

Property protected if designated as heritage landscape

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 committee has recommended the property, owned by the Wilmott family in the mid-1800s, be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, a move endorsed by Town staff and council's planning committee Tuesday night.

If council approves the same, and the decision survives an objection period, the property will be designated as a heritage landscape requiring conservation of not only the farmhouse and large gambrel-roofed barn, but the treed hilltop setting on which they lie.

The question then will be what to do with the property.

The large homebuilder Mattamy proposes to build 1,257 housing units on 68 hectares from the farmstead to the future extension of Louis St. Laurent Ave. Its proposal envisions maintaining the property in a neighbourhood park to be given to the Town, meaning the municipality would essentially become the landlord.

At a recent public meeting on Mattamy's development application, Ward 4 Councillor Paul Scherer asked Town staff to report back on what the municipality intends to do with

the property and how much it will cost to maintain the buildings.

"Historic buildings are best served when they're well used," said Scherer. "It's a gor-

geous building and we've got to figure out what to do with it."

Tim Foran can be reached at tforan@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Farmstead has long Milton history

- The property was bought by Austin Willmott, who was said to be "a diligent and prosperous farmer" and prominent Methodist Church member, along with his wife, Jane. The property was later owned by William Edwin Brooks, whose son Allan was a well known ornithologist and artist.

- The farmhouse has two distinct wings. The rear wing was the original farmhouse and was built in the 1840s. The front wing is a two-storey brick section

built in 1856 with reportedly an "unusually fine and sophisticated Greek Revival design." The large red board and batten barn dates from 1912 and is significant for its use of hollow clay tiles in its foundation.

- There's evidence suggesting Wilmott owned the land since the early 1820s. The original farmhouse is one of the few remaining original houses of a Milton pioneer family in the former Trafalgar Township.



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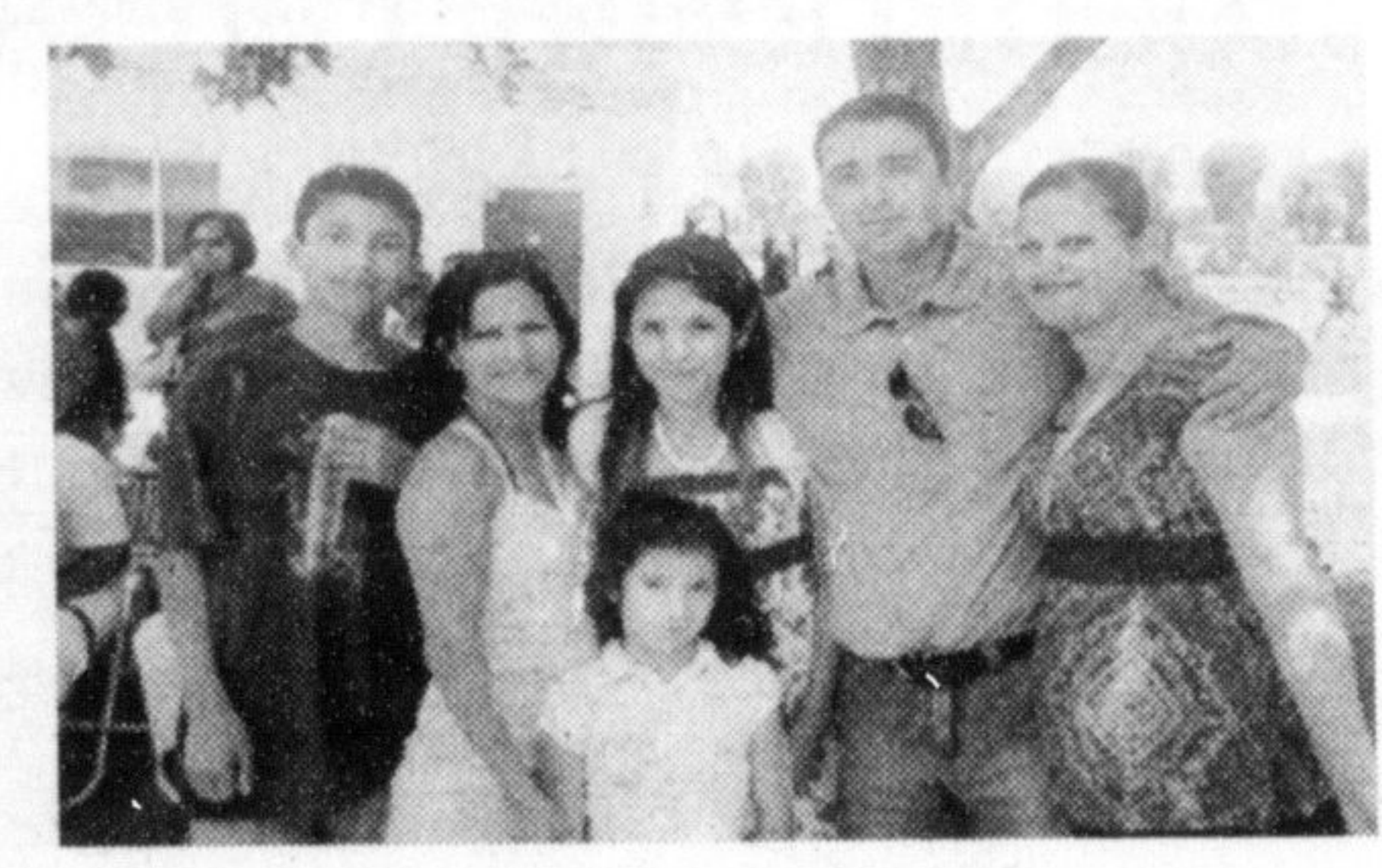
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