

High-end homes selling like hot cakes

GALE BEEBY
REAL ESTATE EDITOR

Housing bubble, housing schmuzle. We're hearing stories of bidding wars on fixer-uppers in hot neighbourhoods like Leslieville and the Junction, of long lines of buyers at condo openings, and of more expensive new homes selling out fast.

One case in point is Heathwood Homes' Richmond Hill infill projects, the Reserve and Forestbrook, where homes begin in the \$580,000-plus neighbourhood.

Cheap they are not, but the most recent release of homes sold briskly, with 32 of the 47 available units sold at Forestbrook, and 12 of 29 at the Reserve.

"These are smashing," said Hugh Heron, president of Heathwood. "We won't be able to repeat them because of all the green space.

"It may be the best location I've every developed," said the amiable Heron.

At Forestbrook, there are 56 bungalow and two-storey homes on 43-foot and 50-foot lots ranging in size from 2,101 to 4,471 square feet, prices starting at \$582,900. Occupancy will begin in the spring of 2011. All of these homes are Energy Star rated and many back on to protected green space.

At the Reserve, Heathwood is offering 45 bungalow and two-storey homes on 50-foot lots, between 2,663 square feet to a whopping 4,471 square feet, prices starting at \$684,900. All the homes are Energy Star rated and all have walk out basements backing onto green space. Occupancy is scheduled for the summer of 2011.

Because both of these projects are infill, schools, shopping and community amenities are already in place.

The sales office for both the Reserve and Forestbrook is on the southwest corner of Yonge St. and Gamble Rd. (19th) in Richmond Hill. Hours are Monday to Thursday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Fridays, weekends and holidays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, go to www.heathwoodhomes.com.

PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT

The Mikey Network is named for Mike Sullivan, who died suddenly of a heart attack while playing golf in 2002.

Good friend and former business partner Hugh Heron established

the Mikey Network, an organization that buys and promotes the use and placement of life-saving defibrillators, in Salem's honour.

"No one knows whether a defibrillator could have helped to save Mike's life, but in his name, we place Mikeys in as many public places as possible so that other cardiac arrest victims may have a second chance," Heron told the *Star* recently.

Fundraising is an ongoing issue for the Mikey Network, and Heron thought it would be great to combine exercise (good for the heart) and fundraising and has partnered with the Cardiac Health Foundation of Canada's Walk of Life campaign.

"Team Mikey" will head out on May 15 from the Ontario Science Centre, with participants either walking three or five kilometres, or running five kilometres.

Heron hopes that each participant will raise \$100 for the Mikey Network.

"The point here is that by walking (or running), you're getting fit and then you won't need the Mikey," said Heron, who regularly leads his employees out for lunch-hour walks.

OVER THE BACK FENCE

On April 22, 2010, the Red Rose Ball of The St. George's Society will honour Mitchell Cohen of the Daniels Corp. as this year's recipient of the St. George's Society Award of Merit for contributions to the community. Cohen will receive his prize during the ball at the Four Seasons Hotel, which promises to be an evening of fun and philanthropy, as it's also a benefit for Habitat for Humanity Toronto. Habitat for Humanity Toronto is holding a mayoral debate on affordable housing issues Tuesday, May 11 at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education on Bloor St. . . . The Tarion Warranty Corp. will hold its second annual public meeting Monday, April 26 at the Novotel Toronto North York Hotel at 3 Park Home Ave. Tarion is the regulator of all new homes and condo buildings in the province and enforces warranty compliance. Registration starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6:30. Attendees can register in advance at www.tarion.com.

Follow Gale Beeby on Twitter @galebeeby or email her gbeeb@thestar.ca



The Reserve and Forestwood "may be the best location I've every developed," says Hugh Heron, president of Heathwood Homes.