1 Courthouse Square Goderich, Ontario N7A 1M2 www.HuronCounty.ca huronadmin@huroncounty.ca Phone: 519.524.8394 Toll Free: 1.888.542.8394



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 1, 2023 **SPOKESPERSON:** Glen McNeil, Warden 519.524.8394 x3224 warden@huroncounty.ca

The County of Huron is developing more affordable housing in Huron.

Huron County, Ontario – The County of Huron is utilizing multiple funding sources to develop sustainable and accessible <u>Affordable Housing</u> in Huron County.

On July 28, 2023 the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative announced it will provide \$6.424 million toward the development of an affordable housing project to be located in Exeter. This project is one of three developments currently underway in Huron County. All three new housing developments are designed to increase affordable housing in Huron as well as prevent and address homelessness locally.

"The County of Huron is tremendously grateful for this financial contribution made by the province." Said Huron County Warden Glen McNeil "The continued commitment of the province to support housing developments like this one in Exeter, is impactful. We greatly appreciate this partnership and look forward to continued collaborations in the future."

About the Housing Developments

1. Bennett Street, Goderich: two triplexes

Two new triplexes are nearing completion on Bennett Street East in Goderich. These six units (two 2-bedroom and four 1-bedroom) will provide a mix of housing appropriate for singles, couples, and families.

These triplexes were developed on an existing County housing site utilizing funds from the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative, Social Services Relief Fund,

and the County of Huron.

The total cost of this project: Approximately \$2 million

2. Sanders Street, Exeter: 20-unit apartment

A 20-unit apartment building is in the final stages of planning for Sanders Street in Exeter. Construction on this project is anticipated to begin summer 2023. These units will provide an appropriate mix of affordable homes for singles and couples.

This apartment building will be constructed on an existing County housing site utilizing funds from the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative. Additional funding continues to be sourced to support this project.

The total cost of this project: Approximately \$7.47 million

3. Gibbons Street, Goderich: 39-unit apartment

A 39-unit apartment building is in the early stages of planning for Gibbons Street in Goderich. Construction on this project is anticipated to begin in 2024. The apartment building will contain a mix of one and two-bedroom units offering supportive, rent-geared-to-income, and affordable housing units for a mix of household types.

This apartment building will be constructed on a site that was sold to the County of Huron from the Town of Goderich for \$1. Funding continues to be sourced to support this project.

The total cost of this project: Approximately \$20.4 million

Energy Efficiency

All new County of Huron housing projects are designed as per the County's <u>High</u> <u>Performance Building Standard</u>. These standards prioritize efficiency, resiliency, and sustainability. Building more efficient Affordable Housing will help the County reduce energy use, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and build facilities that are futureready for the impacts of climate change.

Sustainability

The construction materials selected for all three housing developments are designed to be durable and practical while ensuring the properties can be appropriately maintained with minimal replacement requirements in the future.

Accessibility

The Sanders Street and Gibbons Street developments will contain multiple barrierfree units featuring 5' turning radiuses, roll under sinks, pull down shelves and flush balcony thresholds.

Quick Facts

- Rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing refers to subsidized rental units where the tenant pays rent based on their income level. The current waitlist for rent-geared-to-income units in Huron County is 558 households.
- Affordable Housing is rental housing or home ownership that costs less than 30% of a household's gross income (before tax).
- Supported housing prioritizes on-site supports and community integration where residents receive year-round, wrap-around supports and services.
- Learn more about other actions currently underway to address and prevent homelessness in Huron County in the <u>Report to the Community on</u> <u>Homelessness</u> and by visiting <u>HuronCounty.ca/housing</u>

More Information

Social and Property Services questions can be directed to: Christine Hoffman, Housing Services Manager <u>choffman@huroncounty.ca</u> 519.482.8505 x4254

Planning and Development questions can be directed to: Denise Van Amersfoort, Manager of Planning <u>dvanamersfoort@huroncounty.ca</u> 519.524.8394 x3247

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