Developer seeks to bring Barber Mill site 'back to life'

14-storey condo no longer part of plan to redesign crumbling property

By LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

Plans for a 65-room hotel and retail shops on the historic Barber Paper Mill property were outlined to Halton Hills Council at a recent meeting.

Paul Backewich of Cohos Evamy, representing the Everlast Group Ltd., presented the plans for the River Rd. property to council, calling it an "opportunity to bring the project back to the Town of Halton Hills."

Backewich said the previous plans for the project submitted to the Town by Everlast Group in 2004 called for a 14-storey condominium that was "insensitive to the site" and had a large "environmental footprint."

That application was withdrawn in 2007 amidst objections from area residents about the project and plans by the Town of Halton Hills to designate the property a heritage site.

Backewich said the new project, a site plan of which was submitted to the Town in March, represents a "more modest view of the site focusing on good design and sustainability."

Backewich said they are looking at ways to adaptively reuse the buildings of the paper mill in the retail component, and that there a number "of unique retail opportunities" to support the new 65-unit hotel.

All plans would fit within the existing zoning on the property.

"It's an existing facility that has a lot of life left to it; we want to bring it back to life," said Backewich, adding it would be similar to the Distillery District in Toronto and Seagram's Project in Waterloo.

"Rather than taking a wrecking ball to this facility, we're recognizing the value these facilities have in the community, the history they have, and revitalizing them and making them useful again, making them a key element in Georgetown."

Councillor Mike O'Leary asked about parking on the site.

Backewich said there will be three levels of parking under the hotel and additional parking on Maple Ave.

Councillor Jon Hurst asked if the project would be LEEDs certified.

Backewich said it's not worthwhile to purse that because under the LEEDs criteria the project would lose a lot of points because it's on a flood plain. He said, however, there are several LEEDs professionals working with the firm who will be involved with the project.

Councillor Moya Johnson asked how the heritage buildings will be incorporated into the project.

Backewich said all but one of the buildings will be "salvaged, reused," and the intent is to match closely what was there before.

An artist's rendering shows the proposed plan by Everlast Group Ltd. for the Barber Mill site on River Road. The proposal calls for a 65-room hotel (right) along with retail space largely using the former paper mill buildings (left).
Graphic courtesy Cohos Evamy Integrated Design

The Honda Hat Trick: Quality, Reliability, Safety.

SCORE A HONDA EVENT

Purchase Financing as low as 0.9 %† FOR 5 YEARS

Civic EX-L Sedan model FA1EOAJNX

Civic DX Sedan model FA1E2AEX
2010 CIVIC DX
TURN-KEY PRICE‡ $17,420
For Civic DX Sedan Includes Freight & Fees
LEASE FOR /APR $148# @2.9%£
PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS WITH $3,726 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT

Accord LX Sedan model CP2E3AE
2010 ACCORD LX
TURN-KEY PRICE‡ $26,475
For Accord LX Sedan Includes Freight & Fees
LEASE FOR /APR $248# @2.9%£
PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS WITH $5,286 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT

CR-V LX 2WD model RE3H3AEY
2010 CR-V LX 2WD
TURN-KEY PRICE‡ $28,015
For CR-V LX 2WD Includes Freight & Fees
LEASE FOR /APR $268# @2.9%£
PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS WITH $5,083 DOWN ON APPROVED CREDIT

HONDA OFFERS ONE OF THE MOST FUEL EFFICIENT LINE-UPS OF VEHICLES

GEORGETOWN HONDA
316 GUELPH STREET, GEORGETOWN
905•873•1818 OR 905-874-3021
sales@georgetownhonda.net

HONDA
TRAFALGAR RD. WINSTON CHURCHILL GUELPH ST./HWY. 7

‡ Limited time lease offers based on new 2010 Honda models. Lease examples based on new 2010 Civic DX Sedan, model FA1E2AEX / 2010 Accord LX Sedan, model CP2E3AE / 2010 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3H3AEY available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £2.9% / 2.9% lease APR for 48 / 48 / 48 months. Monthly payment includes freight and PDI, environmental fees and OMVIC fee is $148 / $248 / $268. Down payment or equivalent trade of $3,726 / $5,286 / $5,083, first monthly payment and $0 / $0 / $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligations is $12,237.90 / $19,530.70 / $20,415.11. Taxes, license, insurance and lien registration if applicable are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offers based on new 2010 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2010 Civic DX Sedan, model FA1E2AEX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. #MSRP is $17,420 / TURN-KEY PRICE includes $1,430 freight and PDI, environmental and OMVIC fees financed at 0.9% APR equals $237.72 per month for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $401.43 for a total obligation of $17,821.43. Taxes, license, insurance and lien registration if applicable are extra. MSRP is $25,475 / $28,015 / $24,210 for a new 2010 Accord LX Sedan, model CP2E3AE / 2010 CR-V LX 2WD, model RE3H3AEY / Civic EX-L Sedan, model FA1E9AJNX, including $1,685 / $1,725 / $1,430 freight and fees. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ‡‡ Offers valid from March 2nd, 2010 through March 31st, 2010 at participating Honda retailers. Offers valid only for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. HR, and the HR Shield are registered trademarks of the National Hockey League. ©NHL 2010. All rights reserved.