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■ NEWS



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WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

EXCHANGE HOTEL PROJECT ENTERING PHASE 2

Habitat for Humanity's McFadden-McMahon Build Project is entering Phase 2, and that means Georgetown's Exchange Hotel will soon be lifted off the ground.

The project, which officially began in 2016, will see five homes on the Exchange Hotel site. One local family will eventually be living in the renovated portion of the Exchange Hotel, which will remain on the site in a different location, and another four families will move into brandnew homes being built there.

JUST THE FACTS

Phase 1 of the project included the removal of retrofits that were added to the Exchange Hotel in the past. Now, left with the original portion of the building, John Gerrard, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga, said it's moving time.

"We're in the process now of getting ready to relocate the hotel off of its current foundation," he said.

"Though we had to apply for a demolition permit, it's not a demolition to the hotel itself, it's actually a demolition of the understructure."

Gerrard said Habitat has applied for minor variance, which will allow his team to move the hotel to its proposed location, and he plans to hear back in August. As well, he plans to have the hotel picked up and placed on trailers by the end of August.

Following that step, the old foundation of the building will require removal and a new pad must be compacted and regraded.

Once the grading is complete, it must sit for a while before a new concrete pad can be put in place, Gerrard said.

The hotel is expected to be on its new pad by May or June of 2019, he added.

"This is our most unique project to date because we are actually keeping a building," Gerrard said.

"Traditionally with Habitat, we start fresh, but in this case we made a promise to the town that we would work to keep the building as best as possible in its form, to be able to serve as a reminder of the Exchange Hotel once the project is finished."

Gerrard said while the inside of the Exchange Hotel will be renovated into a three- or four-bedroom home, the goal is have the facade fixed up to replicate the original look as closely as possible.

Gerrard said while he hopes the project moves quickly, Habitat relies heavily on donations in order for each step to proceed.

"The construction process is a long process. So far, from the acquisition of the property, to the demolition, to the removal phase, to security and the development and architectural plans, the organization has spent about \$160,000 on the project," he said.

"Those dollars come directly from our fundraising and so if we fund-raise faster, it helps make the project go faster."

To learn more about the McFadden-McMahon Build Project, visit http://www.habitatbuild.ca/mcfadden-mcmahon-build-project.

WHAT'SGOINGON

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