

For Immediate Release

Ground Breaking Ceremony at Saugeen First Nation

OWEN SOUND, ON Thursday, April 28th, 2022 – On May 2nd Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce will start construction of 7 houses at Saugeen First Nation for member families. Chief Lester Anquot and Habitat Executive Director Greg Fryer officially launched the Build in a virtual Ground Breaking Ceremony. A YouTube video of the ceremony that includes the selected families can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/M7Uz4epFlsw>

In 2020, Saugeen First Nation and Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce signed a memorandum of understanding forming a partnership that will involve Habitat building energy-efficient and affordable houses for member families on Saugeen’s territory. Last year, Habitat built 4 houses at Saugeen and this year 7 more houses will be constructed using volunteers and local contractors. The families who will live in the new homes have been selected by the Chief and Council. As with all families selected for Habitat’s housing program they will be required to complete 500 “sweat equity” volunteer hours building their homes. Habitat will also provide homeowner education sessions for the families including budgeting, estate planning and home maintenance.

Habitat is actively recruiting volunteers to help with the Build. Construction is expected to take up to 6 months to complete with the goal of the families moving into their new homes late fall.

Quick Facts

- Stats Canada reports the % of households in core housing need:

Bruce County	9.3%
Grey County	11.4%
Ontario	15.3%
Indigenous	18.0%
- Saugeen First Nation has a population of approximately 1,750 members; nearly half live on reserve. Homeownership and housing in general are important to this community.
- Since 2017, Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce has built 21 single dwelling homes for the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and Saugeen First Nation for member families including the first Habitat built house on First Nations territory in Ontario.
- Saugeen First Nation will be using a rent-to-own model; families will be required to complete 500 volunteer hours building their homes with Habitat; after the families move in they will make monthly payments to the Band and have the opportunity to own their house in 20 years.



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Quotes

"I appreciate all the hard efforts and work that has gone into Habitat for Humanity's program here at Saugeen First Nation. Kudos to the families that are getting the new homes. Chi-miigwech."

—**Lester Anoquot, Chief Saugeen First Nation**

"We are very pleased to be partnering with Saugeen First Nation to build safe, affordable and energy efficient homes for member families this again year. Our Build is also providing employment for several members of the community and skills training for youth."

— **Greg Fryer, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce**

Contact

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About Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce

People in our community and all over the world partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and purchase their home with a no-down payment, no-interest mortgage with payments set at 25% of their income. Not only does this provide affordable housing for families in need, it also enables them to build assets, reduce their dependence on other forms of social assistance and contribute to the community through paying property taxes.

As an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Canada, Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce has served 111 adults and 169 children since 1987. With our help, Habitat homeowners are given the opportunity to thrive, enabling them to build a better life for themselves and their children.

To learn more about how you can help create a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live visit our website habitatgreybruce.ca.

We create opportunity for people to thrive through innovative housing solutions.