

# Design for Town Hall features 'solar chimney'

from RESIDENTS on page A1

While project manager Gary Stanhope acknowledged the feedback he heard during the evening seemed mostly negative and that some residents found the building to look a bit too modern, he defended the proposed design. "(We're) trying to match the stone materials to what Town Hall is now."

He noted that "the reality is it's a new building. We're not trying to hide that."

He said he also feels there's definitely a need for the extra space. "Town Hall has to support the growth of Milton," he said.

Mr. Stanhope added it's important for the Town to have a presence in the downtown area.

The proposed design displayed at the meeting showed a long glass corridor linking the new building to the existing Town Hall. A public plaza facing Mary Street that would provide space for civic gatherings and events is also part of the plans.

Parking is to be accommodated through 20 aboveground spots, 70 underground spaces and a two-level parking garage that would be created across the road from Town Hall and would house 110 spots. The garage would be designed to look like a building from the outside, made of the same stone as the expansion.

An interesting new feature of the proposed expansion design is a 'solar chimney', which would collect solar energy in the winter for supplemental heating. During the summer, excess heat from the building would rise through the chimney and be exhausted to the outside.

The project as currently proposed will also involve demolishing the former Halton County jail warden's home that's located in the same parking lot as Town Hall and moving two Mary Street homes to make way for parking. Council will have to make the final decision on these homes at a future meeting.

The warden's home was found to have little architectural significance and will be commemorated in the new building. It's recommended that the house at 155 Mary St. be moved to a Town-owned lot near the corner of Bell and Barton streets and sold as is and the home at 167 Mary St. be relocated to a nearby location within the historic downtown neighbourhood, restored and sold.

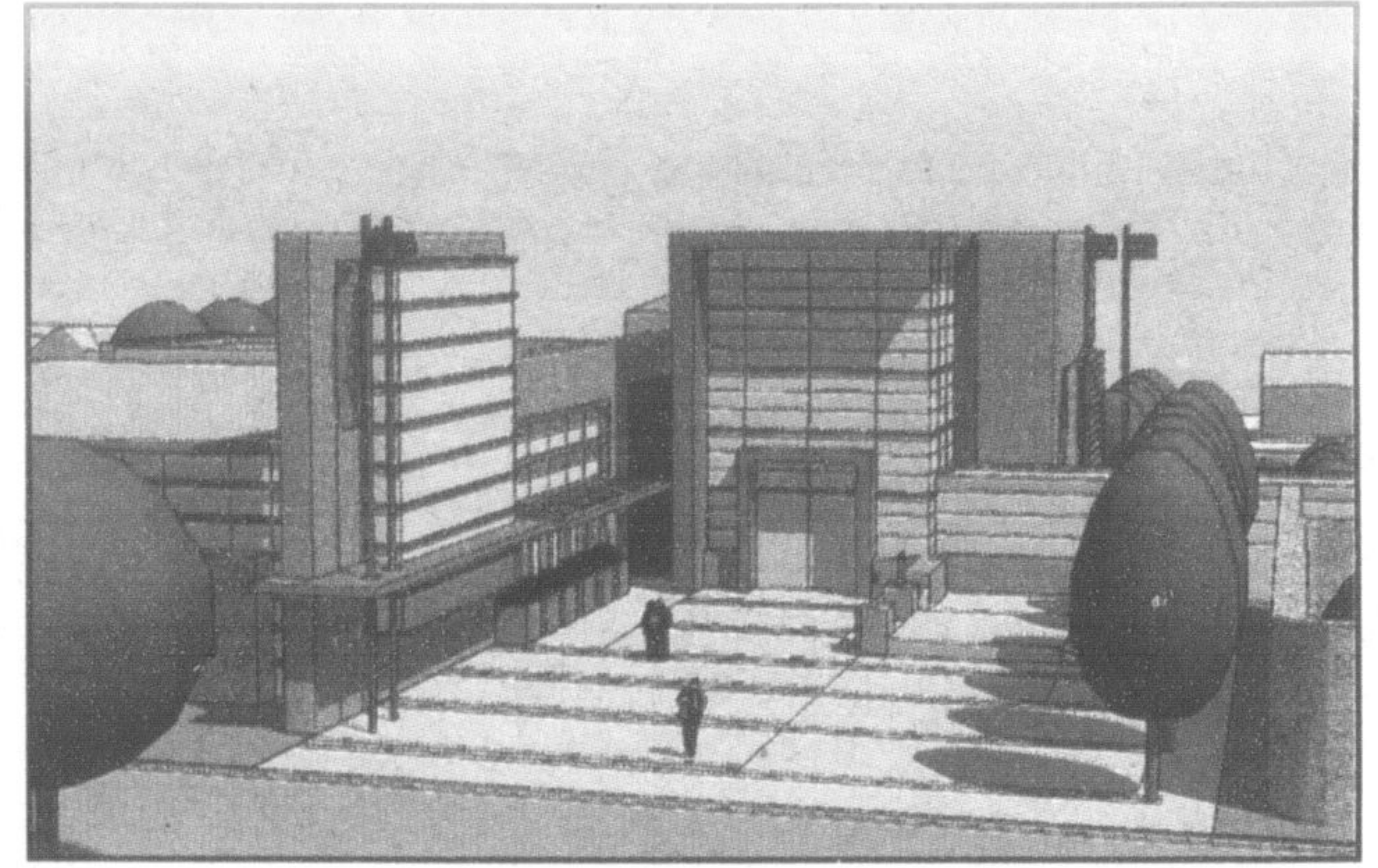
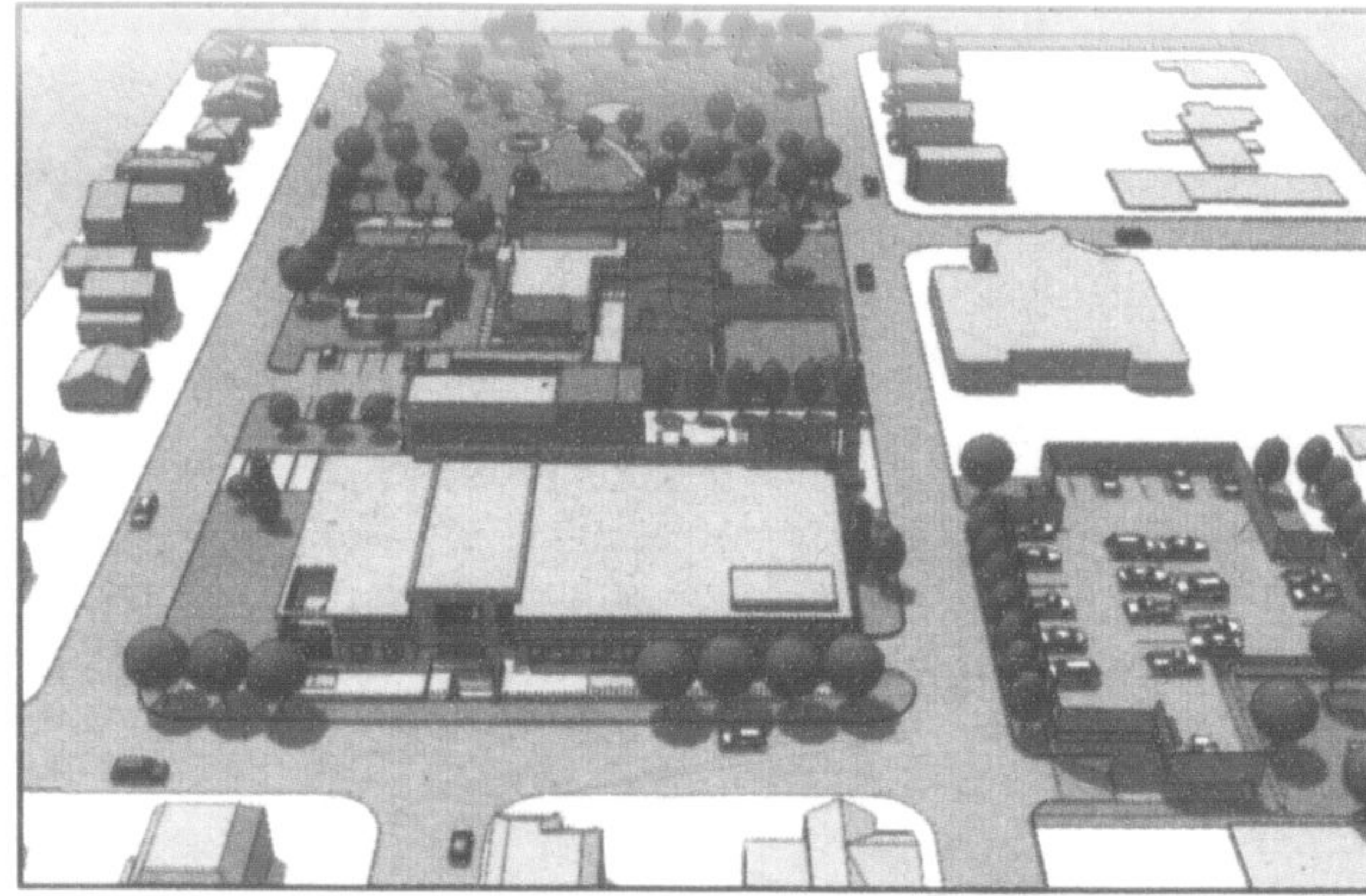
In response to the comments voiced by those at the open house, a recommended design for the expansion won't be going before council Monday night, as previously planned.

The additional time will provide the architect team the chance to revisit and further develop design considerations with respect to the surrounding residential neighbourhood. It'll also allow another opportunity for public comment.

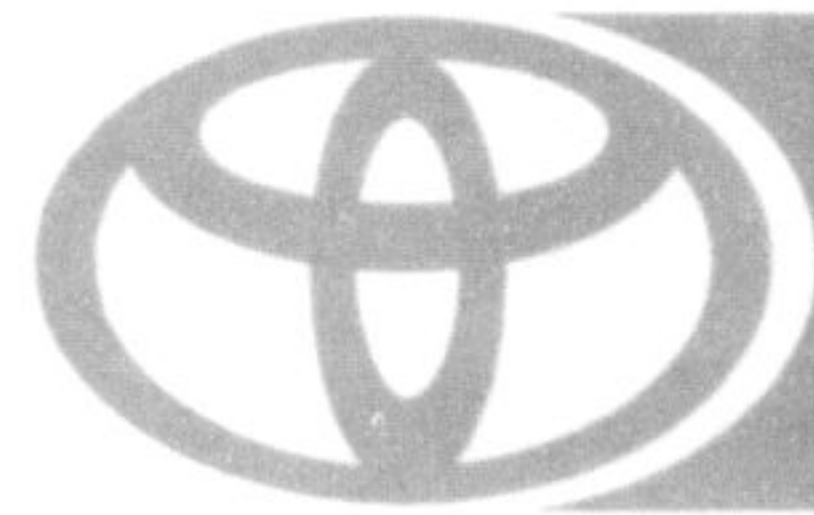
"We would like to thank those who attended the session for sharing their valuable input with us," said Community Services Director Jennifer Reynolds. "We will continue to engage the community to work with our Town Hall expansion steering committee and the project architects to ensure the final design reflects the historic and residential flavour of the neighbourhood."

In addition to the Town's Web site, more information on the expansion project can be obtained by calling (905) 878-7252, ext. 2187 or e-mailing facilities@milton.ca.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com.



Left is an aerial view of the proposed Town Hall expansion and parking garage that could be created across the street. At right is a schematic design of how the addition's main entrance would look to those passing by on Mary Street.



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