

# Former tannery owners receive grant from town for environmental assessment

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The town of Halton Hills has doled out their first ever Environmental Site Assessment grant for a proposed townhouse development in Acton.

Frank Heller & Co. Limited applied for the grant, which is part of the Community Improvement Plan (CIP). The grant is set to cover up to half of the assessment costs to a maximum of \$22,500.

The developer is currently in the second phase of the environmental site assessment process for the project, intending to build 108 new townhouses in Acton on 3.6 hectares of property at 125 McDonald Blvd., the former site of the Frank Heller & Co. leather factory.

"As longtime residents of Acton, we are proud to be investing in our community by converting a brownfield site into a productive use," said Ron Heller, president of Frank Heller & Co.



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

**Frank Heller and Co., the owners of the Hide House, are looking to remediate the former leather factory site in Acton to build 108 townhouses. The Town of Halton Hills has given them a grant to help with the environmental assessment for the project.**

The funding for the environmental assessment will assist with the study that is focusing on remediation of the brownfield

site.

"The ESA grant was very welcomed assistance to help us move to the next phase of this project,"

he said, thanking the town for the continued and ongoing support.

The CIP is described by the town as a "tool box" of programs

aimed at encouraging growth and business development in the municipality. It was established in 2014, where funding has primarily been given to businesses for façade and landscaping improvements.

"This housing will be a wonderful addition to the community with its prime location to the downtown area, and the positive ripple effect provided to the area services, shops and restaurants," said Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"This is a prime example of how the town's CIP investment has far reaching benefits."

The company applied for the permit to develop the lands over four years ago. There are single dwelling houses surrounding the site as well as a park.

Bonnette says that if there was to be a factory on the land today, that it would not fit with the surrounding property uses.

Construction of the townhouses is slated to start later this year.



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