

OWEN SOUND
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Concerned citizens call meeting about Talisman plans

SCOTT DUNN

People concerned about the scale of development proposed for the former Talisman ski resort in southeast Grey County have called a public meeting next Thursday.

Erica Ferguson is one of the Dec. 29 meeting's organizers. She sits on a committee established by the proponents of the Talisman development to gather local input. She grew up in the Beaver Valley and has kept abreast of Talisman's developments.

"Their initial plan was for 500 units, 250 at the top, like the brow of the escarpment, and 250 at the bottom," not including what could be built at the former hotel there, Ferguson said, citing figures she said were shared at the proponent's Dec. 8 meeting.

She allowed that the proponents intend changes and tweaks to that proposal. But people she's talked with call what's proposed "inappropriate development, it's in a wrong place, it's at the wrong pace and it's concerning."

The Thursday meeting is an information session for people to learn more about what's proposed. It's taking place at Kimberley Hall between 3 and 5 p.m. Masks are required.

The meeting organizers direct people to the website protecttalisman.ca for information.

Ferguson, a medical doctor in Markdale and Flesherton, shared slides after an interview which she said were shared at the Dec. 8 proponents' meeting.

SEE TALISMAN ON **A3**



A view from Grey Road 7 over part of the former Talisman properties, with ski hills in the background. GREG COWAN

Mix of uses proposed for lands

TALISMAN FROM A1

Those presented the proposal as “one possible development scenario.” The aim of that meeting was to gather concerns and issues to “help us shape a concept that will be used as the basis for technical studies and a formal development application.”

A timeline presented on the slides anticipates submission of a development application in 2023, with approval sometime in 2025.

The upper parcel is 24 hectares, of which about 40 per cent or 10

ha is identified as natural environment and open space in the developer’s plan. The lower parcel is 30 ha, of which about 90 per cent or 27 ha is identified as natural environment and open space.

There would be a mix of uses, including a health and wellness centre, tourism accommodation, interpretive/education centre, nature-focussed business opportunities, a golf course, sports lessons and a range of residential units.

The proponent proposes to extend the Bruce Trail through a

corridor of reforested land close to the escarpment brow, create a trail network to link to the Bruce Trail, and create a development to be analyzed for visual impact according to Niagara Escarpment Commission guidelines, the slides say. Stacie Howe also sits on the proponent’s input committee and is organizing the Thursday meeting. After a brief overview of the project and introduction of some groups that have been working to get “appropriate” Talisman development, people will break into groups so that people can talk about different issues with these different groups.

“We do want development at

Talisman but we want it to be appropriate,” said Howe, who runs the Kimberley General Store in Kimberley.

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Thanks
Heal & Gail