

Future of residential development is in the stars



JANE LOCKHART
DESIGN
CONFIDENTIAL

Driving along the expressway with my friend, she quietly lamented, "I wonder when the city will be finished?"

I understood what she meant. Toronto is a world-class city, so it needs to continue to fulfil that title by developing and growing up, literally.

Everywhere you look downtown, you see construction cranes and newly excavated holes, getting prepped for the next high-rise condo. It's an exciting sign of progress and a welcome vibrancy in the city core.

I love my little piece of the sky. My condo is my refuge. But sometimes I think it would be nice for my dog, Baxter to have stairs to climb and access to a large outdoor space without riding in an elevator.

I would chalk it up to being a case of the grass being greener on the other side until I learned of a new kind of development just north of the city.

Density is a sure thing in the downtown core, but travel a little further north to Rich-

mond Hill you start to see more low-rise development — new builds that thoughtfully embrace existing ravines, green space and historical sites.

I respect developers who take their surroundings into consideration, not just plop a sub-division on a grid and hope the infrastructure catches up. It's especially rewarding when consideration is given to the design of new builds. Embracing new technology and modern appeal.

I see that in a new project by Primont Homes, called Observatory North. It's named for The David Dunlap Observatory, home to the one-time second largest telescope in the world. This treasure, formerly owned by U of T stands on 189 acres on Bayview Avenue.

At the turn of the last century, Clarence Chant, then President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Toronto, from 1904-1907 helped introduce astronomy to the curriculum at U of T.

The campus was being built up and light pollution affected the ability of the telescopes to see the stars, so he looked north to build an observatory worthy of the science.

With a financial endow-



A new project by Primont Homes, called Observatory North, is named for The David Dunlap Observatory, home to the one-time second largest telescope in the world.

ment to U of T, from Jessie Dunlap, the widow to the co-founder of Hollinger Mines, David Dunlap, a site was found, land purchased and an 81 ton, copper domed structure was built, dismantled

and shipped from England to the site.

Officially opened in 1935, on Clarence Chant's 70th birthday, it housed a 74" optical, reflector telescope, the largest in Canada.

The land was sold by U. of T. in 2008 and today the observatory sits as a historical monument to the science of Astronomy and Astrophysics. A once vibrant research and public education centre, it offered a

way for us to learn from the stars and view the heavens.

Today, it's future is uncertain, but, Observatory North, pays homage to the world-renowned site.

North of the David Dunlap Observatory, on Bayview, Primont — with 50 years in the building business and a portfolio of over 3000 homes, is creating a community of luxury, urban townhomes, surrounded by lush greenspace.

The detail in the modern, vertical facades matches the contemporary, architectural design of the interior, but the stand out, hands down winner for me is the grand, roof top terrace and garden patio.

It's a large, private outdoor space, where you can observe the stars from your own home. For me and Baxter, if we were to consider a home with multi-levels and an outdoor space of our own, this would be a perfect option.

From the sky-brushing heights of downtown condos, to new development reaching for the stars in the north, I see the future in the stars, and it's very bright.

— Jane Lockhart is an award-winning designer, TV personality and leading expert in the world of design. Visit www.janelockhart.com.

Gifts for those who are nice or even a little bit naughty



NATALIE DEANE
GOOD
LIVING

The halls are decked, the festive lights are on and the stores are bustling with shoppers in search of the perfect present for everyone on their shopping list.

Not sure what to give all the special someone's in your life? I've put together a gift list to help you score the most sensational presents for everyone who is nice and even those who are a little naughty on your list.

Master Chef

Help your home chef create their delicious dishes with these:

- Cuisinart Precision Master™ 5.5 quart Stand Mixer features a 500-watt motor, 12 speeds, a chef's whisk, dough hook, and flat mixing paddle. The mixing bowl and all accessories are dishwasher safe, and is available in red, white and brushed chrome.

- Victorinox Grand Maître Chef's three-piece collection of essential instruments; a kitchen knife, carving knife and chef's knife. Every one of these essential forged knives seamlessly transitions from blade to handle with just a subtle thickening of the steel

Gamer

Surprise your gamer with the Nintendo Switch the best-selling console in Canada. Of course, you can't have consoles without games, and the hottest game of the year is Super Mario Odyssey.

This is the Mario that we all know and love with new kingdoms and characters (including Mario's hat Cappy) to explore. Perfect for kids and adults alike.

Couch potato

For that homebody who loves to cuddle up and watch TV — the new Snuggie Tails from Bed Bath and Beyond. This plush warm blanket will be a big hit for those young or old. It comes in two styles — the shark or the mermaid!

Foodie

Who doesn't love a good cup of cocoa?

For the foodie or the teacher or hostess gift — Second Cup's signature Hot Chocolate is available in three unique flavours: Chocolate, White Chocolate and Candy Cane White Chocolate.

Techie

To keep your techie connected wherever they may be...Roku Streaming Stick.

Keep connected whether you're at home or on the road. It lets you connect to wireless networks that require browser login, so you can binge-away.

Choose your favourite program with the included point-anywhere remote, or just use the Roku app on a smartphone to control the action.

Bright smiler

For that person on your list with the smile that lights up a room — Oral-B Genius Pro 8000 offers best-in-class features like ground breaking

position detection technology that combines motion sensor tech with video recognition to track areas and ensure no zone is missed!

Best news? It's now available in — rose gold — perfect for the trendsetter!

The whole family

Get a big gift for everyone in your family to share together!

Samsung's Frame, QLED TV, Sound+ Soundbar and CHG90 Gaming Monitor — watch holiday movies and play game favourites with stunning, true-to-life picture quality and sound.

Photo books from Google Photos is the best way to share your favourite moments in a printed photo album. Whether it's your wedding day or your child's first birthday party, photo books can be put together in minutes to chronicle those moments that matter most.

The Dyson Humidifier designed to create a comfortable, clean home environment, using Ultraviolet

Cleanse technology it exposes every drop of water to a UVC light, killing 99.9% of bacteria from the water before projecting hydrated air evenly and quietly.

— Natalie Deane is a lifestyle connoisseur who shows you how to live the good life with tips about entertaining, travel, decor and more.



The Cuisinart Precision Master is the perfect gift for that master chef in your life.