

Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee

March 25, 2025



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Towne Square



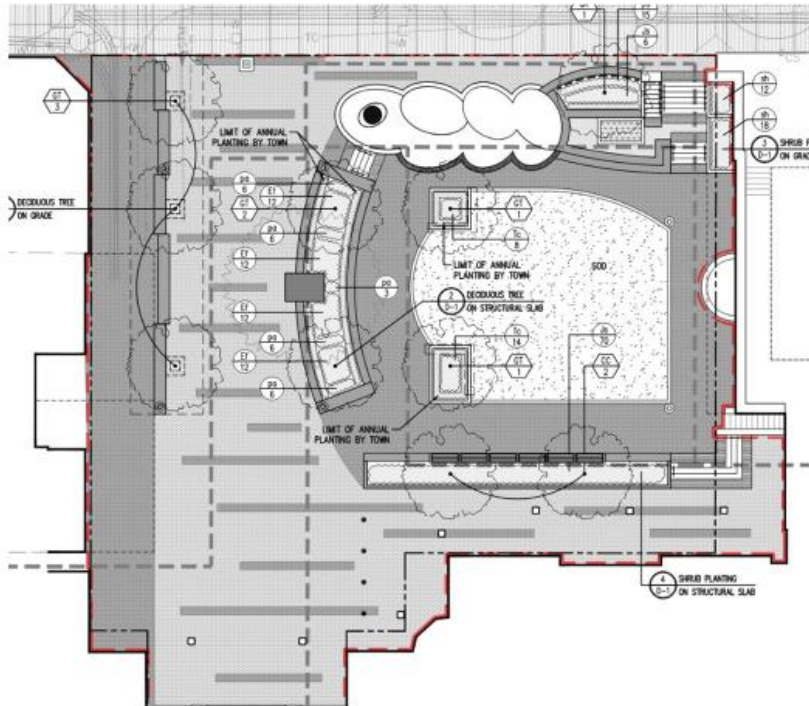
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Towne Square

Heritage permit application

- Designated under Part V of OHA as part of Downtown Oakville HCD
- Non-contributing property
- Contemporary public space built over top of underground parking facilities
- Application to:
 - Demolish the existing Towne Square facilities;
 - Construct the re-designed Towne Square on top of the existing concrete slab.
- Heritage permit approved in 2019, not constructed, design has been altered

Towne Square Design Comparison



Approved Design (2019)



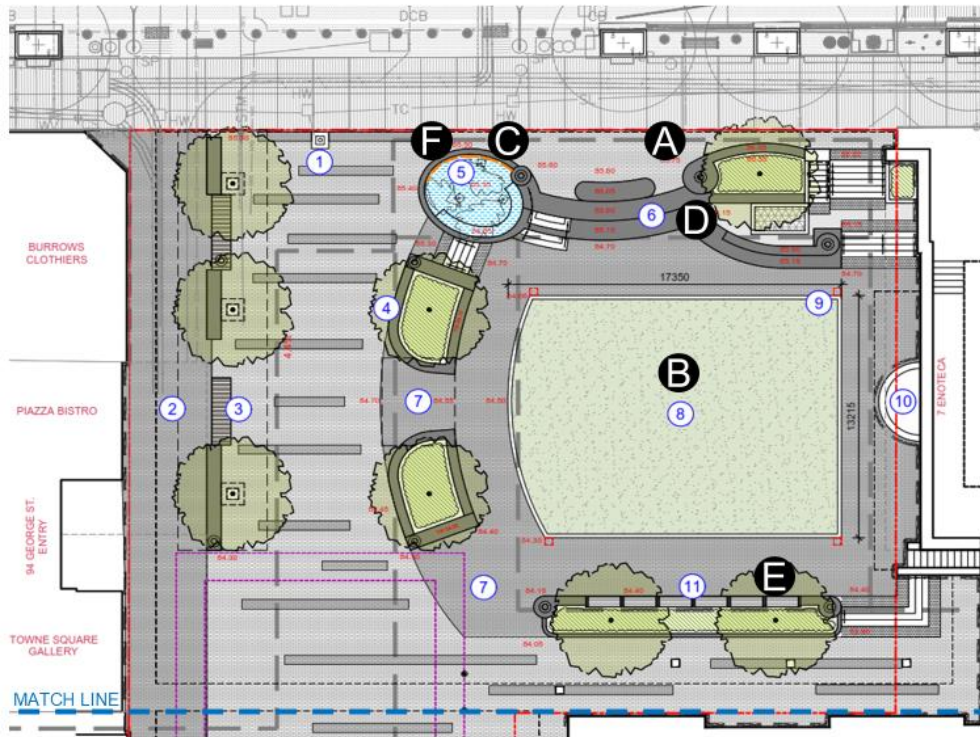
Refined Design Concept (2025)



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Refined Towne Square Design (2025)



- A Simple and Functional:** Permeability from sidewalk
- B Flexible:** Slightly larger square/promenade connection
- C Modest Water Feature:** Significantly scale down and flexible for seasonal plantings/displays during the winter months
- D Flexible Seating/Steps for Seating:** Additional seating, mezzanine, benches
- E Trees and Greenery**
- F 'Instagrammable' Moment:** Oak Leaves combined with 'Oakville' identifier for a stronger visual impact



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Promenade looking south to Robinson Street



Promenade looking north to Lakeshore Road East



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Key Features

- ‘Turning Leaves’ sculpture will be a warm colour to complement downtown Oakville
- Paving materials complement the Lakeshore Road East streetscape paving
- Understated paving design with textural contrast between pavers for visual interest and non-slip tactile surface
- Light standards are consistent with the Lakeshore Road East heritage light standards.
- Wood slat benches on the south side
- Custom ‘leaf’ benches with wood slats and some benches will also include accessible seating/back support opportunities



District Plan

- The public realm within the District has undergone considerable change from the earliest period of settlement. As a result, there are no substantial above-ground remains of previous landscape and street features.
- It is important that any alterations or additions to the streetscape ensure that there is accommodation and safety for pedestrians, as well as for a wide variety of other users and in particular cyclists, people with mobility limitations and visual challenges and the wide range of vehicles needed for supporting the commercial core such as delivery trucks, couriers and public transit.
- The underlying principle for additions and alterations to the sidewalks is that they should sustain accessibility and barrier free travel for pedestrians with a variety of challenges.



District Plan

- To maintain and conserve the vibrant heritage character of Lakeshore Road corridor, and adjacent George and Thomas Streets.
- To encourage the maintenance and protection of the public realm of the District, as well as avoiding or minimizing adverse effects of public undertakings.
- To encourage public realm improvements within the Lakeshore Road corridor that respect the historical attributes and associations of this early transportation route as well as promote a pedestrian friendly environment that links Downtown Oakville to adjacent residential, institutional and recreational amenity areas including the harbour area, lakeshore and Sixteen Mile Creek.



District Plan

- As part of the ongoing management of the streetscape and in the absence of a streetscape management plan, alterations and additions of contemporary street furniture should aim at creating a cohesive pedestrian environment using similar materials and colours in the choice of street furniture.
- The placement of street furniture should not impede pedestrian movement or block the entrances or façade signage of the adjacent buildings.
- Public art is an increasingly popular feature of downtown revitalization and streetscape improvements. There are opportunities for the addition of appropriate public art within the District. Public art should be strategically located at the entrances to Downtown District and at Towne Square and where there are opportunities to add to encourage the sense of place of the commercial core.



Heritage assessment

- No heritage attributes on the property (non-contributing)
- Millenium Clock retained
- Public access and use
- Pedestrian friendly
- Does not detract from vibrant heritage character of HCD
- Public art adds to the sense of place
- Complementary colours
- Use of existing design for some street furniture to bring cohesiveness to streetscape
- Visual connection through to lake



Staff recommendation:

1. That Heritage Permit Application HP008/25-42.20TL for the revitalization of Towne Square at 210 Lakeshore Road East, as attached in Appendix B to the report dated March 11, 2025, from Planning and Development, be approved subject to the following:
 - a. That final details on materials for seating and walkways be submitted to Heritage Planning staff for final approval; and
2. That this heritage permit expires two years from the date of final approval by Council.

