



P4 ★ TORONTO STAR ★ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2006

## Condo Living

■ MODELS OF DESIGN

# Upscale elegance near marina

DIANE TIERNEY  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Touring the Harbour Club model townhome in Oakville makes you realize you don't need a huge house to create upscale elegance. This townhome showcases three storeys of slender, blond beauty.

Fay Williamson, the sales representative at the Queenscorp Group townhouse says, "The model is about 2,400 square feet and it is exquisitely decorated. But it's not so formal that it's uninviting. Earth tones — such as the hardwood flooring and some of the furniture — give warmth to the cream cabinetry and pale yellow walls."

This model represents homes that range from about \$700,000 to more than \$1 million. Located in the Bronte Harbour and Marina area of Oakville, some of the homes have captivating views of Lake Ontario.

The townhome's exterior is Cape Cod-style to complement the nautical theme of the marina location, with stone, stucco, cedar and wood grain siding.

Through the front door, the foyer offers a full view of the living room. From the slate flooring, to the nine-foot-four-inch ceilings lined by deep crown mouldings, the feeling of spaciousness fools you into thinking that this home is much larger than it is. In some areas, the ceilings are 12 feet high.

Slender, deep windows keep the living room bright with natural light and mirrors on the walls visually widen the space. There is a gas fireplace and cork-screw-style faux evergreen adds a subtle touch of colour. Two more evergreens just like it are featured in the adjoining dining room to add continuity.

Moving from the living and dining rooms to the kitchen, there is an island large enough for buffet-style entertaining.

"The hardwood flooring is a dark coffee colour and leads from the living and dining rooms, through to the kitchen. Using the same flooring from the front of the townhouse to the back is another way to visually increase the size of the living space. The dark wood also adds warmth and sophistication, yet it is also a practical choice," says Williamson.

The kitchen has cream-col-



Slender, deep windows keep the living room bright with natural light and mirrors on the walls visually widen the space.

PHOTOS COURTESY QUEENSCORP GROUP



In the ensuite, a marble countertop boasts double sinks and marble tiles underfoot and surrounding the deep soaker tub.

oured, antiqued cabinets and there are granite countertops and tiled backsplash. High, smooth ceilings are punctuated with unobtrusive pot lights.

Kitchen-Aid stainless steel appliances, including a stovetop, oven, fridge and built-in microwave, make any chef feel like a pro. French doors lead to the large deck.

The staircase to the second floor has stylish wrought iron spindles and there is a thick carpet runner.

At the top of the stairs is a cozy loft that leads out to a private balcony. The spacious area would make an ideal media room, library, den or office.

The luxurious master bedroom offers a clear view of the



The master bedroom offers a clear view of the harbour. The white wrought iron bed and mirrored dresser keep the room light.

harbour. "It's a bright room because of the large windows, but there is also a doorway to a balcony from here," Williamson says.

The white wrought iron bed and mirrored dresser are intended to keep the room bright and reflect light. Two closets provide plenty of wardrobe space.

In the ensuite, a marble countertop boasts double sinks and marble tiles underfoot and surrounding the deep soaker tub. Mirrors and an oversized, frameless glass shower stall make the space visually larger.

Walk up another flight of stairs to the third floor and you will find two bedrooms — both with pleasing views and private bal-

### Details

- **Project:** The Harbour Club
- **Builder:** Queenscorp Group
- **Location:** Oakville
- **Price:** Townhomes start at \$699,900; semis at \$1.1 million
- **Sales office and model:** 2369 Ontario St., Oakville. Hours: Monday to Thursday 1 to 7 p.m., weekends and holidays noon to 5 p.m.; Friday by appointment.
- **Call:** 905-847-6491 or visit [www.queenscorp.com](http://www.queenscorp.com)

conies. These are ideal for children or guests, and the large bathroom can be easily shared.

There is a double-car garage and guest parking.

Professionally landscaped grounds include stone walkways and pillars, iron fencing, automatic underground irrigation systems, and landscape lighting.

Williamson says, "Maintenance fees are about \$291 per month to take care of snow removal, lawn cutting and other landscaping and exterior home maintenance responsibilities. This is a turnkey operation where every amenity is included, so you can just move right in."

There are five townhomes left in phase one. Some could be ready for occupancy in 30 to 60 days.

"These townhomes start at 2,346 square feet and one has a beautiful view of the lake," says Williamson.

"However we just released phase two, which includes townhomes and semi-detached homes. Homes for this phase start at \$859,900 for 3,498 square feet and the semi-detached homes start at \$1.1 million for 3,540 square feet," she says.

Bronte Marina is across the street from the Harbour Club site. Enjoy sailing, fishing, walking and biking trails. Boutiques, bistros, bars, restaurants and coffee shops are a stroll away. For commuters, the QEW is a few minutes away, as is the Bronte GO Transit station.

## Ritz official 'believes' in Toronto

TONY WONG  
BUSINESS REPORTER

Michael Beckley is putting his company's money where his mouth is. As the senior vice-president of lodging development for the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co., Beckley persuaded his board to buy into a 20 per cent ownership in the Toronto Ritz-Carlton hotel.

While the company has invested in ownership of hotels in the past, it is the first time the company has done so with a condominium-hotel development.

"We don't write cheques easily, but the quality of partners and development was really superb — we really believe in this project," said Beckley, who also managed to get a shovel in the dirt at last week's groundbreaking ceremony for the Ritz-Carlton in Toronto.

The company typically makes its revenue from the management fees from its hotel brands instead of outright ownership. Another 40 per cent is owned by Cadillac Fairview Corp. and 40 per cent by Graywood Developments Ltd.

With more than two-thirds of the development sold in just a year — the project is the first of the ultra-luxury hotels, which include a new Trump Hotel and Four Seasons Hotel — to get going.

"To have the groundbreaking in only a year since we started is fantastic," said Pat Baker, CEO of Baker Real Estate Corp., sales agent for the Ritz.

"We really haven't had a blip. We're getting people from Toronto, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia."

To make way for construction, the posh Ritz presentation centre will be demolished once construction starts on Monday.

# Folk art celebrates a good smoke



John Sewell  
So, What's it Worth?

Q My father bought this piece at auction, but I have no idea what he paid. It's a collection of cigar bands and cigar box labels nicely arranged in a decorative presentation on the back of a large, thick piece of glass measuring 76 cm square (30 inches.) It wasn't framed originally. I added the frame later to better protect the edges and make it easier to hang. I'm not expecting to ever sell this, but I am curious to know what it might be worth.

David, Kitchener  
A Cigar bands and box labels are really miniature works of art. Cigar manufacturers began to compete so furiously for smokers that they tried to outdo their rivals by designing the most elaborate and colourful labels and bands imaginable. Some were decorated with the heads of presidents; others birds and animals, and of course gorgeous women, like the cigar-puffing beauty in the centre of your picture.

So popular were cigar bands and labels that a kit came out in the early 1900s with the necessary supplies for turning these mini works of art into a frameable picture, much like this one. Between 1860 and 1940, it's estimated there were six billion wooden cigar boxes made worldwide.

While tobacco smoking first came to Europe from Central America via explorer Christopher Columbus in the 1490s, the



The above cabinet could fetch about \$2,500 at auction.

first cigars didn't hit the world stage until 1762, when an American general brought some back from Cuba. By 1870 more than half the tobacco smoked in North America was in the form of cigars. As for your lovely picture, it crosses two categories of collectibles: folk art and tobacco-related, both of which garner significant interest. On today's market this should be worth about \$450.

Q This unusual cabinet has been in my family since the late 1960s. It was purchased in Montreal by my grandmother at an estate sale of a prominent Quebec family. It's 183 cm tall (six feet) and 91 cm wide (three feet.) I don't know what she paid, but I do know she wouldn't have spent more than a few hundred dollars on any piece.



This pickle cruet is worth about \$750 on today's market.

Paul, Toronto  
A This cabinet borrows its style from Medieval times when it was known as a dressoir. In the 1500s and 1600s, it was usually found in the hallways of the grandest homes, used to display their finest gold and silver cups and flagons. Yours has both classical and grotesque figures carved into it, including the half-woman, half-beast figure on the lower section. This style of carving is quite common to Europe and Waddington's furniture specialist Alastair McLean, whom I consulted, believes your piece may be Belgian, circa 1875 to 1900. At auction, he estimates it would bring about \$2,500.

Q I received this piece from my grandmother a number of years ago. She told me she received it as a wedding gift in



This collection of cigar bands and box labels crosses two categories of collectibles: folk art and tobacco-related. It's worth about \$450.

1899. It's a sugar bowl with tongs for cubed sugar. The glass is in very good shape with its lovely hand-painted flowers.

Arlene, Windsor  
A Put away the sugar and get out your gherkins. This is a pickle cruet, not a sugar bowl. The lovely enameled cranberry glass insert in the Paneled Sprig pattern was made between 1895 and 1900 by the Northwood Co. of Pennsylvania.

The silver plated metal stand could have been manufactured by any one of a number of American and Canadian companies making them.

This particular frame and insert have always been together, I'd say. This is important because often pieces get matched up over the years and the fit's not quite right.

Having the original stand is

important to collectors and key as far as value is concerned. These items were both useful and common around the turn of the century. Eaton's was selling clear versions for \$1. The more elaborate styles, like this one, were about \$5.

The popularity of pickle cruets really peaked over the past five years, and the market has cooled somewhat since. Nevertheless, yours should still be worth about \$750.

John Sewell is an antique and fine art appraiser. To submit an item to his column, go to the 'Contact John' page at [www.johnsewellantiques.ca](http://www.johnsewellantiques.ca). Please measure your piece, say when and how you got it, what you paid and list any identifying marks. A high-resolution jpeg photo must also be included. Appraisal values are estimates only.