

# ***A New Civic Centre for Bradford West Gwillimbury... pursuing the vision***

The Ad Hoc Facilities Committee, comprised of Mayor Frank Jonkman, Councillors Marty Toombs and Jim Corneau, Chief Building Official Art Janse, Deputy Treasurer Ian Goodfellow and Police Chief Bruce Davis met on Wednesday night, to consider future facilities that could include a new Police Station, a consolidated administration centre, and possibly, an indoor pool.

And although discussions were preliminary, the group came to the conclusion, in the words of Councillor Toombs, "that we're going to end up with all of them" - that in the "big picture", the revenues from the sale of surplus assets, the savings from consolidation, and the need will balance out the costs.

Among the conclusions: The Committee has already identified the most likely location for a

consolidated Administration Centre: the 6 acres fronting on County Rd. 88 that was donated to the Town by developer Mike Orsi. The fact that the land has already been acquired, at no cost, is a "huge" factor, Toombs suggested.

Consolidation of the Administrative function of the municipality will mean that the Town will have a number of surplus properties, which could be sold and the funds used to

offset the cost of a new building. Among the surplus properties: the St. Mary's Building, the existing police station, the marina, the public works yard on Melbourne Drive - with the equipment moved to either the 11th Line or a leased facility. In addition to the dollars generated by the sales, the Town will also avoid costs - eliminating operating and maintenance costs for a number of aging structures, as well as the need to undertake costly renovations.

A new building could include extra floor space, which could be rented out to generate income, until such time as the municipality expands, and requires the additional room.

A new Police Station is not just an option, but a requirement - the existing 8,000 sq. ft. South Division Station is unlikely to be

deemed adequate, if the issue is brought to the attention of the Solicitor General's Office. There are health and safety issues, in addition to the basic lack of space.

The Committee then mapped out its next steps, over the next two weeks: to come up with a list of Town holdings and properties, and a "conservative" estimate of their value - to work out the spatial needs of Administration and the Town departments that would be brought together under one roof - to approach Innisfil Town council and open discussions on how best to house the South Simcoe Police Service - to approach other potential partners, including the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, which may have garage space for lease at Scanlon Creek - and to

work out costs and possible sources of funding.

CBO Art Janse urged the Committee to prioritize the Town's needs, suggesting that the first and foremost need is "a pipeline - we need water."

Toombs agreed, but noted, "If we didn't have the water issue, we'd be sitting pretty." With completion of the 2002 budget, the sale of assets, the cost avoidance resulting from consolidation, the potential savings in staff time, and other revenues, he suggested that a new Centre could be achieved without major impact on the ratepayers.

"Look at what's practical and what's required - everything else is a bonus," he said. "If we do the "must-haves" first, the vision will be very clear."

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee will be February 21st, 7:30 p.m.

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