is a dynamic, caring group of people that are committed to making a difference in the lives of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in North Durham.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully as volunteers to our community. We have a comfortable place to call home in order to do that. Adequate shelter is a basic human right and every member of a community should be able to contribute in a meaningful way through interacting with neighbours, the job they do or volunteering. People can't participate meaningfully without a home. Poor housing and the lack of housing imposes enormous and far-reaching costs – impacting on the development of children, health, public safety, education and participation in jobs.

I joined the Board of North House to have the opportunity to contribute to providing people with a comfortable place to call home in our Northern community. Daily at work, I see the impact that poor housing has on our clients. I was also drawn to the alternative that North House offered and the opportunity to break the cycle of homelessness. With our upcoming conference and reading the book by Tim Huff, "The Cardboard Shack", in the schools, we are striving to promote an understanding of homelessness in rural communities. Awareness and understanding is a step toward prevention. Watch for some of our innovative ventures in the next year as we move toward making the North a community where all members can contribute in a meaningful way.

"Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical and expecting more than others think is possible." Anonymous

*Jane Chapman* Chair, North House Board of Directors





## Feature Article – The Economic Case for Expanding Support to Private Non-Profit Housing Organizations

Sally Turner, an M.A. student at York University, has produced a paper for the Canadian Policy Research Network on supportive housing by non-profit housing providers. The full research paper can be found on the Canadian Policy Research Network website: [www.cprn.org](http://www.cprn.org). She will speak to this topic at our April conference.

The study focuses on non-profit housing providers in Toronto, but her conclusions can be translated to small town and rural housing issues. An analysis of government funding demonstrates that financial investment in housing options that include **in-house support systems like Wraparound are more effective and efficient than housing with support systems offered in other locations.**

Private Non-profit organizations attempt to offer a **holistic approach to subsidized housing, improving the quality of life of their residents, helping build skills**, and connecting them with services allowing them to live independently. In contrast, municipal subsidized housing has a case-worker who links tenants to support services that are not as personal and individually tailored.

### Supporting Residents Who are Inappropriately Housed Has Been Proven to be More Costly Than Investment in Subsidized Housing

A study sponsored by the BC Non-Profit Housing Association demonstrated that **appropriate subsidized housing saved the province between \$2000 and \$18,000** over the course of a person's life compared to living in a state of perpetual homelessness (Hurford, 2006). Unnecessary spending on homeless persons and inappropriate housing because it's the cheaper option is economically unsound. Removing barriers to the development of subsidized housing is in the financial interest of government and taxpayers.

### The Importance and Value of PNP Organizations to Subsidized Housing

Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association sees the positive assets that non-profit organizations can bring to communities:

- Truly affordable housing: **Tenants pay rent based on their incomes**, not what the market dictates as low-rent.
- **Healthy citizens**: People with more secure housing are less stressed; afford healthier food; are more productive; less likely to end up in institutions, saving government money.
- **Permanent assets**: As mortgages are paid-off and real estate values rise, the asset can be used to secure mortgages for new affordable housing developments.
- **A competitive economy**: To attract and keep employees, businesses need a supply of affordable housing.
- **Thriving towns and rural areas**: In many small towns, non-profit housing is the only way that seniors and young families can afford to stay (Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association, 2006).

Hurford (2006), for the BC Non-Profit Housing Association, stresses the cost-savings in properly housing people. Homeless persons spend long periods of time in medical facilities when they could be more efficiently treated on an out-patient basis, but they have no place of residence. Private non-profit organizations create a holistic approach to housing, offering tenants access to medical services; counseling; employment assistance; etc.(Hurford, 2006). The value of private non-profit organizations is not restricted to providing subsidized housing units, but the other services they offer.

Governments benefit enormously from supportive living programs provided by private non-profit housing providers. **So that affordable housing can be maintained and expanded, governments are challenged to remove the barriers that prevent their constituents from having a home.**



## Program Manager's Report – Ann Watson

This winter, though long and sometimes very cold and snowy, has revealed very kind and caring individuals. As we have taken on new clients, and celebrated the accomplishments of others, North House has been encouraged by the number of individuals, schools, churches and other organizations that have offered food, clothing, furniture, personal care items, and financial aid. One of the cornerstones of the wraparound process is to encourage the building and maintenance of community support systems. We are seeing this happen in our various communities where the willingness to help in whatever way possible has occurred numerous times.

Though these material items are important and needed, our clients are often more moved by the fact that there are people who care and want to help them to reach their goals. Knowing that there are people who care is encouraging and inspiring to our clients.

North House's work could not be done without the support of caring individuals and organizations. Thank you to all of those who have thought about those in their communities who are going through a difficult time and offered to help in whatever way they could. Your contributions are much appreciated.



## Office Updates and Announcements

**North House is very pleased to announce it has updated its website with a fresh new look and much more information.** Be sure to check it out and let us know if there are ways we can better serve you with this modern mode of communication. One of the most significant changes is that you can now make a donation via [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org). Of course, you are always welcome to still use our own form, found on page 7.



North House is a registered charity – charitable # 85682 2077 RR0001.

North House focuses on offering programs and services so our operational costs are kept to a minimum. As such, we have a wish list for some organizational needs. If you can contribute and make our own wish come true, that would be wonderful. Please call the office in advance. Here are some items\* from our list:

Adding Machine      Standard Size Business Envelopes (if you have moved/are moving, they would be perfect for us)  
Paper Cutter      Storage Space (on-going unit, in return for a tax receipt if applicable)

\* items should be in good working order please

**April 27 – May 3 is National Volunteer Week.** If you have volunteer support within your own organization, be sure to say thank you and give them the recognition they deserve. Helpful ideas and items are available at [www.volunteer.ca](http://www.volunteer.ca). Remember, volunteers grow community.



## Volunteer and Donor Recognition

### Volunteers

North House is in need of a community member(s) who is able to volunteer from time to time by helping with common household maintenance items such as painting, installation of lights, etc. Please call the office at 705-426-1150 if you are able to assist.

**Rod Friesen**, one of our Board Members, has new work obligations so he has decided to step down. We will miss him and his input very much but are appreciative of his continuous support. **Thanks Rod. Good luck!**

**Ashley Shearer and Hannah Sweet** were invaluable with the development of our new website. Many, many thanks to both ladies for creating a wonderful new tool for North House to use in its client and public relations.

### Donors

In addition to our regular supporters (see last page) North House has received an **anonymous donation** via the CanadaHelps.org website. Thank you. You can also input North House to make a donation.

Many thanks to the **Anglican Church of Canada**; Primate's World Relief and Development Fund for their donation of display booth panels. We are excited to be able to put together a new look for our public relations activities.

The **Catholic Women's League** donated a number of toiletries to us to share with our clients. These items are always helpful and appreciated by everyone.

And finally, a note of appreciation and gratitude for the continuing community support from **St. Paul's Anglican Church's Outreach Committee and Jill Markle and family** for their recent donations.

## Fundraising

[Are you looking for a perfect gift for friends, family or teachers?](#)



North House ornaments exemplify the true meaning of "it is better to give than to receive". By purchasing one of our pewter houses, you can help us help others have a home. Our ornaments are ideal as house warming ideas, for everyday decorations or even as key chains. They come with a lovely white gift box and the cost is \$10 each. If you buy 9, the 10<sup>th</sup> one is free! Please call North House (705-426-1150) to place your order and arrange for delivery. We truly appreciate your support of our fundraising efforts.

## Helpful Links and Latest Announcements

[Premier Announces Funding for Social Housing Repairs –](http://www.onpha.on.ca/english/doc/premeir.pdf)  
<http://www.onpha.on.ca/english/doc/premeir.pdf>

[Tory MPs Not Protecting Ontario's Interests, Housing Minister Says -](http://www.onpha.on.ca/english/doc/artic.pdf)  
<http://www.onpha.on.ca/english/doc/artic.pdf>



## Upcoming Events - North House Presents:

### Housing Strategies for Small Towns and Rural Communities

This one day conference has been developed and organized by North House with sponsorship by [The Ontario Trillium Foundation](#).



Date: April 24, 2008

Time: 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Cost: \$25.  
(includes lunch and refreshments)

Place: The Mississauga's of Scugog Island First Nation Community Hall  
22600 Island Road  
Port Perry, ON, L9P 1B6  
905-985-1826

Who Should Attend:

Concerned Community  
Service Providers  
Non-Profit Agencies  
Activists

#### Program

- 9:30 **Registration** (with coffee)
- 10:00 **Welcome**
- 10:10 **Keynote Panel Introduction & Presentations**  
Denyse Newton, Peter Hughes, Bonnie Littley, Sally Turner
- 10:45 **Break & organizing workshops**
- 11:00 **Best Practices Workshop**  
What works in your area? What are your barriers or threats to success?
- 11:30 **Reports to assembly** on best practices with time for Q&A and explanation.
- 12:15 **Lunch and Networking**
- 1:00 **Action Plan Workshops**
  - A. WrapAround Workshop – Denyse Newton & Ann Watson
  - B. Ensuring Sustainability; Funding, Grants, Fundraising – Anne Kewley, Sally Turner
  - C. Poverty & Planning; Template for Rural Housing – Helen Perry, Heather Beveridge
  - D. Influencing the Influencers – Bonnie Littley, Peter Hughes
- 2:30 **Reports to assembly** with time for Q&A and explanation
- 3:00 **Wrap Up and Next Steps**
- 3:15 **Thanks, Networking**
- 3:30 **Conclusion**

#### Keynote Panel

##### **Denyse Newton**

Denyse Newton is the Director of WrapAround Durham and has been involved with establishing and training WrapAround Volunteers.

##### **Sally Turner**

Sally Turner is completing her M.A. at York University and will be starting her PhD. in the fall. She is the author of an excellent research paper on supportive housing by non-profit housing providers which can be found on the Canadian Policy Research Networks: [www.cprn.org](http://www.cprn.org)

##### **Bonnie Littley**

Bonnie Littley is the Regional Councillor for Pickering. She has great experience in advocating for change especially regarding the Pickering Agricultural Lands. In frustration, she ran for office and won.

##### **Peter Hughes**

Peter Hughes teaches in the faculty of Law, Justice and Community Development at both campuses of Sir Sandford Fleming College and has extensive experience in community development in smaller towns and rural areas.



## Upcoming Events - continued:

### Workshops and Facilitators

#### **A) WrapAround – Supporting participants’ strengths to break the homeless cycle**

Presenters: Denyse Newton and Ann Watson

Ann Watson, North House

Ann is the Program Manager for North House and supervises ongoing WrapAround sessions in Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge Townships.

#### **B) Ensuring Sustainability – Funding, Grants and Fundraising**

Presenters: Anne Kewley and Sally Turner

Anne Kewley has been raising funds for small non-profit organizations in rural areas and small towns for more than 5 years.

#### **C) Poverty and Planning – Developing a Template for Rural Housing. What does it Look Like? What do We Have? What Do We Need?**

Presenters: Helen Perry and Heather Beveridge

Helen Perry has just retired from the Board of Couchiching Jubilee House. She was instrumental in establishing the facility in Orillia.

Heather Beveridge, North House

Heather is the past President of the Board of North House. She was instrumental in setting up the North House Organization in partnership with the North Durham Social Development Council.

#### **D) Influencing the Influencers: Who needs to be at the table? How do we get them to engage?**

Presenters: Bonnie Littley and Peter Hughes

See keynote panel on page 5.

### Registration Form

The registration deadline is Friday, April 18, 2008. Space is limited so register early.

No postdated cheques. Refunds will be processed after April 30, 2008.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Fee: \$25.00**

**Workshop Preference:**      A      B      C      D

Please mail form & payment to: **North House, PO Box 1097, Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1N4, 705-426-1150**

Please visit [www.northhouse.ca](http://www.northhouse.ca) for more information on North House, its work and this conference program.



# North House Vision and Values

## Vision

North House will facilitate responsive approaches and supports to housing that is safe and affordable, meeting the changing needs of the people in the Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge.

## Core Values

We believe in:

1. The rights of our participants to confidentiality and privacy;
2. Safe, supportive, non-judgmental and healthy environments;
3. Breaking the cycle of homelessness by providing a supportive, integrated continuum of housing services and supports;
4. An innovative approach that uses a circle of supportive services and a focus on the strengths of the participants which enables them to find and enact their own solutions to positive change.

# Many, Many Thanks

North House acknowledges the support provided by FaithWorks, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, the Bay of Quinte Conference of the United Church of Canada, the Catherine Donnelly Foundation, and The Ontario Trillium Foundation.



# Donations Most Welcome

***North House thanks and appreciates the generosity of our donors. Your support helps us to be able to assist clients and ensures our long-term financial stability.***

I would be pleased to support North House in its work with homeless families and children.

Yes, I'll support North House with a monthly donation of:  \$10     \$15     \$25     \$50  
on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. I have included a void cheque for this purpose.

I prefer to give a one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your donation to: **North House, P.O. Box 1097, Uxbridge, ON L9P 1N4**

Receipts will be issued for income tax purposes.

**North House is a registered charity. Charitable # 85682 2077 RR0001**

