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# Updated plans for Hagersville Library and Active Living Centre shown to community

‘It seems more of a space that you could grow into’

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Kerrie Curran was pleased with the changes she saw on the updated plans for the new [Hagersville Library and Active Living Centre](#).

“I think these ... are big improvement over the original plans,” said the Hagersville resident, noting she’s attended all of the public meetings regarding the facility.

“It seems to me they’ve worked to take into account things that people brought up in the earlier meetings.”

Some of the bigger differences Curran noticed right away were the inclusion of a multi-purpose room, which would allow for activities that might get messier, such as art classes, and the fact that the atrium is larger, with more seating options.

“It seems more of a space that you could grow into, and programming could grow and change as the community’s needs and wants grow and change ... so I think that’s really wonderful,” she said.

Mike Evers, manager of the planning and development division for the county, said flexibility is “the perfect word to describe what we’re aiming for with this design ... We don’t want to outgrow this facility or have this facility become outdated within a couple of years.”

Part of that process has included looking at where the community is now in terms of needs, and how those may change down the road.

Open houses for stakeholders — like the two the county held on March 17 at the Hagersville arena — allow the public to weigh in on what’s important to them, Evers said. For those who weren’t able to attend, there is still opportunity to provide feedback through the county’s website at [haldimandcounty.ca/hagersvillealc/](http://haldimandcounty.ca/hagersvillealc/).

Evers said the focus for 2023 is locking in the design for the facility, with the construction tender to go out around the end of 2023 or the start of 2024. Construction would be throughout 2024 and into 2025, with the earliest site occupancy to be around mid-2025.

That gives time for the county to look into how the facility will operate.

Haldimand has partnerships with various community groups that operate halls throughout the county. However, this is “a new model in terms of uses that we’re bringing together, spaces that we’re bringing together, which then also leads us to having to develop a new model in terms of how we operate,” Evers said.

The community has already been partnering on the project, with \$1.5 million being secured or pledged through the efforts of the fundraising committee.

In addition, there is currently a council approved budget of \$10.4 million for the construction of the facility, though Evers said, “we’re continuing to review the budget; I would anticipate there’s probably some budget modifications required.” The amount was approved before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent inflation and supply chain pressures.

“It’s a conversation with council that would need to take place,” Evers said, stressing, “it’s not a blank cheque; we still have to make sure this is a responsible budget.”

Kyle Slote, a principal with [Curran, Gacesa, Slote Architects Inc. \(CGS\)](#), is optimistic his firm’s design will ultimately be one “that’s specific to Hagersville, and specific to being at this site.”

He noted the proximity to Grant Kett Memorial Park, which includes a natural amphitheatre and baseball diamonds, means the area has a lot of open spaces.

“We’re trying to bring in as much of those views as possible, as much of the natural light,” Slote said.

Also, the plan is to include features like rougher hewn stone inside, inspired by the quarry that used to be at the site, “to really give a feel, a flavour that is of this place, and not something that could be anywhere.”

***STORY BEHIND THE STORY:*** *With Haldimand hosting open houses for stakeholders to see the updated plans for the Hagersville Library and Active Living Centre, we wanted to know about the project’s progress.*

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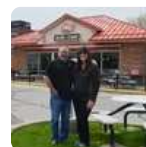


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