

Timberlane Athletic Club could be sold as early as Monday

By Brock Weir

Timberlane Athletic Club could be sold by the middle of September.

A sale for the tennis club on Vandorf Road is expected to go through Monday, September 16.

According to a statement sent out to club members, Timberlane said "an agreement has been signed with a date of September 16 to finalize the agreement of purchase of the assets of Timberlane."

The notice goes on to say that if all goes according to plan, the deal is 'proposed' to close on January 15, 2014.

"At this point, we are in negotiations with the intent to continue the operation of the club under a new ownership structure," the notice concluded.

A staff member for Timberlane, who asked not to be named, confirmed the notice on Wednesday. While they said there "is an offer in the works", there will be further details made available on September 16.

The future of the club is still uncertain. They said while they understood the potential new owners have an eye for redevelopment, it is mere "speculation" and a few years ahead if that is indeed the case.

"We're fairly optimistic they will want to continue on with the facility until they have all their rezoning permits in place, but that is all speculation at this point," they said.

Timberlane Athletic Club opened its doors 26 years ago.

The vision of Ken Sinclair, Timberlane was inspired by an octagon shaped club in Australia, that sparked a dream.

Upon return from his trip down under, Sinclair got to work and purchased the 81 acre farm, south of Industrial Parkway in Aurora, to create the 'Cricket Club of the North'.

Timberlane Athletic Club celebrated its official grand opening in 1987. By that time, a few indoor courts had also been added and a private dining room (which seated 150 guests) had been built.

Recognizing the need to expand service offerings to increase its customer base, Timberlane began to evolve its facilities, and its reputation followed. The largest change came in 2001, when one of the indoor tennis courts was converted into a fitness centre. The move was a success, and memberships soared to over 1,600.