

REPORT

REPORT TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council
REPORT FROM: Planning and Infrastructure
DATE: October 21, 2015
REPORT NO.: PI-2015-0032
RE: Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package –
Final Approval

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PI-2015-0032 regarding the final approval of the Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package, dated October 21, 2015, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT, in light of a successful pilot phase, Council grant final approval for the Imagine Halton Hills Community Sustainability Partnership Application Package.

BACKGROUND:

Through Report No. PDS-2014-0059 (dated August 28, 2014) Council approved a pilot phase for the implementation of the Imagine Halton Hills Community Sustainability Partnership Package. Recognizing the fact that the Community Sustainability Strategy is “owned” by the community and that its successful implementation will require collaboration with community partners, the Partnership Package was designed by the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee (TSIC) to engage community partners in the Strategy’s implementation. Partners enter into an agreement with the Town to promote, support, lead and/or engage in a variety of actions.

There are two levels of partnership:

- Sustainability Ambassador: Pledge to support the Strategy’s Vision.
- Sustainability Champion: Pledge to support the Strategy’s Vision, and take and report on actions taken.

COMMENTS:

The Partnership’s pilot phase has been successful. There has been strong momentum. As of October 21, 2015, over 30 partners had already formally joined. An additional 8 were in the process of exploring becoming a member.

Together, current partners are taking actions to advance all of the 36 themes in the Community Sustainability Strategy, thereby making a meaningful and valuable contribution to realizing the community's vision for a sustainable, healthy and thriving future with the highest possible quality of life.

The current list of partners includes individual residents, business, business associations and community organizations:

- Acton BIA
- Alex Hilson
- Acton Community Garden
- Acton Home Hardware
- Architectural Conservancy of Ontario - Halton Hills
- ArtCast Inc.
- Canadian Mental Health Association – Halton Region Branch
- Chance to Play
- Coldwell Banker Fieldstone Realty
- Community Foundation of Halton North
- Community Support Network Halton
- Downtown Georgetown BIA
- Distress Centre North Halton
- Friends of the Old Seed House Garden
- Georgetown Agricultural Society
- Georgetown Choral Society
- Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Halton Hills Cultural Roundtable
- Halton Hills Equestrian Park & Centre for Conservation Agriculture
- Halton Hills Hydro Inc.
- Halton Hills Public Library
- Hillsvie Active Living Centre
- Inspire Halton
- Jennifer Spence
- Laurent Thibault
- Lions Club of Georgetown
- Mariam Rajabali
- Ontario Scientific Advisors Inc.
- Peace Welcome
- Regal Lighting Designs
- Tandia Cooperative Banking
- Total Energy Solutions Inc.
- Town of Halton Hills
- United Way
- Willow Park Ecology Centre

The list of partners expands regularly and is posted on the Town's website, as are partner photos. The location of partners is also posted on the Town's website at: <http://haltonhills.ca/SustainabilityStrategy/Partners.php>

Town staff and TSIC will continue to identify and engage potential new partners. However, this is a time-consuming process, requiring the identification of potential partners, initial communication, in-person presentations, assistance with the completion of agreements, follow-up communication, ongoing assistance, communication material development and website updates.

In light of the successful implementation of the Partnership Package during the pilot phase, it is recommended that Council grant final approval for its ongoing implementation. Town staff will provide Council with periodic updates. Should minor edits be required to the partnership model, it is recommended that Town staff be permitted to make such refinements without requiring prior Council approval.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Sustainability is at the core of the Town's Strategic Plan and is one of Council's top eight strategic priority areas. Implementation of the partnership model is closely aligned with and supports the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including these strategic priorities:

- 5.B): Continue to implement the Integrated Community Sustainability Strategy, in collaboration with community partners.
- 5.G): Maintain and support the Town Sustainability Implementation Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact associated with this report.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT:

Successful implementation of the Partnership Package will require widespread communication and promotion.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life. The relationship between this report and the Strategy is summarized below:

Do the report's recommendations advance the Strategy's implementation? Yes.

Which pillar(s) of sustainability does this report support?
Cultural Vibrancy, Environmental Health, Economic Prosperity and Social Well-being

In summary, the Sustainability Implications of this report are as follows:

The Community Partnership initiative is anticipated to make a meaningful contribution to the quality of life in Halton Hills. It will leverage and advance the implementation of Council's top eight strategic priority areas, as outlined in the Strategic Action Plan. Ultimately, Halton Hills' cultural vibrancy, economic prosperity, environmental health and social wellbeing will be elevated.

Overall, the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is:
Excellent

CONSULTATION:

With the final approval of the partnership model, Town staff and TSIC will continue to engage possible partners in contributing to the Strategy's implementation.

CONCLUSION:

This report has provided an update on the implementation of the Community Sustainability Partnership and sought its final approval by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reviewed and Approved by,

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