

Springfield News and Views

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LIVING OFF THE LAND

A notable increase is occurring with residents making application for variances to raise their own farm animals and poultry for consumption. The majority of council has been endorsing these requests while ensuring that reasonable levels of animal waste units per acre are maintained. Home raised geese, ducks, chickens, goats and sheep are the predominant requests with the applications. Greater demand for organic products and food safety are obvious contributing factors in this area of growth. Also over the last year we have had several installations and inquiries of home erected electricity generating wind turbines. It is a pleasure to see people in our municipality investing in green technologies and going back to the land for their choice in a food supply.

STAND FOR SOMETHING

Over the most recent months we have been actively approving a new bare land condominium project in Oakbank which would consist of 28 units. The net value and investment of this project would be approximately 10 million dollars. Of course the developer is responsible for all the normal infrastructure costs and putting in place these items which would include sewer lines, water lines, street lights, roads, sidewalks, etc. On top of this the developer would cover all the legal costs and administrative costs of the RM in relation to the development agreement. The developer would also pay a minimum of \$210,000 of capital lot levies for future municipality infrastructure improvements to maintain sustainable growth. For the reason that this is a condominium project we would not be responsible for any road maintenance, infrastructure repairs/replacements or in actuality, very little of anything on this site into the future.

The net gain would be including per capita grants \$75,000 per year in municipal taxes and \$125,000 per year in school taxes. The developer in question has already designed and constructed a diamond showpiece development in Oakbank and has been great to work with. This would again give some of our residents who want to downsize from a large acreage or farm or large lot to a new residence without all maintenance and upkeep issues and expenses. If you can believe it one councilor voted against moving forward with this project. Someone pinch me I must be having a nightmare.