

NEWS

If you go big, we'll go bigger

Yonge-Gerrard project stretches to 78 storeys, edging T.O. rival's 75

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BUSINESS REPORTER

The battle of the biggest has just escalated three storeys.

Canderel's Aura condo project at Yonge and Gerrard Sts. has regained the title of tallest residential skyscraper in Canada thanks to a committee of adjustment decision that will see it stretch to 78 storeys once construction is completed in 2014.

That means Aura will top Tridel's 75-storey Ten York condo project, announced late last year, which appeared close to taking the tallest title.

Aura is also untouchable on another level: It boasts an \$18.3 million, 11,370 square-foot penthouse, the biggest in Canada, with unimpeded views of the city.

Well, at least for now.

The committee of adjustment decision is "massive," says Canderel vice-president of sales, Riz Dhanji — just like Aura, which is expected to help kick-start the rejuvenation of Yonge St. north of Dundas, along with the new Ryerson University facilities planned for the area.

Aura will not only expand to 985 units, thanks to the additional floors, but will have four storeys of retail. That will be the first stacked retail outside of the Eaton Centre, with more to come in a dozen or so new condo projects planned for Toronto's main street.

Some seven condo projects, totaling almost 3,800 new residential units, are close to or already under construction on or close to Yonge St. south of Bloor, including Aura, says Ben Myers of condo research firm Urbanation.

Another seven, with a potential 3,565 units, are in the planning stages, many incorporating heritage properties.

It's an unprecedented level of residential construction along the subway corridor and will eventually stretch all the way up to Richmond



Tridel's Ten York condo project was slated to be the tallest residential building in Canada at 75 storeys . . .

Hill, said Myers.

The height hype over which was taller, Aura or Ten York, had become a bit of a joke between good friends Dhanji and Tridel vice-president Jim Ritchie.

But it mattered more to Dhanji,

given that black hoardings surrounding the ongoing construction — the skeleton of the building is already up to the 15th floor — boast that Aura is Canada's tallest residential building.

"When Jim made the Ten York



. . . but Canderel's Aura project just gained approval to increase its total to 78.

announcement, I did have a smile on my face," says the good-natured Dhanji. "And, who knows, he may get the last laugh."

But 75 storeys is it for Ten York, insists Ritchie. It's all the tiny waterfront area site can handle.

Vikileaks account may have link to Commons

JOSH TAPPER
STAFF REPORTER

The Twitter stunt that revealed sleazy details about Public Safety Minister Vic Toews's acrimonious divorce proceedings appears to have emanated from the House of Commons.

The *Ottawa Citizen* has traced the Internet Protocol address attached to the Vikileaks30 Twitter account to a Commons computer.

On Thursday, the newspaper sent a website link to the account operator, who uses an encrypted Hush-mail email account. Other than the paper, only Vikileaks30 had access to the website.

Fifteen minutes after the link was sent, Vikileaks30 bit, clicked and viewed the page, enabling *Citizen* reporters to determine the IP — essentially an identification tag assigned to each web-wired device — came from inside Parliament.

The newspaper also found the IP address is attached to a House employee who edits Wikipedia articles "often giving them what appears to be a pro-NDP bias," and comments on a Paul Simon fan page.

Vikileaks30's Twitter postings began in earnest Tuesday night, an uber-public response to the Internet surveillance legislation — "Protecting Children from Internet Predators Act" — tabled by Toews.

"Vic wants to know about you. Let's get to know Vic," read the first posting.

Later tweets divulged Toews's alleged infidelities while married to Lorraine Fehr, whom he divorced in 2010 after 32 years. The poster got the information legally from a Winnipeg courthouse.

The posts were in protest of a bill that many argue will violate online privacy. The legislation would allow authorities to track web activity without a warrant.

On Thursday night, Vikileaks30 had more than 8,000 followers and the hashtag #TellVicEverything was trending in Canada as thousands tweeted banal life details in protest of the surveillance bill.