



## Media Release

### Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) Celebrates New Homeowners with Informational Housewarming Party

**NIAGARA REGION**, November 19, 2008 - Niagara Regional Housing hosted a housewarming party on November 19 to celebrate 53 new homeowners who received funding through "Welcome Home Niagara", program financed through the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. In total, 121 households in Niagara are expected to move into their own homes through this innovative program that provides 5 per cent down payment assistance in the form of a forgivable loan to qualified applicants.

"The Welcome Home Niagara Homeownership Program has made the dream of owning a home a reality for many Niagara families. Purchasing a home is not only an investment in their future but also contributes to the economic health of communities." commented Maryellen MacLellan, Manager Community Programs at Niagara Regional Housing, "This housewarming party was an opportunity to celebrate and to provide our new homeowners with important information about home maintenance, energy efficiency, recycling and many other aspects of homeownership. We were delighted that the Regional Chair Peter Partington and Brett Barnes of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation came out to support our new homeowners."

Other speakers included Gregor MacLean of Niagara Region Waste Management and Peter Inman, Associate Director of Energy Management, Niagara Region. Regional Chair Peter Partington noted that, "We're pleased that through this program home ownership has become a reality for low to moderate income families in the Niagara region. It is a tangible reminder that great things are possible through partnerships." The thrill of a new home was best described by one new owner and newcomer to Canada, Isolda Gomez who noted that "One of my dreams was to become the owner of a property and this dream came true. The feeling to come home every night after work to my own house and think about which colour I will paint this room is truly remarkable".

"Welcome Home Niagara" down payment assistance was available for the purchase of 121 new or resale homes in the Niagara region. Successful applicants have six months to purchase a home. After this period, there may be additional opportunities for those households who are on the Welcome Home Niagara Waiting List. For more information on the "Welcome Home Niagara Homeownership Program" please visit the Niagara Regional Housing web site at [www.nrh.ca](http://www.nrh.ca).

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