

Report To: Reeve and Council, Township of North Huron

From: Blyth 14/19 – Peter Smith and Karen Stewart

Date: tbd

Re: Blyth Tiny House Project

## An Idea

Among the many initiatives underway by Blyth 14/19 and its committed teams of volunteers, we want to introduce you to an idea that carries great potential for Blyth and the greater community. It is an opportunity for partnership between Blyth 14/19 and the municipality.

Housing for the creative community in Blyth is a perennial challenge. Convenient, accessible and affordable housing for the artistic season of the Festival is a well-known annual difficulty. As Blyth 14/19 initiatives expand with its Rural Speaks to Rural conference (R2R) and the Centre for Rural Creativity coming along, the need for interim housing of guests, artists and other professionals will only grow.

Blyth 14/19 assembled a small group of committed individuals to explore an innovative type of housing that could not only address some of the local need, but also become an attraction in itself to Blyth and North Huron.

The idea is a small collection or community of “tiny houses.” A quick Google search will show you thousands of examples, but the following picture illustrates a tiny house. It is a small house containing all of the necessary conveniences including kitchen and living areas, washroom and bedroom, all within a floor area typically between 200 and 400 square feet.



## **From Idea to Action**

Making this idea a reality will take much work from many people and organizations. A site will be needed in Blyth for the establishment of a small community of tiny houses. Connections to services will be required. Sponsors will be necessary for the construction of each house (we have plans to connect an architect with each interested company to design and build its own unique house). Ongoing operation and management will be necessary.

The tiny house project will:

- Increase housing available year-round for artists, speakers, researchers and guests to the region;
- Showcase the resource efficiency and affordability of micro-housing as an alternative to conventional forms of housing;
- Create a new tourism destination in Blyth with regular open houses and tours;
- Foster local industry (architects, designers, manufactured housing) to create or respond to market demand.

The purpose of this communication is to unveil the idea to North Huron Council, and to ask for your assistance is working with us to further explore this exciting opportunity. Placing the development on municipally-owned land, through a formal agreement, is a topic we'd like to discuss further. While we don't have a specific site in mind, we feel there are several possibilities within Blyth.

The creation of a community of tiny houses will address Blyth's unique needs in a unique way, will further develop Blyth as a centre of excellence for the arts and rural living, and will create a provincial-scale tourist attraction.

Please join us in putting this idea into action.

Respectfully,

Blyth 14/19  
Peter Smith and Karen Stewart