
Old New Homes

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By Bob Meyers, Star Business Reporter

TURN-OF-CENTURY ARCHITECTURE MEETS NEW MILLENNIUM

The Victorian ambience of Olde Walkerville is no longer the pride and joy of a privileged few.

Turn-of-the-Century architecture has become the talk of the town since two villages of Victorian, Georgian and Colonial style homes opened in LaSalle and East Riverside.

Local developer Peter Valente, Joe Rauti General Contractors and Neo-Traditional Development have created communities that recapture the small-town setting of late 19th Century Windsor.

That means people like Sandy and Kathy Kosak can afford to live in an expensive Olde Towne Walkerville home — even if it's not in Olde Walkerville.

The Kosak's bought their first home five years ago on Chilver Road in Olde Walkerville and loved it. But they couldn't afford to move into a higher bracket in that neighbourhood.

"We looked for a bigger home in Olde Walkerville. But they are just too expensive," they both said.

Coincidentally, Valente was just opening his first model homes in Victorian Gardens, LaSalle. It's an \$18-million community of Colonial and Victorian homes nestled in a quiet neighbourhood of shrubs, trees and acres of grass edging onto grand boulevard entrances.

But like the Kosaks, a lot of people said they would be more interested "if this vintage architecture was somewhere in Windsor's east end," where they are accustomed to living.

Their demand was met June 3, when Victorian Crossings, a \$100-million community of 19th Century vintage was officially opened in the East Riverside Park-Blue Heron Lake escarpment.

Last week, the Kosaks became one of the first of 10 buyers to move into their new, four-bedroom, 2,300 square foot Virginian Colonial. Valente, President of Valente Development, said Victorian Crossing demand was determined by customers visiting the LaSalle site and requesting an east-side location.

Ten homes have already been sold and are under construction by Joe Rauti General Contractors.

"This community of 19th-Century architecture is a private world with miles of biking and walking trails adjoining acres of parkland, trees, hills and hiking trails", Rauti says.

"Blue Heron Lake, streetscapes with period lighting, and other historical details."

Rauti, who also built all of the homes in Victorian Gardens, said they're designed to mirror the "grand old" houses of our City, like those found in Olde Walkerville and along Victoria Avenue.

The Victorian Series range from \$211,900 to \$317,900 and the Colonial Series from \$213,900 to \$411,000. Both series are either two storey or two storey with loft option. All homes come with a detached two car garage in either style.

Victorian designs feature turrets and peaks, large front porches, period accents and a detached two-car garage. The Colonial designs feature dormers, shutters, Colonial moldings and a double garage complementing the style. All homes have nine-foot ceilings and central air.

Accommodate 500 units

Located at Little River Road and Cora Greenwood, Victorian Crossings is two phases totaling 73 acres and is expected to accommodate 500 units.

Phase I, abutting the 20-acre Blue Heron Lake, has 93 lots, of which 52 have already been serviced.

Also within view and walking distance is East Riverside Park Hill, a City of Windsor premier park area featuring miles of walking/biking trails, a lookout point at the top of the hill, winter tobogganing and replant crops of fruit and fruit trees.

An Associate Broker with Remo Valente Real Estate (1990) Limited owned by Remo Valente, the young Valente is in charge of all sales in Victorian Crossings. Model homes are furnished by Jones Fine Furniture (Essex) and decorated by Meghan McCurdy, interior designer of Guest Room designs.

McCurdy is also on-site interior designer to assist buyers, at no-charge, in both interior and exterior selections.

Victorian Crossings has been more attractive because of its proximity to the E.C.Row Expressway, the Ganatchio Trail, Lake St. Clair, a marina and golf course, and retail and commercial shopping.