



Developer takes parkland condition to OMB

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The city will face off against a developer Monday during an Ontario Municipal Board hearing regarding a parkland dedication condition included in a subdivision plan.

The condition calls for Laurentian Heights Ltd., which has a residential development on the escarpment, to transfer up to 5% of the land to the municipality for parks or other recreational purposes. Those lands have been divided into four blocks, three of which have already been transferred to the city.

The developer's appeal to the municipal tribunal involved only one remaining block of land. The hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. at city hall. It could run for several days.

The controversial Laurentian Heights subdivision won rezoning approval in 2000 after much debate and an Ontario Municipal Board hearing launched by a group of residents.

The residents raise numerous objections, including whether the development conforms with the city's official plan, whether the rock and slope of the escarpment can safely support development, and the visual impact of new building on the vista.

The development was also back in the spotlight in 2007 when a number of large trees were mistakenly cut from an abutting city-owned greenspace on the escarpment. The city said at that time it had ironed out an agreement with the developer for the transfer of lands to the municipality as parkland as part of the resolution to the issue.

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