



A panoramic view of the skyline with the two-storey SkyBridge. In celebration of Canada Day, two huge flags were hung from it. CONCORD ADEX

# An engineering marvel high atop the Toronto skyline



**CONDO TRENDS**  
Duncan McAllister  
life@metronews.ca

The Toronto skyline was forever changed last year when Concord Adex and PCL Constructors Inc., began a sophisticated lifting process that connected a 130-foot-long, two-storey SkyBridge to the 38- and 43-storey Parade towers.

The SkyBridge is an engineering marvel and posed a number of technical challenges. According to Concord VP of development, Gabriel Leung, the two towers on both sides of the SkyBridge were designed as one project since day one.

"We were trying to do something very Cartesian, very pure form, so you notice that one tower is totally rectangular and one is totally round. They're very pure forms."

The lift began last June 25 at approximately 9 p.m. and was completed the next day at 11 a.m. The SkyBridge lift was an architectural accomplish-

ment that Toronto has rarely seen and was the culmination of years of careful planning by some of the country's top architects, engineers, builders and suppliers.

After 14 hours, the SkyBridge was lifted from the ground level using the two Parade towers as the cranes and locked into its current position.

The team used a method called strand jacking, which involved hoisting the bridge up with wire cables and hydraulic jacks. This required the placement of huge steel beams in the mechanical penthouses of each tower that were pushed out of the top of the building and secured into place prior to the lift. The bridge was then lifted upward with cables just six feet away from both towers on either side.

Once completed, the SkyBridge will make Toronto home to two of the highest SkyBridge residences anywhere in the world.

It will also feature a common amenity bar and lounge with a glass floor that all Pa-



The SkyBridge connects the 38- and 43-storey Parade towers. CONCORD ADEX

rade residents are welcome to enjoy. It offers breathtaking views of the Toronto skyline on the north side and Lake Ontario to the south side.

Leung says the inspiration for the bridge came from a desire to create a common space

for both buildings.

"We were thinking at that time, what can we do to provide some kind of linkage for this kind of pure form? Many, many schemes were tried out. Some of the earlier schemes were really quite crazy, and we

decided after that maybe a simple link, a one-line expression would be an appropriate link."

In celebration of Canada Day, Concord Adex hung two huge 20-foot by 40-foot Canadian flags on the SkyBridge up over the long weekend.