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The Capital Region's Real Estate Voice

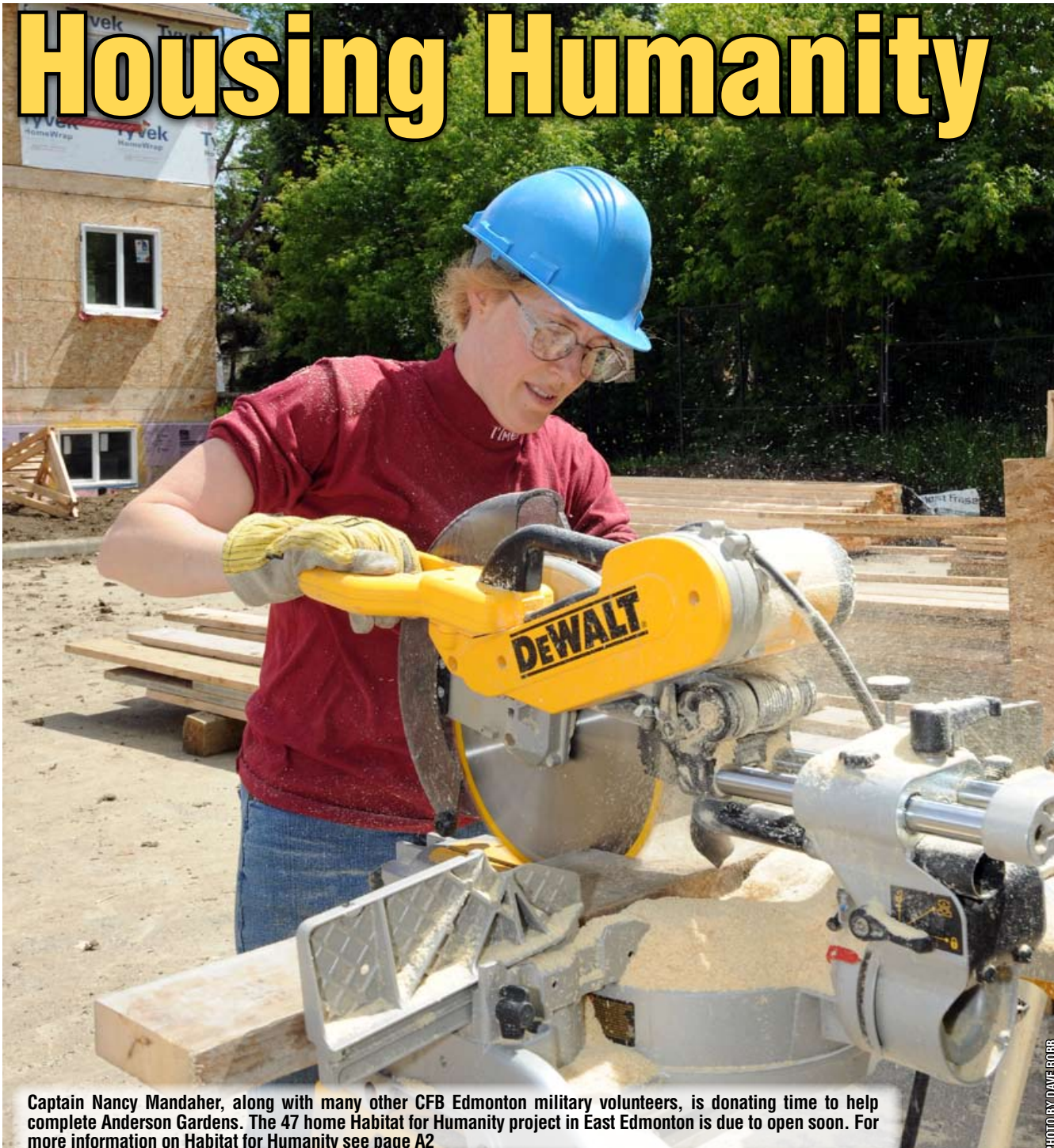


FREE every Wednesday

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WEEKLY

Housing Humanity



Captain Nancy Mandaher, along with many other CFB Edmonton military volunteers, is donating time to help complete Anderson Gardens. The 47 home Habitat for Humanity project in East Edmonton is due to open soon. For more information on Habitat for Humanity see page A2

Mud tips for your house A4



Selling your home? A5



Open Houses 3



PHOTO BY DAVE ROBB

Habitat for Humanity Edmonton

REALTORS® Community Foundation

To many people the sound of a banging hammer is merely noise, but to an increasing number of families in Edmonton, it is a song of hope. Habitat for Humanity Edmonton has been banging hammers since 1991; giving a hand up to hard-working families. What does it mean to give a “hand up”? In Habitat terms it means that families pay an interest-free mortgage that is never more than 25 percent of their income. The family’s commitment is to work 500 hours on Habitat construction sites where they will build their home and their neighbours’ homes. That equates to approximately 70 full working days – on top of a full time job and raising a family. It is a “hand up,” not a hand out.

Partner families are talented people who come from all walks of lives. They work as receptionists, day care workers, bus drivers, nursing assistants, janitors. They are families who are working hard, but need a boost to realize the security, stability and other benefits of home ownership. Habitat families undergo a thorough application process to ensure that they will become successful home owners who care for their property and neighbourhood.

The Habitat program does more than benefit individual families. It enriches communities. Volunteers and community partners are engaged and mobilized by Habitat to build affordable housing; thereby enlivening the spirit of neighbour helping neighbour. Volunteers – many beginners who have never held a tool and seasoned builders

– proudly don their safety gear and begin to frame, install drywall, landscape, paint and perform a multitude of vital construction tasks. At the end of the day, volunteers leave the build site knowing that they have made a tangible difference for families and their community. Families soon become involved in the life of their local community.

An important facet of the Habitat program is its sustainability. As families settle in and pay their mortgages, Habitat then reinvests those mortgage payments into building more homes. The more Habitat homes that exist, the more families they can serve. When a partner family decides to buy a home on the open market, they then sell their home back to Habitat and it is used to provide another family with a hand up. This cycle creates a sustainable Habitat program that ensures all Habitat homes will always remain in the affordable housing pool.

Sustainability continues with Habitat’s ReStore, two retail outlets that accept donations of new and gently-used building materials and then sell them back to the general public at a discounted rate. The proceeds from ReStore fund Habitat’s administration costs. This means that every dollar donated to Habitat goes directly to building homes and serving families. ReStore is a must-see store for those looking to renovate their home and for treasure hunters seeking that one-of-a-kind, vintage item. The success of ReStore

provides a solid infrastructure that ensures that Habitat can serve families for decades to come.

Habitat Edmonton relies on partnerships with corporations, organizations, community and faith groups as well as individuals in order to continue their work across northern Alberta. One of the valued partnerships that Habitat holds dear is their partnership with the REALTORS® Community Foundation. They have been a stalwart supporter of Habitat’s work. Their commitment to Habitat is demonstrated best through their support of three homes builds (over \$150,000 over the past three years) and through a spirit of volunteerism (many REALTORS® have participated on different Habitat build sites throughout the capital region).

Habitat builds homes so that families have the hope of a better future, and they are doing this on construction sites throughout Alberta. On every one of these sites you will hear the sounds of volunteers working – rain or shine. When you hear them banging their hammers or even the din of the construction site, I hope you recognize it as the sound of hope, and that you remember the important work that Habitat is doing in your community. Habitat always needs helping hands on their build sites and people willing to partner with them financially to provide a much needed “hand up” to hard-working families. To find out how you can participate, please visit their website at www.hfh.org.




We invite you to be a part of the
15TH ANNUAL EDMONTON
DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL
AUGUST 19-21, 2011
 LOUISE MCKINNEY RIVERFRONT PARK

PADDLES UP!
GET IN ON THE ACTION! For 15 years, the Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival has been inspiring folks mentally and physically to challenge themselves and their teammates, to embrace and celebrate the rush that only dragon boat racing can create. It’s contagious. Race, volunteer or cheer from the sidelines – but get involved. You’ll be glad you did.

www.edmontondragonboatfestival.com
 Check us out on Facebook.

Thank you to our sponsors!

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As of June 17, 2011	Variable Rate	6 MOS. CL.	1 YR. OPEN	1 YR. CL.	2 YRS.	3 YRS.	4 YRS.	5 YRS.	7 YRS.	10 YRS.
BANKS										
BMO BANK OF MONTREAL	2.85	4.45	6.3	3.7	4.05	4.55	5.19	4.14	6.49	6.85
CANADIAN WESTERN BANK	3.0	4.45	6.35	3.55	3.85	4.35	4.99	5.39		
NATIONAL BANK	2.55	4.45		3.7	4.05	4.55	5.19	3.89	6.55	6.75
RBC ROYAL BANK	2.39			3.37	3.63	4.11	4.13	4.27		
ATB FINANCIAL	4.45	6.3		3.5	3.85	4.25	4.89	3.69	6.35	
TRUST COMPANIES										
PEACE HILLS TRUST	6.0			3.5	3.75	4.35	4.99	5.34		
OTHER										
CENTUM ELITE MORTGAGE CORP	4.40	6.3		2.64	3.3	3.29	3.49	2.25	4.79	4.99
INTER-GROUP	2.39			3.37	3.63	4.11	4.13	4.27		
INVIS INC.	2.25	4.4		2.64	3.2	3.52	3.69	3.89	4.79	4.99
MORTGAGE MAKERS INC	4.45	3.8		2.64	3.19	3.52	3.69	3.79	4.79	4.99
THE MORTGAGE CENTRE/SKY FINANCIAL CORP.	3.8			2.50	3.3	3.49	3.54	3.59	4.65	4.94
MAXX MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS	2.3	4.45	6.3	3.19	3.55	3.69	3.69	3.89	4.79	4.99
M. RICHARD & ASSOCIATES INC.	2.2	4.45		2.99	3.3	3.55	3.59	3.59	4.79	4.99
DOMINION LENDING CENTRES KEY FINANCIAL	2.25	4.4	6.7	2.64	3.3	3.52	3.54	3.59	4.79	4.99
D.L.C. 1ST FINANCIAL	2.20	4.45	3.8	2.64	3.35	3.49	3.44	3.69	4.69	4.89
BRIDGEWATER BANK				3.20	3.60	3.6	3.74	3.84		6.89
FIRST FOUNDATION RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES	2.2			2.64	3.23	3.42	3.49	3.59	4.79	4.99

All rates subject to change without notice.