

## NEWS

# If you go big, we'll go bigger

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

SUSAN PIGG  
BUSINESS REPORTER

The battle of the biggest has just escalated three storeys.

Candere'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 Candere 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 Candere'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 Wikileaks30 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 Wikileaks30 had access to the website.

Fifteen minutes after the link was sent, Wikileaks30 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, Wikileaks30 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.

# Canadian resident's file in hands of executioner

Ottawa blasts Iran as execution papers filed

OLIVIA WARD  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPORTER

Members of Canada's government and its Parliament issued strong protests Thursday on news that Saeed Malekpour's case has been transferred to the Iranian court that schedules executions.

The condemned Canadian resident has been under a death sentence in Iran on charges of "corrupting the earth" since 2010. But this week his lawyers discovered that his case file had progressed to the final stage of imminent hanging.

"Canada condemns Iran's reported decision to execute Mr. Malekpour," said a statement from Foreign Minister John Baird's spokesman Joseph Lavoie. "We hold Iran accountable for his treatment and well-being."

Meanwhile, the House of Commons unanimously backed a motion by Tory MP Costas Menagakis voicing Parliament's "deep concern for the safety of Iranian citizen Saeed Malekpour."

The motion holds Iran accountable and asks it to "reverse its current course, meet its international human rights obligation and release prisoners such as Saeed Malekpour and others who have failed to receive fair and transparent legal treatment."

Separately, Senator Linda Frum said she was "deeply distressed to learn that the judicial murder of Saeed Malekpour appears to be proceeding."

"I know I speak for all my colleagues in the Senate of Canada when I say that this lethal abuse of law has the attention of the government. . . the citizens of this country and freedom-loving people everywhere," Frum said.

Since Malekpour was sentenced to death two years ago, Iran's Revolu-



News has come out of Iran that Canadian citizen Saeed Malekpour is headed for the court that schedules executions.

tionary Guard, which made the charges against him, has publicized the web programmer's case as an example to Iranians who use the Internet to criticize the clerical regime or violate its stringent moral code.

Malekpour, who is based in Canada but was arrested during a visit to his dying father in 2008, was accused of masterminding a network of porn websites, a charge he and his family have denied. The Revolutionary Guard reportedly subjected him to months of torture and solitary confinement to obtain a videotaped confession.

A worldwide campaign to save Malekpour stepped up Thursday with a last-ditch appeal to the United Nations.

A letter from Malekpour's family to UN human rights commissioner Navi Pillay said that "two days ago, when lawyers visited the Revolutionary Court to follow up on his case file, they discovered it was no longer there. (They) were informed that this only meant the file was sent to the Circuit Court for Execution of Sentences."

Iran has executed hundreds of people in the past year. The rate has accelerated as parliamentary elections approach on March 2. Human rights groups say that few, if any, of the condemned have received proper judicial process.

Malekpour's lawyers have been unable to review his case file or defend him in court. Nor were they

able to bring expert witnesses who could prove his innocence. He and his family maintain that any uploading of pornographic images to websites he designed was done without his knowledge.

Meanwhile, reports from Tehran earlier this week say that Iranian security forces were deployed after opposition figures called for new protests against the year-long house arrest of their leaders Mirhossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi.

The two lost a disputed 2009 presidential election to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, sparking the worst protests seen in Iran since the 1979 revolution. Dozens were killed and thousands arrested. Many of them are still jailed, and some are under death sentences.

Opposition sympathizers fear further repression as tensions over the parliamentary election rise. Unrest has also been fuelled by an economic downturn. Iran has been hit by crippling international sanctions that target its vital oil industry in a condemnation of its uranium enrichment program, which Iran insists is to produce electrical power. Western countries believe it is part of a plan to produce nuclear weapons.



Toronto Star home delivery subscribers can read more about the plight of Saeed Malekpour in Saturday's World Weekly section.

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