



Condos have become a way of life

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TREB PRESIDENT'S COLUMN AS IT APPEARS IN THE TORONTO SUN

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Toronto is a place that has long been known as a city of neighbourhoods, one in which the character of a community can dramatically change from one intersection to the next.

From a housing perspective, our neighbourhoods have been defined by the detached, semi-detached and low-rise structures that have stood for generations.

The condominium apartment boom of the past decade however, may well re-define our idea of what comprises a neighbourhood.

Affordability and certainly lifestyle are two driving factors in making condominiums so appealing.

And for today's condo dwellers a simple gym, pool or party room is no longer the standard. Buyers now view amenities as an adjunct to their private living space. As such, you can find yoga studios, in-door basketball courts, spas, bars and even dog washing stations included in today's condominium developments.

Given that residents share similar tastes with respect to amenities, condominiums have in fact, begun to develop their own community identity. You can even find groups dedicated to specific condo communities on social

networking sites like Facebook. Anything from a new workout buddy to nearby a dog-walker is just a click away.

In the next decade we're sure to see condominium communities further evolve. With new immigrants entering the GTA each year we will continue to be faced with a choice to build up or out beyond the GTA's furthest reaches. Given the reduced environmental footprint they create, those who choose condo living are setting us all on a greener path.

Bill Johnston is President of the Toronto Real Estate Board, a professional association that represents 30,000 REALTORS® in the Greater Toronto Area.

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