

New in Homes & Condos

»TORONTO STAR«

SECTION H
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GW MS HP VE

SMOKIN' HOT
Silver Russian
cheroot case worth
its weight in gold, **H12**



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MOVEMENT**
Michelle may have started it, but
Mark knows how to finish it, **H4**

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One Bloor revels in its own urbanity



CHRISTOPHER HUME

Unlike most condo towers in Toronto, One Bloor won't be consigned to the back-ground. Because of its location, on the southeast corner of Yonge and Bloor, one of the most important intersections in the city, it will be a landmark.

In addition to all the usual condo requirements, One Bloor must do double duty; as well as being home to hundreds and a major retail hub, it's expected to be a civic icon.

None of this seems to faze architect David Pontarini, who designed the 65-storey structure. He happily admits he has never worked on a project as large as this, but the challenge was one he welcomed.

"We wanted to make a statement," he explains, "but not too loud a statement. It was a chance to do something sculptural. Not many developers give you an opportunity to do that."

But then, not many developers get an opportunity to build on a site such as this. Indeed, Great Gulf acquired the property after an earlier project fell through. It would have been 80 storeys tall and included a hotel.

BLOOR continued on H13



"We wanted to make a statement," says architect David Pontarini.

BALLANTRY HOMES



AARON HARRIS/SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Ballantry Homes president David Hill takes a break in the community centre at his latest development, The Residences at LochNess in Welland.

On top of the Hill

David Hill's passion and determination spawned home building success

GALE BEEBY
REAL ESTATE EDITOR

David Hill wants to be known as the guy who is doing it right.

"My philosophy is 'Build a good house and stand behind the product,'" says the amiable Hill, president of Ballantry Homes, while playing tour guide at his latest master-planned community, the Residences at LochNess Links in Welland. "I always think about the way people are going to live in the house, it's not just about the house."

Hill, 54, becomes animated as he talks about what he does; his enthusiasm illustrates his passion for home building.

It's been a long road for Hill, who started Ballantry Homes in 1989 when he bought 10 building lots in Scarborough.



The clubhouse at LochNess Links championship golf course, designed by Graham Cooke & Associates, includes a wonderful restaurant and a full-service pro shop.

"My father (legendary realtor Norman Hill) didn't approve of me going out on my own," says Hill. "He didn't think it was a very good idea."

The senior Hill may have had a point. David Hill, who had been selling real estate out of his father's shop, sold eight of

those lots going door-to-door, then the economy hit a downturn. He finally sold the last two homes after dropping the prices. "I didn't even have an office," Hill says, flashing his trademark grin.

HILL continued on H13

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