

Howard Johnson's proposed for seniors housing

It has stood in decay on Yonge Street for the better part of a decade, but new life could soon be brought into the former site of Howard Johnson's Hotel.

A proposal has been made to transform the existing building into 104 housing units for seniors, retaining much of the present building with new facades and street-level amenities.

The HoJos on Yonge Street, which has been vacant and an eyesore for so many years, has been purchased, said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement. Plans have been submitted to completely overhaul the existing building, both inside and out, with a proposed 104 unit seniors housing facility delivering an attractive addition to our Yonge Street promenade.

For many years, the Howard Johnson's hotel was a gathering place for the community, complete with auditorium, gym and banqueting facilities.

After the owner shuttered the building nearly a decade ago, the Town was left without a hotel to serve visitors.

But, last month, this situation changed significantly with the opening of the Holiday Inn Express on Eric T. Smith Way to fill the gap and another hotel, a Microtel, just down the street, is currently under construction and expected to open sometime in 2021.

By Brock Weir Editor Local Journalism Initiative Reporter