

Taking green to next level in Burlington

Strata features geothermal heating and cooling, car-sharing and energy efficient suites

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DIANE TIERNEY
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Strata condominium built by Molinaro Group is on track to be the first condominium in downtown Burlington to register for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The condo is located on Maple Ave., a few blocks north of the Burlington waterfront and picturesque Spencer Smith Park.

The LEED green building rating system is an internationally recognized designation given to buildings that meet a set of high-performance standards in environmental responsibility and energy efficiency.

Strata will also be one of the first condos to use a geothermal system for heating and cooling – a system that not only reduces energy costs for its residents, but also produces no greenhouse gas emissions.

"This takes the green building concept to a new level. People want to help protect the environment, so we felt it was very important to build a highly advanced green building. Residents know that green buildings are healthier for their families, good for the environment and economical because of lower energy costs," says Vince Molinaro, president of the Molinaro Group.

Residents also get green features in their suites, such as energy-efficient lighting and appliances, plumbing systems that use less water, and eco-friendly materials that emit lower levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

While the condo is located within walking distance of downtown shops, cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants, residents will also be able to participate in the car-sharing program of a fuel-efficient Mini Cooper.

"While car-share programs are appearing in Toronto, this will be a first for Burlington residents," Molinaro says.

The building will also have a 3,000-square-foot, ground-level, high-security bicycle storage room.

Sophie Buzelli, sales representative for the site, says a lifestyle approach has been taken to designing the features and amenities.

"Strata will have a 24-hour concierge, rooftop indoor swimming pool with a lounge and bar, guest suite and fully equipped gym with a yoga and Pilates studio," she says. "On the 10th floor there will be a 5,600-square-foot meditation garden with lush green plants."

The building is expected to be 25 storeys so it will have views of the waterfront and Lake Ontario.

"Units range from 603 square feet and starting at about \$185,000, to penthouse suites of about 1,800 square feet for about \$730,000. Condo fees are 39 cents per square feet. Occupancy dates are about June 2011," Buzelli says.

There are 30 different floor plans and a 1,300-square-foot model suite on site.

Many empty-nesters or people who are downsizing are interested in the condo lifestyle and location.

"We're marketing our building as hip, fit and green no matter what age you are," she says.

The sales office is located at 569 Maple Ave. in Burlington. Hours are Monday to Thursday, weekends and holidays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Friday. Call 905-333-6360 or visit stratacondos.ca.