



Present Acton library

Where should library go?....

Continued from page 1
relocation of the library materials for public use during construction.

Acton Councillor Jon Hurst said he didn't want to end up with an inferior library to save the price of a temporary relocation if they rebuilt on the same site.

He also said that some of the "beautiful" trees on the site might not have to be impacted if the new facility was built on the footprint of the old library, a siting that would also have less impact on the people who live in a century house to the north of the library.

They are concerned construction could adversely impact their property.

"It may not be a bad thing for us to keep Option A and B on the table for the next cycle of council so that more information can be brought forward and we're more comfortable with one or the other," Hurst said.

Library director Jane Diamanti said there are concerns about where the current branch sits with regard to the flood plain and until that is determined, it would be hard to decide on the best possible siting.

Option C would have built a new library to the

east of the existing facility and kept the existing library to be converted for use by a future suitable owner of tenant. Option D involved building a 5,400-square-foot expansion to the existing library.

The library project is possible - years ahead of schedule - thanks to federal/provincial infrastructure initiative funding which requires the Town to pay \$1.2-million, or one-third of the \$3.5-million price tag. The Acton project represents 41 per cent of the infrastructure funding approved in the Wellington-Halton Hills riding.

Town staff said it will cost the Town \$150,000 each year for 10 years to pay off the debt.

Library neighbours concerned about the impact on their homes

By Frances Niblock

Not everyone is totally thrilled with the plan to replace the aging River Street branch of the Halton Hills library.

At last Monday's Council meeting, library neighbours Ian and Susan Angell detailed their concerns about potential impact the 9,000-square-foot facility will have on their heritage home on the corner of Main Street and Old School Lane.

Susan Angell said since 1983 the heavy traffic noise from Main Street has been mitigated by the parkland beside the library and the small staff parking area.

"It is clear from the proposed plan that the serenity is about to be drastically impacted," Angell said, acknowledging the need for a new library and the important role it plays in the community.

Angell said they are worried that the heavy machinery needed to construct a new library will harm the brittle mortar between the limestone blocks of their house, built in 1847, and could affect the major support beams of their house, which are nothing more than large tree trunks.

She said the land within 50 feet to the south and

100 feet to the east of their house has been virtually undisturbed since the library was built in 1967.

"I truly cannot believe that such disruption and construction on the adjacent lands won't impact the foundation of a heritage structure," Angell said, adding they are also concerned that once some of the trees are removed and a foundation built for a new library, their property could be affected by flooding because it is on a lower elevation.

Chaos on Lane

Angell said there is already traffic chaos on school lane with the school buses from Robert Little School, traffic from three private residences in the area, the Scout Hall and a variety store. The proposed plan calls for a 25 to 30 space parking lot with access to School Lane and she estimated additional 1,000 additional weekly library users - a plan Angell called a "recipe for disaster."

"Another major concern is the destruction of approximately 27, 60 to 120-foot, healthy mature trees. It states in the facility study development options that the existing landscaping and mature trees would be retained to the maximum extent possible. However, having had an opportunity to review the site plan, it appears that there is not adequate room for any of these trees to remain,"

Angell said, adding any additional planting would not make up for what it there now.

Angell said they are also concerned about the potential impact that the new facility and parking lot will have on the value of their home and asked that they be involved in all site studies, geotechnical, soil and traffic studies. She also asked for written assurances that the project will have no adverse impact on their land or house, and asked for financial reimbursement for any adverse affect or personal injury should their house be impacted.

Library manager Jane Diamanti said they welcome feedback from stakeholders, like the neighbours.

Scuff splash pad

More than a dozen safety complaints by parents worried their kids were slipping on the slick surface at the Dominion Gardens splash pad in Georgetown prompted Town staff to have the surface roughed up by removing a sealant designed to hold the paint in the coloured concrete surface.

Town staff caution all users that they should run on the splash pad surface and said they would monitor the facility to see if removing the surface has made the pad less slippery

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NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE

The Town of Halton Hills Infrastructure Services Department is advising of a Road Closure on 22 Side Road, 300 metres west of Fifth Line. The closure will be from July 6 until September 4, 2009.

The closure is required so that the existing culvert may be replaced with a new one.

Contact Information:
Mr. Kevin Chalmers, C.E.T.
Supervisor of Inspection
905-873-2601 ext. 2303

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