



MEDIA RELEASE

**For immediate release
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COUNTY APPROVES FUNDING FOR MARGARETSVILLE WHARF REPAIRS

ANNAPOLIS CO. - The Municipality of the County of Annapolis has provided the Margaretsville Wharf Society with \$10,000 in an effort to assist them in repairing their severely damaged wharf, a project that has been estimated at over \$70,000.

On August 26, 2008, Margaretsville encountered a brutal storm that brought down over 15 feet of the wharf's outer wall rendering the structure's use limited, and a serious safety concern. Barriers have been put in place to restrict use of the wharf.

"The Margaretsville wharf is one of only seven wharves still operating in the county," said Annapolis County Warden Peter Newton. "And, although it is no longer used in commercial fishery, it is home to pleasure crafts and serves as a point of interest to thousands of visitors each year. It is an essential landmark to their tourist industry, and is vital to their livelihood and the community's well-being."

The Margaretsville wharf is a divested wharf owned by the community as non-profit society, which means it is not eligible under the federal government Small Crafts & Harbours Program. The Society must rely on fund raising, and other applications to governmental departments and programs.

Council approved \$10,000 to assist in the project, and to provide a leverage of funding for requests to higher levels of government.

"Community volunteers have worked hard to bring in resources, but, like many of the coastal communities are finding, this has mostly ebbed in recent years leaving residents asking for help," noted Warden Newton. "Council's approval of this funding will provide assistance to the Society so they can start getting the structure repaired. The existence of this wharf is essential to the community."

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