



Bill Humphries (left) and Ed Hawkins (second from left) listen to a presentation by board member Tom Smith at one of the new units being completed. They each are donating \$50,000 to help pay for a turning lane into Habitat Village.

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After Ross moved to the Sunshine Coast and would drive past the duplexes being built at the HFHSC Village, “I felt intuitively called. It felt like it was meant to be.” At first she thought they were free houses for immigrants and refugees. But when she researched what Habitat for Humanity was all about, she “totally liked the model. I resonate with the idea that people on a community level need to put action behind values. It is an inspiring movement.”

Kat was accepted as a Habitat homeowner just before Christmas last year, and she and her boys got busy putting in their volunteer hours.

“We did everything... at ReStore, on the build site doing whatever was necessary, administration, art stuff... anything we could do. My boys really loved volunteering at the recycling depot.”

She will be taking possession of her new Habitat home this summer.

“I have spent my whole life trying to find a space where we have safety and security. We are finally getting to that space. It will be my biggest exhalation I have taken in years.”

Seeing families settle in their new homes and watching their children play is one of the reasons Ken Lee volunteers at the village build site up to 1,000 hours per year.

“We are breaking the cycle of poverty,” says the retired pilot and engineer, adding, “volunteering is an expression of what you believe in.”

Volunteering isn't the only way people contribute to Habitat. Many people give financial support. Bill Humphries and Ed Hawkins recently pledged \$50,000 each to help HFHSC build a turning lane into the village site from Sunshine Coast Highway.

This brings us to the reason why we are sharing our annual report with you today in this newspaper. We have scored a lot of runs over the past year and given several Sunshine Coast families a chance at winning. But we need you to help us keep the ball rolling. We have no time for a seventh-inning stretch. More and more hard-working families are looking for a way to escape the poverty cycle and provide a brighter future for their children. We're sending our message to 13,000 homes on the coast in hopes that many of you will step up to the plate.

We don't expect everyone to put in a thousand volunteer hours at the build site like Lee does. But spend a few days painting or landscaping at the build site (or working a couple hours a week at the ReStore helping customers, or at the recycling depot sorting refundable beverage containers) and you will be a game-changer, too.

We know not everyone can give \$50,000 dollars for a specific project, like Humphries and Hawkins did. But we will be delighted to receive your \$10 membership fee. We look forward to hearing from you.



Ken Croizier is head of the building site committee. The Ace-It Kids (right) found time to build a boat in between installing concrete forms for a foundation.



Building smiles at the village

Construction this past fiscal year has been a time of increased momentum and enthusiasm. Two units were completed and two more should be ready by the time this is printed.

The beginning of this year saw our manager, Sean Whalen, families and volunteers put the finishing touches on two units and move in two families. The crew then moved to the units framed by last year's Ace-It students. After house wrap was applied and windows were installed, construction alternated through the winter between exterior on nice days and interior on miserable days. Family members and other volunteers pre-painted siding, shingles, doors and trim during the winter months while Sean led the team of trades-people and more skilled volunteers at more challenging build aspects.

Building a house in the conventional sense is a big challenge. Building a Habitat house with help from volunteers of all skill levels and donations from suppliers and trades is a huge challenge! People, suppliers and trades on our coast

amaze me with their donations of time, materials and money. Their support and contributions were the key to our success. However, our reliance on these groups for support means we cannot progress at the pace a conventional house builder would. Many times our pace is slowed as we wait for help from volunteer tradespeople and donor suppliers. This is why each build takes about a year.

Our current Ace-It class has built the footings and installed the forms for our next build. They were supposed to frame this project but they could not proceed. Unfortunately, Habitat for Humanity Sunshine Coast did not get its building permits soon enough, and the kids will have to learn what they can by building storage sheds and dog houses. We hope to regain momentum later this summer.

I look forward to greeting the two new families to their homes and seeing the smiles on their children's faces.

— Ken Croizier, board member and building committee chair

Recycling just makes cents!

“What an honour to stand up for all the Rockin' Recyclers tonight! What a dedicated team, without condition or limit, up to the task and getting the job done, quietly and without fanfare, for each and every shift over the past 13 years,” I emailed our board from a national Habitat for Humanity conference hosted by the Okanagan affiliate May 12.

Habitat for Humanity Sunshine Coast, one of the smallest affiliates in Canada, had just won the prestigious Sustainable Funding Award.

How did such a remarkable achievement come about? The Rockin' Recyclers were born a star at a time, and gently. We only recycled tiny amounts, once a day, so one recycler could easily do their bag in 10 minutes. And even that gave lots of time to talk with passersby, or stop to hold a particularly pretty-colored bottle up to the sun to admire it!

That was way back in the fall of 2004, when recycling was relaxation, not the aerobic whirl we know today! We had just set up the arrangement with the SCRCD to put a little bin beside their large green community recycling bins. Teams were set up in both Gibsons and Sechelt, and soon Pender Harbour as well. We put in some bins and started picking up recyclables from the Sechelt landfill site shortly thereafter.

It was this approach that set us up favorably to win several national awards right out of the gate. Alcan started a \$60,000 contest to encourage aluminum beverage can recycling.

I'll never forget getting the call in April 2005 that we had won first prize for the most refundable aluminum recycled per capita in small communities all across Canada!

Our elation fanned our passion into an unstoppable force, inspiring us to win again the second year. By the third year, other towns were trying to do what we did, and we were narrowly beaten out by a small town in Ontario. However the head start given by Alcan allowed us time to define and strengthen our recycling program.

We shall always be indebted to Alcan for this three-year pilot program through which we earned \$127,500, truly starting Habitat's fundraising program on the Sunshine Coast.

Flash forward 13 years, and we are still at it, having gone through many challenges to keep this award-winning program going. We've installed a bright,



The recently spiffed up recycling booth at Salish Soils. What's missing from the picture? More volunteers! At left is the Sustainable Funding Award given to Habitat for Humanity Sunshine Coast at a national conference in May.

friendly recycling booth at Salish Soils, next to their regular recycling drop-off depot. Recently, we added an awning to protect volunteers and recyclable donors from the rain, and new tables to make sorting beverage containers easier.

Mostly, our success comes down to the simplest yet most powerful gift of all: having enough helping hands! We have been blessed to have the most dedicated, passionate team players I've ever had the pleasure to work with! Over the years our volunteers have retired, had grandbabies, suffered as members passed away and celebrated our many wins. Last year, our recycling program added \$51,257.55 to our effort to build affordable homes on the Sunshine Coast, one nickle at a time.

No team could ever have done this without being as committed to each other as we are to Habitat; the dynamic nature of our work keeps us having to cover each other's shifts unexpectedly, or running to the bin after a frantic call that somebody just left an enormous load and the tables are overflowing again! It helps that for some crazy reason, we have all come to actually love this work!

If you want to join this fun-loving, hard-working team, call executive director Cori Lynn Germiquet at 604-885-6737.

— Margie Garrard, board member and recycling chair

Full count

Help create affordable homes with every toss of a beverage container at our recycling depot