

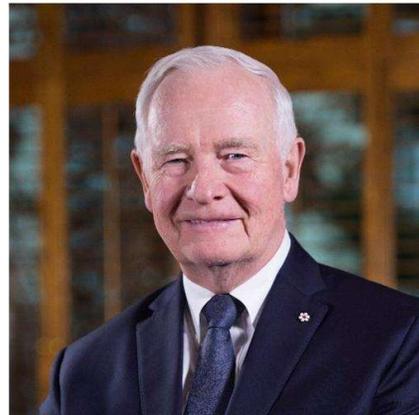


The Open Door

The Homes For Heroes Newsletter (October 2021)

David and Sharon Johnston Named Honorary Patrons of Homes For Heroes Foundation

Homes For Heroes Foundation is extremely pleased to announce that Mr. David Johnston CC and Mrs. Sharon Johnston CC have become the charity's first Honorary Patrons. For many years the former Vice Regal couple have been closely associated with members and Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces. Mrs. Johnston was appointed *Honorary Captain (Navy)* for Military Personnel Command in 2016 and Mr. David Johnston recently completed his service as *Colonel-of-The-Regiment* for The Royal Canadian Regiment. Joining Homes For Heroes Foundation as Patrons continues the Johnson's legacy of support to Canada.



As a national charity, Homes For Heroes Foundation provides a caring and comprehensive solution to homelessness among Canada's Veterans. To do so, it is

building unique and affordable urban villages to house Veterans during their transition back to civilian life; providing full-service, wrap-around programming that delivers the resources, training, and counselling necessary to ensure their success on this journey; enabling the tenants to achieve the goal of living independently in the long term.

Noted Mr. Johnston “What caught our eye is the fact that Homes For Heroes Foundation has developed such an innovative and successful approach to helping our Veterans. It follows a carefully laid out program that takes them from living rough to successful reintegration as proud and productive citizens.”

“Sadly, some of our Veterans have been left behind and need our support. Despite their dire circumstances, they are often too proud to seek assistance from the public or even their close friends because of the embarrassment they feel at their situation. So, they remain invisible to most of us.” stated Mrs. Sharon Johnson.

“It is a truly a great honor to have David and Sharon Johnston agree to support our charity. Their patronage will help us reach our goal of ending homelessness among our Veterans. The problem won’t be solved by governments alone. It will take the support of individuals, private foundations and corporations, as well as the active backing of outstanding leaders like the Johnstons. Our Veterans stood on guard for Canada and now it is our job to ensure that they are taken care of in their time of need.” stated David Howard, CEO, Homes For Heroes Foundation.

Homes For Heroes opened its first Veterans’ Village in Calgary on November 1, 2019 and fifteen Veterans were able to get off the street, to be warm and safe, to take care of their personal needs and have a secure place to keep their belongings – to begin the journey back into mainstream society. Since opening, eight tenants have graduated from the program.

The organization started construction on its next Village of twenty homes in Edmonton at the beginning of April. Once completed this November it will provide over 7,000 bed-nights per year for Veterans-in-need.

Homes For Heroes is now expanding its program to a national level, with Villages being prepared for Kingston, Ontario; Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Their goal is to build one or more Veterans’ Villages in every major city in the country.

Mark Hutchings, the Chair of the H4H Kingston Village initiative, added “We could not have asked for better champions than Sharon and David. They have such a depth of understanding about this country along with an enduring commitment to our military community. Their support is a huge encouragement for our whole team, and they will be a beacon for others to join us in this important task.”

The Right Honourable David Johnston was Canada’s 28th Governor General. During his mandate, he established the Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF), a registered charity that supports and amplifies the Office of the Governor General in its work to connect, honour and inspire Canadians. Today, he is actively involved as Chair of the RHF Board of Directors. In 2018, he was appointed Colonel to the Royal Canadian Regiment. Prior to his installation as Governor General, Mr. Johnston was a professor of law for 45 years, and served as President of the University of Waterloo for two terms, Principal of McGill University for 3 terms. He was president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and of the Conférence des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec.

He was the first non-U.S. citizen to be elected chair at Harvard University’s Board of Overseers from which he graduated in 1963 magna cum laude and was twice named all-American in hockey and was named to Harvard’s Athletic Hall of Fame. He holds degrees from Harvard, Cambridge and Queen’s and has received more than three dozen honorary degrees or fellowships. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 books. He was named Companion of the Order of Canada in 1997. He has chaired or served on many provincial and federal task forces and committees and has served on the boards of more than a dozen public companies. He has been married for 57 years to Sharon and they have 5 daughters and 14 grandchildren.

Sharon Johnston graduated in Physical and Occupational Therapy in 1966 from the University of Toronto and some years later obtained her Doctorate in Rehabilitation Science from McGill University.

Sharon's early career was as a psychiatric occupational therapist working with children and young adults until the birth of her five daughters.

As the wife of the 28th Governor General, she used her position to advocate for mental health awareness and the importance of anti-stigma programs. As an honorary witness to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission she has advocated for our indigenous Canadians. For twelve years she managed a dressage training centre near Waterloo, Ontario before moving to Ottawa.

Sharon is writing a trilogy of historical fiction. The first novel, *Matron and Madams*, published in 2015, a fictional account of life in southwestern Alberta during a colourful, post-Great War era, based on her grandmother's experiences. *Patchwork Society* was released in March of 2020 and is set in Sault Ste-Marie.



Progress at our Edmonton Village Site

There has been a lot happening over the summer at the site of our Edmonton Veterans' Village! While COVID-19 has resulted in some unforeseen construction delays, we are still on track to open the Village this year.



Construction of the twenty tiny homes started at the ATCO manufacturing facility in April.



Meanwhile, PCL Construction started to prepare the Village site.



Allowing the first homes to be delivered to the site in September



By early October the decking and walkways were ready for installation

HAYAKAZE HOUSE



THE MICHAEL YUKI HAYAKAZE
A1C 2B
11 SEPTEMBER 1981 - 9 MARCH 2008



Michael, AKA Mike, the brother to all who knew him, was within a few days of returning home to Edmonton after completing his tour of duty in Afghanistan when his armored vehicle was destroyed by a roadside bomb. He and two other supply men on a mission near Mardar, in the Parwan District, about 45 kilometers west of Kandahar.

Trooper Hayakaze joined the military in 2006. Following basic training, he took specialized driver training in Fort Bliss, Texas and Germany before he volunteered for his deployment to Afghanistan.

Hayakaze, the 7th Canadian soldier to give his life in the line of duty while serving with the Canadian contingent of NATO forces in Afghanistan. He was fondly remembered as an excellent soldier with a positive attitude.

His remains were interred at the Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Edmonton, Alberta.




FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JANUARY 2008 - FEBRUARY 2008

#200802 01

The tribute plaques for our fallen heroes have been designed



And we are on track for completion in November and welcoming our first cohort of twenty Veterans on December 1st

Stampede Celebration at Calgary Veterans' Village

2020-2021 has been a difficult year for all of us, with fewer interactions between friends and neighbours. When you live alone, or have pre-existing mental health concerns, we can see the negative impacts that COVID has presented including increased isolation, depression, and loneliness.

This is true for many of our veterans who have found themselves working through challenging times. At H4H we recognize the importance of community and feeling connected to others.

As Calgary began to lift COVID restrictions, the residents of the Radisson Village held a Stampede BBQ. On July 15th we lit up our grills, brought in pot-luck dishes

and snacks, listened to speakers, and shared laughter together with residents, staff and a handful of guests.

The residents spoke about this event for days and now want to have BBQ's on a regular basis. In fact, one of our residents just obtained a new job and this weekend they are planning on holding a small celebration together and put on more hotdogs and hamburgers.

At Homes For Heroes, we understand how important it is for our Veterans to feel connected, socially included, and able to participate in all aspects of society. And, as the night lingered on, you sure couldn't beat seeing our Veterans' stories and pride on display.



Bryan, one of our resident veterans gives a thumbs up while serving up a Stampede fare to the other residents

ATCO Giving Gardens

Our great friends at ATCO never seem to stop coming up with new ways in which they can assist our Veterans-in-need! Over the past summer ATCO employees have



been tending to 30 vegetable gardens set up at Spruce Meadows, the world-renowned equestrian centre on the southwestern outskirts of Calgary. With the usual summer slate of show jumping competitions

cancelled during COVID-19, the facility is using some of its space to put in vegetable garden beds, many of them in old horse troughs.

“Horses consume a tremendous amount of water in a day, so as a result, we have a lot of troughs around the property,” Spruce Meadows senior vice-president Ian Allison said.

Produce from the gardens will be donated to our Veterans’ Villages, and the Veterans Association Food Bank – some as frozen meals cooked by ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen – others as fresh vegetables for our residents.

Bravo Zulu (job very well done) to all who participated in the Garden Project! We at Homes For Heroes, and our resident Veterans, can’t thank you enough for all that you do.

The **BRICK**.

The Brick Announces Sponsorship of Homes For Heroes Foundation to Support Homeless Veterans in Edmonton

The Brick, a wholly owned subsidiary of Leon's Furniture Limited, joined our group of generous sponsors in June, announcing that they would donate the furniture, appliances and other necessary items **required to furnish all twenty homes** in our Edmonton Veterans' Village.

“As a proudly Canadian company – one with deep Edmonton roots – The Brick stands behind Canadian Armed Forces Veterans,” said Dave Freeman, President, The Brick. “These men and women have risked everything for Canadians, and we are grateful for their service. The Brick is honoured to support Homes For Heroes Foundation by providing furnishings and appliances to make these tiny houses homes, ultimately creating safe, comfortable spaces for our country's heroes at a time when they need it most.”

Over its 50 years of operations, The Brick has been committed to making an impact on the lives of Canadians. The company looks forward to supporting Homes For Heroes Foundation and future residents of Edmonton ATCO Veterans Village as they embark on the path to sustainability and self-sufficiency.

Raising Funds for Homes for Heroes in Kingston, Ontario

Ride for Refuge

An intrepid team of volunteers in Kingston, Ontario, recently got together to raise funds in support of the Homes For Heroes Veterans' Village planned for their city. Some walked, others biked, and one even swam! But regardless of how they ambulated, The Ride for Refuge fundraiser on October 2 was a successful by any measure. Sixty participants turned out for this special day, which was part of the national Ride For Refuge program that support charities working with displaced, vulnerable, and exploited people everywhere.



Ride For Refuge Event Organizers Kathy Williams and Gail Power

Organized into seven teams, this Kingston effort raised \$25,500 in individual pledges and corporate sponsorships! A big thank you goes to Gail Power and Kathy Williams of the Sutton Group Masters Brokerage for running everything from start to finish so flawlessly.

Not to be left behind, members of the local Legion Branch 631 that hosted the Kingston Ride passed the hat and added a further \$1,300 to this total – a special thanks goes to Laura Briggs for rounding up these gifts, Gord Rittwage for directing the parking lot and John? (he was so friendly we never did get his name) for manning the BBQ – all members of 631.



From left to right: Catherine Arnold, Diane Judge, Robert Munroe, Kay Langmuir, Mark Pruefer, Gail Power and Ryan Power

For more photos of this event, see: <https://rideforrefuge.org/charity/homesforheroes>

RE/MAX Golf Tournament:

Fore!

On September 27, that word echoed across the Garrison Golf Course at CFB Kingston as the RE/MAX Finest Realty held its first annual golf tournament in support of the Kingston Village. Some 140 golfers signed up in 35 teams to take part and despite the rainy conditions that prevailed for much of the day, the event succeeded in raising over \$17,000 for the H4H Kingston cause. Event sponsors included a wide variety of local businesses who made the competition even keener with special prizes for the participants. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the

owners of this RE/MAX brokerage who made this splendid event possible - Rob Colangeli and Marco Dipietrantonio - along with Theresa Mitchell, Jessica Hellard (and many others) who helped to organize it.



From left to right: Rob Colangeli, Theresa Mitchell, Warren Everett & Mark Hutchings (both representing the H4H Kingston Team) and Marco Dipietrantonio.

Meet Our New Staff

Homes For Heroes is pleased to welcome several new members to our head office and Calgary Village staff.

Debra Armstrong - National Director of Social Services



Debra's childhood was spent on the Canadian Forces Base in Winnipeg, where she learned the importance of support and camaraderie with military families at a very young age. She obtained her Social Work Degree at the University of Calgary and has held a variety of leadership positions for the last 20 years.

Her background includes community work with the City of Calgary, and an active member of the Quick Response Assessment Team for local emergencies and major disasters this fall.

Debra found her passion when she moved into the non-profit sector as an Executive Director for Social Service Programs throughout Alberta. She has received the Alberta Senior's Services Award and served on the Alberta Senior Advisory Council for 3 years. She has also served as Board Chair for Families Canada and recently left her position with Family Resource Centres in Calgary.

With this extensive background and experience, Debra Armstrong is the perfect fit as the National Director of Social Services for Homes For Heroes Foundation. She is excited to be working with our military veterans and supporting their efforts to return to civilian life.

Today, Debra lives in Calgary, is married to a soldier who served for 22 years, has two adult sons, a daughter in law, and recently became a first-time grandmother.

Dan' Liu - Financial Controller

As the Foundation's Finance Controller, Dan Liu is the senior team member responsible for assisting in the development and support of Homes For Heroes Foundation's strategic plans, tracking financial performance, and developing and managing financial controls. She plays a key role in the budget planning and reporting to support the Military Veteran village construction projects, as well as the operational side of the Charity.



Dan brings over 20 years of experience in finance and operations including 10 years of non-profit organization property management. Prior to joining H4HF, Dana worked for Horizon Housing Society as Senior Financial Analyst.

Tiffany Deobald - Summer Student Mentorship



Tiffany spent the summer working as H4HF's first, post-secondary, student mentorship. Tiffany has worked with the foundation under the guidance of the company's Director of Planning & Development, Jacqueline Howard. Tiffany is currently in her fourth year of studies at The University of Calgary, completing a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and a Minor in Architectural Studies. She has participated and assisted in the planning department's processes of affordable

housing developments and community planning. Tiffany's connection to Homes for Heroes was well-suited, having grown up in a Canadian military family, with her father serving for over 20 years in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Over the duration of the internship, Tiffany has experienced an encompassing perspective on community planning, affordable housing, and the integration of social services, to meet the needs of vulnerable citizens. Her experiences at the Homes for Heroes Foundation have further propelled her to pursue a professional career in community planning, and she will be applying to master's programs across Canada this fall.

Kendahl Cowan - Program Manager, Calgary Veterans' Village

Prior to joining Homes for Heroes, Kendahl spent 8 years working in various housing programs across Calgary's homeless sector and holds an educational background in Social Work from Dalhousie University. Kendahl is responsible for the on-site operations of the Calgary Veterans Village, as well as connecting our Veterans to community services that can provide various types of support. Kendahl is passionate about community endeavors of all sizes and takes pride in her career of helping Calgarians end their experience of homelessness.



Bios of our Honourary Patrons, Board Members and staff are all available on our website <https://h4hf.ca> under 'Our People'.

To all of our Donors and Supporters:

As you can see from our newsletter, Homes For Heroes continues to grow and expand its efforts to assist homeless Veterans across the country: Calgary has been operating for almost two years and eight residents have already graduated from the program; Edmonton will open on December 1st; planning and fundraising for our Kingston and Winnipeg Villages are well underway with a target of opening in late 2022; and we are working hard to secure lands to build more villages across Canada.

COVID has certainly hurt our charity's ability to raise funds and to build on budget. Individual donations have been down, and COVID restrictions have resulted in increased construction costs. That said, we stay vigilant in our mission to end the issue of Veteran homelessness and want to sincerely thank everyone who has so generously supported our efforts to assist our charity.

To maintain this momentum and reach our goal of ending homelessness among Canada's Veterans, we still need your help. Please consider making a donation today, at <https://homesforheroesfoundation.ca/donate/>. The cause is worthy and the need is urgent – please donate now to help our Veterans-in-need!

On behalf of the Homes For Heroes team we hope you remain healthy and well.

Sincerely,

David Howard
President
dave@h4hf.ca

Get Social

Homes For Heroes is on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Please follow us and share with your networks.



www.h4hf.ca

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