



View of the Humber Bay Shores looking east from the penthouse at Nautilus. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

Exploring Etobicoke's emerging waterfront

Condo Trends. Area now officially known as Humber Bay Shores will become home to 25K residents

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What was long a blight on the city's waterfront — a strip of seedy motels and ramshackle apartment buildings — has now been transformed to an ultra-modern city of condos.

The area was issued official status in June and is now known as the Humber Bay Shores.

This prominent cluster of towers along Lake Shore Boulevard West at the foot

of the Humber River will soon become home to a staggering 25,000 residents.

At a recent meeting of the Toronto Condo Network, guest speaker Jim Reekie, president of the Humber Bay Shores Condominium Association, talked about fascinating new developments on this fast-growing stretch of Toronto's waterfront.

The association started out in 1997 representing the interests of the three major developments at the time: Palace Pier, Palace Place and Marina del Rey.

According to Reekie, "We have about 4,800 units right now and 9,000 people and it's going to (be) approximately 14,000 units and approximately 25,000 people."

The group liaises with all levels of government regarding planning and legis-



Jim Reekie, president of the Humber Bayshores Condominium Association.
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lation that affects their community.

They have been working with the city to solve traf-

fic problems along the Lake Shore, such as the addition of traffic lanes and giving streetcars right of way.

Proposals have been put forth to move the TTC Humber loop and make better use of bus routes.

"We've increased the ridership over the last two and a half years by about 400 riders a day," says Reekie of the Prince Edward 66 bus route that services the community.

The big complaint is that with all this development, there's very little in the way of retail and services in the area yet.

Reekie says that it will inevitably follow. And the big news is that the owners of the Christie plant north of the Lake Shore have announced plans to vacate the cookie factory next year.

"Mr. Christie announced last week that they're closing the plant next October and there are 550 people going to be out of jobs," says Reekie.

"This whole area, this 27 acres, is still zoned commercially. If it's going to go to condos or any type of townhouses in there, it has to be rezoned."

Speculation has been rampant as to the future use of the land, although little is known at this early stage. The sizeable chunk of property would lend itself to a much-needed retail mall or city centre.

Reekie says that the Bayshores "is a fast growing community that's sort of hidden away here. The rest of the city doesn't know about us that much, but it's a great location."