

Delta Bessborough Hotel announces campaign

□ Habitat for Humanity to benefit from funds

By Cassandra Kyle
of The StarPhoenix

A fundraising campaign that involves one type of shelter provider helping another is underway.

The Delta Bessborough announced Wednesday plans to raise \$75,000 for the Saskatoon branch of Habitat for Humanity during the iconic hotel's 75th anniversary year.

The funds will allow a deserving Saskatoon family to move into a home of their own, with the \$75,000 covering the majority of hard costs on a new residential unit, said Barry Downs, the organization's board chair.

"It's a significant step toward another family becoming homeowners," Downs said Wednesday.

Through the Habitat for Humanity program, selected families earn the downpayment on their home by volunteering hours during the construction phase of the house.

The owners pay down an interest-



—SP Photo by Gord Waldner

Stefan Deprez, sales and marketing director for the Delta Bessborough Hotel, unveils 75th anniversary commemorative coins and pins Wednesday

free mortgage based on the value of the property.

Downs said the campaign will also help to raise the organization's public profile.

"Any organization that is depen-

dent on fundraising, volunteers, that sort of thing, community public profile tends to be everything and we're honoured that the Delta Bessborough has singled us out," he said.

Andrew Turnbull, the hotel's general manager, said while Habitat for Humanity has been Delta Hotels' national charity for nearly two years, it was an easy choice to join with the organization's Saskatoon branch during the Bessborough's diamond anniversary year.

"When it came to planning (our) 75th anniversary celebrations, we really wanted to focus on our sense of community and the hotel's place in the community and the opportunity to give back," Turnbull said. "So it was just a natural and wonderful fit with Habitat. We're in the shelter-providing business, as are they."

The hotel plans to raise money for the organization through the sale of special 75th anniversary lapel pins, medallions and accommodation packages. The hotel is also hosting smaller fundraisers, such as bingo nights, along with large-scale fundraising events, such as an upcoming gala on May 8.

Turnbull said Wednesday's announcement is the beginning of nine months of celebrations leading to the hotel's official 75th anniversary date on Dec. 10.