

**MEDIA RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****August 14, 2012**

NEW HOUSING PROGRAM OFFERS SUPPORT FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED

Ontario Renovates Is An Opportunity for County of Renfrew Residents To Access Funding For Home Repairs

Pembroke, ON: The County of Renfrew, in partnership with the Province of Ontario, is pleased to announce that a new program is being introduced to assist seniors and disabled individuals to access funding for upgrades to their homes to enhance their quality of life. **Ontario Renovates** is a program that provides financial assistance to homeowners by way of a forgivable loan to repair their home to acceptable standards while improving the energy efficiency and/or increasing accessibility of their unit.

Mayor Peter Emon, Chair of the County of Renfrew Social Services Committee, explained that **“the target groups for Ontario Renovates include low to moderate income seniors and persons with disabilities residing in the County of Renfrew. This is a great opportunity for some of our residents to make the necessary upgrades to their home and also improve their quality of life. I really encourage our local residents to inquire about this program. The program is based on a first-come, first-serve basis.”**

In order to qualify for the program, residents must meet certain criteria including:

- The property must be located in the County of Renfrew
- Applicants must own the home that is their sole and principle residence with a market value below \$216,831
- Applicants must have a total household income that does not exceed \$70,100 which includes all sources of income

In order to qualify for the program, there is a formal application process that is administered through Renfrew County Housing Corporation. Funding is provided in the form of a 10-year, interest free forgivable loan to homeowners based on the cost of approved work items up to \$10,000. In addition, funding for accessibility repairs made to a home and/or unit up to a maximum of \$3,500 is based upon the cost of approved work items, is in the form of a grant and does not require repayment. The application must provide supporting information and documentation as required.

For more information on this exciting new program, or to request an application package, please call 613-432-3679. Residents of the County of Renfrew can also download the application package by visiting www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

Mayor Peter Emon
Carol Neill

Chair, County of Renfrew Social Services Committee
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