

Sound Business News

SERVING PARRY SOUND AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

Staples coming to the mall

PARRY SOUND - Staples will move into town this summer.

Parry Sound Mall owners hope the office supply store will give their business the injection it needs to keep other businesses in the building going.

"We're hoping to have them in in the midsummer," said mall manager James Grey. "It's going to be a major facelift to the mall."

The new store will move into the food court area near the mall's front entrance. Mall owners will relocate the food court to the middle of the mall.

"It's a fresh look for the mall," Mr. Grey said. "It's good for the mall, it's good for

the town. It's going to give people in town a good place to go for all their stationary needs. It's going to be a draw. Right now people who want this type of selection go to Sudbury, Barrie or Huntsville, so this will keep shoppers in Parry Sound."

The Staples store will operate out of about 10,000 square feet in the mall. It will be slightly smaller than most Staples stores, which take up about 15,000 square feet, said company spokesperson Jennifer Hills.

"I can confirm we will be opening in Parry Sound this summer," she said. "The grand opening, it's not set in stone, but we're looking at July 26."

Winchester Real Estate, which purchased the

Parry Sound Mall last year, has struggled to keep the building full of tenants, with several businesses closing down. The company sees the new store as key to bringing in enough activity to keep other existing businesses thriving.

"Not only will there be more tenants, there will be less vacant square footage," Mr. Grey said.

The store will also give a boost to the town's north, which has struggled as several new businesses opened in the south end of town. Renovations have already started in preparation for the store's arrival.