



Designed for life

Hearthstone at the Bay offers condo-style luxury living to seniors as an alternative to retirement homes

RIVA FINKELSTEIN
Special to QMI Agency

Canadians are living longer. The population of seniors is expected to double over the next 25 years. This emerging demographic, more active than ever before, is creating a new demand for luxury retirement living.

Located on the shores of Humber Bay in Etobicoke, Hearthstone By the Bay retirement condominium provides seniors convenient access to luxurious amenities, health services, and attentive staff, while still emphasizing ownership.

Savvy seniors are treated to high-end decor, spectacular lake views, a gourmet dining room, fully equipped gym, wellness centre, and daily social activities.

"It feels like a five star boutique hotel" says Sandra and Tibor Haluskay, who sold their four-bedroom home and one-half acre of land in Etobicoke before settling into their spacious two bedroom condo at Hearthstone.

"Everyday is full and you don't have to leave your building," says Mr. Haluskay.

GROWING TREND

While active senior condo communities have been popular in the U.S. for quite some time, they are just starting to pick up steam in Canada.

Jane Udell Jones a gerontologist from Hearthstone By the Bay has been working with seniors for over 10 years. She says there are only a handful of senior living condos like Hearthstone in Canada but predicts that many more will be built over time.

"Seniors want service, comfort and a place to invest their money wisely," Jones says. At Hearthstone, condo owners have access to a fully equipped gym with group classes, a resistance pool, spa, a li-

censed pub, nutrition and fitness experts, and a variety of social activities coordinated by an on-site program director.

"It makes life very seamless" Jones says. Age-in-place features at Hearthstone By the Bay attract people like the Haluskay's, who are in relatively good health now but don't want to have to move again when they require more care.

PERSONALIZED CARE

The Hearthstone Club includes a walk-in-clinic for physiotherapists, massage therapists and chiropractors. The clinic is staffed with nurses and offers a visiting room for physicians when extra attention is needed.

"We haven't used the nurse yet but this is something we would use in the future," says Mr. Haluskay.

Other personalized services at Hearthstone include customized meals, companionship, housekeeping, transportation, post-surgery care and much more. Condo owners can purchase these services as a package or on an a-la-carte basis and wellness services can be personalized according to everyone's unique needs.

"It's not one-size-fits-all which tends to be the norm in retirement communities," says Jones. Whether they're in perfect health, living with common conditions of aging or suffering from serious illnesses, Hearthstone By the Bay residents are assured the greatest possible degree of customized care and comfort in their own home.

With condo units ranging from the \$290,000 to the \$600,000s, the Haluskay's are happy they decided to think ahead. "Although I miss my garden, we haven't regretted moving here for one minute," says Mrs. Haluskay.

"We wanted to move when it would still be easy for us and we most certainly wanted to move into a place where wouldn't have to move again," she says.



Hearthstone by the Bay's library features some luxurious finishes.



The Haluskay's unwind with new friends and a game of snooker.



Residents catch up with each other during happy hour at Hearthstone by the Bay's Humber Arms Pub.