



Submitted photo

The layout of Greely Village Centre. The mixed-use site is nearly ready to start construction on Greely's eastern perimeter, across Bank Street from the village.

Greely ready to stretch eastwards

NEVIL HUNT

nevil.hunt@metroland.com

Retail, new homes, a park and two lakes are on the drawing board and Sunset Lakes Developments (SLD) is ready to build on Greely's eastern perimeter, across Bank Street from the sprawling village.

The company's proposal is called Greely Village Centre, and will take up most of the triangle of land bordered by Bank Street, Parkway Road and Sale Barn Road.

SLD's Dan Anderson said the mixed-use development will have a village setting that will reduce the reliance on cars. The company is focusing on "walkability," including trails and a promenade around the man-made lakes.

Anderson said the development will include 60 to 70 residential lots plus 19 hectares of retail and six hectares of park that will be conveyed to the city.

A further four hectares zoned for arena, pool or tennis, but Anderson said a public-private partnership will probably be required to get a facility built.

"We need a community group to lobby or raise money," Anderson said of the possible recreation site. "It would be a huge benefit for Greely."

Plans show about 60 housing lots arranged around one lake on the east side of the property. A shopping centre is located next to the intersection of Bank Street and Parkway Road, adjacent to a smaller second pond called Greely Centre Lake.

Each home will have private well and septic, while the retail will have a communal wastewater system that is still awaiting final approval. Once that is OK'd, construction can begin.

Anderson said local retail will provide closer shopping for Greely residents, many of whom drive to the city to do their shopping. Plans are for eight retail buildings: some of them multi-tenant, and ranging from 700 to 3,600 square metres in size.

He said there will be no big box stores but expects professional offices and a grocery store.

Gill Toll, president of the Greely Community Association, said there was some local resistance

when the plans for Greely Village Centre were first unveiled. After the Ontario Municipal Board approved construction, the community has come to accept the plans, she said, and many appreciate that SLD will include public access to pathways that will be built within the new development.

She added that residents are interested to see what kind of retail might pop up and she said that new stores will mean employment possibilities, especially for young Greely residents.

"Greely could use a little more retail," Toll said. "Everybody could use another doctor, and the local vet is fully booked."

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