

# A place to call home

## HABITAT BUILDS HOUSE FOR FAMILY IN PETROLIA

By TARA HAGAN  
For The Petrolia Topic

Life is about to get a whole lot easier for one local woman and her family.

Meet Carolyn Fisher, single mom extraordinaire.

With four children all under the age of seven — including three-year-old triplets — this 24-year-old's got her hands full.

For the past few months, Fisher has been living with her brother and sister-in-law, where she and the triplets — John, Lucas and Curtis — all share a small room together.

That's about to change this month, however, when the family moves into the newest Sarnia-Lambton Habitat for Humanity home, located on Wellington Street in Petrolia.

"They just love it," Fisher said during a recent trip to the construction site, where the final touches are being done to prepare for move-in day on Sept. 9. "None of us have even been in a house this big."

The boys raced up and down stairs and in and out the front door, their shrieks echoing through the empty halls.

"My house," one yelled at another. "No, my house!" It was their first time at the home, and already, they didn't want to leave.

Outside, six-year-old Kayla mapped out her own landscaping plans.

"This will be our vegetable garden," she said pointing to a pile of dirt on the front lawn. "And this will be our flower garden."

She's also got plans for the front porch.

"Can we put a ballet stage here?" she asked, beaming up at her mom.

The four-bedroom, 1,160-



Carolyn Fisher is pictured with her daughter, Kayla, and triplets, from left, Lucas, John and Curtis, outside their new home, built by Habitat for Humanity on Wellington Street in Petrolia.

square-foot home is the latest build for Habitat Sarnia-Lambton. Construction supervisor Hank Joosse, a long-time member of the organization, called this project a special exception.

"We normally don't put in two full baths, or a rec-room, but with all these kids, we really had to accommodate the family," he said. "This is going to be a brand new start for them."

About 100 volunteers helped with the build, which began last May.

Each Habitat family also contributes 500 hours of sweat equity on their home and on future builds.

Approximately \$80,000 in

cash is required to build a Habitat house.

For this project, the Lambton United Church Presbytery pledged \$30,000. A portion of the funds have also come from the Habitat Restore, along with donations of building materials from national and local building products suppliers.

Fisher applied twice before being chosen for the 2007 Habitat build.

After the second time, she wasn't expecting a call back. So when the good news came last winter, she was speechless.

"I was so excited and so happy," she said. "I think I cried for about a week."

A dedication ceremony will be held Sept. 9 at 2 p.m., when the public is invited to tour the home.

Fisher will finally have her own room, while the boys will share a large room in the basement.

"Having more space, including a backyard, will be the best part of all," she said.

"These boys, I don't know where they get all their energy. I call them my little monkeys because they're always climbing everything."

She even plans to schedule in some time for herself.

"I'm hoping I can start doing some photography," she said.

"I've always loved taking pictures."

As for Kayla, she's eager to move into her new bedroom, where bright pink walls surround a charming chandelier.

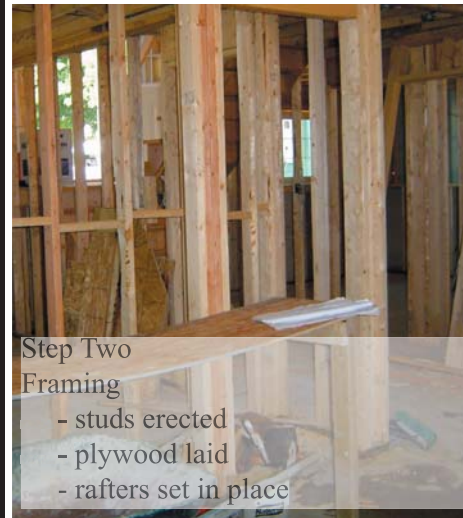
"This is the best one in the house," she said. "I have my own room now!"

Fisher had postponed her holiday celebrations in July. She wanted to wait until the family moved into their new palace.

"She just keeps going on and on about having a big enough table for all of us to eat together," said Fisher. "That's what she's waiting for."

## Brief History:

Habitat for Humanity is an internationally based corporation that works to fight poverty around the world, and give families the opportunity to live in affordable housing. This began in 1976, founded by Millard and Linda Fuller. Many volunteers, such as yourself, can donate their time in an effort to help another person.

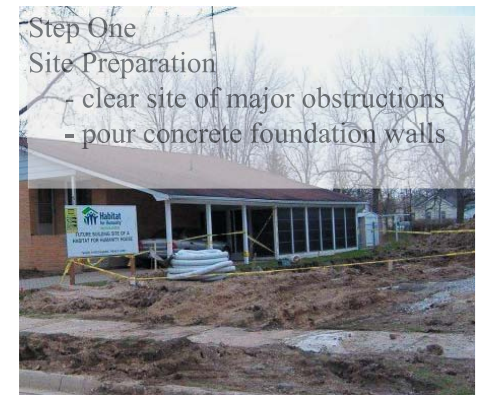


## Step Two Framing

- studs erected
- plywood laid
- rafters set in place

## Donations and Costs:

Each Habitat location has different approximated costs according to the city. Hank runs his homes at around \$70,000, with volunteers being the major labour, and many of the materials used, being donated. DOW Chemical Company is one of the major supporters of Habitat for Humanity, in donating the STYROFOAM extruded polystyrene insulation for all North American Habitat projects. Other donations are dependent on the company, and placement of the home, but Habitat typically relies on the generosity of many companies around the world.



## Step One Site Preparation

- clear site of major obstructions
- pour concrete foundation walls

## Family Information:

Habitat for Humanity, located in Sarnia/Lambton area is supervised by Hank Joosse. Once a family is chosen, and a lot is located, Hank designs a home that is appropriate in size as well as affordable for the family. In this case the project was a raised ranch, with two upper floor and two lower floor bedrooms to accommodate the family. The family chosen was Carolyn Fisher (24 years old) with her daughter Kayla Faubert (6 years old) and her triplets, John, Lucas and Curtis Fisher (3 years old).



## Step Three Exterior Weatherproofing

- installation on windows
- rigid insulation added
- air barrier system wraps building



THE PETROLIA TOPIC

## Raising money for Habitat

Toonie tours continue until April 14 of a house built inside Lambton Mall, as part of a partnership among Lambton College, Habitat for Humanity Sarnia-Lambton, Bayview Designs and Elizabeth Harmer Interiors.

All funds raised will support a Habitat house being built in Petrolia.





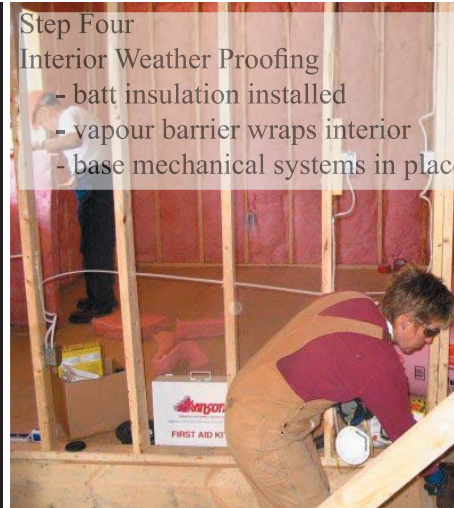
Construction of a Habitat for Humanity Sarnia-Lambton build at 515 Wellington St. in Petrolia is ongoing and a dedication ceremony at the home is expected in August. The residence will be home for Carolyn Fisher and her children. Installing vinyl siding at the back of the home last week are Habitat construction supervisor Hank Joosse and volunteer Rosalie Terpstra. A third-year University of Waterloo student studying architecture, Rosalie has two more years to go in the university program.

DAVID PATTENAUDE The Petrolia Topic

Habitat for Humanity

Step Four  
Interior Weather Proofing

- batt insulation installed
- vapour barrier wraps interior
- base mechanical systems in place



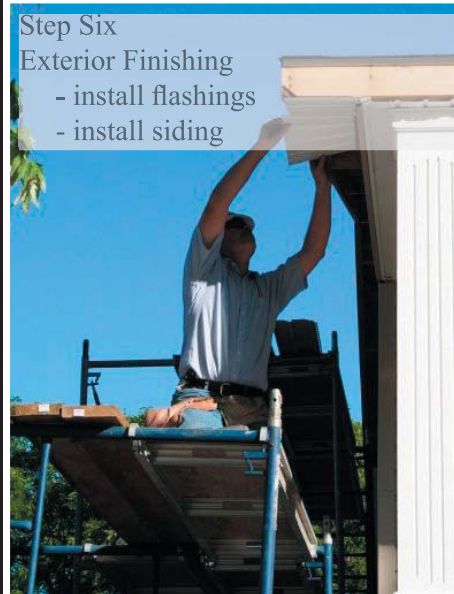
### Volunteering:

Volunteers can help five days a week, depending on the supervisor's availability. Each day any person can show up to the site and be put to work.

All volunteers are welcome, and, if you've worked on one part for longer than 15 minutes, you are then considered the expert in that area.

Step Six  
Exterior Finishing

- install flashings
- install siding



### How to get involved:

To become a Habitat for Humanity Volunteer, each project offers a basic workplace safety training session, similar to WHIMIS, for construction sites. The afternoon session runs through simple instructions for tool handling, head, eye, and ear protection, as well as the general need to be aware of your surroundings at all times. This busy construction zone can lead to major accidents, but luckily Hanks volunteers are well trained, and he has never experienced this issue.



Step Five  
Interior Surfacing

- install drywall to all interior surface areas

### Saturday Blitz:

Every Saturday is considered a 'Blitz'. Many of the volunteers arrive to finish a major portion of the home, from insulation, to drywall, siding, painting and framing. Lunches are provided by volunteer organizations. This gives much opportunity for volunteers to meet others and get truly involved. This busy morning and afternoon is considered the best day to be a part of a wonderful experience, and many companies have their employees take part on these days.





**Works Cited:**

"Habitat for Humanity Sarnia/Lambton." 2007. Habitat for Humanity. <<http://www.habitatsarnia.org/>>. Randall, Joanne, David Pattenaude, Tara Hagan, and Glenn Oglivie. "Habitat for Humanity." The Petrolia Topic 2007.

**The Family:**

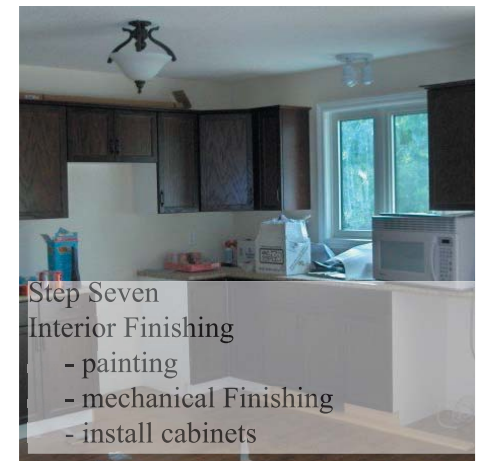
Each family is required to donate 500 hours of their time to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, as a means to continue this opportunity for others, this is called 'Sweat Equity.' Every family has a better chance in life with the home they gained.



**Step Eight**  
**Landscaping**  
 - pave driveway  
 - plant shrubbery and grass

**Opportunity:**

Being a volunteer of any sort, with any level of experience can be the best way to learn, as you begin to understand the development of projects, and can specify areas of interest, or areas you would prefer to learn. As an architecture student, there is very little opportunity to understand construction in a hands-on environment, and through these volunteering experiences you can begin to develop your understanding of how things work. The materials you write about become real, the concepts you work on can be achieved and the project you are a part of becomes a live working model. This is the best possible opportunity to learn every aspect of construction from beginning to end, *so become a part of it!*



**Step Seven**  
**Interior Finishing**  
 - painting  
 - mechanical Finishing  
 - install cabinets

**Further Information:**

Please follow these sites to discover opportunities around the world with Habitat for Humanity;  
 International: <http://www.habitat.org/>  
 Canada: <http://www.habitat.ca/>



**Step Nine**  
**Dedication Ceremony**  
 - Open House  
 - Family Moves in  
 - Habitat for humanity begins another project

