

NS: King's Wharf will transform waterfront, says Fares

By Yvette d'Entremont, Transcontinental Media

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[DARTMOUTH, NS] — The upscale King's Wharf project on the Dartmouth Waterfront is well underway, with the first residential building slated for completion by February or March.

“It's a whole concept, a large-scale development that will make a bang,” said developer Francis Fares. “It's a community we're building. It's exciting because it's not only residential, it has many components.”

The components include 300,000 square feet of commercial and office space and a 200-room hotel. The site comprises about 30 acres and includes boardwalks, water frontage and southern exposure on Halifax Harbour.



The upscale King's Wharf project on the Dartmouth Waterfront is well underway, with the first residential building slated for completion by February or March. — Darrell Oake photo

Last week, Fares said the condo building is already about 60 per cent sold.

“You can enjoy fine dining, it's close to the hospital, close to the downtown core, near shops and boutiques,” said Fares, who described King's Wharf as a self-sustaining community. “It's a new idea in HRM and very exciting.”

The King's Wharf website describes the concept as a "thoughtful mix of boutiques, Euro-style grocers and everyday services." The mixed-use waterfront community was designed to bring people together, and will include pedestrian-friendly streets, boardwalks and parks.

"It will provide a place for people to live, work and play on the waterfront," Fares said. "It will reshape Halifax Harbour."

Construction is already underway on the first of two residential buildings slated for the community.

"We're at the podium level, the lower parking level. We expect to be in the upper parking level in the next two to three weeks," Fares said. "Then we're moving up on both buildings."

The first 14-storey residential building should be up by February, weather permitting. The second will likely be completed by the summer of 2011.

"I hope this is raising the bar and challenging other developers to do better," Fares said. "If this is possible in HRM, perhaps other projects will come along and make this harbour more exciting and more vibrant."