



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SFI AND BUILT GREEN SUPPORT OAKVILLE HABITAT HOMES

OAKVILLE, Ontario – Habitat for Humanity Halton will build two homes in Oakville with high environmental standards thanks to the involvement of Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI®) and Built Green Canada.

The 900-square-foot homes on Elmwood Road will be the first in Ontario certified to Built Green Canada standards. Three SFI program participants – Weyerhaeuser Company, Norbord Inc. and AbitibiBowater – will donate engineered wood products, dimension lumber and OSB from responsible sources. A groundbreaking ceremony was held today, and construction of the homes, which will also meet Energy Star standards, will start in June.

The independent non-profit SFI forest certification program is the largest single standard in the world, with principles and measures that promote responsible forest management. The non-profit Built Green™ Program supports resource-efficient and environmentally responsible construction practices. It has enrolled more than 13,500 homes in Alberta and British Columbia since 2004, and recently announced it is expanding across Canada.

“Oakville, like other communities, has its share of low-income households looking for decent housing,” said Anne Swarbrick, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Halton. “The SFI and Built Green programs are helping us make home ownership possible for two families – with the added bonus that the homes will have a lighter environmental footprint.”

“Habitat for Humanity is a great organization, and we are delighted to be able to work with them on this project. Habitat can achieve so much by participating in the Built Green Program,” said David Bengert, President of Built Green Canada, which donated its services to Habitat for Humanity Halton for the two homes. “Built Green homes are good for the environment in that they are comfortable in any climate, have great indoor air quality, lower utility bills, and a solid resale value.”

“Habitat for Humanity captures the community spirit of the SFI program perfectly – it means we can use products from local communities to support local communities,” said SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow. “Our partners and participants have donated time and resources to build Habitat homes in Ontario, Manitoba, Tennessee, Maine and Minnesota – and there are more in the works.”



About Habitat for Humanity Halton

Habitat for Humanity Halton (www.habitathalton.ca) is a community-based, non-profit, faith-based organization working for a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Its mission is to use knowledge, skills, community relationships, volunteers and other resources to create and promote safe and affordable home ownership options with the aim of alleviating the cycle of poverty within the community. In 2006, Habitat for Humanity Halton won a Donner Award, which recognizes and encourages best practices in non-profit management.

About Built Green

The Built Green™ Program (www.builtgreencanada.ca), owned and managed by the non-profit Built Green Canada, is an industry-driven voluntary program that promotes green building practices to reduce the impact building has on the environment. Successful completion of the Built Green™ Builder Training is required to become a Built Green™ Certified Builder member. Membership in Built Green Canada is open to all members of participating home builders' associations, including builders, renovators, product suppliers or manufacturers, service providers, community developers and municipalities.

About SFI Inc.

Independent SFI Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program (www.sfiprogram.org). Across North America, close to 80 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard, making it the largest single forest management standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers how much certified, responsibly sourced and/or recycled content is in a product. The SFI program's unique fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

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