



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **County promotes new Ontario Renovates Program during public information session on March 18**

**Midhurst/March 10, 2014** - The Ontario Renovates Program, delivered by the County of Simcoe, is hosting a public information session to educate homeowners about a new financial incentive program to help homeowners create secondary or garden suites. The information session is being held in partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Simcoe County Museum.

A range of topics will be covered, including funding opportunities, eligibility requirements and the application process. Funding through the Ontario Renovates Program will become available April 1, 2014. The program provides financial support in the form of a forgivable loan, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per dwelling, and/or a grant up to \$3,500 for accessibility modifications. Funding is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The County's 10 Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy, approved by County Council in January 2014, recognizes the need for more affordable housing throughout the County and suggests that the creation of secondary or garden suites could be a viable solution. Furthermore, amendments to the Planning Act through Bill 140, 'Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act', legislates that municipalities are now required to create policies that not only support existing affordable units, but will encourage the creation of new ones.

"The County is committed to supporting programs that increase the number of affordable housing units throughout the region," said Warden Cal Patterson. "Assisting eligible homeowners with the development of secondary or garden suites is a viable strategy to support our goals. It's a win-win scenario, as secondary suites provide an opportunity for additional income for the homeowner and creates more affordable rental units in our communities."

This event is free to the public and refreshments will be provided. As space is limited, registration is required by Monday, March 17, 2014. For more information, please contact the County of Simcoe Social Housing Department at 705-725-7215 ext. 1119 or visit simcoe.ca.

<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>Secondary Suites Information Session</b>
<b>Where</b>	Simcoe County Museum 1151 Highway 26 Minesing, Ontario L0L 1Y2
<b>When</b>	March 18, 2014 7 p.m.- 8:45 p.m.

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents, in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at **simcoe.ca**.

- 30 -

**Allan Greenwood**  
Director, Corporate Communications  
705-726-9300 ext. 1230  
Allan.Greenwood@simcoe.ca

**Collin Matanowitsch**  
Communications Co-ordinator, Communications  
705-726-9300 ext. 1430  
Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca

## Our Communities and Secondary Suites

March 18, 2014

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **YOU ARE INVITED!**

Are you thinking about adding an income (rental) unit in your home? Please join us on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Simcoe County Museum as we outline the Ontario Renovates program along with financing options available for the creation of garden suites for seniors and/or persons with disabilities and secondary suites in single family dwellings.

This event is hosted as a partnership between  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the County of Simcoe.

7:00 - 7:15	Registration
7:15 - 7:20	Opening Remarks
7:20 - 7:35	CMHC - Research Highlights on Secondary Suites
7:35 - 8:05	CMHC - Mortgage Loan Insurance
8:05 - 8:35	Simcoe County - Ontario Renovates Funding Opportunities for the Creation of Secondary/Garden Suites
8:35 - 8:45	Closing Remarks

### **DETAILS:**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

**Location:** Simcoe County Museum, 1151 Hwy. 26 West, Midhurst, Ontario

This will be a free event. Refreshments provided.

As space is limited, R.S.V.P by March 12, 2014

Register directly on-line at

<http://guestli.st/234669>

