

Business

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Landscaper down to earth

Jim Stevenson chuckles when recalling how he started his own Markham landscaping business with only a wheelbarrow and a couple of shovels.

But a little perseverance and a lot of hard work has begun paying off for the 27-year-old entrepreneur.

His Down to Earth Landscaping and Home Improvements has grown in just a year to the point where it employs five full-time workers, with a company benefit plan in the works.

"I'm just pleased to see that it's growing fast and we can provide a service," says Mr. Stevenson, a 10-year veteran landscaper who'd

previously maintained apartment complexes for developer Cadillac Fairview. "The most gratifying thing is that I can keep some people employed."

The "incredible growth" of Markham's residential districts is a boon to the fledgling landscaping company, according to Mr.

Stevenson, who has high praise for his Markham-Unionville clientele.

"Everyone's been good," he says. "There's been no negative comments."

Though he can afford a little more equipment these days, Mr. Stevenson there's still virtually no overhead. This, the owner claims, is how he can offer quality service at a reasonable cost.

The son of a Port Credit builder has devised a seven-year plan that'll eventually see the firm provide a complete package of custom home construction, landscaping, pool installation and other services.

And with a first newspaper interview under his belt, it's back to work for this down to earth businessman.



JIM STEVENSON
Into landscaping

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Tridel high on Walden Pond site

After a 20-year absence in Markham, Tridel homes is returning with the Walden Pond condominium development on Hwy. 7.

Scheduled to begin construction this spring with the first of two condominium apartment buildings, Tridel's Pat Perini said this project will offer a "lifestyle approach to living."

Tridel developed Markham's Christman Court development in the mid '60s. It has since gone on to other architectural endeavors, including Toronto's Village by the Grange, 2,000 Islington and Sky-mark Place.

"There aren't many buildings in Markham with the facilities we have at Walden Pond," said Mrs. Perini. "There was a need in the market for a condominium project like this."

The concept of the development is to offer residents a community within the Markham community. A recreation centre will include an indoor swimming pool and deck, adjoining patio with gazebo and barbecues, saunas, whirlpool, exercise room, tennis court, card room, video room, billiards room, party room and library.

And two guest suites will be included for residents who may be entertaining out-of-town visitors.

"Markham is an active community," Mrs. Perini noted. "A lot of people here are activity conscious. Walden Pond offers activity."

The Hwy. 7 sales office for the development had to open earlier than representatives anticipated because the response from buyers was so positive. Prices for the units start at \$89,900 and 116 of the 142 units in the first building have been pre-sold.

"About 80 per cent of our purchasers so far are from the Markham-Unionville area," Mrs. Perini noted.

Ground breaking ceremonies will take place when warmer weather arrives with occupancy expected to begin in 1987.

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