

Meet the Kovachevs: Habitat Huronia's Newest Family

It took a while before Georgi and Maya Kovachev could believe they would soon be the owners of a new home. When they moved to Canada in 2009, the two had challenges finding jobs and they moved from place to place. Soon their family grew to include twin girls. They worked hard to get ahead—Georgi graduated from Georgian College's aviation management program last year—but, despite their best efforts to own a home, the family still found themselves facing some barriers.

"We saw a bright light when we heard about Habitat for Humanity," Georgi says. "At the time, it sounded too good to be true. We didn't think it would be possible, but we had nothing to lose, so we applied."

A few months later, they received a call and learned they'd qualified to continue the process. "We followed the steps, and one day we received a call," he says. "We were the family chosen for the housing opportunity in Angus."

Though they sometimes still feel like it's too good to be true, participating in the home's construction has made things become real for Georgi and Maya. In the first few weeks of August, the family, along with several volunteers, worked on jobs to complete the



Georgi and Maya Kovachev

home, such as landscaping the property, painting walls (the twins chose purple and blue for their rooms), installing flooring, and constructing a fence.

- In This Issue**
- Meet the Kovachevs: Habitat Huronia's Newest Family
 - Getting Creative with Space
 - SNAP Photo Insert
 - Striking Gold at the Alliston ReStore

When they're not at work or putting in hours at the house, the Kovachevs are learning about their new neighbourhood. "It seems like a close community," Georgi says. "We know that when there was a tornado in Angus, everyone helped each other. It's good to know that the neighbours here help each other."

At the end of September, the Kovachevs will have the key to their new home. "Habitat gives to us not only the hope that good things happen in the life, but that give to us opportunity to raise our kids happy in better environment and to give them place to call home," Georgi says. "For us, every hour we invest in helping to build our house or a house for future Habitat families will be more than a pleasure."



**Help build homes for families like the Kovachevs.
Visit habitathuronia.com to donate!**

Getting Creative with Space

In the next year, Habitat Huronia plans to build three new homes for families in need. Lee Pigeau explains the plans.

Earlier this year, Habitat learned about an infill site in Barrie that was up for sale. A long and narrow property isn't exactly a boon for the common developer. But for Habitat Huronia, finding open market space in a revitalizing neighbourhood is like striking gold.

When no developers took the bait, the site went onto the open market. That's when Habitat made an offer using funds from the revolving Fund for Humanity and proceeds from the ReStores. "The site is ideal for us," explains Lee Pigeau, CEO. "With the new infrastructure coming to the neighbourhood, it will be close to transit, employers, and the highway."

"We're really excited to be able to build from scratch. We haven't been able to do that in Barrie since 2010."

Using some creative thinking, the Habitat team came up with a design for a triplex that takes full advantage of the space. The design has now moved to the planning phase. "We're really excited to be able to build from scratch," he says. "We haven't been able to do that in Barrie since 2010."

Lee says they hope to break ground with support from volunteers in spring 2016 and have families in the house in time for the start of the school year. Already, Habitat Huronia has received 50 applications, a number that underlines the housing needs in our region.

New Townhome in Barrie

Habitat Huronia is pleased to announce the purchase of a townhome in Barrie. Renovations will begin in October, and we are looking for Adopt-A-Days and volunteers for this build, as well as family for the home. This is the first time in our history that Habitat has five projects on the go and is building year round!



Want to help Habitat build the homes at Essa Road and Anne Street? Visit habitathuronia.com to donate or learn about volunteer opportunities.

Striking Gold at the Alliston ReStore

For the past two years, Alliston ReStore volunteer Nancy Lucas has collected precious metals for our recycling program. Through back-door donations at the store, she found that many items that looked broken could be turned into treasure.

Through her efforts collecting broken pieces of jewellery, Nancy was able to turn gold into cash, raising more than \$580 for Habitat Huronia. Thank you, Nancy!



Nancy Lucas (left) and store manager Carolyn Alksnis

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Don't dump it; donate it!
Send your e-waste and donate your quality building supplies to Habitat Huronia's ReStores.
In Alliston, you can find us at 239 Church Street South.



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Connecting Our Community Through Volunteers, Homes & Families.



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Join the Celebration! **Habitat Huronia ReStore's Annual Birthday Warehouse Sale**
September 17th – 19th | Huge Savings Storewide at Both Locations!



Events & Updates

Habitat Welcomes New Board Members



Habitat Huronia is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board, the Honourable **Aileen Carroll** and **Peter Krysiak**. Ms. Carroll (top) is a native Haligonian and represented Barrie as the Member of



Parliament from 1997 to 2006. During that time, she served as Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs from 2001 until 2003, when she was appointed to Cabinet and served as Minister of International Co-operation, responsible for C.I.D.A until 2006. Ms. Carroll and her husband have two children, Joanna and Daniel, who are both married and working in Toronto. Mr. Krysiak was born in Warsaw, Poland and lived in Italy until he moved to Barrie, Canada at age 12, where he attended Monsignor Clair Elementary and St. Joseph's High School. Mr. Krysiak has worked for Brownlee LLP, HGR Graham Partners, and is presently legal counsel for the City of Barrie.

He is also a part-time instructor at Georgian College School of Business.

Fasting Students Support Habitat



From April 27 at 6 p.m. to April 28 at 7 p.m., students from St. Joan of Arc High School fasted for 24 hours to raise money for Habitat. After school, the students participated in activities—from yoga to dodge ball to crafts—until they ended their fast with pizza and cake and celebrated raising \$850 for Habitat. Thank you, St. Joan of Arc!

A Day on the Farm



On June 20, Habitat Huronia had the honour of being part of Sheldon Creek Dairy's Day on the Farm. Habitat ran the pancake BBQ for a donation, while guests enjoyed

a free family-friendly event that gave them a first-hand look at agriculture and food production. The event included self-guided tours of the dairy farm and dairy processing facility, as well as a local farmers' market, live music, kids' games and face painting, and educational sessions. Habitat had a great day and raised more than \$950. Thank you, Sheldon Creek Dairy!

Optimum Wellness Gives Back



When Optimum Wellness Centre celebrated its second anniversary on July 17, the parking lot at 555 Mapleview Drive West was a hub of activity that included a scrumptious BBQ, a bidding auction, and prize draws. Optimum Wellness Centre believes in giving back to the community, and generously donated the proceeds – \$921 – to Habitat Huronia. Thank you!

A Habitat Hole in One



Golf, anyone? Habitat Huronia held its annual golf tournament in perfect weather on June 17 at the Heights of Horseshoe in Barrie. Guests enjoyed a terrific day on the greens with contests and samples, a



chicken-and-rib dinner, silent and live auctions, and great prizes.

Thank you to our generous sponsors and supporters, as well as everyone who participated in this year's successful tournament. Together you



raised more than \$20,500! We hope you can join us next year for golf and a few extra new additions. More information to come soon.

Thank you to our event sponsors



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on the Home Front Events & Updates

Racing for the Finish Line



For the second year running, the Habitat House Dragons competed against 50 teams in three dragon boat races at Heritage Park in Barrie on August 22. The team began to practice and raise pledges in June to prepare for what turned out to be a picture-perfect race day. The Habitat House Dragons placed fourth in the Silver Championship Division. Thanks to our team for their sweat, time and energy—and for raising more than \$3,300!

Family Fun at Georgian Downs



On July 18, Georgian Downs in Innisfil held a family fun night in support of Habitat Huronia that included mini-horse races, ice cream, and bouncy castles. Habitat also ran a 50/50 raffle leading up to the event. The combined proceeds totalled more than \$2,480. Thanks to Georgian Downs, and congratulations to Dan our 50/50 winner!



Good Music, Great Heart



Republic Live reached out to multiple charities to get involved with WayHome, a music festival staged over the weekend of July 24-26 in Oro-Medonte. Volunteers helping with car processing before the festival would get admission and camping for the weekend, while volunteers helping post-festival would receive tickets for the Boot and Hearts music festival a few weeks later. Habitat's 23 volunteers had a blast and Republic Live donated \$60 per volunteer. Thank you to Republic Live and WET for the amazing experience and for making a donation of \$1,380!



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Every Canadian has the right to a home they can afford.

Habitat for Humanity Huronia works to make affordable housing accessible to low-income families who could not otherwise afford to own a home. Your support will make the dream of home ownership a reality for a family in our community.

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