

Woods Lane Apt.'s purchased by Aboriginal Housing Services

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The Recorder

ESPANOLA—An agreement has been finalized by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) for the transfer and sale of property owned by DSB in the Town of Gore Bay, along with the 10-unit Woods Lane apartment social housing property, to Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS). “The (DSB) board has approved the agreement,” stated Fern Dominelli, CAO of the DSB after a board meeting last week. “I think it’s great news all around. The OAHS is looking at remodeling the Woods Lane apartment building and on top of that they will be building a minimum of 30 units on the property we have owned on Water Street (next door to the Bayside Apartments).”

At its meeting last week the DSB board passed a resolution, “whereas the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board authorizes the CAO to negotiate a transfer and sale of the vacant land located on Water Street in Gore Bay to the (OAHS) per the terms discussed during the board’s in cam-

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era-session by resolution 19-71 approved at the October 2019 board meeting.”

Mr. Dominelli as CAO of the DSB negotiated an agreement with (OAHS) in accordance with the terms discussed during the board’s October 2019 in camera session.

The board approved the sale of the vacant land located on Water Street in Gore Bay and the 10-unit social housing property (Wood’s Lane) under the following conditions: the sale of Wood’s Lane was for the sum of one dollar, with between 30-50 percent of the units to remain at affordable rents for 20 years. As well, OAHS will accept all current tenants.

On the sale of the vacant land, the DSB agreed to the sale for the sum of one

dollar, with the new units’ construction to start within three years. The new build will include a minimum of 30 units, subject to planning bylaws, and 30 to 50 percent of the new units will remain at affordable rents for 20 years.

“Yes, for sure this is good news,” said Sarah McBain of OAHS, on Monday. She noted that nothing has been confirmed at this point as to exactly how many units they will be building on the vacant lot. She said that at this point, OAHS is focussing its efforts, “on taking on the renovations at Woods Lane Apartments.”

She explained that the next step in the process will be, “to begin renovations in 2020 on the Woods Lane apartment social housing property. There is a waitlist in the area and the need is there for those who require safe and affordable housing. OAHS is looking forward to supplying that need in giving the community renovated apartments, and in the future, a new development of housing on the vacant land—also acquired thanks to the Sudbury-Manitoulin DSB. Our mandate is to create safe and affordable housing, and creating homes

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is our goal.”

As was reported by the Recorder this past May, the DSB had agreed to sell Woods Lane Apartments due to the costs involved in maintaining the building. The projected cost of maintaining the Woods Lane units was expected to increase significantly to \$42.39 a square foot by 2023 from \$1.15 in 2017. “It is the most expensive building for us to maintain,” Mr. Dominelli told the Recorder in May.

Mr. Dominelli added that the lot on Water Street will have to be rezoned to allow for a multi-residential apartment unit.