

Ambitious expansion plan for Town Hall Centre unveiled

Ambitious plans for a \$450,000 expansion of the Town Hall Centre were unveiled by Heritage Acton members last

Thursday as the group formally announced receipt of a \$150,000 Trillium Foundation grant to help pay for the project.

With \$40,000 promised by the Town - money originally earmarked for demolition of the building to make way for nine park-

ing spots in the late 1970's - the committee must raise an additional \$260,000 to make the plans a reality. The design includes a

separate building - smaller than the Town Hall, but in the style of the Town Hall, built in 1883, that will house the new ele-

vator, making the facility totally accessible, and a "Citizens' Hall" where Acton's proud history could be displayed.

Heritage Acton chair Ron Birrell outlined the hard work of many dedicated people to rehabilitate and refurbish the Town Hall, and said with the past taken care of, it is time to look to the future.

"We're at a point now that the building is vibrant - you wouldn't believe the bookings we are getting for this fall and winter - and it's only going to get better," Birrell said, thanking the Town and the Trillium Foundation for their financial support.

Thanking the original committee that stopped the demolition of the building, Birrell said in the late 1970's there wasn't the movement to save old buildings like there is today, making the project all that much more difficult.

The proposed 1,475-square-foot expansion would be "smaller and shorter" than the existing Town Hall, but the roofline and brickwork will mimic the original building.

Architect Brain McCulloch said the addition is much more than just an elevator - plans call for a two-level building, including a grand stairway, new wheelchair accessible entrance, large lobby, upstairs gallery, Citizens' Hall and "an abundance" of much needed storage.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said the plans look "fabulous" and noted it was "quite an experience" for Council to revisit the 1977 decision to put \$40,000 of Town money into the demolition, and then renovation.

Heritage Acton fundraising chair, Kathleen Dills is confident they will raise the necessary money.

"We need your support knocking on doors and we will have some events, like galas, to raise money," Dills said, adding they will apply for other grants to help pay for architectural fees, accessible washrooms and power doors.



AMBITIOUS EXPANSION: An architect's rendering shows the proposed \$460,000 expansion of the Town Hall centre. The separate building would house an elevator, storage and a Citizens' Hall to showcase Acton's history. - Submitted drawing

Charges in fatal

A Georgetown man has been charged with impaired driving causing death and driving without a licence in connection with a single car crash that killed Nelson Hannah of Guelph, the 41-year-old son of former

The New Tanner report Maggie Petrushevsky. Hannah was not wearing a seatbelt and was thrown from the vehicle near Verner, Ontario on Sunday night. Charged is Hank Van Goch.



TOWN HALL EXPANSION: Against the backdrop of an architect's rendition of the proposed addition to the Town Hall Centre, local Trillium Foundation board member Gail Grant presented notification to Heritage Acton chair Ron Birrell of a \$150,000 Trillium grant. Also on hand were Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott (left) and Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette (right). - Frances Niblock photo

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