

Arts Complex: best adding onto former library

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Its central, institutional location and ample room for expansion, Bailey and company recommended that council

choose the existing library site. In Mr. Urael's view, it was "politically and financially the best move" by council's

standards, given the need to still use the old structure as a library and the lower cost attached to construction there.

Estimates for the construction cost were obtained by consulting all the would-be user-groups and assessing

development costs at the various potential sites. An initial concept won council's support, but Mr. Wagland,

eventually chosen from among three bidders to design the facility, made one radical change to the building's layout before submitting a final design: the existing church area and the theatre "switched places", he recalled, so that the gallery portion, rather than the theatre, now occupies the old library, a change prompted by concerns over parking needs.

communities and obtained recommendations from those in charge.

When tendering time finally came last year, 15 copies of the bid applications were picked up by interested contractors; only three were completed and returned, a problem Mr. Heslop blames on most contractors' inability to obtain estimates from sub-contractors. Of the three bids submitted, Toronto's Q-Sons Construction came in lowest, although all three were close and within \$8,000 of budget projections.

Claiming what Mr. Wagland calls "a very good reputation" founded on well-respected contracts such as the new Milton post office and the expanded Oakville headquarters of the Halton regional police, Q-Sons got the job.

Mr. Heslop explained that council signed a "lump-sum contract" with the firm that was in line with the stated budget. Benefiting the project enormously however, is the assistance volunteered by Ab Tennant and other local builders willing to share their expertise and experience.

"That kind of personal assistance is worth all the consultants in the world," Mr. Heslop said.

Mr. Heslop also credits council itself with greatly aiding the project simply by lending total support whenever necessary.

"The best comment I can make about the way council's supported us is to mention its members' voting," he said. "It's been unanimous all the way. Things have been properly looked at, and this is probably one of the better-run projects undertaken around here in some time."

Halton's 'Year of the Arts' remembered

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show to help raise funds;

April 15 - Arts Council sponsors a panel discussion on the project;

April 25 - the Rotary Club's highly successful and highly entertaining bowl-athon;

March 13 - the Georgetown YM-YWCA's gala art auction, courtesy of Beaux Arts International, brings a touch of class to town;

Late March - Rags, the library's Peruvian cavie mascot, becomes an overnight sensation with his new autobiography, proceeds to the fund;

March 16-May 8 - the Georgetown Choral Society raises funds with a unique "Yes We Can" campaign;

April 8 - famed opera star Maureen Forrester

continues the Arts Council's Musical Trillight series;

April 26 - the Choral Society debuts "Broadway Tonight";

April-May - the GLT does it again for Sacre Coeur audiences, this time with "Bedroom Farce";

May 8 - the library's ambitious White Hippo Sale;

May 9 - the youthful Cantante Singers present "Love Is...";

Mid-May - good news and bad news: Globe Productions is revived, but Nornic Studio for the performing arts closes because of diminished interest and rising costs;

May 23 - the Rotary Club's big Casino Night;

June 6 - the University Women's Club gives residents a glimpse into some private "castles" with its fund-raising house tour;

June 20 - Summerfest, a major segment of Pioneer

Days downtown, shows the Arts Council at its finest once again;

June 17 - plans announced for the Flag Hookers of Georgetown to raise funds by including donors' names in several wall hangings for display in the complex;

June 24 - some distressing news from the Ontario Heritage Foundation: an anticipated \$30,000 grant is not available;

Aug. 26 - John Roe's weekly updates return to The Herald;

September - Mayor Pomey announces plans for a permanent display book to be set up in the complex, listing names of all contributors;

Oct. 7 - the project's new theatre is named in honor of a former Georgetown councillor, the late John Elliott.



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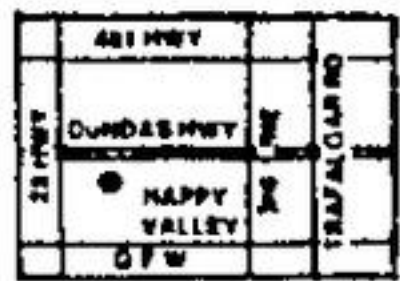
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