

Approval process took a long time to complete

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Rev. DeMarsh said the Town of Milton okayed construction last month, a process that took a long time to complete. He said the intent was to salvage the original 105-year-old building but a review of the structure by an engineer showed it couldn't be saved. At that point the focus changed from reconstruction to new construction.

Terry Kay, Milton's chief building official, said the building permit was first issued about a year ago based on renovation of the existing building. Because the nature of construction later changed, Milton Bible Church was required to submit drawings for the new structure that had to meet Ontario Building Code regulations, which they did, Mr. Kay said. The approval was then given in June, he added.

The Milton Historical Society was against tearing the building down and expressed its strong desire that the entire structure or parts of it be saved. The society wasn't against the project, but said they were upset they weren't consulted about construction of the building.

Since the original building couldn't be saved, a major part of the design process, Rev. DeMarsh said, was maintaining the integrity of the building, the church wanted to do whatever they could to incorporate the historical features into the new one.

Rev. DeMarsh said the church will use some of the original fine brick as part of the building's facade.

"We tried to save the brick but it's over 100 years old and some of it would crumble in your hands," Rev. DeMarsh said. "We wanted to fit in with the community, not stick out in the community. I think what we're getting is a much better building, a safer building."

Rev. DeMarsh said the historical society hasn't approached Milton Bible Church since the building was torn down.

"We think they will be pleased with what they see and we've done the best we can under the circumstances."

A downtown location was chosen because the church found young people in need and facing crises. "We're looking forward to moving in and becoming part of the downtown community."

Jeff Bergsma owns Bergsma's Home Décor, which is located next to the future Milton Bible Church site. He said he's thrilled the space will be utilized by the church and has every confidence it will gel nicely with the other businesses.

"They only have the best interests of Main Street in their plans," he said.

Mayor Gord Krantz said he fully supports the project and is especially happy to see that a big hole on Main Street will be filled with something positive.

"The hole along the street had some negative feedback because of the unsightliness of it," he said. "It's a move in the right direction to have Main Street fully functional again."

He also said there was some negativity about a church being allowed to open on what some perceived as a primary business portion of Main Street.

"It's a permitted use and if they want to locate there, they can locate there. I never had a problem with that, they're just as welcome as anyone else," Mr. Krantz said.

"Hopefully it will bring people downtown, not only to worship but to shop, as well."

Mr. DeMarsh said in the fall Milton Bible Church will set out policies and procedures about how community members will be able to use the building for various events.

"At this point we're just getting the

bricks and mortar up."

Jason Misner can be reached at jmisner@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Slot revenue comes in at \$1.6 million

The Town of Milton has received more than \$1.6 million from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC).

The payment was the Town's

first-quarter share of slot revenue from Mohawk Racetrack on Guelph Line from April to June.

To date, Milton has received more than \$23.8 million from slot

operation. The Town receives 5 per cent of the facility's gross slot machine revenue for the first 450 machines and 2 per cent for the rest of the machines.

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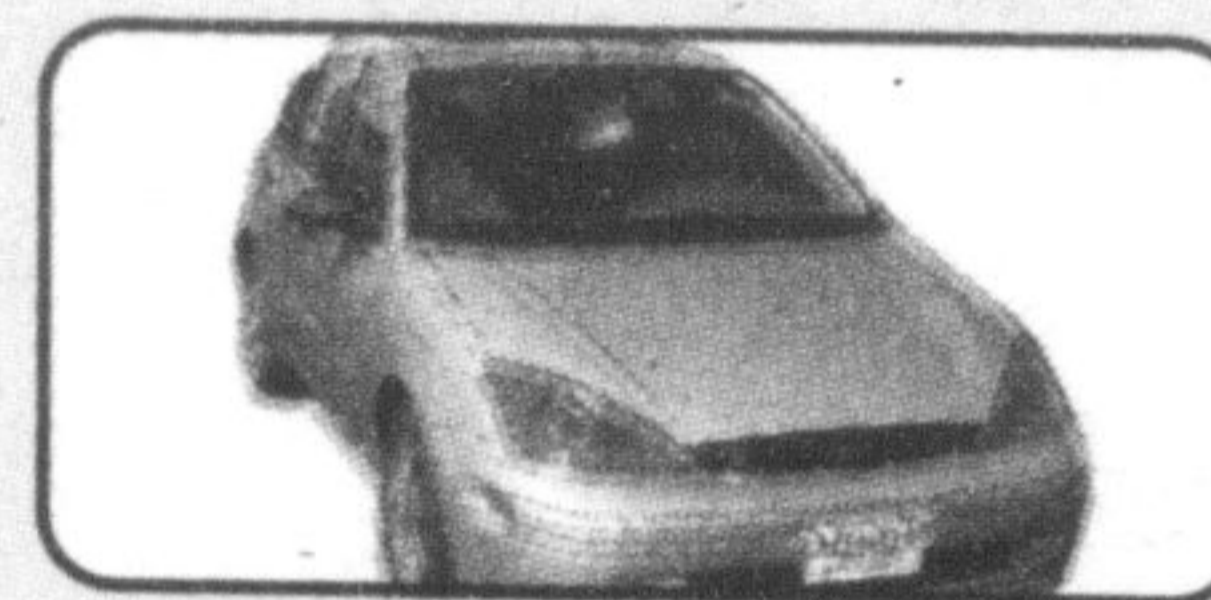
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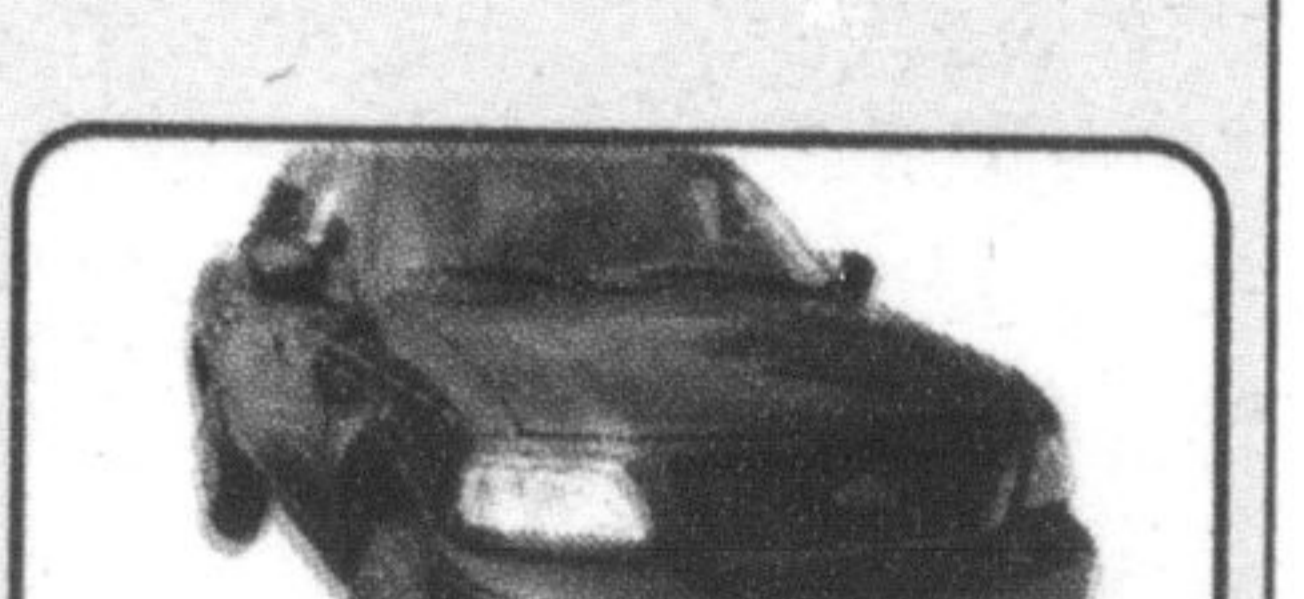
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