



NEWS RELEASE

Halton Hills LEED Silver library and cultural centre opens with support from the Green Municipal Fund

January 25, 2013, Halton Hills, ON – The Honourable Michael Chong, Member of Parliament for Wellington–Halton Hills, and Berry Vrbanovic, past-president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and councillor for the City of Kitchener, Ontario, today announced a Green Municipal Fund™ (GMF) loan of \$6,603,274 and a \$500,000 grant for the Town of Halton Hills. Through this \$7,103,374 in funding, the town has expanded and renovated its Georgetown Branch Library and Cultural Centre. The town will benefit from lower operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions thanks to the building's reduced energy and water use.

“The Government of Canada is assisting municipalities across the country to achieve their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund,” said Mr. Chong. “Today’s announcement is another example of how our government — in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities — is helping communities like Halton Hills save money and become more environmentally friendly.”

To meet current and future community needs, the 30-year-old Georgetown Branch Library has been rebuilt and expanded, in addition to improvements that have been made to the Halton Hills Cultural Centre. The 51,000-square-foot, high-performance, sustainable building is designed to achieve LEED Silver® certification.

“FCM’s Green Municipal Fund offers a range of resources and services that specifically address the sustainable community development needs of municipal governments,” said Vrbanovic. “The financing and knowledge provided by the Fund supports the development of communities that are more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.”

The renovated building includes a suite of green features — a geothermal heating and cooling system, thermally efficient exterior walls and maximum glazing on the south side; exterior windows oriented to optimize sun exposure during the winter; strategic design of interior spaces to bring in daylight; light sensors to optimize artificial lighting; energy-efficient lighting fixtures and reduced lighting power density; energy recovery ventilators (ERV) units; and low-flow toilets and plumbing fixtures.

The community has been involved for several years in local sustainability initiatives. This project is one more demonstration of Halton Hills’ commitment to sustainability and an example for other communities across Canada. Community and business leaders have secured a financial donation for the library, as well as a significant art collection for the cultural centre that includes paintings by the Group of Seven.

“The renewed and expanded Georgetown Branch and Cultural Centre is a fine example of the Town of Halton Hills’ ongoing dedication to implement local actions which support sustainability and contribute to a greater quality of life,” said Mayor Rick Bonnette. “With the support of the Green Municipal Fund, we have been able to place water and energy conservation, reduced carbon emissions and improved air quality at the forefront of our facility design.”

The Government of Canada endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) with \$550 million to establish the Green Municipal Fund™. The Fund supports partnerships and leveraging of both public and private-sector funding to reach higher standards of air, water and soil quality, and climate protection.

FCM has been the national voice of municipal governments since 1901. It fosters the development of sustainable communities to improve quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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