



A rendering of the new Yorkville Village shopping mall at Avenue Road and Yorkville, the re-imagined Hazelton Lanes. Below: The Cumberland Tower. Yorkville is going through a transformation period again. MAIN: KASIAN ARCHITECTURE; SECONDARY: CAMROST-FELCORP

## You've come a long way Yorkville

### CONDO TRENDS

#### Lux shopping mecca transforms once again

**Duncan McAllister**  
For Metro Canada



Originally a low-rent corner of Toronto's downtown, Yorkville's rows of artists' studios and coffee houses became a Mecca for Canada's thriving 1960s counter-cultural revolution, once frequented by the likes of Joni Mitchell and Neil Young.

Things didn't start to happen until the 1950s when the Bloor subway line went in.

Major changes began to take place a decade later when the eclectic little village north of Bloor Street went from beat-generation to the Mink Mile.

Yorkville has long been Canada's most celebrated luxury shopping and culture district, home to the city's finest shops, cafés, restaurants and hotels, with such celebrated names as Holt Renfrew, Louis Viton, Prada, Chanel, Gucci and Cartier.

Today, Toronto's venerable Yorkville neighbourhood is undergoing a major facelift, that started a few years ago with the transformation of the Four Seasons Hotel. Developer Camrost-Felcorp has converted the 31-storey hotel built in 1971, into luxury condominiums.



**Toronto's venerable Yorkville neighbourhood is undergoing a major facelift, that started a few years ago with the transformation of the Four Seasons Hotel.**

With the new Four Seasons Hotel now in operation at the heart of Yorkville, the former location has been converted into The Residences of Yorkville Plaza, a condominium that incorporates much of the original building's architecture. The next phase is Yorkville Plaza II, the Cumberland Tower, a 40-storey building designed by WZMH Architects.

The Minto group has recently launched a new residential address in Yorkville for the third time. Rising 25

storeys, the upper suites of Minto Yorkville Park will have wide city views while the boutique units on lower floors will overlook the Village of Yorkville Park.

Located in the centre of The Village at the intersection of Bellair and Cumberland, Yorkville Park condos boasts a walk score of 100, being steps from the Bay subway station and nearby Yonge station.

The new Yorkville Village shopping mall at Avenue Road and Yorkville is the re-imagined redux of the 38-year-

old Hazelton Lanes.

"The Lanes" was once Canada's premiere high-end fashion locale, that fell into disrepair as a result of the 1990s recession.

First Realty Capital purchased the property with the goal of transforming the '70s-era landmark into a new, \$100 million "neighbourhood centre."

The major anchor tenants include a new Equinox Fitness centre that opened this year and a Whole Foods Market. When complete, the premier shopping destination will feature an oval-shaped centre atrium. A dramatic glass façade along Yorkville Avenue will flood the concourse with natural light. The refresh will include more retail space and modern finishes.

