

## A HOUSING STRATEGY FOR PETERBOROUGH CITY & COUNTY

As required by the Places To Grow Act, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and municipal Official Plans, the City and County must develop a Housing Strategy to meet the needs of all residents, with a particular emphasis on affordable housing. As Service Manager for Housing, the City is leading development of this Strategy for both City and County.

Our community, like others, is experiencing the effects of climate change, urban sprawl, traffic congestion, and environmental degradation. The Province and the Municipalities are developing strategies for dealing with these challenges. Housing is fundamental to a healthy community; the Housing Strategy will address the need for greater urban density and intensification, as well as the needs of housing households of low and moderate incomes, seniors and persons with special needs across the continuum of housing from homelessness/housing insecurity to home ownership.

A community Steering Committee has been formed to advise on the process of research, consultation and drafting the final document that will go before Councils for approval - likely before summer.

In addition to the contribution of Steering Committee members, a number of consultations in the community have been held or are to come. These include meetings with the Supply Sub-Committee of AHAC, the Peterborough Social Planning Council, social housing provider representatives, the Homelessness Agencies Co-ordinating Committee, Social Services Division staff, Planning Department staff, Our Space users, County Planning staff, the Township Clerks/Treasurers and Chief Building Officials, PACAC, the Council for Persons with Disabilities, and the Landlords Association.

**A consultation for the general public will be held on Thursday, 11 March 2010, 6 - 8:30 p.m. at the Public Library (lower level).** Your presence would be most welcome.

Contact:

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Some questions to consider from local research:

The PSPC released its report “**Heading Down the Road to the Future: Planning for the Future of Peterborough County & City**”, in November, 2009. Through the consultations held in the development of this report, some key questions were raised. These questions may guide community discussion as we develop a community housing strategy for the future:

- Is the Peterborough region likely to see a significant rise in population in the near future due to these significant policy and community change initiatives?
- Working on the assumption that the area will see a rise in population, what physical and social infrastructures do we need to have in place in order to support appropriate and positive development?
- If Peterborough follows a Smart Growth model including restrictions on expansion and land use, what does this mean for the region in terms of building an appropriate social and physical infrastructure? \_
- After pursuing a policy of smart growth and restricted land use a number of other North American municipalities experienced dramatic impacts such as a rise in traffic congestion and real estate prices. How can we avoid this from happening in our community?
- What impact could a smart growth policy in Peterborough have on real estate and rental prices? Could such an increase lead to middle/upper income residents moving to adjacent communities (Lindsay/Norwood/Lakefield) for more affordable housing?
- Would the current physical infrastructure (sewage, roads) and its social infrastructure (social and human service delivery) need to be remodelled/rebuilt in order to accommodate smart growth? How much will this cost?
- Will enhanced transportation systems lead to Peterborough becoming a bedroom community? What impact will increased commuter activity have upon housing trends in Peterborough? Will gentrification of traditionally lower-income neighbourhoods occur?
- What support systems for newcomers (i.e.: immigrant services, ESL programs) are required to ensure a quality of life for new immigrants in the community?
- Is Peterborough today prepared/willing for any significant influx of immigrants/cultural diversity? What planning is necessary to facilitate a changing demographic/community composition?

For more information about our InfoNotes contact Dawn Berry Merriam at 705-743-5915 or

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