

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 11, 2019**



## **Get the facts on the casino: the next steps**

**Wasaga Beach** – Gateway Casinos and Entertainment Ltd. is building its new Wasaga Beach facility on land south of the Beachwood Road roundabout.

This is an exciting time for Wasaga Beach. The following is a look at the steps going forward.

### **Who at the town is responsible for overseeing the casino project?**

Chief administrative officer George Vadeboncoeur has tasked Danny Rodgers, the town's director of building and development standards, with overseeing the town's development review team.

The team will review the site plan and building permit applications related to the casino with the goal of having them processed expeditiously without compromising any of the municipality's standards.

Rodgers, as team lead, will update the CAO regularly and updates will be provided to members of council as milestones are reached.

### **What is the zoning on the property?**

The property chosen by Gateway is zoned District Commercial Hold. Permitted uses in this zone include arcade and games establishments, *casinos*, tourism establishments, retail uses, as well as many other commercial operations.

### **Does a site plan exist for the property?**

The property currently has site plan approval to establish a commercial outdoor mall.

To accommodate the casino, an application to amend the existing site plan agreement will be required.

Included in the amendment will be changes to the proposed building footprints, building access, along with vehicle routes, parking, and landscaping plans.

## **What is involved in the site plan process?**

The site plan process – as well as related processes – is technical in nature. This includes detailed engineering design and review, as well as landscaping and urban design review.

Ultimately, the goal is to create a site that is functional, aesthetically pleasing, and meets the needs of Gateway and the town.

## **What agencies are involved in the site plan process?**

Several agencies play a commenting role. This includes the Ministry of Transportation, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, County of Simcoe, Wasaga Distribution, and a number of other utility companies.

## **Does the public have a role to play in the site plan process?**

No. The Planning Act states there is no consultation as it pertains to site plan approval. Public consultation regarding how the land is used took place during the town's Official Plan Review process and when the Zoning Bylaw was put in place. Several years ago council delegated approval authority for site plans to staff.

## **How long should it take to complete the site plan process?**

There is no exact answer. However, we anticipate the exercise should take no longer than two to four months.

## **Once the town approves the site plan, can it issue a building permit?**

There is a "holding provision" or "H" on the property that must be lifted before a permit can be issued. The purpose of the "H" is to ensure that all municipal requirements are met before the "H" is lifted

## **How does that happen?**

At the appropriate time, once staff are satisfied that the property owner has met all town requirements, a recommendation will come forward to council that the "H" be lifted. Council will then give notice of its intention to pass a bylaw to lift the holding provision in order to issue a building permit.

The Building and Development Standards Department is required to review the construction drawings and ensure compliance with the Ontario Building Code. Once the "holding provision" is lifted, and once the building department has completed its review, the town can issue a permit.

**When can we expect to see the casino open?**

We anticipate the casino will be open by the summer of 2020.

**How can I learn more about Gateway and employment opportunities with the company?**

Gateway has a corporate website where you can learn more about the company and the jobs it offers.

Check out the website here: <http://www.gatewaycasinos.com/>.

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