

GO farther: commuter life getting easier in Toronto

Lifestyle options. Urban professionals who still wish to maintain their downtown careers are seeking more affordable options elsewhere around the Golden Horseshoe



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Whether it's traffic congestion, the land transfer tax or the high cost of housing, more and more people are looking to make the move away from Toronto.

With the GO train service, VIA rail, new regional transit ways and subway extensions, commuters are deciding to leave the car at home.

The city of Burlington has become an urban centre in its own right.

Adi Development's new Mod'rn Condos plans to serve the needs of both local workers and Toronto commuters.

According to president and CEO, Tariq Adi, "I know people that are of my demographic, between the age of 30 to 45 let's say, that do work in Toronto and do want to maintain that sort of cozy city feeling. They still want to have an urban type of lifestyle and they would choose to live in Burlington but still use the GO



Harmony Village in Barrie by City Core Developments. CONTRIBUTED

train."

North of Toronto, the city of Barrie introduced the Alandale Waterfront GO station in January of this year.

This is Barrie's second GO station and will serve the city centre.

According to architect Roland Rom Colthoff of RAW Design, "There's not a lot of lakefront left in Toronto that's affordable, but you can be on the lake in Barrie and then just take the GO train."

Colthoff is a principal in the design of Citycore's Harmony Village project on Lake Simcoe, which is close to the new GO station and only about an hour commute into Toronto.

"The idea is that hopeful-

ly the people moving here are going to be more transit-oriented than is traditional for Barrie," he says. "We're trying to promote reduced automobile usage."

And big changes are underway in the city of Vaughan.

The subway is being extended from Toronto into York Region and the Viva Next program will see a rapid transit way along Highway 7 with two dedicated bus lanes which will span the distance between Markham and Brampton.

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- VP Peter Cortellucci says that "different areas like Woodbridge, Thornhill, Concorde, Kleinberg, Maple, these areas have all developed very successfully as suburban communities. Now what they're doing is creating an identity for Vaughan itself, really the downtown core."



Peter Cortellucci, vice-president of the Cortel Group, which is building Expo City at the new Vaughan Metropolitan Centre.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE