

**January 18, 2013**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RE: Retirement Residence/ Town of Parry Sound**

Council's Strategic Plan identifies the attraction of a retirement residence as a strategic initiative.

On the direction of Council, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development and operation of an 'Assisted Living' facility was issued. Two town-owned properties suitable for such a development were identified: 15 acres on Parry Sound Drive/Railway Avenue, and 6 acres north of Canadore College. The RFP followed an open and competitive public process: the specification package was sent to six companies in the retirement residence industry, and advertisements were placed in the North Star, Kijiji and on the Town's web page. The call for proposals closed December 14, 2012. Two proposals were received and assessed against evaluation criteria.

At their January 15, 2013 meeting, Council accepted the proposal from York Health Care Developments Inc, for the development of a retirement residence, conditional on a rezoning of the lands. The development will see the construction of 60-80 suites, consisting of a mix of Independent Supported Living and Assisted Living, and the creation of approximately 40 jobs. The retirement residence will include 24 hour call monitoring, health monitoring, a full service dining room, private dining room, fireside lounge, library, spa/bath, hair salon and personal laundry. There will be landscaped grounds with walkways, benches and gardens. Additional services will also be available as required by the residents.

York Health Care Developments Inc. will purchase the property from the Town in the amount of \$250,000 and will be responsible for all development costs. The Town has not granted any concessions to the developer for this project.

"We are very excited about this project as it provides much-needed residences for seniors while creating new jobs and supporting local existing businesses. The retirement residence will also provide a boost to the north end commercial node", said Mayor McGarvey.

The rezoning process has commenced and a survey will be undertaken. Staff will work with the Town's solicitor to prepare the agreement of purchase and sale which will come back to Council for approval.

York Health Care Developments Inc.'s construction schedule would see the Retirement Residence opening summer/fall 2014.

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