

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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HALDIMAND COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVES CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DESIGN AND BUDGET

HALDIMAND COUNTY, ON – At a special Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, August 21, Haldimand County Council reviewed the proposed design and budget for the new Central Administration Building. On August 28, the design and budget received unanimous Council approval, and the project will move forward with tender preparation and issuance.

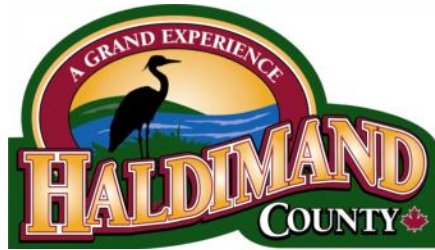
Plans for a new building and municipal service delivery model have been in the development stages since 2015, following a comprehensive [Administration Accommodation Review](#) focused on enhancing customer service, maximizing administrative/operational efficiencies and ensuring long-term cost effectiveness. After thorough analysis and community consultation, a consolidated service model -- involving the construction of a new administration building – was selected by Council.

The approved building design – to be constructed on the north end of the Cayuga Arena site – spans 42,900 sq. ft over 3 storeys with an 11,400 sq. ft semi-finished basement. In total, the space will accommodate 176 staff workstations with ample flexibility for future growth. Three separate customer service areas will accommodate the distinct needs of residents & businesses, with related divisions in close proximity. The building will also meet the Leadership in Energy & Efficient Design (LEED) Silver Standard by incorporating eco-friendly materials and features that reduce energy consumption.

“Overall, the approved building plans satisfy all design principles and guidelines established by Council at the onset of the project,” said Chief Administrative Officer Don Boyle. “One of the largest benefits of the design is that it will significantly enhance customer experience and accessibility. Anyone who needs information or assistance from multiple divisions will be able to find what they’re looking for in one visit,” Boyle stated. He also noted that housing staff in one building will improve internal communication, enhance problem solving between work groups and ultimately increase efficiency.

In addition to the new central administration building, library branches in six communities will eventually serve as municipal service access points – or ‘community hubs’. A robust technological overhaul is also planned, which will see a new website and more streamlined online services made available to residents.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$19,500,000, with construction slated to begin in 2018. Completion is anticipated for fall 2019.



“This is an exciting time and an important investment in the future of a growing, thriving Haldimand County,” said Mayor Ken Hewitt. “Moving ahead with the new building will result in substantial residual building value that will, over time, far surpass the value of our existing satellite office buildings – most of which require significant and costly maintenance,” he continued. “From a customer service, operational and corporate image perspective, this is our best foot forward.”

[Further information](#) regarding the Central Administration Project is available on the County website. Opportunities for members of the public to view large-scale floor plans and elevations will be announced in September.

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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

Kyra Hayes
Coordinator, Strategic Initiatives
905-318-5932 ext. 6309
khayes@haldimandcounty.on.ca