

CONDO LIVING

IN THE NEWS

Residences of Royal Connaught hosts gala launch party

Hamilton's century-old and most revered landmark opened its doors for the first time in over a decade, returning in style with an elegant gala to mark the launch of The Residences of Royal Connaught.

Welcoming a new era of urban living in the heart of the city, guests arrived on the gold carpet, stepping into the restored three-storey art deco lobby to see sparkling hand-strung crystal chandeliers, restored columns, original limestone flooring and the grand mezzanine.

Once a grand hotel, the Royal Connaught was Hamilton's social hub during its years in operation, an extravagant venue to cele-

brate special occasions and a place where celebrities and the wealthy elite would stay.

"Everyone has a special connection to the Connaught and it is a truly remarkable place. The excitement in the city for this project is contagious, so it was only fitting that we marked its return in such an exceptional way," says Rudi Spallacci, President of Spallacci Group. "After all, when was the last time the Royal Connaught threw a party?"

In an ode to the Royal Connaught's history, the eras came to life as the evening unfolded. Glamour was in full swing as music played by Hamilton's Scott Whittington on piano filled the lobby.

Models sported vintage costumes, curated by noted fashion influencers, reflecting the 20s, 40s, 50s, and 60s and guests enjoyed a showcase of food trends and libations of the past century.

Descendants of Harry Frost, the original owner of the Royal Connaught Hotel that first opened in 1916, were among the guests, including Harry Frost the III, dressed up for the occasion at the age of four.

An intricate three-dimensional model of the project was revealed, showcasing a seven-storey podium designed to complement the historic facades of the existing buildings and three residential towers. In total, the

completed project will house 700 condominium units in the heart of downtown and will introduce new retail wrapping from King Street along Catherine to Main.

Now open, Phase I of The Residences of Royal Connaught offers 122 new condominium suites housed in the original 13-storey landmark building. With a selection of elegant condo designs ranging from 555 sq. ft. – 1084 sq. ft. purchasers can customize their suites with looks ranging from classic to contemporary styles. Condominium suites start from the mid \$200,000's. Phase I occupancy is expected for 2016.



It was a full house at the unveiling of The Residences of Royal Connaught earlier this month in Hamilton.

Around the world in Toronto



BARBARA LAWLOR
CONDO PRO

I was driving through Toronto, and it occurred to me just how multicultural our beautiful city is! In fact, is it any wonder that we continually attract new residents from around the world? You can essentially take a trip around the globe right within our city, in any number of ways.

I did a quick search on the web for festivals being held in the city this year, and in June and July alone, the diversity of cultures represented is amazing. Luminato Festival of the Arts and Creativity celebrates a kaleidoscope of theatre, dance, music, film, literature, visual arts and design over 10 glorious culture-filled days.

The two-day Muhtadi International Drumming Festival is an annual event that features rhythms from around the world, with live local, national and international acts. And for

those who feel the Latin beat, we have the annual Toronto Tango Festival, four days of the dramatic Argentine Tango with workshops, performances and more.

Emerging artists from many countries take part in the North By Northeast Music and Film Festival in genres such as folk, punk and funk. What fun! Oh, and let's remember food, with Toronto's Taste of Little Italy featuring live music a crafters showcase and ample opportunities to sample authentic Italian cuisine.

Every Friday night in July, people flock to the Cultura Festival in Mel Lastman Square, where they celebrate music, art, food and film that reflects Toronto's diversity. Also in July, the Annual Afrofest at Woodbine Park is THE African cultural event of the summer, a weekend-long celebration with non-stop music

and dance on outdoor stages, plus an African marketplace.

China Now is another July event that is sure to attract crowds to Harbourfront Centre to learn more about Chinese culture and legacy. Phew! And those are just a few of the exciting events going on.

Toronto is home to retailers from around the world, and restaurateurs who represent the multitude of palates in our population. Our wonderful city features some of the world's finest chefs who deliver scrumptious delicacies in an array of restaurants. Thai, Italian, Indian, French, Greek, Filipino, Persian, Malaysian, Haitian, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Middle Eastern, Jewish, Vietnamese, Korean, Hungarian, Caribbean, Polish, Sri Lankan, Canadian cuisine – we have it all at our doorstep.

People from all backgrounds and walks of life can feel at home here. In addition to a continual stream of new residents, we also attract conferences and

conventions for businesses from many other countries.

Toronto is home to world-class shopping and entertainment. Culturally speaking, we have the internationally renowned Royal Ontario Museum, Textile Museum of Canada, Museum of Canadian Contemporary Art, Redpath

Sugar Museum, Toronto Aerospace Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario and Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery.

Those are the major spots where you will find a diversity of displays. We also have numerous smaller galleries that represent artists from a multitude of cultures. Toronto also has excellent schools, including campuses of some of the world's most prestigious universities.

Of course, Toronto features an array of different locations within the city that appeal to our diversity of buyers. From our waterfront and black-tie district to our midtown Bloor-Yorkville area and celebrated uptown Forest Hill neighbourhood, and into York Region, we have you covered from north to south.

Toronto's east and west ends are desirable as well, with condominiums popping up in both established and up-and-coming locations in Etobicoke and Scarborough.

Recently, Toronto was

named the fourth most attractive city in the world, and was the only Canadian city to make the list culled from the "Cities of Opportunity" survey by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC). The survey ranked 30 destinations from around the world in a variety of categories such as quality of life, transport, economic strength, ease of doing business, education, technology and the natural environment.

The City of Toronto used to be a hidden gem, but is now considered one of the most cosmopolitan, multicultural – and desirable – in the world.

— *Barbara Lawlor is president of Baker Real Estate Incorporated and an in-demand columnist and speaker. A member of the Baker team since 1993, she oversees the marketing and sales of condominium developments in the GTA and overseas. Keep current with The Baker Blog at blog.bakerrealestate.com.*



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