

CONDO LIVING

BUILDER PROFILE

Condo appeals to those on the go



Stanton Renaissance's On-the-GO-Mimico, a 26-storey condominium adjacent to the Mimico GO Station in South Etobicoke, will feature 242 suites ranging in size from 489 to 1,205 square feet.

Pedestrian walkways will connect condo building to GO train station

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Living right on rails has its benefits. Stanton Renaissance's On-the-GO-Mimico, a 26-storey condominium adjacent to the Mimico GO Station in South Etobicoke, will be the first Toronto residence with direct access to the GO train and a journey of less than 15 minutes to Union Station and 35 minutes to Hamilton.

This older, residential corner of Mimico is a neighbourhood comprised of wartime bungalows seemingly in a major renovation mode, with many homeowners busily upgrading their properties.

Immediately north of the new condo development lies a tract of legacy industrial lands, the former employment area between Evans Ave. and the Lake Shore.

"It's been basically under review and planning for about five years. An extensive amount of work has been done with the community from a historical standpoint," says Stanton Renaissance president Louie Santaguida.

Stanton has been in conversations with GO over the years and will deliver pedestrian walkways on the ground level to connect the building to the train station. In 2012, Metrolinx announced a sizeable investment in the Mim-

ico GO station for expansion of the platforms and the revitalization of the entire station.

"The site will also enjoy a prominent grocery chain that will be there on the main floor as an amenity in this condo tower, which will have access right to the GO as well as to Royal York Rd., not only for the use of the condo owners, but the use of the community," says Santaguida.

The condos are priced from the mid-\$200s, with only 242 suites, ranging in size from 489 to 1,205 square feet, including six high-ceiling penthouses. On-the-GO features unobstructed views of the city skyline and lakefront from the third floor and above, with a spacious balcony at each suite.

Stanton is also refurbishing what may be the only original historical CN rail station left in the city to serve as their condo sales office. It will then be donated to Etobicoke for a community centre and historical train museum, complete with geothermal heating and cooling.

"We're just in the midst of restructuring it and it has not been used as a train station, it's been out of service for decades," says Santaguida. "It was moved over into Coronation Park about five or six years ago, and then we came into the picture and with the local councillor said that we would be interested in refurbishing this and giving it back to the community."

What is the allure of building in Mimico? For Santaguida, it's precisely what they're looking for: "We look for centres across certain metropolitan areas that are what I term to be "dysfunctional" in nature, and that could be anything from economics, social and environmental and this fit our picture here in South Etobicoke. We actually look at transforming the community as being not necessarily a developer but becoming part of the community."

A long-time patron of the arts, Santaguida has a big surprise in store that has yet to be announced. "Historically Mimico was a native name. We're tied up with a very prominent Canadian Indian sculptor who will be incorporating a beautiful feature as part of our artscape at the site. There is definitely an art and an eco-aspect of this building."

According to Santaguida, On-the-GO will feature environmental and green elements that few area buildings enjoy. "We're looking at such things as eco-carwashes for the residents and the community. We're looking at some eco-types of mechanical-electrical systems. This historical train station that we're restoring at this point in time, we'll place a geothermal unit in there that we'll be giving back to the community."