

REPORT TO HCCA MEETING: 7 JUNE 2021 ENVIRONMENT

The past two months have been busy for the various HCCA environment projects. Despite the challenges of operating under COVID restrictions there has been success that deserves a higher profile than as part of this report. Individual project reports for information are elsewhere on the agenda.

Two items with environmental implications are elsewhere on this meeting agenda as decision items.

1. Development Adjacent to Otto's BMW, 400 Hunt Club Road
2. Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Energy and Climate Change

In last month's report it was noted that "The recent federal budget announced additional funding for climate change related activities. It remains unclear how that will trickle down to municipal, community and individual levels." Clarity is beginning to emerge.

Better Homes Loan Program

HCCA responded to a survey on this City program. In addition to specific comments we indicated an interest in promoting the program to the members of our community association. The program will provide loans against the security of a detached, semi-detached, townhouse or multi-unit residential unit building of three stories or less within the City of Ottawa boundaries, not the individual, up to 10% of the value of the home. When the home is sold the debt obligation would transfer with the home. There is a proposed minimum \$15,000 value of the loan. The interest rate is not yet fixed. See other conditions at <https://engage.ottawa.ca/bhlp/>. It appears the program will not become operational until the fall.

Canada Greener Homes Grant Program

A Federal program of up to 700,000 grants of up to \$5,000 to help homeowners make energy efficient retrofits to their homes, such as better insulation and conduct EnerGuide evaluations (worth up to \$600) and expert advice to homeowners so they can begin to plan their retrofits (required).

Details on the program are at

<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-grant/make-your-home-more-energy-efficient/23443/>.

There is a schedule of the amount of grant available for various retrofits.

John D Reid