

Media Release
Thursday, August 12, 2004

Bouden's Building Systems began Construction this week on two new homes for Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley on Miller and Irving Streets in Pembroke. The homes are to be completed in early November. Approval to proceed with construction was received from Henny Berkerlaar from the Ottawa Regional Office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services late last week.



Initially the intent was to begin construction in late June, however design changes were made to improve upon the accessibility, appearance and cost of the project. Community Living's original proposal called for two over/under duplexes with two wheel chair accessible units.

Changes include an additional wheel chair accessible unit, a side-by-side duplex instead of the one of the over/under duplexes and a number of design features to improve the appearance and function of the homes. The revised cost of the project is estimated at an additional \$55,000. Community Living's Board of Directors approved the revisions which increase the Association's share of the project cost in addition to the \$30,000 fund raising commitment in the approved proposal. The board conducted a special meeting late in July to discuss and approve the increased expenditures. Although increased costs present another challenge for the organization, the changes will benefit tenants for the life of the homes.

The new homes are being funded under a Province of Ontario Developmental Services initiative which has targeted a number of high need groups within the population affected by intellectual disabilities. The Ministry of Community and Social Services is funding the \$324,000 towards the purchase of property and construction of the homes and will provide \$200,000 annually to provide supports and services to tenants. The target group in Renfrew County is senior parents providing care to an adult child in their home. A number of people have indicated interest in the new homes and four individuals with the help of their families are actively involved in planning for life in the new homes.

Fund raising to date has reached the \$17,000 mark thanks to a number of people and organizations. The campaign got a great boost from Deep River United Way who has contributed a total of \$7,500. Their and other donations, such as the Town of Petawawa are significant recognition that the new homes in Pembroke will be an important resource for people in the county. Donations can be made by visiting Community Living's office at 894 Pembroke Street West or calling 735-0659.

For further information please contact Paul Melcher, Executive Director at 735-0659 ext 104