

# Turning Over Stones

## In Grey Bruce

211 is a terrific resource for finding programs in our community to help with the day to day challenges. However, just to lend a little insight into what you might be missing, here is a start on some of the more vital and most used programs in Grey Bruce. **THESE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO HOUSEHOLDS THAT FIT THE LOW INCOME CRITERIA.**

**LEAP-Hydro One:** Will pay up to \$500.00 every 12 months on an electricity bill. If you *heat* with electricity, it is \$600.00. Can be done by phone directly with Simcoe County, or at an agency in Grey Bruce. Call 1-855-487-5327 to register first.

**Westario** Consumers call 211 for availability.

**LEAP – Union Gas:** Will pay up to \$500.00 every 12 months against a Union Gas bill. The Household Income needs to be below a certain income level to qualify. United Way Bruce Grey administers this program. Call 1-855-487-5327 to register first.

**Utility Relief Fund:** The United Way Bruce Grey fundraises for this program and will pay up to \$600.00 every 12 months for heating (wood, oil, propane). The Household Income needs to be below a certain income level to qualify. Call 211 to register first.

**O.E.S.P.:** Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, low income households can now receive a monthly credit on their Hydro Bill of, at least \$35.00. The credit will continue for 2, 3 or 5 years, depending on income. Call 211 to register first.

**Sustainable Housing Benefit (Grey County):** The County offers a grant to help with emergency housing needs including critical repairs, rent arrears, utility costs, moving expenses etc. Call 519-376-5744.

**Housing Stability Fund (Bruce County):** The County offers a grant to help with emergency housing needs including critical repairs, rent arrears, utility costs, moving expenses etc. Call 1-800-265-3022 or 396-3450

**Ontario Renovates:** For Homeowners - Both Counties offer a grant to help with major critical home repairs and/or renovations such as roofing, heating, plumbing etc. Call 1-800-265-3022 or 396-3450 in Bruce or 376-2208 in Grey.

**Secondary Suite:** For Homeowners – Funding of up to \$25,000.00 to add a secondary suite in your home for low rental purposes. Call 211 for availability.

**Ecofitt (Natural Gas customers only):** For Homeowners - If you heat with natural gas, the Ecofitt program will come into your home to assess your heating efficiency. They will insulate basement to attic if that is the cause of heat loss, draft proof doors and windows and weather strip where needed. Conditions apply. Call 211 to register first.

**HAP/HEAP/Greensaver/SaveOnEnergy:** The Home Assistance Program is focused on helping all electricity users to cut down on their usage by way of replacing old appliances such as a refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner and de-humidifier. Call 211 to register first. Westario consumers (HEAP) call 1-866-988-5029.

**Free Income Tax Preparation:** If your income is below certain guidelines you can visit any of many Free Tax Preparation Clinics in Grey Bruce. Filing Income Tax Returns offer many other benefits. Call 211 to see which office is closest to you.

**Backpacks:** A fully loaded backpack for September. Call 211 to register first.