

Media Invitation

Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Purchases New Van for Community Care Northumberland's Specialized Transportation Program

Community Care Northumberland (CCN) is excited to announce the receipt of an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant which has allowed them to purchase a new accessible van that will service the residents of Northumberland County.

Official Launch Ceremony of New Accessible Van

Date: Friday, October 21st, 2016

Location: Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East, Cobourg, Ontario

Time: 11:30 am – 12:00 noon

The need for specialized transportation (accessible and rural) is growing in Northumberland County. CCN successfully applied for **\$90,000** through Ontario Trillium Foundation's capital investment stream which allowed them to purchase a Ram Promaster 2500 so that it can meet this need by increasing its current passenger capacity.

This Promaster vehicle has been retrofitted with an auto-floor package, allowing CCN to change the seating configuration to meet the following two seating need options:

- To carry 7 walk-on passengers and 1 wheelchair = total 8 passengers at one time, or
- To carry 3 walk-on passengers and 2 wheelchairs = total 5 passengers at one time

This auto-floor package allows for flexibility in CCN's central scheduling office to have multi-purpose seating options and increase the capacity of CCN to deliver its specialized transportation. Seating can change depending on the pre-booked daily needs of its clients. This new vehicle will be added to the CCN's current fleet of specialized transportation vehicles.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities. That means over the next decade, OTF will invest more than \$1 billion in Ontario's public benefit sector.

"This vehicle will be a great asset to our community as CCN expands transportation options across the County. Without the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, along with local community groups and Northumberland Municipalities we would not be able to address some difficult transportation challenges for residents in Northumberland County," said Trish Baird - Executive Director. "Community Care Northumberland values collaboration to meet client needs, this is an excellent example of that in action."

The goal of Community Care Northumberland's Specialized Transportation program is to provide an affordable and sustainable service to the residents of Northumberland County who require rural and / or accessible transport to attend medical appointments, community/public services, employment, shopping, area events, and social outings. For more information about this program, please contact the Specialized Transportation Scheduling office at 1-866-768-7778.

Community Care Northumberland also continues to operate a Volunteer Driving program for seniors and adults with disabilities. Volunteer drivers use their own personal vehicles and are matched with clients who pay a fee directly to the driver to help reimburse them for their gas. For further information about the Volunteer Driving program, please call your local Community Care Northumberland office or visit www.commcare.ca

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Community Care Northumberland

Background of Summit Event:

This official launch is an element of Community Care Northumberland (CCN)'s "Driving Our Community Forward" Transportation Summit in Cobourg on October 21st, 2016.

Community Care Northumberland

DRIVING OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD

A DAY OF COLLABORATION AND LAUNCHES!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016 – 9:00 AM TO NOON

COLUMBUS COMMUNITY CENTRE
232 SPENCER ST. EAST, COBOURG, ON

REGISTER AT WWW.COMMCARE.CA/DOCF.HTML

RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE **Measuring Rural Community Vitality** **Ontario Trillium Foundation** **Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario** **Northumberland county**

IMAGE COURTESY OF NORTHUMBERLAND TOURISM

CCN has been inviting representatives from Municipalities, stakeholders and community partners to attend this summit. At this summit CCN will be sharing preliminary results from their Rural Ontario Institute - Community Vitality research project. In addition the summit will highlight some local transportation options and hear from a client on the personal impact that transportation options have on their daily life. Participants at the summit will also be engaged in conversation to gather additional feedback on Community Vitality as it relates to the rural transportation in Northumberland County.

Special guests include:

- M.P.P. Lou Rinaldi
- Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)
- Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
- Quinte Access

Rural Ontario Institute:

Eight rural communities from across Ontario were selected as partners in the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)'s Measuring Rural Community Vitality Initiative. Northumberland County's partnership to expand specialized transportation was selected as one of the eight to be part of its 2016 initiative. The Rural Ontario Institute is a non-profit organization committed to developing leaders, initiating dialogue, supporting collaboration and promoting action on issues and opportunities facing rural Ontario.

Ministry of Transportation (MTO)

In partnership with Northumberland County, Community Care Northumberland has received a grant through the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to help expand and enhance transportation options in Northumberland County into areas of the County that presently do not have full accessible and rural services at this time. Specifically, to service:

- Rural Port Hope (formerly known as Township of Hope or Ward 2)
- Hamilton Township
- Municipality of Brighton

To attend the summit, please register at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/driving-our-community-forward-tickets-27262260154>.

For more information about this Summit event, please contact Sheri at the CCN office in Cobourg. (905)372-7356 or visit: <http://www.commcare.ca/docf.html>.



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