

Britannia Woods OCH community to get \$6.8 million facelift

Today (June 3, 2009) Bay Ward Councillor and Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) Board member Alex Cullen announced that Britannia Woods, a 178-unit OCH community at Ritchie and Carling Avenues in Ottawa's west end, will be going through a complete renovation/face-lift starting this July. The year-and-a-half project (expected to finish in December 2010) will see renovations to building structures, roofing, plumbing, kitchens, bathrooms, and energy efficiency features, at an estimated cost of \$6.8 million (\$4.8 million from provincial housing funds). Said Councillor Cullen: "Britannia Woods will be the first west-end social housing community to benefit from provincial housing funding for major renovations announced last year. This was long over-due and greatly needed, and will be greatly appreciated by Britannia Woods residents."

Britannia Woods is a rent-geared-to-income (RGI) social housing community located on the western edge of Britannia Park (on Ritchie Street), in Ottawa's west end (in Bay Ward). Built in 1968, it houses 178 townhomes - mostly 3 and 4 bedroom units - and is owned and operated by Ottawa Community Housing - the City's social housing agency. OCH has estimated, through a Building Condition Assessment study released last year, that it will need some \$211 million to deal with much-needed renovations, and another \$121 million in the next 5 years to maintain its aging housing stock. Ottawa Community Housing has some 14,700 of the City's 24,000 social housing stock in Ottawa.

OCH has also requested \$137 million in additional funding from the federal government's economic stimulus program to deal with its housing renovations needs. Said Councillor Alex Cullen: "We are anxiously waiting for federal/provincial announcements on where this stimulus money is going, as our residents are living in housing that has deteriorated through lack of adequate funding. Here we can kill two birds with one stone - provide decent renewed housing for our residents and their families, and provide needed economic stimulus through construction jobs and materials."

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