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Tour des Canadiens will be the tallest residential tower in Montreal when finished in 2016. Its top and entrance will bear the Habs' logo.

Icing on the cake

Montreal developers aim to recreate the success of Toronto's Maple Leaf Square

RYAN STARR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Who would have thought the Montreal Canadiens would want to emulate anything being done by the Toronto Maple Leafs these days.

But that's precisely what the Habs' ownership is shooting for with Tour des Canadiens, a \$175-million, 48-storey, 534-unit condo tower that will be built beside and connected to the hockey

club's home, Bell Centre.

The condo project is being modelled on what Leafs' owners Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) did with Maple Leaf Square, a complex located just west of the Air Canada Centre that includes twin tower condos, offices, retail space, a sports bar, restaurants and a hotel.

CANADIENS continued on H12

BLUE JAYS WAY AND KING WEST

King Blue will be a 'destination,' builder says

Easton's Group building a two-tower project that boasts prime location

RYAN STARR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

There are those who feel that the last thing downtown Toronto needs right now is another big condo project.

They'd be wrong, insists Steve Gupta, the developer of King Blue, a two-tower condo at the southeast corner of King St. W. and Blue Jays Way that will include 807 units and 13,000 square feet of street-level retail space.

Gupta, the president and CEO of Easton's Group of Hotels — and a self-described "contrarian" who boasts he built three hotels during the Great Recession — believes the Toronto market is "as strong as it's ever been."

There are still loads of young professionals looking to buy a condo at a triple-A location that is a stone's throw from the theatres, clubs and restaurants these hip downtown denizens could hope for, he says.

"I believe in Toronto," Gupta stresses during an interview at the Hilton Garden Inn on Peter St., one of his company's properties.

"We still have 100,000-plus immigrants coming to the city every year and this new generation wants to live downtown, near where they're working. That's why the condo boom is going on downtown."

King Blue's first phase, the 44-storey south tower, goes on sale in October.

KING BLUE continued on H8

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