

Further consultation planned on parks, trails in new Highland Gate development

By Brock Weir

Last Thursday's decision by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to clear the way for the redevelopment of the Highland Gate lands led many area residents – both living around the former golf course and the community at large – to question what comes next. According to Cheryl Shindruk of Highland Gate Redevelopments Inc, further public meetings are planned in the not-too-distant future to determine just what the new 21 acre parcel of land, which will become a significant community park in the area, will look like.

“We have committed to working with the Town to organize some future consultation on the park design and details of the park design,” said Ms. Shindruk. “There will be a very substantial park built as part of our first phase of this development, together with an extensive trails system that will link into some of the trail systems in the area. We see that as a great asset to the community as a whole going forward.”

In the meantime, however, Highland Gate has nearly 180 separate conditions they need to meet with stakeholders to satisfy the minutes of settlement reached last month between itself, the Town, Ratepayers, and individual households and businesses bordering the golf course lands, including Sunrise Senior Living.

“We will [also] be getting busy working through all the conditions [of the settlement],” said Ms. Shindruk on next steps. “These are implementation details, and we will be working on the detailed engineering designs so that we can move forward on the servicing of the site, preparing the site, setting up the marketing and sales centre, and designing the homes to offer to the public.

“The sales centre is targeted to open in June of 2017 in the building of the old clubhouse. As for the site works, we hope to get out onto the site in the spring and do some preparation. We likely won't be servicing anything until installing pipes and building of roads well until the end of 2017 and into 2018.”