



News & Community

# A little nip, tuck 'n mortar Plastic surgeon plans to set up shop in 19th century March Road building

BLAIR EDWARDS  
KOURIER-STANDARD

A plastic surgeon plans to give a face-lift to the old school house on March Road.

Dr. James Lacey has applied for a zoning amendment allowing him to build a two-storey office and clinic behind the former March schoolhouse, located on the corner of March and Old Carp roads.

The school house, located in a rural area just north of Kanata's high-tech region, has recently been used as an arts and crafts store.

"We're going to renovate the schoolhouse so it maintains its character and heritage," Lacey said.

The clinic will be staffed by Lacey, a nurse, a secretary and a couple of part-time therapists.

Lacey graduated from McGill University's medical school and went on to complete a plastic and reconstructive surgery residency at the university's health centre.

He is a board certified plastic surgeon in both the U.S. and Canada.

Lacey, a member of the Women's Breast Health Community, is interested in breast reconstruction. He founded Barrie Plastic Surgery in 2000 and then

worked at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie.

The plastic surgeon, who has friends and family in Ottawa, plans to move to Kanata sometime in early September.

"I'm going to be operating at Almonte General Hospital," he said.

He plans to run his practice out of a building in Almonte until the renovations - which will cost several hundred thousand dollars, are complete sometime in September.

"We love that building, but it's going to take a lot of money to fix up the place," he said.

Lacey's Kanata clinic will offer hand surgery and rehabilitation services.

"I'm hoping there will be lots of demand for plastic, hand and cosmetic surgery," Lacey said.

The additions will require a few minor changes to the nineteenth century building, which is regarded as historically significant but has not been designated a heritage site.

Any major alterations would require the approval of the city's architectural preservation committee.

The new offices will add 105 square metres in floor space to the building's existing 170 square metres.



DR. JAMES LACEY

Carp architect Ralph Vandenberg will oversee all restoration work.

No site plan has been filed yet.

"It means the maintenance of the existing building," said Grant Lindsay, manager of development approvals.

"The danger is if (old buildings) don't have any viable uses, they sit vacant and eventually have to be taken down."

The clinic will benefit workers in Kanata north, said Kanata Councillor Peggy Feltmate.

"When you think of high-tech workers and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and other issues people are facing today - it's well received."

City staff say the clinic won't require enhanced municipal services or greatly increase the traffic on March Road.

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