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Town Hall Site Visioning  
2003 - 2010



## Town Hall Site Visioning

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- Council currently considering reopening the visioning for the Town Hall Site
- Some ratepayers are interested in refurbishing the old town hall building
- Tonight on behalf of all the members of the community who have participated in the visioning process over the last 7 years I would like to review
  - The extensive public process followed
  - The vision resulting from that process

## Town Hall Site Visioning

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- 2003 - Council identified a need to determine the Town's administrative office space needs and to develop a long term solution (10 years out)
  - The Ventin Group was selected to complete Analysis
  - Council identified the Thornbury Town Hall site as preferred location
- 2005 Council reconfirmed the Thornbury Town Hall site as preferred location



## Town Hall Site Visioning

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- 2007 the ESSO property was acquired, presenting an opportunity to review site and options
- The Ventin Group was requested to prepare a study with a new building at intersection of Bridge and Mill Streets



## Town Hall Site Visioning

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- 2007 Council authorized Town Staff to proceed with community involvement to determine the best way to proceed with the new town hall development
  - Prior to proceeding to full community involvement via Public Open Houses, it was considered necessary to capture the Community's vision for the New Town Hall Site through Community Dialogue sessions

## Town Hall Site Visioning

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Participants were selected by an advertised request and direct invitation to get a broad representation of residents, businesses, service clubs/organizations, developers and consultants.

- **Bill Abbotts, Community**
- **Fred Barnes, Ratepayers**
- **Jim Farmilo, Chamber**
- **Michael Martin, Town Council**
- **George Matamoros, Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary**
- **Michael Sequin, Community**
- **David Slade, Development Community**
- **Alvin Weatherall, BMR**
- **Don Braden, Blue Mountain Village Association**
- **Meredith Brown, BIA**
- **Lynn Johnstone, North East Grey Health Clinics Inc.**
- **Carolyn LeTourneau, BVO**
- **John McKean, Town Council**
- **Jack Peckitt, Community**
- **Todd Savill, Community**
- **Don Stevens, BVAA**
- **Jim Wilkinson, Development Community**

## Town Hall Site Visioning

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### Community Dialogue Conclusions

- great interest in a connection with nature and history, sustainability, identity creation and community gathering space.
- great interest in the creation of open and accessible public space for the entire community.
- the limitations of the current building included lack of public space, limited access to the river and trail
- lack of sustainable features of the current building was a substantial and valid reason to build a new office space, and subsequently demolish the current building to make way for public access to the natural features of the site (trail, river, etc.)

# Town Hall Site Visioning

Council then authorized a design charette which captured the different visions of the community dialogue sessions in 4 concepts plans





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- After presentations to numerous community groups, display boards in 7 locations throughout the town, open houses and 134 specific responses to questionnaires
- 56% were in favour of a new building
- 99% said a green building was very important or somewhat important
- 81% felt that provision of public space was very important or somewhat important
- 57% supported a programmed public space with features such as a skating loop, a bandshell, splash pad





## Town Hall Site Visioning

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- In May 2008 Council endorsed in principle the design in concept B
- 2008 Council approved the purchase of the Diane's Attic property
- In July 2009 Council formally endorsed the new town hall design
- In January 2010 council approved the final design



## Town Hall Site Visioning

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The current vision for an active public open space on the site contains these major components

- Amphitheatre
  - Skating Loop
  - Public washrooms
  - Access to the river
  - Event Plaza
  - Splash pad
  - Access to the Georgian Trail
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- Financing would be primarily with recreation development charges funds with few taxation dollars needed

## Town Hall Site Visioning

- This is the concept in place, an active public open place, connected to the new town hall, the river and the trail, contributing to our community's vibrancy



“a friendly place beaming with smiles and ringing with laughter”





## Town Hall Site Visioning

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- Today we have
  - A new town hall building situated according to the concept plan
  - A large public space capable of providing a civic gathering space
  - A concept for this space that is in line with the community's vision
  - A funding model that is capable of delivering the vision with very limited use of tax dollars
  - An opportunity to create a unique civic space that will that our residents can enjoy for years to come



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I encourage you to reflect on the this vision and the public involvement in its creation over the last 7 years as you deliberate the future of the Town Hall Site