

# Bradley meeting with Bayside developers to push the deal along

by Chris Cooke



The Rotary Club of Sarnia Bluewaterland will be able to hold its annual used book sale at Bayside Centre for the foreseeable future.

That word from Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley after Camilla McGill, chairman of the Club's annual book sale expressed concern Rotary would be kicked out once Seasons Retirement Communities begins renovations at Bayside, expected next year.

Lambton County has set September 30 as a deadline to negotiate a deal with Seasons to lease 73,000 square feet and Bradley is optimistic it will happen.

"Any reports I've received are very positive" says Bradley who will be meeting with key parties later this month to assist in putting a deal together. "The key is to keep the County on site and Seasons moving forward".

In its original proposal Seasons proposed two towers, one for residential apartments and the other a complex for seniors at the south end of the mall, a fly through to 73,000 square feet of space for the County with a minor retail component at the north end.

The project was to take seven years and \$100 million to complete. However, Seasons cautioned about soaring construction costs since purchasing the deteriorating mall three years ago.

Bradley says Seasons, part of the investment arm of the Labourer's International Union has brought in another party to the negotiations with the County. He says it is another development group and while he wouldn't speculate about the reason major developers have been known to want to spread the costs.

Bradley says the project is "evolving" in different directions and while he wouldn't comment there is speculation the final project could be smaller than originally proposed.

Oakville – based Seasons is in the retirement community business. Blackburn Radio in a report last month indicated Seasons would build a 12 – storey tower for seniors at George and Vidal Street and the proposal would be about \$40 million including space for Lambton Shared Services at the north end of the Mall.

