

The Landscapes breaks ground in Baysville

by Kristan Jones

The landscape is changing in Baysville, as construction begins on a multimillion-dollar project.

Located on the property of the old Birch Haven Resort, off Muskoka Road 117, The Landscapes is a \$60-million, fractional ownership cottage development skirting 1,300 feet of shoreline on Lake of Bays.

"From an economic development standpoint, this is huge," said Titos Tylians, president of The Landscapes.

Phase one of the project is already under construction and includes two detached cottages, two four-unit cottage villas, all on the waterfront, and the clubhouse. Subsequent phases will include a recreation complex, three-unit cottage villas, semi-detached cottage units and detached cottages. Other features of the project include tennis courts, a boardwalk which follows the shoreline, boat slips and walking trails.

"There is a lot of history on this property and a lot of heritage and we are still going to keep that and the Muskoka feeling," assured Tylians. "We want to blend in with nature."

While construction began only recently, the cottage development has long been in the planning stage as the developers were adamant about doing everything by the book.

"We have a very detailed master plan and as we developed that master plan the District of Muskoka, the Township of Lake of Bays and the Lake of Bays Association have been brought in during those stages," said project manager Dave Smith. "And I think they appreciate that."

According to Tylians, The Landscapes has had a good rapport with the District since the project's inception. The company donated the property on which the District's water and sewer facilities are currently being constructed in Baysville.

Smith added that the project will benefit the local economy by creating over 100 construction jobs over the next six to eight months. He also pointed out that two of the largest contracts for the project have been awarded to Lake of Bays businesses.

"And probably a good portion of those employees live in the area," added Smith.

From an economic development standpoint, the project will mean big things for Baysville, said Tylians and Barry Singleton, principal and CEO of The Landscapes.

The partners explained that there will be no restaurant or stores on site so the cottage owners will have to utilize local services.

"One Baysville business is already planning an expansion because they are expecting an influx in business," added Tylians.

The first phase of the project is expected to be ready for occupancy this coming June.



BIG SCOOP ON GROUNDBREAKING. Dirt's flying, heavy equipment's digging and phase one of the \$60-million-dollar fractional ownership development on Lake of Bays, The Landscapes, has taken root. Celebrating the success of The Landscapes and having fun with shovels are councillor Marg Casey, developer/owner Barry Singleton, MPP Norm Miller, mayor of the Township of Lake of Bays Janet Peake, The Landscapes Corporation president Titos Tylians and councillor Phil Cote.

Photo by Bev McMullen