



Housing in Huron County

2016

Stable Housing remains a keystone in Huron County priorities. In the 2014 Long-Term Affordable Housing and Homelessness Plan, we identified overarching goals that together with community partners guide our work in improving lives and ensuring that residents of Huron could have access to local and affordable housing options. Supporting individuals and families, who are at risk of losing their housing, to access the resources they need is a fundamental element in our vision.

Along side the Provincial goals to end homelessness by 2025, the County of Huron continues its commitment to the people of Huron. Newly invested in its Housing team is a Homelessness Programs Supervisor to help contribute to the prevention goals and objectives of the Housing Services.

“Unity is strength....

When there is teamwork
and collaboration wonder-
ful things can be achieved”

~ Mattie Stepanek

The County of Huron continues to work with local agencies who are dedicated to the reduction of poverty and homelessness. With their help, systems are being established that provide the foundations needed to help many individuals shift their quality of life, engage in community opportunities and strengthen services to those in need.



Historically, individuals experiencing homelessness in Canada were older, single men. The homelessness crisis we see today is much more diverse. More women, families and youth are experiencing homelessness than in the past.

- The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, The State of Homelessness in Canada 2016



2016 Social Housing Wait List

Top Five Requested Locations

Location:	Households:
Goderich	154
Clinton	58
Seaforth	38
Exeter	43
Wingham	33

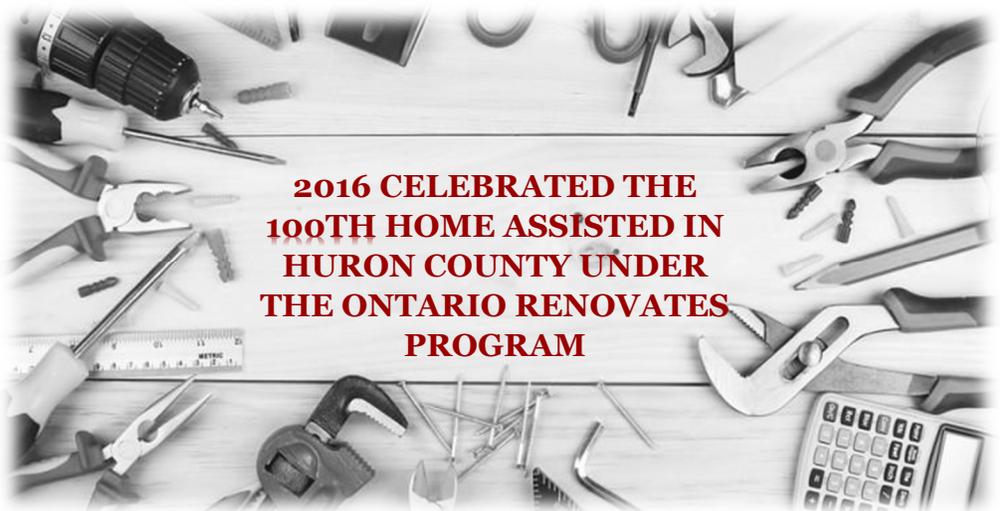
INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Investment in Affordable Housing program is comprised of five components that collectively strive to improve access to affordable housing that is safe, suitable and affordable. The County participates in four of these program components by offering housing funding options clients may access to best suit their needs.

Ontario Renovates is designed to improve the living conditions of households in need through financial assistance. In 2016, this forgivable loan program assisted 19 households with energy efficiency upgrades or accessibility renovations.

Housing Allowance and Rent Supplement programs both enable households access to financial supports to alleviate the high costs of housing. Many households are spending more than 30%, and some closer to 50%, of their income on housing putting them in deep core need. In 2016, 26 rent supplement units are in place in Huron County; and 22 additional households enrolled in the Housing Allowance program for a total of 64 households assisted to date.

Homeownership aims to assist low-to-moderate incomes renter households to purchase affordable homes by providing them with down payment assistance in the form of a forgivable loan. Five households in 2016 were able to purchase their own home due to this program, for a total of 60 households assisted to date since 2008.



“My home is a place of warmth and love. No one should be denied a home” G. Porter



Stable Housing is a Basic Human Right

Once housing is obtained, other enduring issues such as addictions, physical health and mental health may begin to be addressed. Opportunities for community engagement and employment begin to become possibilities. The social determinants of health, including healthy child development, social support and coping skills, may begin to be improved at every stage of life.



*“Housing is only one piece of my puzzle”
~ Huron County Program Participant*

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND HOUSING WITH SUPPORTS

A cornerstone of Huron County’s homelessness prevention system is about finding ways of working together more cohesively to serve those who may be at risk of becoming homeless. Partnership is the critical component. Huron County Housing Services staff have developed partnerships with several community partners to look for collaborative solutions to improve the lives of vulnerable people.

With a client-centered approach, the Huron-Perth OPP Situational Table is able to open the lines of communication between agencies to identify client root issues and make connections to proper community resources.

In recent years, the Mental Health and Addictions Network identified Housing as an important partner at the table, and subsequently, barriers to supports have been decreased and access to Housing programs have been increased. Health Links enables the opportunity for coordinated care plans that bring health providers and social service agencies, including Housing, together to improve the care for individuals with complex needs.

Additionally, Housing Services staff offer resources to the Hoarding Coalition, Poverty to Prosperity, Salvation Army, Safe Homes for Youth, Family Services Perth-Huron and Choices for Change, all of which together offer wrap around services and supports that contribute to tenancy retention.



EMERGENCY SHELTERING

HURON OUT OF THE COLD

In partnership with Lakeshore United Church and several community champions, Huron County was able to open its first ever emergency shelter for the cold Huron winter months. This initiative was only possible by the overwhelming generosity of many volunteers and a dedicated team of staff.

In its first season, the program doors opened in the evenings with a hot meal and breakfast in the morning offered to the men who accessed the program. 70 nights of shelter from the cold were used in 10 weeks of operation.



"If it wasn't for Huron Turning Point Residence and the support staff, I would not have been able to make the progress that I have made so far. This program has made a huge difference in my life in a positive way."

~ Huron County Program Participant

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING



Huron Turning Point Residence

In 2016, we celebrated the opening of a transitional home for men in need of a safe place to live. Participants in this program receive three meals a day, connections to community programs and supports as they journey forward towards more permanent housing in our community. Goal setting with the Housing Outreach Worker enables program participants to identify their unique needs and work on a coordinated, self-directed and supported plan for their future in all aspects of their well-being.

Huron Turning Point Residence has worked with 7 individuals since its doors opened in the fall of 2016.



THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA

- 35,000 Canadians are homeless on a given night
- *At least 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness in a year*
- **The number of older adults (50-64) and seniors (65+) experiencing homelessness is growing**



THANK YOU

A special thank you goes to all of you who help to make sure loved ones, friends, clients, patients and neighbours receive the supports they need.

The important work of housing and homelessness could not be done without the support of so very many people in Huron County.

STEERING COMMITTEE

In 2014, a Steering Committee of dedicated individuals and stakeholders came together to set the strategic direction and provide the leadership of the County's Housing and Homelessness Plan. Their continued advocacy informs agencies and our community of the need and the work that needs to be carried out to help make stable housing a reality for people in our community.

The Steering Committee members:

Perth-Huron United Way -Ryan Erb
The Women's Shelter/Second Stage Housing-Donna Jean Forster-Gill
Huron County Health Unit -Pam Hanington
Choices for Change-Catherine Hardman
Safe Homes for Youth - Vicky Parent
CMHA Middlesex-Beth Patterson
Huron County Planning –Susanna Reid
CMHA Huron-Perth—John Robertson
Huron County Housing—Barbara Hall, Erin Schooley, Jayme Koskamp

