



## ON SITE



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# Ajax adds the 'missing piece'

**DUNCAN MCALLISTER**  
Special to QMI Agency

Amere 25 km east of downtown Toronto lies the suburban town of Ajax. With the ongoing condo boom in the GTA, Ajax has been somewhat of a late bloomer in terms of urban development. That is, until now.

Plans are underway for a new urban streetscape along Harwood Avenue that promises to be a catalyst in making downtown Ajax a true urban destination.

A new chapter in the transformation of Ajax Plaza has begun with the recent unveiling of Grand Harwood Place. The new, \$118.7 million urban-inspired development will include high quality residential, office and retail buildings, as well as public transit, cycling and pedestrian amenities.

The Ajax Plaza has been in existence since the early '50s

and served as the commercial heart of the town, originally built to service a community of 25,000 people. Now, with a burgeoning population of 110,000, the plaza no longer functions as the town's primary commercial focus. As a result, the condition of the site has deteriorated considerably and redevelopment is necessary.

The first phase of the development will feature two, 10-storey condominium buildings. A total of 268 condominium apartment units are proposed, with private underground and decked parking. Also slated for construction is about 30,000 square feet of retail space on the ground floor and 25,000 square feet of office space on the two floors above facing Harwood Avenue.

Project developer, Windcorp Developments Limited was founded in 2005 by Laura Starr, whose legacy firm Starr Landscape, created the mas-

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(L-R) Councillor Shaun Collier, Wards 1&2, Ajax; Councillor Colleen Jordan, Wards 3&4, Ajax; Ajax Mayor Steve Parish; Laura Starr, Owner, Windcorp Developments Ltd.; Councillor Joanne Dies, Ward 3; Jeffrey Wilson, owner, Reed's Florists.

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