

# Parkview proceeds with groundbreaking

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Despite tussling with Whitchurch-Stouffville council about development charges, groundbreaking for the new Parkview Home is finally on track for Jan. 19 at 2:30 p.m.

It's not certain whether it will be a ceremonial event indoors at Parkview Village or an actual sod/snow turning. Parkview Village is at 12184 Ninth Line, adjacent to Parkview's new site.

It's been a long haul to get to this stage. Planning for the long-term care facility, which will replace the current Parkview Home at 481 Rupert Ave., started about two years ago, Parkview Home administrator Wally Kribs

said. He's hoping the first soil preparation work at the site will begin this winter.

Fundraisers have already netted more than half of the organizers' \$3 million goal.

Faced with onerous development charges for the building, Parkview resource development director Joanna Reesor-McDowell approached council in August to have them waived. If the town waived its charges of \$328,000, the region was prepared to waive its charges of \$267,000. Council was unwilling to give up the fees, which means the project needs \$600,000 more.

There was also some uncertainty about whether it would land in limbo while the develop-

ment charges issue was being resolved. However, on Dec. 7 council decided to explore options to grant exemptions from the municipal fees.

At the same time, Mayor Sue Sherban recommended issuing a letter of credit to Parkview Home along with a building permit so the construction process wouldn't be held up. Council agreed.

In December, almost all Parkview Village residents signed a petition, delivered to council, asking that fees be waived.

The 128-bed facility is expected to cost \$17 million and open during the summer of 2006.

Right now, there's a waiting list of almost 50 for the current Parkview Home.

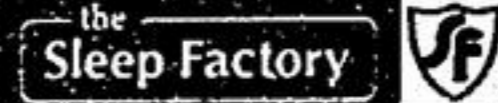
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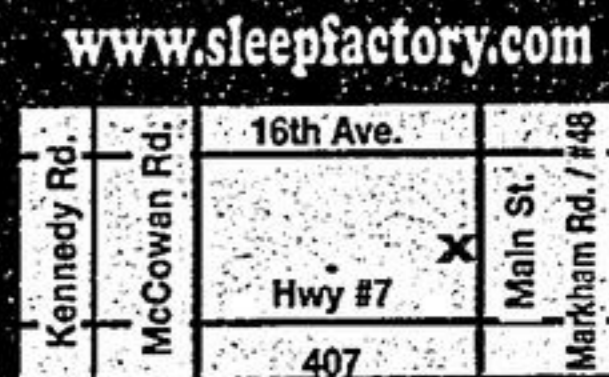


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