



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PETERBOROUGH CELEBRATES ITS HOUSING SUCCESS STORIES

Peterborough, November 23, 2010 – Driven by a unified vision and commitment to develop affordable housing, more than 60 local partners and leaders gathered today to celebrate the past housing successes and future opportunities of the community.

The half-day event held at the Peterborough Lion's Community Centre showcased the work that is being done locally, and commemorated the community champions that are providing affordable housing. Attendees heard presentations from Homegrown Homes, the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC) and Habitat for Humanity Peterborough, as well as a webinar address from the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

"The City and County of Peterborough are very proud of our local developers, generous sponsors, and dedicated volunteers who, through their hard work and partnerships, have recently constructed over 480 new affordable homes in our community," said Peterborough Mayor, Paul Ayotte. "Today is a day to celebrate the power of those partnerships and the great achievements made by everyone involved."

"Making housing happen can be tough going," said Malcolm Hunt, Director of Planning and Development Services for the City of Peterborough. "We spend all kinds of energy to make it happen, but rarely do we stop to be inspired by all that has been accomplished. Peterborough's celebration of National Housing Day is a moment to change all of that."

"We should be very proud to live in a County and City with people who care about people," added County Warden, J. Murray Jones. "Proper and affordable housing should be a fundamental expectation and we must all work together to deal with these needs."

The local celebration also marked AHAC's official release of the fifth annual *Housing is Fundamental* report on the state of housing locally.

"The expanding housing crisis is consistent with and inseparable from the growing poverty issues in our society," said AHAC Chair, Paul Armstrong. "As a first point of remedy, we must develop a national housing strategy."



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“These celebrations not only allow us to reflect proudly on what has been accomplished, but they also prompt us to take a look at the challenges and opportunities that are ahead,” said Peter Friedmann, General Manager, Ontario Region and Managing Director, Securitization, CMHC. “By maintaining strong and steadfast government-community partnerships and leadership, we will continue to create homes, change lives, and strengthen communities within Peterborough.”

Peterborough’s National Housing Day celebration was hosted by the City and County of Peterborough, AHAC, and CMHC.

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For more information, please contact:

Susan Bacque
Manager, Housing Division
City of Peterborough
sbacque@peterborough.ca
705-742-7777, ext. 1492

Stephen Derksen
Communications Coordinator
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
sderksen@cmhc.ca
416-218-3443