



JOHN CURRY PHOTO

Akash Sinha, president of Dharma Developments, stands at a barrier at the edge of the site of the new Orville Station residential/commercial development where site preparation is now underway.

More thefts from parked vehicles

JOHN CURRY
NEWS STAFF

Munster, Richmond and Stittsville – the thefts from parked vehicles continues.

Sometime around 4 a.m. on a recent Saturday, a van on Dogwood Drive in Munster was broken into. A book and a driver's license were stolen.

Overnight on that same Saturday/Sunday, an unidentified thief or thieves entered an unlocked vehicle on Tarryn Terrace in Richmond and stolen a GPS unit valued at \$350.

Dalewood Crescent in the new Traditions subdivision at the south end of Stittsville saw a thief or thieves ransack a pickup truck sometime in the very early morning of a Sunday. Numerous items such as a paint sprayer, sunglasses, a laptop, keys and about \$1,800 in cash were reported stolen.

On Colonel Murray Street in Richmond, an unidentified thief or thieves broke into a locked pickup truck by prying open a rear passenger window. A MP3 player, an in-car charger and a stereo connector cable were reported stolen.

Orville Station gets going

JOHN CURRY
NEWS STAFF

The development train has pulled into Orville Station.

Servicing and site preparation work has now begun on the residential/commercial project at the corner of Stittsville Main Street and Orville Street, called Orville Station by its developer, Dharma Developments of Ottawa.

Once the servicing and site preparation has been completed, construction will begin on the first phase of the development, consisting of the eastern and southern residential buildings involving 23 units. The third west building, with 13 units, will then follow.

Akash Sinha, president of Dharma Developments, says that the goal is to begin construction this fall to allow for occupancy next spring. He acknowledges that the purchasers of the 23 units being built first have waited a long time due to delays in the project and he wants to acknowledge their loyalty by constructing their units as soon as possible.

"We're anxious to get them in their homes," he says.

He promises to have more definite timelines about the third, west building and the commercial component of the development at a groundbreaking BBQ event which is being planned for Sunday, Sept. 26 at the site's Stittsville Main Street sales centre.

He said that he is still working on the scheduling of the commercial component of the project which will be between the third building and the existing buildings along Stittsville Main Street.

"Our priority right now is residential," he said in relation to how the Orville Station project will proceed.

He is proud that Orville Station will be offering quality, affordable and attractive housing in which will be the first such project in Stittsville to gain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

It has been three years since this Orville Station project was first proposed by Dharma Developments. The project would have begun a year ago except for an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board about the project by the city of Ottawa.

It ended up that the matter did not go to the OMB as the dispute was settled between the developer and the city before the OMB hearing came up.

The city's OMB appeal related to an unprecedented 15 minor variances which had been granted for the project by the city's Committee of Adjustment.

The city's legal department felt that this amounted to a rezoning of the site and took action to uphold the city's planning requirements.

There was initial community opposition to the Orville Station project because of increased traffic generation and the height of the five storey buildings, especially as they would impact on adjacent single storey bungalows.

The zoning on the property allowed five storey buildings. However, despite this, the developer did reduce the proposed number of residential units on the site from a possible 50 to 36 units.

Mr. Sinha is happy that the initial vision for the Orville Station project has remained intact despite the delays and some changes to the plan imposed by the settlement.

"I'm happy to know that we were able to stick to the vision," he says, noting that the project remains low rise in nature with a pedestrian focus.

He sees Orville Station as helping to revitalize the downtown core area of Stittsville, adding 36 new homeowners to the area.

"It's a charming, beautiful part of Stittsville village," he says with regard to the Stittsville Main Street area around Orville Street.

He notes that the new homeowners will be within walking distance of such existing businesses as Jo Jo's Pizza and will no doubt help to attract other businesses such as restaurants to that area of the village. He says that there has been good interest expressed in the commercial space portion of the Orville Station project.

City of Ottawa Stittsville ward councillor Shad Qadri agrees that the Orville Station development should help in revitalizing the south end of Stittsville Main Street.

Mr. Sinha is now looking forward to the development of Orville Station and the first residents moving in this coming spring.

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