

High-end retail will be a part of Sportsworld Crossing

By Chuck Howitt, Record staff

KITCHENER — Greyhound bus commuter service and high-end retail shops such as Calvin Klein and Rockport will be among the tenants in the first phase of Sportsworld Crossing.

Developers of the huge office and retail complex proposed on the 16-hectare site at the south end of Kitchener released more details about the project yesterday.

The Greyhound commuter service will begin June 1. Parking will be available for 200 to 250 cars and passengers will wait in a canvas-like shelter that resembles a Greyhound bus.

The bus service is the first step in what the developers hope will be a transportation hub that includes a light-rail transit station linking the region operated by Grand River Transit. The station would be topped by several floors of offices.

"At the front of the project, we were thinking about transit a lot," said Mark Kindrachuk of Intermarket, which is devel-

oping the site on behalf of owner, GPM Managed Investments.

Construction has already started on the anchor building of phase one — a 150,000-square-foot office building in the centre of the site. Shaped like a V and built on a slope, it will feature stores on one side and office space on the other, above the stores.

Tenants such as Reebok, Calvin Klein and Rockport have already signed leases and the entire retail section should be leased within the next few months, Kindrachuk said.

The third component in phase one is central green space behind the existing Moose Winooskis restaurant. The restaurant is being renovated and expanded and the pond and trees are being retained. Uses for this area include outdoor movies, concerts and a play area for kids.

The grand opening of phase one will be Nov. 28, with a soft opening earlier in the month, he said.



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Sportsworld Crossing construction is progressing nicely.

Phase two, which will begin in September, will include six to eight small retail buildings fronting on King Street and Sportsworld Drive.

Phase three, scheduled for 2009 to 2010, will encompass the area facing Highway 8 where the transit hub and more office space is planned.

Developing the site, formerly the home of the Sportsworld

amusement park, has been tricky, Kindrachuk said. Melloul Blamey Construction, the general contractor, has had to work around existing businesses such as Moose Winooskis, the twin-pad arena and the Outback Steakhouse.

"It's like a jigsaw puzzle," he said.

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