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***“If it’s true a community reveals itself in its city hall,
Milton must be one of the most enlightened corners of the GTA”.***
- Christopher Hume, Toronto Star, March 27, 2010



The new Milton Town Hall expansion by +VG Architects (“PlusVG”) is featured in a recent article by Architecture and Urban Issues Columnist Christopher Hume in the Toronto Star. Parts of the column are highlighted here, but the full version is available on the Toronto Star website or the news section of the plusVG.com website.

With population growth that’s nearly tripled since 1985, like many municipalities around the GTA, the Town of Milton responded with a commitment to provide new administration space. Unlike others, the Town decided to locate the 75,000 square foot building on the site of the existing 1854 Town Hall, within Milton’s most historically sensitive neighbourhood.

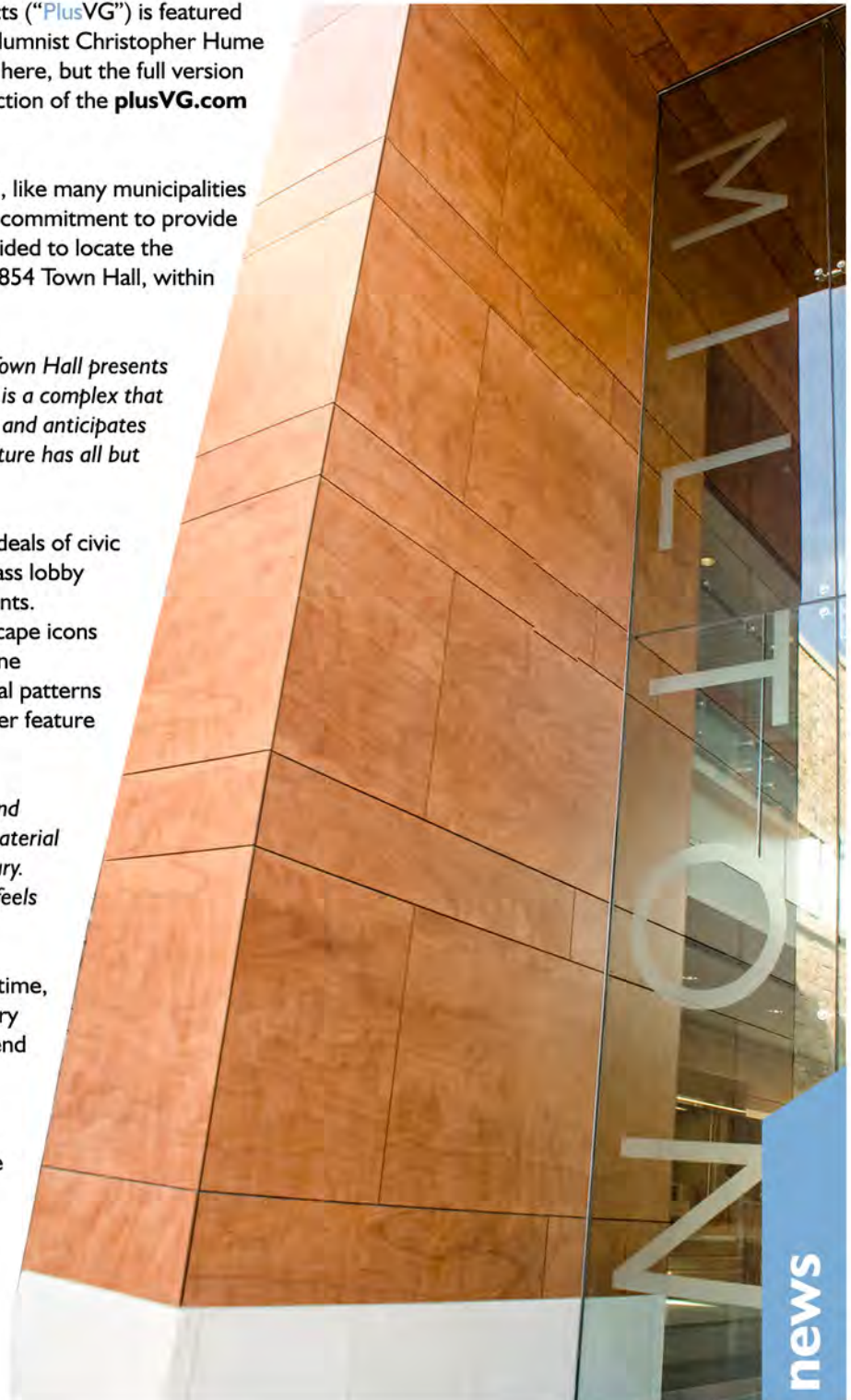
“Combining old and new, heritage and modernity, Milton Town Hall presents an ideal architectural image of the successful small city. It is a complex that imparts a clear sense of its origins, acknowledges the past and anticipates the future, no mean feat at a time when drive-through culture has all but obliterated any attachment people feel to place.”

The design of the new building reflects contemporary ideals of civic transparency and sustainability. A new double-height glass lobby serves the community for civic business and special events. Form and materials used relate directly to 3 local landscape icons of this region - The Niagara Escarpment, with large stone orientation wall, - The Agricultural Landscape, with rural patterns and native planting, and Sixteen Mile Creek, with a water feature leading visitors from the civic plaza into the building.

“The structure begins where the old one left off, literally and aesthetically. In other words, the addition continues the material palette of the courthouse, but brings it into the 21st century. Though the language is thoroughly modern, the new wing feels right at home next to its aged neighbour.”

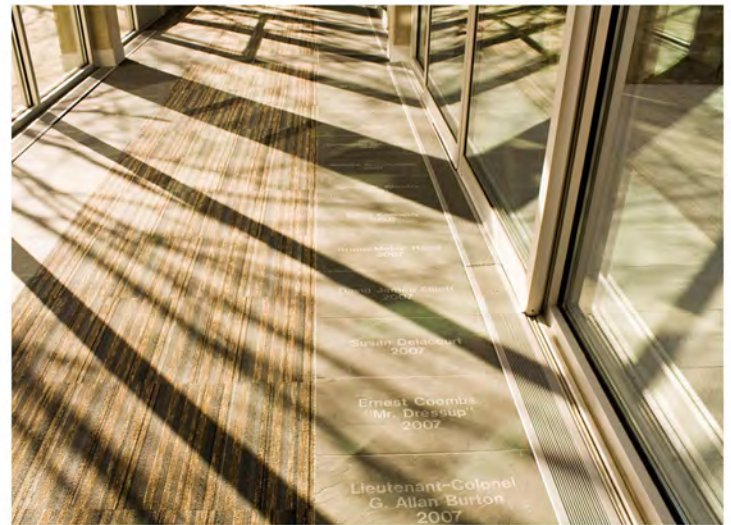
The glass link from the new lobby is a journey through time, designed as a narrative of spatial events that tell the story of Town origins, evolution and future vision. Views extend to adjacent courtyards, jail courtyard and historic neighbourhood beyond. The passage celebrates the significant contributions of community members, past and present, as a “Walk of Fame” with commemorative plaques inset into the flooring.

The new building preserves the architectural heritage of the Town Hall site, supporting its traditional role as the civic centre of Milton. The expansion is designed to complement the historic Town Hall buildings, while providing up to date facilities that serve Milton’s growing needs.





Contemporary meeting space within historic jail block



Glass 'Walk of Fame' connecting new and old civic administration buildings and spaces



The Atrium of the recently opened addition to Milton Town Hall