

'Walk of Fame' part of glass hallway

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Sapounzi of The Ventin Group — the architects hired for the project. "We worked very hard to make this building fit properly on this site."

He noted the new building will also exceed the accessibility requirements of the Ontario Building Code.

The couple dozen residents in attendance learned the first step for the 50,000-square-foot, two-storey expansion will be to demolish the former Halton County jail warden's home that's located in the same parking lot as Town Hall and the Planning and Development department building at 155 King St.

Then, the first phase of construction — largely the work on the expansion — will get underway and will take about a year to complete.

The second phase involves renovating the inside of the current Town Hall, which is slated to start early next year and wrap up that summer.

The old and new buildings will be connected with a glass hallway that Sapounzi said has been designated for a 'Walk of Fame' — floor tiles dedicated to Milton's top citizens.

A report on the initiative, which town council received for information Monday evening, explains the objective is to recognize prominent residents who have contributed to the community and helped form Milton over the past 150 years.

Sapounzi went on to point out that the design of the building, which was presented to the public last year, hasn't changed. Most recently, he said the expansion team has been focusing on engineering the interior of the building.

He explained the goal is to create functional, flexible, long-term office space for staff. Parking will be provided with a mix of underground and aboveground spots.

He also highlighted the amount of landscaping being incorporated around the new building, such as many large, mature trees.

Town Hall to be 'green'

The Town is striving to make the Town Hall a 'green' building, which requires getting an LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Sapounzi said some of the green initiatives include installing plumbing fixtures that don't use a lot of water and possibly collecting rainwater for irrigation purposes on the Town Hall property.

Miltonian Kevin Brackley commended the Town for implementing the LEED program.

A couple of residents expressed concern with the plan to one day turn the addition into a four-storey building, if need be.

"The two-storey building is just the thin edge of the wedge," said Queen Street resident Scott Coleman. "All of a sudden we're going to have this monolithic structure."

Ward 1 Councillor Brian Penman reminded the audience that the plan has always been to start out with a two-storey addition and then eventually go to four storeys.

"We're trying to accommodate the staff needs over a significant period of time," he said.

James Street resident Marsha Waldie suggested the Town look at additional stop signs or traffic lights on Main Street to help deal with the additional vehicles from the expansion.

"Right now, if you're trying to make a left from James Street onto Main Street, forget it," she said, noting it will only get worse with the extra traffic.

The Town is planning to get local children involved in the expansion project as well. Since there'll be large plywood boards placed around the construction site for dust and noise control, a contest will be held for kids to paint scenes on the wood that depict Milton's past, which ties in with 2007 being the Town's 150th anniversary.

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This artist's rendering shows the Town Hall expansion's proposed lobby.

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