

## Staff Report

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**Report To:** City Council  
**Report From:** Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services  
**Meeting Date:** October 18, 2021  
**Report Code:** CR-21-099  
**Subject:** Agricultural Society Farm Credit Canada Grant Partnership

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### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-21-099 respecting Agricultural Society FCC Grant Partnership, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Treasurer to enter into a funding agreement with Farm Credit Canada in partnership with the Owen Sound Agricultural Society.

### Highlights:

- The City and the Agricultural Society work together to pursue grants and third-party partnership opportunities to improve Victoria Park.
- The Agricultural Society has secured a \$25,000 grant from Farm Credit Canada (FCC) to perform maintenance on the Bleachers structure.
- FCC requires a municipal or charitable sponsor.

### Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Collaborative City - KR3 - Increase competitive grant funding dollars received annually

### Background:

The City of Owen Sound and the Agricultural Society entered into a new lease agreement effective June 15, 2020. Under the terms of the lease, the

Agricultural Society leases land in Victoria Park which is occupied by the Agricultural Society's buildings commonly known as the "Grandstand" and barn.

The lease document includes language that clarifies that the Agricultural Society may make improvements, alterations and repairs to its buildings and that the City and the Agricultural Society will work together to pursue grant opportunities to improve Victoria Park in a manner consistent with the Victoria Park Master Plan.

The Agricultural Society has secured a \$25,000 grant from FCC to perform maintenance on the Bleachers. FCC requires that a municipal or charitable partner be a signee and be bound by the terms of the agreement and in particular to:

1. Receive and administer funding on behalf of the recipient;
2. Ensure that the funding is used only for the project;
3. Send an email confirming receipt of funding to FCC; and
4. If the recipient fails to do so, complete and submit the project completion form.

### **Analysis:**

City staff have met with staff from the Agricultural Society and reviewed the application as well as the funding agreement. City staff are satisfied that by entering into the agreement there is not assumed liability for additional funding or obligations. Staff support the recommendation to enter into the funding agreement with FCC.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications for the City of Owen Sound related to the funding agreement.

### **Communication Strategy:**

Staff will meet with the Agricultural Society to ensure proper permits and insurance are in place to undertake the improvements.

### **Consultation:**

Facilities Booking Coordinator

Manager of Community Development and Marketing

Manager of Parks and Open Space

Senior Manager of Corporate and Facility Services

**Attachments:**

None.

**Recommended by:**

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

**Submission approved by:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Kate Allan at [kallan@owensound.ca](mailto:kallan@owensound.ca) or 519-376-4440 ext. 1238.