



North House Newsletter

March 2009
1st Quarter
Newsletter

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How to contact us:

By mail:
P.O. Box 1097
Uxbridge, ON
L9P 1N4

By phone:
705-426-1150

By email:
northhouseoffice
@bellnet.ca

Or
northhouseshelter
@bellnet.ca

Internet:
www.northhouse.ca

National Volunteer Week

April 19-25th

“Volunteers, from compassion to action”

That is the theme of this years National Volunteer week, the biggest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism this country has.

For more information on National Volunteer week, or to learn more about volunteering, visit www.volunteer.ca

Message from the Board

Volunteers! Do we ever have enough? Do we ever thank them enough? How can we thank them enough? As they perform services for the love of working and helping others. Our organization and I'm sure a lot of the organizations that we send the newsletter to couldn't function without the assistance of unpaid labor.

It begins right in the board room. I was recently asked to total the number of hours that I had put into North House in the last month and was surprised to find that I had worked more than 500 hours. Every not-for-profit organization out there from the Library to the Rotary Club will find that there are a group of people putting in countless unpaid hours just to make sure the organization is working as it should and is solvent.

Why do we do it? I know that my husband and I volunteer our time to a number of different organizations – The Uxbridge Fair, the Food Bank, the Library, The Outreach committee at the Church, the Choir, North House, Church diocesan committees. We think that these projects are deserving of our time to make sure that the dollars that are put into them by generous people are well spent on deserving activities and to make sure they are well run. We only work on a little part of each of these projects and for every one of us there are 10 others doing just the same.

Then there are all those people who give of their time to sit on North House wraparound support teams and support people they want to do well. There are the people who do a little extra just because they know North House and the people there could use an extra hand. The restaurant that gave an extra gift certificate, the spa owner and all her clients that made Christmas so wonderful for everyone at North House.

Even the paid employees of many organizations give a little extra of their time and funds to make sure that the cause they believe in is doing well.

So, to all those who have helped North House and the clients this year, thank you so much for volunteering. We appreciate your time, talent and efforts. We can't survive without you

Heather Beveridge **Chair, North House Board of Directors**



Feature Article – The Second North House Conference

On Thursday April 23rd 2009, North House will be hosting our second conference on housing strategies for small towns and rural communities. This year we are partnering with the Toronto Diocese of the Anglican Church and will be meeting at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Russell Street in Lindsay. This partnership indicates the growing number of people concerned about the lack of suitable housing for lower income families in our communities particularly in these economically challenging times.

The focus of the conference is to discuss and determine positive actions we can all take to alleviate the growing housing crisis facing many people including those who have had affordable housing in the past. As jobs disappear, retaining safe, suitable housing becomes increasingly difficult for more and more people.

The Toronto Diocese has provided us with a dynamic facilitator, Cheryl Lyon. Cheryl has extensive experience with housing issues in Peterborough and has a unique and exciting approach to encouraging positive, practical discussion. Her method, called Open Spaces, enables natural leaders from within the group of participants to come forward and focus discussion on practical strategies that they believe will lead to positive outcomes. This approach has proven to be very successful in creating workable plans for addressing the lack of affordable housing in other areas. We look forward to seeing the outcomes from the conference.

North House encourages everyone concerned with housing issues to join us at the conference and help us to establish new and effective approaches to ensuring that everyone in our communities has access to safe, stable housing.

Registration and networking begins at 9 am. The full conference starts at 9:45 am and we should be out the door with new ideas by 4 pm. A working lunch will be provided and there will be ongoing coffee, tea, and water. There is a conference fee of \$20.00. Students and the unemployed or under employed can join us at no charge. Please consider attending this event and bringing new ideas and perspectives to all the conference attendees.

Please pre-register at northhouseoffice@bellnet.ca Indicate your name, organization (If applicable) number attending and any special dietary needs

Building Sustainable Communities

On March 30th and 31st, Anne Kewley has been lucky enough to get a place at the symposium on Building Sustainable Communities which is taking place at the University of Toronto. This symposium is led by Doug McKenzie-Mohr, a leading exponent of the movement to building inclusive, sustainable communities. Housing issues is one of the major components of the discussion. Food access and security and community gardens are also included. North House and several other north Durham non-profit organizations are looking forward to seeing what ideas and experiences come out of the discussions that we can all use effectively in our communities.



Program Manager's Report – Ann Watson

Community Garden:

St. Paul's Church in Leaskdale and North House are off to a great start in getting a community garden up and running for this spring. We have held two meetings which have been well attended and informative. At our first meeting, Mary Drummond from the Ajax/Whitby Community Garden did a presentation about her garden and how they began. Her advice, stories and beautiful photo's were inspirational to all of us.

Getting started is always the most difficult step. With the support of St. Paul's and such enthusiastic gardeners we feel we are off to a great beginning. The Sunrise Parent Support Group and individual gardeners who have been or are currently associated with North House have been dreaming about growing their own vegetables and are anxious to begin seeding.

At our second meeting, Sharon Bognar from the Uxbridge Horticultural Society shared her wealth of knowledge about gardening and garden design. Her enthusiasm was contagious and we all left the meeting brimming with possibilities. With a start date in early May, our eager gardeners are ready to produce vegetables for their own consumption and the commitment exists to give back to the community by providing the local food bank with fresh produce.

To actually break ground, the St. Paul's/North House Community Garden is in need of a few things. If anyone has extra gardening tools, hoses, watering cans, or extra vegetable plants (zucchini, squash, pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes, herbs,etc..) we'd be more than willing to accept them.

Ann Watson,
Program Manager





Volunteer and Donor Recognition

Volunteers

National Volunteer Week, April 19-25th

We at North House would like to acknowledge the impact volunteers have on our organization, we could not exist without them. In honor of National Volunteer Week, we thank you all for your dedication and hard work. Most importantly we would like to acknowledge our Board of Directors, both past and present whose talent, heart and time are so important to our success.

Donors

Again a very special thank you to the Port Perry Patchers. Ruth Powell touched base with North House and donated some lovely quilts, and wall hangings for our clients. They will be treasured.

North House focuses on offering programs and services and tries to keep our operational costs 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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Common Household Tools | 6 Garden tools, watering cans, gloves |
| 2. Step Ladder and Extension Ladder | 7 Weigh scale (to weigh produce) |
| 3. Storage sheds (one for our house, one for the community Garden) | 8 Garden hoses |
| 4. Vacuum cleaner | 9 Soil/ seed packs |
| 5. Seeds
(lettuce,carrots,beets,beans,peas,herbs) | 10 Landscape fabric |
| | 11 Seedlings (boxed plants) zucchini,
Squash, tomatoes, swiss chard,peppers
Herbs, cucumber, kale |

Help Us Help Them



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

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 10th 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.



Office Updates and Announcements

North House speaker series– April 18, 2009. Ann Douglas-Mother & Daughter Workshop-

Ann Douglas, author of 28 Books, including the bestselling series, The Mother of all Books series. What Mothers and Daughters need to know about self image. This workshop for girls is anchored on one powerful belief. You can't be a force for positive change in the world until you've learned how to love and respect yourself first. In this inspiring, hands-on workshop, we will be talking about how we all have the opportunity to make our mark in the world in unique and wonderful ways—and how we can inspire other girls and women to dare to follow their own unique paths.

Tickets \$15 per family-Available at Presents, Presents, Presents 60 Brock St W Uxbridge, And The Kids Cupboard 239 Queen St Port Perry or at North House 705-426-1150

2009 Second Annual one day conference- April 23rd 9am – 4pm Housing Strategies for Small Towns and Rural communities– St Paul's Anglican Church- Lindsay

Focus: How can we address the lack of affordable “bricks and mortar” for housing in our communities?

North House and the Toronto Anglican Diocese Housing Committee have put their heads together to come up with several workshops **See feature article on page 2** for more details. To register, please email us at northhouseoffice@bellnet.ca or call 705-426-1150 Include your name, organization and # attending



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada



Photo's taken at the 2008 Housing strategies for small towns and rural community's conference

Last years conference was a great success in our eyes, great turnout, great speakers, great problem solving and goal-setting. This year we are pleased to be working with the Toronto Anglican Diocese, Housing committee so come and join us, making it an even better conference.

Others in your community concerned with housing issues and homelessness issues will be interested too, so please pass our announcement on.



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, and The United Way of Ajax, Pickering and Uxbridge.

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO LEN GRAPHICS FOR SPONSORING OUR NEWSLETTER



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 10th 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