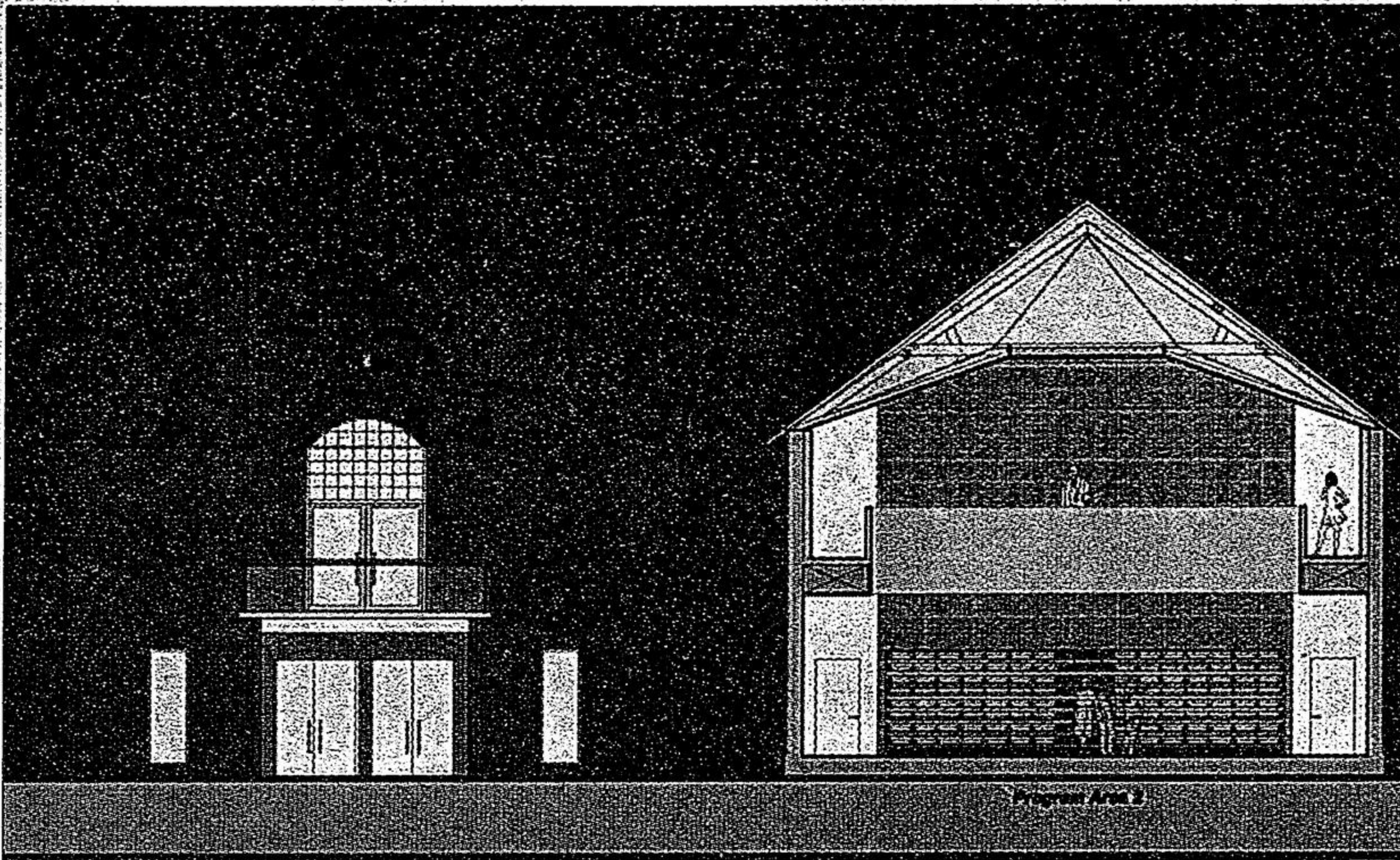


OLD TOWN HALL'S NEW LOOK



The current and the projected looks of the old town hall were unveiled by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville this week. Town council Tuesday agreed to spend \$2.81 million to turn the former municipal office into the 19 on the Park arts and culture centre. Construction is scheduled to start this fall and be complete by July 2008.

Your home could be bed and breakfast

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Thinking about turning your home into a bed and breakfast?

New rules the town is considering would make it possible to have one of these businesses in most houses.

There are five bed and breakfast businesses are listed in the York Region Business Directory.

All detached, single family dwellings in residential areas would be eligible under the proposal.

Marcel Camilleri Saringer, who runs Mysthaven Country Retreat and Spa, often finds there isn't enough overnight accommodation nearby when large groups attend workshops and other functions at her business.

She is one of the local bed and breakfast owners who came to a public hearing last week to give staff and council their opinion.

She wants to make sure all bed and breakfasts in the municipality adhere to the high standards set out by the Federation of Ontario Bed and Breakfast Accommodation.

Stouffville needs more bed and breakfast establishments, Helene Johnson, president of the

Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of the Commerce, said.

"This is the plan we asked for," Stouffville Business Improvement Area chairperson Eric Button said.

He added there aren't enough hotel beds in York Region currently, which has a negative impact on the tourism industry.

Bed and breakfast establishments have to adhere to municipal standards, including limits on signage.

They are limited to three guest rooms and provide breakfast and other meals, services and facilities for the exclusive use of guests.

The bed and breakfast has to be the principal residence of the owner.

Owners also have to provide 400 square feet of outdoor space that is available for guests, such as a landscaped yard, patio, verandah or porch.

The residential nature of the neighbourhood must be maintained.

No date for a decision on the proposal by Whitchurch-Stouffville council has been set.

Log on to yorkregion.com for listings of local businesses.

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