

# Tim Horton's planned for Markdale

(by Don Crosby)

Getting a Tim Horton's in Markdale has taken a step forward.

In a recent talk to the local Probus Club, Grey Highlands CAO Rob Adams said the location of the proposed coffee house/restaurant is next to the current Foodland on the site of an existing motel at the south entrance to Markdale.

The motel will be torn down to make room for the Tim Horton's which will be built

on the motel site and property to the south next door to Dairy Daughter.

"At this time they just submitted their first plan," said Adams.

Toronto-based Maverick Development Corporation which is handling the Tim Horton's development is also heading up the plans for the Sobey's superstore.

"They are a private developer who work with Sobey's sometimes but in this case they

are trying to work with Tim Horton's," Adams said.

Last week, council gave final approval for the zoning bylaw amendment on the proposed Sobey's superstore.

Developers are just waiting for the-20 day appeal period to see if there are any appeals before the construction can begin.

The store will be a 32,000 square foot building similar to ones in Thornbury and Warton. It would be located just

south of the Catholic Church on Highway 10. It's an \$8 million investment by Sobey's that would employ 170 staff.

Behind the store is a proposed housing development project with more than 250 homes.

Plans call for the creation of a new street running east from Highway 10 just south of the Catholic church that would service the Sobey's store parking lot and the housing project. It would connect to Victoria Street on the west side of the highway.

A traffic light at the intersection of the new street/Victoria would control the movement of traffic in and out of the Sobey's parking lot and the housing subdivision.

That is a concern of local residents, who worry that heavy trucks and high volume of traffic forced to stop on the hill leading up to the traffic signals will cause congestion especially in winter.

Meanwhile, demolition has begun on the former L&M store owned by Sobey's located on the main street of Markdale in the downtown core. It was the home of a grocery store and pharmacy. The pharmacy relocated across the street after the L&M closed more than a year ago.

"Sobey's is demolishing the existing old Foodland (L&M)," said Adams. "I'm working with them to provide parking downtown in the short term and I'm also working to find some developer. There are quite a number of developers interested in that downtown property. There's quite a bit of excitement around it," he said.

Adams described the development the municipality would like to see as a mix of commercial shops on the ground floor, offices on the second floor and a five-story seniors' condo building in the back.

"Our goal is to try and get that happening, to spur the downtown," Adams said.

The demolition project is expected to take four weeks to complete, and includes demolition of both the old grocery store and drug store. The materials from the building will be recycled.

~~A single-lane entry from~~

A single-lane entry from Toronto Street into the parking lot will remain throughout construction, and parking is to be available along the north side of the parking lot.

The sidewalk next to the demolition site will be closed starting Nov. 20 for about two weeks.

Adams also noted there are plans for a commercial building to be built on a lot next door to the liquor store on Highway 10 at the north end of Markdale. It's expected to go up next spring.

Information, updates and photos of the progress of the demolition will be available on Facebook, Twitter and the Grey Highlands website, the CAO said.

Thanks

