

NEWS RELEASE

FCM's Green Municipal Fund Commits \$34,000 to the Town of Halton Hills for Renewable Energy Retrofit to Heritage Devereaux House

Oct. 5, 2009, Halton Hills, ON – FCM President Basil Stewart, and mayor of Summerside, P.E.I., and the Honourable Michael Chong, MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, on behalf of the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, announced today a \$34,000 Green Municipal Fund (GMF) grant for the Town of Halton Hills. The town used the grant to retrofit its newly-acquired heritage building, Devereaux House, with geothermal space heating, as well as energy-efficient windows and lighting.

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

“Our government is assisting municipalities across the country in achieving their goal of a cleaner and healthier environment for Canadians through the Green Municipal Fund,” said Mr. Chong. “Today’s announcement of a \$34,000 grant to retrofit Halton Hills’ newly-acquired heritage building is another example of how the Government is working in partnership with FCM to help the citizens of Halton Hills.”

With support from the Town of Halton Hills, the Friends of Devereaux House community group has the retrofitted 1860’s-era brick building with modern energy-efficiency features, including: rebuilt windows; extra insulation; energy-efficient lighting; on-demand hot water; and, a zoned geothermal heating system.

The goal of the transformation of the heritage building was to create a community-owned facility with low operating costs that can serve as a model for homeowners and small businesses to emulate. The building is operated by Friends of Devereaux House, with space leased to the local soccer association, and with rental facilities available for receptions and meetings.

“The Green Municipal Fund has been a pivotal component in allowing this heritage building to be upgraded to a high level of energy-efficiency standards and aligned with the Town of Halton Hill’s sustainability vision,” said Town of Halton Hills Mayor, Rick Bonnette. “The Town of Halton Hills applauds Friends of Devereaux House for demonstrating perseverance, dedication and innovation for the benefit of all community members. This project represents the ideal in linking our heritage past and our sustainable future.”

The Government of Canada has endowed the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with \$550 million to establish and manage 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 sustainable communities enjoying a high quality of life by promoting strong, effective, and accountable municipal government.

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