



The view of the proposed new Town Hall expansion from Hugh Street.

New look made softer

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scaping, peaked roofs, arches, less glass, more stone, and smaller, almost house-sized elements.

He said many of those desires were incorporated into the new plan.

"We've made it look more broken up, more like the existing building," he said.

With much more stone on the façade, which is quite expensive, some elements had to be given up to stay within the budget, Mr. Sapounzi said. One of the features scrapped was a solar chimney. But, he added, many energy efficient materials will be incorporated.

The old Town Hall building will be used mostly as a conference centre, he explained, with meeting rooms that can be used by the public.

Resident Mike Grimwood asked if the tall stone wall incorporated into the design would create too much shade, particularly in the public square area.

Mr. Sapounzi said shadow studies had been done.

"A good variety of sun and shade will be important," he said.

Answering a query from Milton resident Bob Beyette, Mr. Sapounzi said the proposed extension is on par with other nearby municipalities when it comes to the square footage of the building in light of the town's population.

Despite the largely positive comments, toward the middle of the Q and A session some residents expressed their opinion the process was moving too fast, with the new plans to go before Town council January 30.

"They've shown us two pretty pictures," said resident Brian Williams. "But a lot hasn't been worked out. There's a whole bunch of stuff that should be talked about by people in the community before this is considered approvable."

King Street's Sandra McGaghran said she couldn't fully support the new plans until a perspective of the expansion from her street was shown.

"I need to know what I'm going to be looking at," she said.

Mr. Sapounzi said the King Street view would be almost a mirror image of the Mary Street perspective.

Councillor Brian Penman, chair of the expansion steering committee, said there's a "now factor" to the project.

"We can't spend forever on every nuance and subtlety," he said, raising some residents' ire.

But when Mr. Sapounzi bluntly asked, "Are we going generally in the right direction?" the crowd broke into applause.

Mayor Gord Krantz — who has declared a conflict of interest on this issue since he lives across Town Hall — said nothing's stopping residents from appearing as delegates at the end-of-the-month council meeting.

"It's your God-given right to appear here in front of council on the 30th," he said.

Concerns were also expressed regarding parking and the traffic it could bring. Mr. Sapounzi said an underground parking

garage, which will be on the Mary Street side of the building, will have 70 spaces.

There will also be 18 aboveground spots and a two-level parking garage on Mary Street to accommodate just over 100 vehicles. The budget for this "parking solution" is just over \$4 million.

Hugh Street resident Sue Leeder was concerned the parking garage wasn't shown in the perspectives. "To put all that money into a spectacular (addition) when it'll be overlooked by a two-storey parking garage... that should be in the perspective and it's not."

Ms Leeder then questioned why the expansion was needed in the first place, drawing support from others in the audience. One man vehemently said the issue should be "on the ballots" and stormed out of the room.

Councillor Wendy Schau staunchly defended the project, bringing the meeting to a conclusion.

"The key to an organization working well is teamwork. Putting people all over town in separate buildings wouldn't facilitate that. We're not some rinky-dink (town)."

The latest building plans are posted on the Town's Web site at www.milton.ca.

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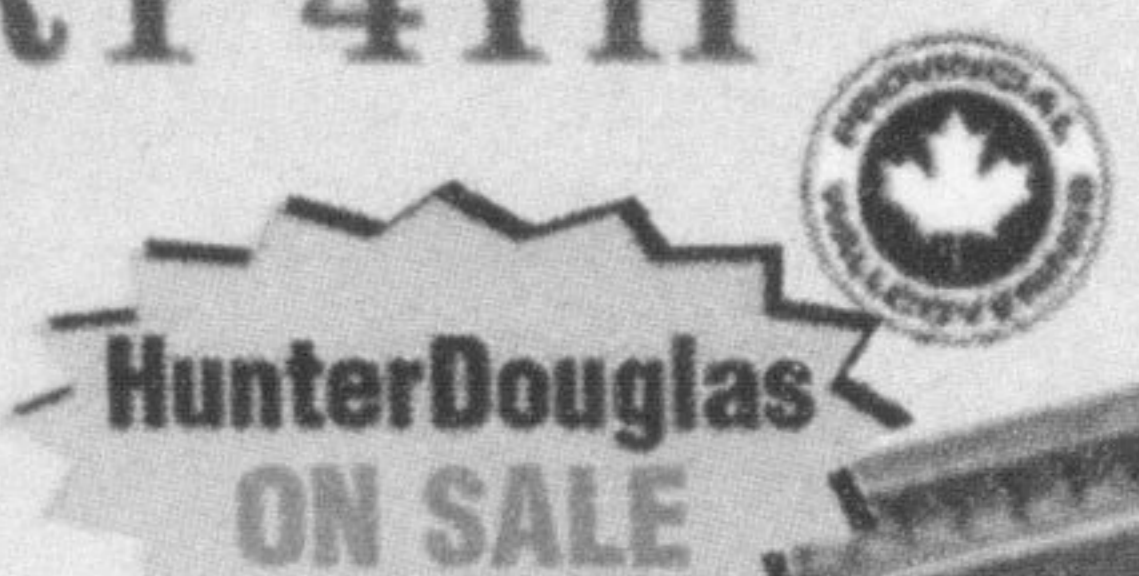
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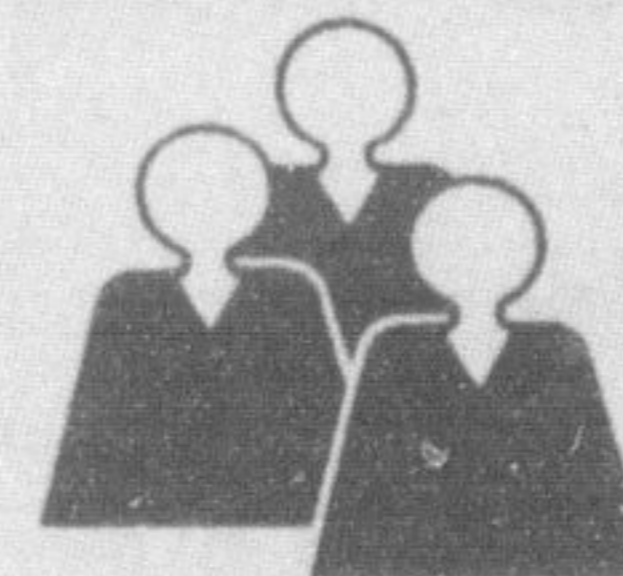
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