

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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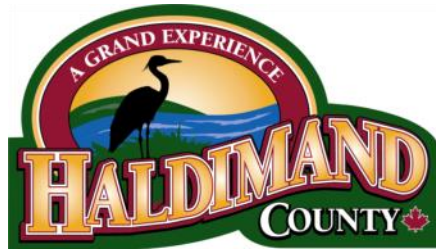
COUNCIL SELECTS A SITE FOR NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

In January 2016 Council adopted an administrative accommodation strategy that consolidates municipal services into a new central building to be located in Cayuga, achieving operating savings, improving efficiencies and supporting excellent customer service.

After reviewing 26 properties in terms of the feasibility to accommodate the required building in terms of size, functional requirements and future expansion, and investigating servicing costs and financial impact, on Monday Council decided to locate the new building on the Cayuga Arena property on Thorburn Street.

The key reasons for selecting this location were:

1. The 7.8 acre property is already owned by the County, and significant components of the required infrastructure for the new administration building are already in place and are adequate to support it such as parking / storm water facilities, resulting in significant project cost savings of approximately \$1.8 million as compared to the alternative locations;
2. The site can meet all the County's requirements including expected future growth;
3. It does not preclude other recreational uses from being established at this location and in the area;
4. It will allow facilities at the Arena (i.e. McSorley Family Hall, walking track, parking lot) that are underutilized during the day, and in the summer to be used by staff for administrative and recreational purposes – it will allow more frequent use thus achieving a better return on these investments;
5. Sharing this location with the arena provides dual use efficiencies in terms of ground maintenance (grass cutting, snow removal) resulting in approximately \$10,000 in annual operational savings, plus longer term savings in capital repairs and maintenance of the parking lot (236 spaces vs. 450 spaces at two locations);
6. Archeological investigations are complete for the property, removing the possibility of the risk of costs/delay;
7. It does not remove privately owned land that could generate future taxation revenue from the community inventory, as the arena land is currently tax exempt;
8. It creates a 'campus' of municipal facilities in close proximity to one another (fire hall, community hall, arena, administration facilities)
9. It represents an infill condition within the community rather than construction at the outer limits of the urban boundary which is desirable from a planning perspective;



10. The location is located on a major arterial road (County Road 17) and compatible with the neighbourhood; and
11. The location aligns with the input from the majority of participants in the Phase 1 – Accommodation consultation who desired the use of existing County lands, rather than purchasing land as a location for the new building.

The initial conceptual design of the building is shown below. Key statistics are:

1. Total Building Size – 40,000 to 42,000 sq. ft. on 3 storeys to accommodate 151 staff, plus seasonal employees and future needs
2. Multi-use Council Chambers – up to 100 seats
3. Total Parking – 236 spaces including 12 accessible spaces with 20 additional future spaces
4. Built in plan for 2 storey building expansion of 5600 sq. ft. for long term growth
5. Cost Estimate: \$13.25 million for building construction and \$16.2 million for total project costs

Mayor Ken Hewitt stated “Council is committed to continuing its efforts in achieving efficiencies, delivering excellent customer service and maintaining fiscal responsibility for the long term benefit of the residents of Haldimand County. This decision is directly aligned to these commitments.”

With the location selected, the next step is to retain the necessary architectural/engineering specialists to complete the building design prior to tendering the project for construction.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, please contact Craig Manley, General Manager of Planning and Economic Development, 905-318-5932 ext. 6308, cmanley@haldimandcounty.on.ca or Don Boyle, Chief Administrative Officer, 905-318-5932 ext. 6320, dboyle@haldimandcounty.on.ca.

