

# A Place To Grow

■ **WEST GREY:** Housing, small agriculture operations planned for golf club property

## Council backs proposed development

**DON CROSBY**  
Sun Times correspondent

A plan for a development in the Markdale area has received Grey Highlands council support.

The proposal, entitled A Place to Grow, outlines a framework for building and managing residential and small agricultural properties in a phased development.

The first stage would focus on a 144-acre property owned by the Markdale Golf and Country Club.

Grey Highlands council on Monday authorized staff to work with the proponents in the planning process.

The proponents and their planner intend to meet with council at a committee of the whole meeting on June 25 to flesh out some details of the proposal.

"We've got the blessing of council but I'm sure there will be questions from each of the councilors," said Jim Halliday, chairman of the economic development committee for Grey Highlands Chamber of Commerce, which is one of the stakeholders in the plan.

Following the June 25 meeting with council a public meeting would be held to present the concept to the community. That will be followed at some point this year by a charrette — a week-long brainstorming session to gather information and ideas from the community. No dates have been set for the public meeting or the charrette.

The country club is working out details of joint venture agreement with Parataxis, a Toronto urban planning and architecture firm.

"We have a concept, we have a method of getting to a plan that would involve council and the community and our membership and the property that we own north of Markdale," said Tom All-

wood, president of the Markdale Golf and Country Club.

Halliday estimates the project will take 10 to 20 years to complete, with much of the funding provided by the developer.

The club will "participate as an equity member in that project but the developer will bring the lion's share of the money . . . they, with our approval, could bring in other partners," Allwood said.

The municipality's contribution will involve extending municipal

services to the property.

"How those services are extended will be part of that development planning process," said Allwood.

Halliday stressed the importance of getting the new hospital built as a key component in attracting interest in the plan.

Grey Bruce Health Services has targetted 2017 as the start date for construction of the hospital. It is expected to be completed two years later.

The Sun Times

Fri: 6/19/15