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56 pages

McGibbon Hotel reconstruction finds public support

By Kathryn Boyle
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Town staff have come up with what they describe as a win-win for Silvercreek Commercial Builders and concerned residents when it comes to the McGibbon reconstruction.

During a special council meeting on Feb. 22, Halton Hills solicitor Jeff Wilker presented to council in a public forum the legalities of the settlement between the town and Silvercreek regarding the McGibbon Hotel reconstruction in downtown Georgetown.

During a mediation session at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in September, the two parties came up with a deal Wilker considers a win-win.

I'm confident that what I'm reporting to you tonight is a settlement that can be fully recommended and was fully recommended to town council as the appropriate resolution of this development proposal.

Details of the settlement include reducing the condominium height from 11 storeys to 10 storeys, creating 20 indoor parking spaces for the public, and reusing existing brick from the McGibbon as it

stands today in the final reconstruction. In addition, Silvercreek will be making a \$500,000 cash contribution to the town to go toward heritage preservation and downtown Georgetown initiatives.

Although the settlement was agreed upon back in September, the meeting was done confidentially, as required by the OMB.

It's essential and is a requirement of the OMB process in mediation, Wilker explained. You can't expect people and parties to engage in mediations and have candid discussions and then have that candid discussion reported out publicly. In order for the mediation process to work, there has to be a candid interchange between the parties.

During his delegation, Ward 3 Coun. Moya Johnson asked about the condition of the bricks and what would happen should they become cracked and unusable. Wilker assured the town has used the correct technology to replicate the bricks, and several policies have been put in place to prevent Silvercreek from going back on its word, including liquidation damages directly to the town.

Continued on page 9



Six-year-old Celine Marr dresses up her pancakes with some syrup on Shrove Tuesday during the annual pancake dinner organized by the Youth Group at St. Andrew's United Church.

Jon Borgstrom photo

Popular Halton Hills youth centres set to close doors in June

By Graeme Frisque
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The organization operating a pair of popular youth centres in Georgetown and Acton is forced to shut down op-

erations at the two sites as of June 30.

Links2Care, which has been operating the Open Door (Georgetown) and the Off the Wall (Acton) Youth Centres since 2000, said it can no longer sustain the programs and in the absence of someone else to take over operations, it

is forced to close the centres.

We can no longer operate the youth centres, and the two reasons we (can't) operate the youth centres (have) to do with fiscal responsibility and sustainability.

Continued on page 8

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