

Big things brewing on the waterfront

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Special to QMI Agency

For a city with a waterfront that has never truly realized its potential, many people have been curious and anxious to see what transpires at East Bayfront.

The ambitious project, valued at over \$1.1 billion, will feature two million square feet of residential, commercial and cultural uses.

As Toronto's established neighbourhoods are getting older, East Bayfront promises to be the city's gleaming new go-to area on the water's edge.

After many years of planning, and waiting, the immense first phase called Bayside Toronto is ready to roll. In an idyllic setting situated directly on the city's inner harbour, Bayside promises to be a self-contained community with retail, residential and cultural uses.

A person could conceivably live, work and play in Toronto's hottest new waterfront community without leaving the area.

According to John Campbell, president and CEO of Waterfront Toronto, "Bayside Toronto is an integral part of our overall revitalization efforts in East Bayfront which is fast becoming a vibrant new community defined by extraordinary design and award-winning parks and public spaces."



With big plans on the horizon, Canada's leading condominium developer Tridel and international real estate firm Hines will lead the way with the first residential condo structure in the area. Named Aqualina at Bayside Toronto, it's the first phase of the 13-acre, mixed-use development.

"The point of differentiation for this community is the size and scale and where it is and the mixed uses. That makes it very unique," says Jim Ritchie, VP of

marketing for Tridel.

Designed with families in mind, the building will contain 363 suites, ranging from one-bedroom to three-bedroom residences. Suite sizes will range from 560 sq. ft. to just over 2,100 sq. ft.

Located on the east side of Sherbourne Common, the building is designed by world-renowned architects, Arquitectonica.

The project is being led by the firm's partner Bernardo Fort-Brescia who is bringing an innovative geometric approach to the exterior of the 13-storey condominium. It will be defined by a series of distinctive cubes made of glass and steel with angled windows and balconies designed to maximize views of the skyline and lake.

Big on walkability, the neighbourhood planning incorporates a series of small streets and mews aimed at promoting a sense of closeness and community year-round.

The condo's interior public spaces and amenity areas will be designed by award-winning Canadian firm, II BY IV Design Associates. Landscape design for the condominium will be led by West 8 + DTAH, the award-winning team



Top photo: The 363 suite condominium will spearhead Hines' ambitious plan to develop Bayside Toronto into one of the premier neighbourhoods on Toronto's downtown waterfront.
Above photo: The first residential phase of a 13 acre mixed-use development called Bayside Toronto is part of Waterfront Toronto's mandate to revitalize the city's lakefront areas.



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responsible for the design of East Bayfront's public realm including the streetscapes, water's edge promenade and boardwalk.

"West 8 have been very much involved with waterfront Toronto for the revitalization of the waterfront, so there seemed to be real synergy to bring them onboard to help us with our own landscape requirements," says Ritchie.

Future residents will have another great benefit of

living at Aqualina: Blazing fast internet speeds. In what is likely to be the fastest residential internet service in the city, delivered by Beanfield Condoconnect's ultra-high speed broadband fibre-optic network, "With fibre right to each suite in the condominium, by the time the building is delivered, they will go over a hundred megabits service to the door," says Ritchie.

The animated water's-edge promenade will be

surrounded by vibrant spaces such as Canada's Sugar Beach, the Sherbourne Common and Aitken Place Park.

"When it's completed, it will be a marvelous display of amazing architecture; buildings built to human scale, access for the general public to the waterfront, either through view corridors or even your ability to use the new water's edge promenade, it's all integrated," says Ritchie.