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NEWS RELEASE

County Departments 'on the Move'

Picton ON – Effective Monday, December 22, 2008 the County of Prince Edward's Public Works Engineering and Administration, Planning Services, and Economic Development departments will be relocating to the second floor of the new Edward Building on Main Street, Picton.

The move, approved last February, will address the need for better communications and collaboration between Public Works, Planning Services and Economic Development staff, who work closely on development applications. It will also locate Economic Development staff in close proximity to partner organizations in the same building, PELA CFDC and the Picton B.I.A.

An important element of the move is the consolidation of all cash transactions at Shire Hall under the management of the Treasury Department for improved financial control and accountability.

In February, the Recreation Parks and Culture Department, which is currently in leased facilities at Ross Street, will relocate to the County-owned King Street property vacated by Planning Services. Other leased office space in the Regent Theatre will no longer be required. A proposed portable for Planning Services staff will not be necessary and the Public Works building at County Road 32 will become available for equipment storage and training for the Fire Department. Public Works operations will continue to be carried out through the various County garages, including the County Road 32 location.

"This move solves several problems for us," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "We have been concerned with the inadequacies of our four current administration buildings, including accessibility and building code deficiencies. We also need improved service delivery and operational efficiencies and the linkage of these departments will contribute to that goal."

The 7,635 square feet of new office space in the Edward Building is fully accessible and will accommodate the needs of the Public Works, Planning Services and Economic Development departments for the foreseeable future. Lease costs are \$12. per square foot, with approximately one-third being fully recoverable through fees and permits. The move will result in savings from cancelled leases and other costs at the previous locations, with the outcome being virtually no impact on the municipality's operating budget.

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For more information, contact Mayor Leo P. Finnegan at 613-476-2148.