

Residents want heritage of old building preserved

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room with the house façade as a backdrop.

"It'll be the most interesting piece of this building," he said.

Milton resident Mandy Sedgwick suggested making the exterior of the building look like a row of stone houses so that the addition fits into the neighbourhood. "I think a lot of people think they don't want to look at an institution," she said.

Mr. Sapounzi, who said her idea was a good one, assured the audience that the addition will be respectful of the heritage of the existing Town Hall. "It's not going to be a sterile, institutional, modern looking building," he said.

Ward 2 Councillor Mark Curtis also shared his thoughts on the exterior of the new building.

He likened the existing Town Hall to a jewel and said, "If you put a cheap band on a real jewel, you'll have a lousy building. That's my concern — that we do it right and we don't have an eyesore."

One resident suggested creating a walkway from Main Street to the expanded Town Hall, which would involve the Town buying and removing the post office building.

Mr. Sapounzi concurred that the Town Hall should be visible from Main Street.

"This is a magnificent complex,

but you can't see it," he said.

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz told the audience there have been negotiations between the Town and the post office regarding its land at the corner of Mary and Brown streets.

"Hopefully one day you and I as Miltonians will have that property," he said.

Parking was another major topic of the night, with Mr. Sapounzi presenting a variety of options for how parking could be laid out on the Town Hall property.

He said The Ventin Group feels strongly that there should be some form of underground parking, noting while it's more expensive — about \$25,000 per spot — it's a good investment in the future.

"I feel that with a project like this and a growth future like yours, we may be remiss in not doing underground parking," he said.

It's expected that by 2012, there'll be 209 staff at Town Hall needing parking spots.

One scenario he presented showed 55 underground spots beneath the expansion, 18 to 20 above ground spots and 60 spaces in a lot that could be created across the road.

Down the street, he noted there's 90 spots in an existing Town lot, but he said it's arguable whether it should be used for Town Hall parking.

Another option he said could be to create 120 underground spots on the Town Hall property, 18 above ground and also use the 60 spots across the road.

He also brought up the possibility of extending the underground parking across Mary Street and even creating a two-level 120-spot above ground parking area across from Town Hall.

One resident suggested implementing a 'park and ride' system, meaning a parking lot would be created somewhere else in town and staff would then be bussed to Town Hall.

Hugh Street resident Sue Leeder noted that residents "don't want to see a lot of parking to ruin the downtown. What we want to see is a nice downtown area."

Another open house on the Town Hall expansion is expected to take place next month. A recommended design for the building is anticipated to go before Milton council for consideration at its November 28 meeting.

A full detailed design will be done after that, with the goal of tendering the project in spring 2006 and construction starting by May.

The second phase of construction is scheduled for 2013.

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