

HALTON A STEP CLOSER TO HAVING NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART COURTHOUSE

CONSTRUCTION ON 21-COURTROOM FACILITY EXPECTED TO BEGIN LATE 2019

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Oakville has taken another step toward becoming home to the Halton Region's new consolidated courthouse.

The town's planning and development council recently voted to accept a report from the planning services department and comments from the public concerning the courthouse proposal.

Town staff is expected to bring forward their recommendation to council on whether the development should be allowed to proceed in September.

The development proposal was brought forward by Infrastructure Ontario on behalf of the

Ministry of the Attorney General.

It calls for a zoning change to permit the construction of a seven-storey courthouse, which would be located on provincially-owned land, at the intersection of William Halton Parkway and Third Line, north of the new Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

The proposal would see the 45,000-square-metre courthouse built on the western portion of the 8.19-hectare site with a 1,200-space parking lot adjacent to it.

A remnant block of land would permit a range of site-specific light employment land uses.

The courthouse is anticipated to initially have 21 courtrooms, with space to add an additional four courtrooms, which can be added as part of the full build out expected by 2046.

Construction of the fa-



Future courthouse location, north of the new Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

ility is expected to begin in late 2019 and be complete four years later.

Infrastructure Ontario has said the new courthouse will offer a broad range of justice, family, social and victim

services, bringing the Superior Court of Justice and Ontario court of justice operations in Milton and Burlington together at one accessible location.

They said the new

"In the early 2000s this area was going to be for welding shops and truck repair places. We've come a long way."

- Allan Elgar, Ward 4 town and regional Coun.

building would feature new technology to make the court run more efficiently to help speed up the criminal justice system in Halton Region.

For example, witnesses and other vulnerable persons will be able to appear before court from remote locations through video conferencing or from a secure room through closed-circuit television.

The original Milton courthouse was built in 1962, and a separate addition came in the late 1970s.

Lawyers, police, social service providers, and politicians have been lob-

bing the province for years for a new facility.

No official price tag has been assigned to this project, however, an unofficial number of \$500 million was offered by Oakville Mayor Rob Burton in June 2017.

While no residents spoke about the courthouse at Monday's council meeting, Ward 4 town and regional Coun. Allan Elgar said he was pleased to see the project moving forward.

"In the early 2000s this area was going to be for welding shops and truck repair places," he said.

"We've come a long way."

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