

# Just imagine

The following items are a few luxuries you might find if you buy a condominium in York Region.

- Games room
- Movie theatre
- Fireside lounge in the lobby
- Cards room
- Male and female saunas
- Sunken whirlpools
- Party room
- Fitness studios equipped with cardio equipment, weights and space for aerobics
- Ballroom
- Landscaped outdoor terraces
- Virtual reality golf centre
- Billiards room
- Outdoor sun decks

All of these amenities can be found in condominiums for sale in Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham.

— Caroline Grech



This condominium is one of several new high-rises dotting York Region's landscape as sales for the unit began across the Greater Toronto Area.

STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

# Price big factor for condo buyers

From page 1.

Builders' Association, said.

While the trend toward highrise condos is obvious, there isn't a single driving force behind why people want them.

Whether they are empty nesters trying to cut down on space, first-time buyers trying to make it into the market or an anxious investor looking to make a profit by renting or reselling, there is no one profile that fits a condominium buyer.

For 39-year-old Richmond Hill resident Elizabeth Keachie, the decision came down to price.

"It's more affordable than a house for one person. I wanted fitness facilities and a pool instead of having to pay for a gym membership and I like the idea of not worrying about grass cutting, snow shovelling, repairs etc., since my work days are long and my evenings and weekends filled with other activities," Ms Keachie said.

Thornhill resident Walter Cobham moved into a condominium in a development called Thornhill City Centre last May and stressed the lack of maintenance involved in owning a condominium was a selling feature for him.

Mr. Cobham, who works in Thornhill, made the move from his Brampton home to be closer to work and said while the gym is a nice touch, amenities didn't make or break his decision to buy.

A first-time homeowner, Mr. Cobham cited affordability as one of the main reasons he chose a condominium.

According to the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association, from 2000 to 2003, highrise condos averaged 26 to 28 per cent of all new home sales in the GTA.

The highrise apartment market share shot up to 33 per cent in 2004 and skyrocketed to 42 per cent in 2005.

GTA highrise sales were up 31 per cent in 2005 while low-rise housing was down 9 per cent compared with 2004.

Overall, the new home market rose by 4 per cent in 2005.



HELP BUILD THE NEW MARKHAM YMCA!  
Donate, Volunteer, Participate!

Markham Family YMCA  
Queen's 400 Business Centre, 3rd Floor, 178 Main Street, Unionville,  
Ontario, L3R 2G9 Tel: (905) 948-8711  
www.ymcaontario.org/markham

**Bereaved Families of Ontario**  
York Region  
An Association of families who have experienced the death of a loved one.  
**(905) 898-6265**  
bfoyr@bellnet.ca  
www.bfoyr.com  
This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist & Sun

**Cellulite Reduction**  
**Fat Deposit Elimination**  
**Face Tightening**  
**Technology that works!**  
*No surgery No downtime No pain*

Now in Markham - Stouffville

Call today for your complimentary consultation.  
The results are immediate and noticeable.

**MediSpa Clinic on Main**  
6038 Main Street Stouffville 905.640.0092

**Li' Explorers**

Now Open!

Daily play

Loot bags

Balloons

Private parties

Clubhouse & Indoor Gym

We have play & exercise equipment to entertain children 1-9 years old.

Join us for open play weekends in February (Feb. 18, 19, 25 & 26).  
**Steve's Magic Show**  
Feb. 25th  
12:00pm - 12:40pm

Come & have fun with us during March break

190 Bullock Dr. Unit 10  
Markham, ON L3P 7N3  
905-910-PLAY (7529)

Present this ad on Feb. 18, 19, 25 or 26 and receive a balloon with paid admission.

A REASON TO HOPE. THE MEANS TO COPE.  
THE SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY OF ONTARIO  
SOCIÉTÉ ONTARIENNE DE LA SCHIZOPHÉNIE  
UNE SOURCE D'ESPOIR, DE SOUTIEN ET D'ENTRAIDE

**FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Second Tuesday of each month. 7:00PM Angus Glen Community Centre, 3990 Major Mackenzie Drive East.  
For more information please call 905-884-6930 or visit [www.schizophrenia.on.ca](http://www.schizophrenia.on.ca).

This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Sun-Tribune