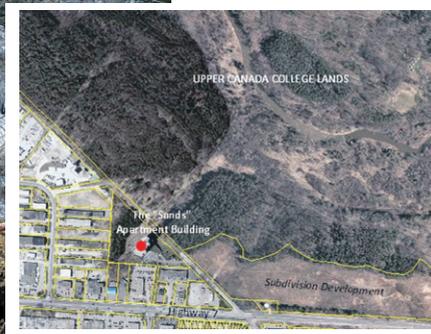




Tree cutting due to the construction of a new subdivision on McFarlane Dr. in Georgetown has some Sands residents worried but local officials say everything is okay.



Tree cutting on Upper Canada College lands is within approved limits

Both the Town and Credit Valley Conservation say clear cutting of trees for the Menkes Development Corporation's The Enclaves of Upper Canada is within approved guidelines.

The project is a 184-home development (104 single detached homes on 30 and 40 ft. lots, and 80 on-street town homes) on 24 acres (9.7 hectares) at the northeast corner of Guelph Street and McFarlane Drive in Halton Hills. The land used to be owned by the Upper Canada College. The property is a tableland squeezed between Hwy. 7 and the Credit River valley and had been filled with coniferous trees and old fields.

The first step in preparing the site for construction is the removal of trees and underbrush.

"The current tree cutting is associated with the storm water management pond and associated underground servicing," said Chris Mills, Director of Infrastructure Services.

Concern has been expressed to *The Independent & Free Press* by some Sands residents that more trees are being cut than necessary or approved.

But Mills says no, adding, "This work is being constructed within the scope of the

existing permits and approvals. Once the construction is completed, the area will be restored with new plantings as approved by the Town. The works are consistent with the Environmental Assessment Approval for the pond."

A Credit Valley Conservation spokesperson said Monday no trees on their nearby property have been touched.

Halton Hills Council gave draft approval to the project in 2012. At the time Mayor Rick Bonnette said, "Halton Hills will benefit through upgrades to the Storm Water Management and Treatment Pond for the Armstrong Industrial Park. The developer is also contributing \$1,000 per residential lot to the Georgetown Arena Fund."

Matt Strybos, Menkes's landscape architect, told council that a substantial amount of landscaping, including a park and multi-purpose trail and green space will be on the Hwy. 7 frontage. In terms of a gateway to Georgetown, the landscaping will have a substantial presence on the highway, he said.

On the McFarlane Dr. frontage, he said there will be a 10-foot buffer with substantial planting with a sound barrier fence and a stone entry feature into the subdivision.



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