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**WELCOME TO NIAGARA PENINSULA HOMES  
25 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

*Message from the President of Niagara Peninsula Homes*

Welcome to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration; it is a wonderful occasion to celebrate the joy and differences we have made to people's lives. It has been a wonderful to know that we make a difference. We will continue our course in the pursuit of justice and dignity to allow all of our community to enjoy a decent standard of living, safe housing and to decide their own destiny. Thanks to all who journeyed with us, we still have miles to go, but, we will get there eventually with everybody's help. Thanks to the wonderful staff and it has been a privilege and honour to walk along side of you. **Bob McCallion- President of NPH Board of Directors – President of Welland Labour Council – Member of the Ontario Federation of Labour Executive Council**

*Quotes:*

I got involved at the tail end of 70's... before NPH was incorporating ...I have always been involved as social activist interested in issues of social justice, equality, peace and ecology.. I was interested in joining a org that was trying to provide housing to people.. Housing is not the only area of the importance to assist people...community building and whole variety of co-op ventures are important...helping people to gain skills and find jobs is also important- **John Mayer BA,MA,PHD-Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Brock University-retired... Founding Director -NPH**

At the time I was on the staff of Niagara College ....Welland Mayor Allan Pietz, more than once stated publicly that NPH had contributed greatly to the betterment of the City.....**Eric Robinson -2004/2005 Order of Ontario-Jubilee Medal- Founder of NPH**

...we were creating a better society..in the beginning that meant focusing on creating good quality housing based on a belief that everyone had a right to housing.. and ....then they could better deal with other challenges in their lives..**Jane McMichael -past president of NPH**

## NPH HISTORY- HOUSING:

- March 1980 Eric Robinson- Chairman of Labour Management Studies Division of Niagara College – receives a Crop Grant from the Federal Government to develop a housing resource group-NPH
- Development in 1980- some Briar Rose expansion; Urban Native Homes- Hamilton
- February 1981 – Niagara Peninsula Homes is incorporated as stand alone non profit agency ; Development: Greenhill Village Co-op Hamilton;
- Development History 1983-1989 Mountain City Co-op-Hamilton; Garden Village Co-op-St Catharines; Dundas Co-op- ( rehab historical buildings);Falls Place Co-op-Niagara Falls; Guise Street Co-op-Hamilton; Country Lane Co-op-St Catharines; Ganawageh Urban Homes-Ft Erie; Westwood Co-op-Niagara Falls; Arbour Village Co-op-St Catharines; Neighbours Community Co-op-St Catharines; Moonstone Co-op-St Catharines; Northtown Co-op- Welland;Woodrose Co-op- Welland; Women's Community Co-op-Hamilton; Mel Swart Co-op-Welland;
- Development History 1990-1996-Canalview Homes-Welland;Mainstream (20 units)-St Catharines;CMHA-13 rehab units;Regatta Place Co-op-St Catharines;Shriners Creek Co-op-Hamilton;Port Colborne Co-op;Agnes MacPhail Co-op-St Catharines; Brookside Co-op-Niagara Falls;Skyline Co-op-Niagara Falls;Stoneworth Co-op-Hamilton;People's Choice Co-op-St Catharines; Dove Co-op-Smithville;Meadowgreen Co-op- St Catharines; Bordertowne Co-operative Homes-Ft Erie; Pinecroft Co-op-St Catharines;Brain Injuries Assoc-St Catharines; Watermark Co-op-St Catharines; Commonwealth Co-op- St Catharines; Commonwealth Co-op- St Catharines; Greenvale Co-op-St Catharines; St Charles Co-op-Welland; Village Glen Co-op- St Catharines; Co-op D'Habitation Beauparlant- Welland;Southern Lights Co-op-Hamilton; Halam Park Co-op-Hamilton
- Development 2005/2006- Gateway Residential Community Support Services- Welland

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..have lived here since '98...changed my life....I was going to school and working . . . been and am on the board of directors...I like to serve my community... **Ezzeldin - Watermark Co-op- St Catharines- Director**

Moved in 12 years ago...before that lived at Woodrose Co-op...needed an accessible unit ..they were hard to find . . . I love my co-op..I am on board of directors .I finally I went on and I love it .... **Peggy -Village Glen Co-op-St Catharines**

...moved in 7 years ago...have now been the president for one year In and out of co-op since I was 10...being in affordable housing means I can spend more time with my daughter instead of working two and three jobs just to pay for housing **Cindy-Watermark Co-op-St Catharines-president of the Board of Directors**

Lived here since 1996..living in a co-op has changed my life wanted my kids to live in safe and secure place and where they can get respect and diversity of the country...I could go to college and get my diploma...**Sabri -Brookside Village Co-op Niagara Falls-President of the Board of Directors**

...growing up I was always in the co-op with my dad ...so coming back to a co-op was nothing new cause that is where grew up...**Rebecca- Watermark Co-op-St Catharines- Director**

... wanted a back yard for my daughter.. have been on the board and president, .... went back to school to try and got a job..being a co-op allowed me to do that..**Tammy Dollar..Village Glen- President of Board of Directors**

Moved in in 1992...it is safe..I love it..I think it is great ...NPH have treated me like family.. it is not just a job to them..it comes from here..their heart...  
**Verda- Dove Co-op Smithville- Director/ GHF**

Lived in the co-op the last 6 years...went back to school and got my diploma ...I feel like I have my family even though my family are far...  
**Suaad..Director- Village Glen Co-op - St Catharines**

Lived in my co-op for 11 years... . . I have a son with special needs I have been on board plus the .newsletter & children's committee ..... Most recently I have had two falls..I had 47 children and several moms come with food to feed me and guide me ... **Shirley Director- Village Glen Co-op – St Catharines**

I joined the NPH team in 1983 at that time was a staff of three..This is not a 9 to 5 job it really involved my life...**Sylvia Brabson- original staff/ NPH,**

...if it was not for them the co-ops would not have got built **Doug- Vice Pres of GHF/ president of housing co-op/co-ordinator in Welland**

**Quotes from Co-op and Non Profit Housing residents, NPH Board Members and NPH Staff:**

In 1975 we started talking about the possibility of co-ops .... turned out to be a much bigger thing than we all realized ...*Nancy NPH Board/original staff*

...Any new org is challenging..there was learning the job ...co-op housing was new to area.....it was quite complicated..*Sarah P- original NPH staff*

I joined the NPH team in 1983 at that time was a staff of three..This is not a 9 to 5 job it really involved my life...*Sylvia Brabson- original staff/NPH,*

.... it is a family we all care about each other..... Ingrid past president of Watermark was my mentor ..her legacy lives on...*Ken /NPH*

Passion plays a big part in what we are at NPH.. we believe in what we are doing.. if you don't believe .. you won't go very far..*Ian /NPH Staff*

all companies need to have what NPH has..I liked the diversity of the company... *Jasmin/ NPH Staff*

Started with NPH in 1981 ...very challenging ..we were 4 women who had limited experience .. we learned from each other....*Janet-.original NPH staff*

When I look back on it now no doubt was the most challenging thing in my life...it took from 1 year to 4 years to get projects built housing...

*Phyllis/.NPH -Development/Manager of Operations-retired*

... we got involved with NPH because they are a key leader in field of social housing..their expertise.. serves us well..*John/Gateway –new development*

..my husband and I really appreciate living here I really get emotional when I think about the last 17 years at Gateway because .I have seen people turn their lives around...*Nancy –President/f South Niagara Gateway Family Homes*

...have lived in the co-op now for 20 yrs this Sept.... .like a family .. everyone looks out for everyone else ...I got involved with NPH trying to get other co-ops started ..it was hard and we had to fight for it... *Mary - President of Arbour Village Co-operative Homes- St Catharines*

Lived here since 2000...came from Somalia .....living here has changed my life, I can go to school and raise my kids happily... *Fozia/f Director – Arbour Village Co-op*

I moved in to the co-op ..it was very hard to find housing for single people, we have a great community..*Linda Sutch..St Charles Co-op- President*

....we are both seniors ...I enjoy working with all the people in the co-op....people here have a sense of pride living here...*Dorothy/President Vinyard Co-op-Beamsville*

Lived in the co-op the last 6 years...went back to school and got my diploma ...I feel like I have my family even though my family are far-*Suaad..Director- Village Glen Co-op - St Catharines*

Lived in my co-op for 11 years... . I have a son with special needs.. I have been on board,,newsletter & children's committees ..... I have had two falls.. 47 children and several moms came with food to feed me and guide me ...  
*Shirley Director- Village Glen Co-op – St Catharines*

I moved in at 12 and now I am 27... granddaughter to Trinidad Melgar. am on the Board now .. so this experience helps me in my every day life.....*Sandra .Board of Directors St Charles Co-operative Homes- Welland*

the co-op has helped me keep my head above water...we really have enjoyed the last 14 years there...- *Jeremy..Original member/ Port Colborne Co-op*

moved in 1994.. .made our lives much easier. ..been on the board of directors.. *Petco- Watermark Co-op*

... I have been a big part of my community...I was on the board of the co-op and now I am on the Federation Board...*Sue -GHF Board member and past board member of Meadowgreen Co-op*

...this year had a fire and lost everything..people gave me things and they came and rescued me –*Shirley- Member Brookside Co-op*

Without NPH .. we would not see the number of housing co-ops .... they are probably the most critical and under recognized company in Niagara Region ....*Dave Smart G HF-CHF*

NPH fulfills a huge role...they are a key reason for the success for affordable housing in the region. *Lora Beckwith – General Manager- Niagara Regional Housing*

Our first project was in 1983 Falls Place Co-op.. they were our longest standing client...- *Harald Ensslen-Architect*

NPH's work has had a huge impact on local construction industry.-*Richard Tenden- Par Construction*