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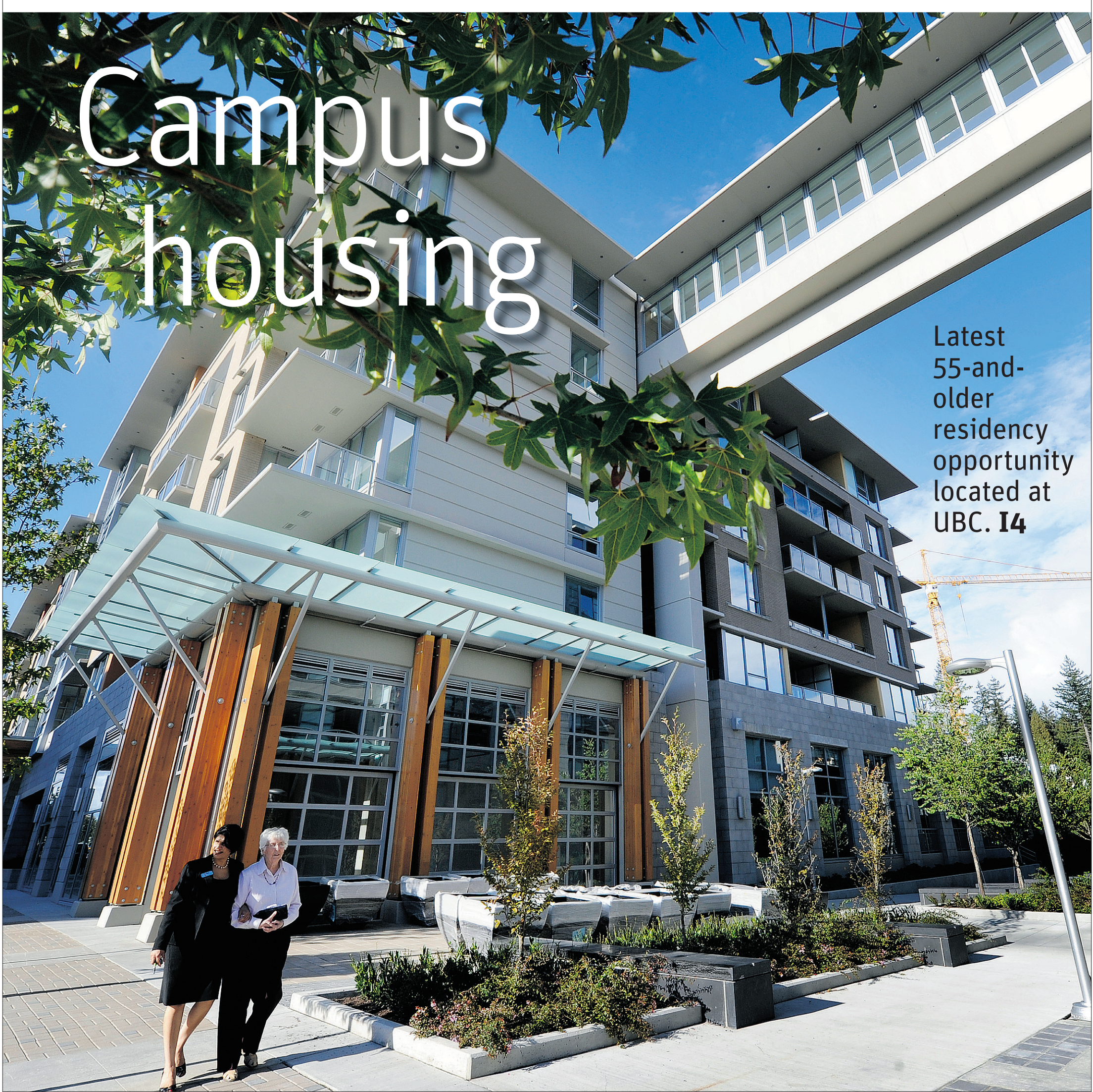




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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 2010 | EDITOR MICHAEL SASGES 604.605.2467 | HOMES@VANCOUVERSUN.COM



Latest
55-and-
older
residency
opportunity
located at
UBC. I4

MARK VAN MANEN/PNG

LIVING GREEN I9 Praise for local work A Vancouver attached-home project topped an Internet competition organized by a Calgary academic to elevate the contribution of design to the livable home.	SOLD (BOUGHT) I2 Townhouse drama The second-time-around staging of a Burnaby Mountain townhouse resulted in a sale.	REAL ESTATE MATTERS I13 Three components of orderly change Bob Ransford says that without leadership founded on certainty founded on long-range planning, neighbourhood division over densification is inevitable.
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NEW-HOME PROJECT PROFILE

Back to school, with Concert’s Tapestry

University of B.C. campus is the location of the latest 55-and-older residency opportunity

Tapestry at Wesbrook Village UBC

Project location: 3338 Wesbrook Mall
Project size: Two 7-storey towers; 46 condos and 134 — 154 rental units (some suites can be combined together to make larger units)
Condo size: 1-bed + den, 854 — 905 sq. ft; 2-bed, 1,084 — 1,268 sq. ft; 2-bed + den, 1,379 — 1,403 sq. ft.
Developer: Concert Properties
Architect: DYS Architecture and Nigel Baldwin
Interior Design: Hopping Kovach Grinnell
Prices: 1-bed + den from \$585,000; 2-bed from \$755,000; 2-bed + den from \$1,135 million
Sales Centre: 3338 Wesbrook Mall
Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., daily
Telephone: 604-221-0997
Web: discovertapestry.com
Occupancy: Immediate

BY CLAUDIA KWAN

Many movies about the university experience position frat houses as the centre of campus life. But developer Concert Properties believes that at the University of B.C., there will be a very different kind of hub for social activity: its Tapestry project in the Wesbrook Village neighbourhood.

Unlike the campus housing often depicted by Hollywood, Tapestry at Wesbrook Village is a residence designed for the older set — people 55 and up.

A tour of the building begins in one of two UBC classrooms, where residents can take classes from the university curriculum or participate in a less formal study of subjects that intrigue them.

“I had one lady who told me she wanted to learn to play the cello — something she had always wanted to do before, but had never made time for,” says Tapestry general manager John Fleming. “They’re very attracted by the proximity to the university and academia.”

Fleming says many people expressing interest in the development are former UBC students or professors who don’t want to give up on the high of being behind a lectern and may want to conduct an informal talk for residents. Their shared life-long learning is expected to make the community a little richer — as will the collective experiences of all residents.

Fleming envisions MBA students and first-year students — and even young children from neighbouring residential buildings — coming in and out of Tapestry to mingle with residents. In turn, those residents will be able to explore university resources such as the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, or perhaps volunteer at the Museum of Anthropology.

“The residents are a very diverse group ethnically, economically — they all have different backgrounds,” he says. “But what they all have in common is joie de vivre. They know the difference between living and being alive, between being engaged and just being entertained.”

The building’s amenities encompass both the fun and the functional.



PHOTOS BY MARK VAN MANEN/PNG



Loving the golden years here in the living room of the display suite, residents enjoy a campus lifestyle amid their senior peers by taking up residence at the new Tapestry development, which is just off of UBC’s Wesbrook. It’s a far more upbeat, energetic atmosphere than the traditional ‘old folks home.’



There’s a so-called “brain fitness” centre, where people can log on to computers, as well as a gym with the latest in up-to-date equipment.

A beauty salon will offer treatments for everyone in the area, but a rooftop deck with barbecue and garden space will be for residents only. Residents can also keep up with hobbies in a tool shop, or bring family members

into a billiards room or a virtual golf range.

“In other ‘old folks’ homes, visits by family members often revolve around doing laundry, bringing over groceries, or just standing around a bed in a small room,” says Adena Waffle, manager of seniors housing for Concert Properties. “This is about actually spending time together

and having fun. The grandchildren will probably really look forward to visiting.”

It’s the thought of the demonstration kitchen and the two on-site restaurants — a pub and a casual fine dining establishment — that has been particularly enticing for Ted and Shirley Scratchley. They intend to move into their two-bedroom

after they complete the sale of their home of 47 years in the Fraserview neighbourhood.

“We’re in our 70s and we thought it would be easier to move now, when we’re still in good health, than to have to do it in a time of crisis,” explains Shirley.

CONTINUES ON I15



Chefs Audy Oreiro and Vargie Estacion are in one of two Tapestry at Wesbrook Village dining rooms, where residents use meal cards in the same way post-secondary students do. There’s also the option to prepare meals at home. (At right) Dean Johnson serves resident Hellen Stephen at the bar of the Tapestry at Wesbrook Village pub — one of two Tapestry at Wesbrook Village dining rooms.

NEW-HOME PROJECT PROFILE | FROM I4

Seniors enjoy the student life with plenty of built-in supports

“If we waited, our children would have to find us a place, and probably sell the house for us. Plus, I didn’t like having my husband going up on the roof, cleaning out the gutters and taking care of a big lawn.

Their search included a number of different seniors’ residences, including Tapestry at Wesbrook Village’s sister establishment, the O’Keefe, at Yew and West 12th Avenue. When they walked into the show suite at Tapestry, however, it just felt right.

They also like the level of independence residents will have.

“Some other places, they’re too regimented,” says Ted. “There’s certain activities, only two seatings for dinner, and you’re assigned a table to sit at. There’s a ‘grey’ atmosphere there that will make me get old before my time. This community is very youthful and vibrant.”

At Tapestry at Wesbrook Village, the two restaurants operate on a meal plan that’s not unlike the program used by university students for dorm meal services. A credit is purchased each month, and meals are debited from the balance on a day-to day basis.

The Scratchleys also like the option of preparing meals in their own suite. Ted lights up a little when he talks about the massive demonstration kitchen, which can be used for community events, cooking classes, and booked for private functions.

“We do a lot of cooking, and probably split it 50-50,” he says. “I’m going to have to learn a few new tricks to keep Shirley happy!” The couple is also looking forward to having their granddaughter Nadiya stay over in the spare bedroom on occasion.

A sensitivity to design is evident throughout the building. There are handles on interior doors, rather than difficult-to grasp doorknobs, as well as generously sized pulls on kitchen and bathroom cabinetry. Kitchen appliances have been positioned to maximize access.

Shower seats and other modifications are available as upgrades. Residents will use key cards — rather than keys — to access their suites. These can be easily deactivated and replaced if lost, and track who is entering and exiting the apartments.

A GPS locator is built into pendants that residents wear in case they become disoriented. If they are in their suites and need assistance,



PHOTOS BY MARK VAN MANEN/PNG

they can press a button for help and a phone connection is automatically opened.

While Tapestry is intended for people 55 and over, Fleming says it’s expected there will be an age spectrum of 70 to 90 among residents.

Residents who find they need a higher level of care will not have to move to another unit in order to receive those services.

“When residents in other places need more specific medical care, they’re moved to a specific wing and that can feel incredibly isolated,” he says. “Here, we’ll deliver care in individual units privately, with dignity and respect. You’ll never know who

needs more help and who doesn’t.”

Meal plans and medical assistance will be in addition to maintenance fees for condo-owners, while renters will pay from \$3,700 to \$7,475 a month, with additional charges being tacked on for specific services.

“If you own a single-family home and sell it off, you can afford to live here,” says Fleming. “We provide independence and an opportunity for people to have fun and enjoy life in a meaningful manner. If they’re active and engaged, we think people live longer and fuller lives.”

twitter.com/thataclaudiakwan
Special to The Sun



The 55 and older set enjoy the benefits of university living with as much independence as they crave, but with all of the supports they may need down the road; from meals to health care built into the 134 rental apartments and 46 condominium homes (with street level retail) in the Tapestry development.

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