

Many questions, Few Answers on Beaver Valley Development

Westway, working under the new name, Beaver Valley Development Group (BVDG) [presented to Council on August 3](#). While short on substance the presentation was long on buzzwords such as sustainable, wellness, collaboration, listening and ecotourism. **While nothing specific was shared it is very clear that they are intent on trying to move forward with significant development on farmland and Beaver River watershed lands at the top and bottom of the Talisman site.**

While **BVDG continues to perpetuate the myth, started by Grey Highlands staff and Councillors, that they are to “Revitalize” the old Talisman resort, this is puzzling as they do not own that property, but rather only bought the pristine farmland and watershed/floodplain properties that sandwich the Talisman Resort and old ski hill.** In response to a question, BVDG indicated they were attempting to reach an agreement with the owners of the resort property. We don't know the nature of this agreement.

The presenters were very careful to say that they have **“no vision and no plan” but yet have been meeting with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, and the Bruce Trail Conservancy.** The developers also thanked Grey Highlands staff for their guidance and support. If there is “no vision and no plan”, which they say is to be developed in consultation with the community, what have they have been discussing with our representatives and officials tasked with protecting the Escarpment?

Apparently, community consultation to inform the vision and plan is tentatively scheduled to begin in September. **It is important that the community continues to be deeply and actively engaged to promote a green Beaver Valley and Escarpment, and to protect our environment, farmlands, rivers and watersheds.**

Many questions remain:

- What will be developed and where will it be built?
- How will development affect neighbours in Amik, Kimberley, and at the top of the hill in their access to water and sewage and property values?
- How will this development affect the existing redevelopment plans for the original Talisman resort?
- What will be the costs to taxpayers to develop the access roads and bridges along 7A so they can handle years of construction equipment and hundreds of more cars?
- How will sewage and water capacity be expanded to handle the development and at what cost?
- How will development on farmland at the top of hill, which is on Karst and is the main source for Amik's water, affect their supply?
- Will the developer be required to fund a substantive new flood plain study as the 1995 study for the site is outdated, and does not incorporate climate change or Eugenia Dam releases? See Kate Lazier's excellent presentation on this subject to GSCA [here](#)

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