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Art Centre's Accessibility Honoured by March of Dimes



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The Milton Centre for the Arts was designed to be a facility that everyone could enjoy.

According to the March of Dimes, that goal was successfully reached.

On September 27, the Town of Milton was recognized with the March of Dimes' Barrier-Free Design Award of Merit for the arts centre's overall accessibility.

From the initial stages of development of the arts centre, the Town of Milton aimed to make sure that accessibility for people with varying disabilities was built into the design plans.

The Town brought in the Milton Accessibility Advisory Committee for consultation throughout the design and construction process in an effort to ensure that accessibility for those with physical, visual and hearing limitations was provided.

"The Milton Centre for the Arts is an excellent example of collaboration between invested and interested parties, including industry experts, local user groups and persons with disabilities, who came together with the common goal of designing and constructing a facility that met the functional needs of all residents," said Darren Cooper, who submitted the nomination for the award.

The Town was officially honoured during the March of Dimes' annual general meeting at Toronto's York Reception Centre. The original building was closed in the 1970s and had deteriorated badly when plans for it to be transformed into an office and administration building got underway.

"Our project was to really bring this to a state of completeness as it would have been at the turn of the century and we've been able to achieve that," Sapounzi said. "Our process for restoring this space (the rotunda) was to restore the skylight primarily so we took it right down to bare metal and we re-glazed it and added a second layer for weather – something that is really needed."

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