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Brentwood on the rise

Neighbourhood seeing most development activity in Burnaby: mayor

By Wanda Chow
 NEWSLEADER

Nat Bosa always saw the potential of the Brentwood neighbourhood, even back when he started out as a developer 40 years ago.

In fact, in 1978 Bosa built Brentwood's first highrises at Delta Avenue and Lougheed Highway.

"It had the ability but it took time and it's really started accelerating in the last five years," he said in an interview at a realtors' event Thursday promoting Bosa Development's Affinity residential project. "SkyTrain is a big part of it and now everything follows. It's going to be expanding



MARIO BARTEL/NEWSLEADER

New high-rise condo towers loom over older single family homes in Burnaby's growing Brentwood neighbourhood.

"The option to use SkyTrain is very real. It is right there where you live."

Mayor Derek Corrigan

rapidly over the next several years."

Indeed, it already has.

In a speech to the crowd, Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan said the Brentwood Town Centre plan adopted in 1996 was designed to accommodate a significant amount of the city's population growth with increased residential density and commercial development around its three SkyTrain stations—Brentwood, Gilmore and Holdom.

To make it happen, city hall had to maximize the residential redevelopment potential of the town centre.

"In addition to intensifying existing residential areas, existing industrial areas had to be phased out as incompatible with the kind of increased residential development and commercial development that was occurring," Corrigan said.

Much of that industrial development was accommodated mainly in the Big Bend area which has itself undergone extensive redevelopment.

City hall has emphasized mixed-use, high density residential projects within a five-minute walk from area SkyTrain stations which is expected to reduce dependency on vehicles.

"The option to use SkyTrain is very real," Corrigan said. "It is right there where you live."

When the buildout of the town centre plan is completed, Brentwood will be home to 32,000 people in over 15,200 housing units. That will make it the most highly populated town centre in Burnaby, surpassing even Metrotown.

In addition, Brentwood will add another 3.3 million square feet of commercial space, to bring the total in the area, including office space, to 4.5 million square feet.



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