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High 30°C/Low 18°C Hot and humid



The re-emerging Danforth

CONDO TRENDS

Stalwart 'hood seeing interest from developers



Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

The venerable Danforth has long been a mainstay of Toronto's east end, with its well-established neighbourhoods of single-family homes and lively community that complements the Upper Beaches district.

A main transit artery, the Bloor-Danforth subway line runs its length between Castle Frank and Victoria Park stations.

This quiet stretch of the Danforth between Woodbine Avenue and Main Street lends itself well to highrise living and before now had not seen much development for 30 years.

So what will it look like in five years from now?

Michael Budovitch, a broker with TradeUp Real Estate, the company spearheading the sales effort for On the Danforth by Diam Developments — a 10-storey, mixed-use building designed by OneSpace Architecture that boasts clean lines and traditional character — envisions a big change in the neighbourhood.

"You will find it very similar to the West Greektown area, with all kinds of shops and restaurants," says Budovitch.

"A lot of the purchasers are buying there because it's affordable.... (It's) close to the Beaches."

The Danforth is known for its Greektown area, the largest Greek neighbourhood in North America and one of the most vibrant and cosmopolitan areas of Toronto.

A food lovers' paradise, with more than 75 restaurants, cafes and bars, it is also known for its European-styled architecture dating back to as early as 1910.

Zev Mandelbaum is the chief operating officer of Marlin Spring Developments, the builder of the Canvas Condominiums at Danforth and Morton Road. Located near Danforth Village, the new mid-rise project will have an eight-storey profile with a total of 166 units.

Mandelbaum says that the area is ready for development, but in a way that complements the existing flavour of the area. Local art became the overall theme for Canvas. "We were inspired by the galleries and a lot of the street art that we saw in the neighbourhood," says Mandelbaum.

Further east at 35 Danforth Rd. near Warden Avenue, is the Spice Urban Towns by Hi-Rise (West) Inc.

The intimate enclave of bungalows and two-storey urban townhouses feature rooftop terraces and interiors by Bryon Patton and Associates.

The transit-friendly residences are located near the Warden and Victoria Park subway stations as well as the Danforth GO station, making it easy to get to other great neighbourhoods as well.



The Taste of the Danforth is the neighbourhood's biggest events of the year, with huge crowds, great food and performances, but there's plenty to do year-round. Condo developments like Spice Urban Towns and On the Danforth are getting in on the party.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO FILE

