



GEORGINA

Media Release

Town of Georgina Corporate Communications
communications@georgina.ca



For Immediate Release

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Same property, new Civic Centre Building

(Georgina) Georgina Council has voted unanimously to build a new stand-alone Civic Centre on the same campus property, replacing the current building that has reached its capacity and life expectancy.

The decision follows extensive analysis and reports that have explored the state of the current Civic Centre building, other potential locations and options for a retrofit of the current building versus a new build. A building condition review in 2016 identified many areas where improvements are required on the building in order to comply with current Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) also addressing many deficiencies in the areas of health, safety and operational risks. Recently, routine air quality tests determined there was a presence of 'mouldy odours' in sections of the building which prompted the closure of two separate areas to allow for further examination.

"Council realizes that it's a lot of money for a new Civic Centre. But it's also a lot of money to keep fixing a building that is broken and can no longer accommodate today's needs. Staff have been creative in maximizing the space and usage of the building, but the band-aids we have been applying are becoming increasingly expensive," said Mayor Margaret Quirk.

In the 2018 budget, \$1.5 million was allocated for the concept design work. The overall budget for the new Civic Centre will be finalized during this process also taking into account key factors such as project timing and construction methodology. Reports will continue to be presented to Council as the plan moves forward with public consultation integrated into the process. One of those reports includes recommendations on the future use of the current Civic Centre building.

The Civic Centre is approximately 60 years old with 37 thousand feet of space and was originally built as an Institutional Residential Building. Services currently housed in the building include: Town Council/Committee/Public meetings, Development Services, Operations and Infrastructure, Recreation and Culture, By-law Enforcement and a number of other administrative services. While the proposed facility is intended for the purpose of administrative services, it will also serve as a community destination frequented by residents and other stakeholders.

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Media Contact: Tanya Thompson | Communications Manager | Office of the CAO
Phone: 905-476-4305, Ext. 2446 | Email: kmacgillivray@georgina.ca | www.georgina.ca