

18 5-year fixed mortgage rates
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Rates may vary by province; check RateSupermarket.ca for the best rates in your area.

BMO	CIBC	HSBC	ICICI	ING	RBC	Scotia	TD	Broker
5.99%	5.99%	5.99%	6.10%	4.49%	5.99%	5.99%	5.99%	4.29%

RateSupermarket.ca
Canada's rate comparison website

Metro Homes

Down by the beach

Beach This Way Giclee Print, an ocean blue horizon by Samantha Carlisle, makes it feel like the beach is right in your living room. The acrylic glaze finish is made to mimic the texture of the original. Ballard Designs, \$199, ballarddesigns.com. JENNIFER BILL/FOR METRO CANADA

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5-year variable mortgage rates PROVIDED BY RATESUPERMARKET.CA

BMO	CIBC	HSBC	ICICI	ING	RBC	Scotia	TD	Broker
2.35%	2.35%	2.50%	3.50%	2.00%	2.35%	2.35%	2.35%	1.70%

Back to nature at The Carlyle

Suite Talk
LINA TOYODA
for Metro Canada

The envisioned community of Victoria Hill in New Westminster is well under way by Onni Group developers, the picture taking shape on acres of natural green space, where landscaped parks, heritage architecture and mature trees stand grounded as they have over the last century.

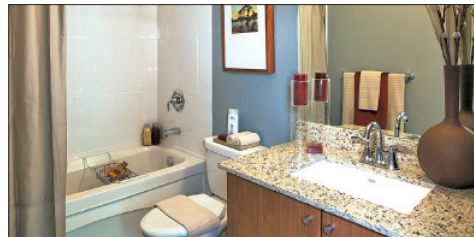
Alongside the historical and natural beauty rises a 27-storey, art-deco style concrete tower The Carlyle, the latest addition to the growing neighbourhood.

"It's a master-plan community that's comprised of a 65-acre site in total. There's about 25 acres that are being developed and the remainder is improved parkland that gets dedicated back to the community. So there's a lot of open space," says Onni Group's VP of Development Beau Jarvis.

"There is a lot of heritage restoration that was done



Here are some interior shots of Onni Group's condominium: The Carlyle.



onsite because it was a former Woodlands asylum," he says.

Townhomes and low-rise residences by the developer are also on site, linked by meandering greenways, trails through the trees and pedestrian overpasses connecting to parks and other parts of New West through-out and outside the community.

"This tower sits amongst

all of this other stuff going on. It's a beautiful site. Gently sloping with incredible views over the Fraser River," Jarvis said.

The Carlyle is located next to the pedestrian overpass connecting directly to Queen's Park, and has eye-catching architectural elements staying in line with art-deco guidelines says Jarvis, from the sloping roof with a spire

through the middle to the partially exposed parkade with a metal-clad fencing that wraps around the drive.

The one-and two-bedroom suites come in two colour schemes of Dusk or Dawn, with premium single plank laminate flooring in Italian Chestnut or African Walnut with Barber-style carpeting in the bedrooms.

"When you walk in, it's fairly an open concept in terms of your living space but the bedrooms are traditional in the sense that they're closed off for privacy. There are 8-foot-8 ceilings with floor to ceiling glass windows so there's a lot of natural light," Jarvis said.

Kitchens feature solid granite slab countertops, chocolate hazelnut or cher-

The lowdown

- The Carlyle in Victoria Hill
- 27-storey high-rise
- 280 Ross Dr., New Westminster
- Stunning views and open green space
- Presentation centre open 12-6 p.m. except Friday, 604-523-0733
- Master-plan community by Onni Group
- Completed
- 1-bed, 2-bedroom and penthouse suites
- \$267,900 to \$635,900
- Parking included with all homes
- onni.com

ry coloured natural grained cabinetry and a stainless steel appliance package with a breakfast bar overhang in select suites.

Prices range from \$267,900 to \$635,900 and parking is included with all homes. An exclusive penthouse collection is also available with stunning views and upgraded features.

Amenities include a fully equipped fitness studio, games room and lounge, and two completely furnished guest suites available to homeowners.

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How to get your home into summer shape

SURVEY With warm weather and air conditioner season fast approaching, Direct Energy has tips to help Canadians get their homes "fit" and ready for summer.

In a survey recently conducted by Angus Reid Public Opinion on behalf of Direct Energy, one third (33 per cent) of Canadians described the fitness/efficiency level of their home as Average, while another 42 per cent describe it as Trim — meaning their home is moderately energy efficient.

Most Canadians say that while home fitness is important to them, they would instead opt to spend money on surface improvements. When asked how they would spend \$5,000 on their home, the majority (68 per cent) would

rather spend the money to update a room (kitchen, bathroom) than on upgrading a core element of their home.

When it comes to their own personal fitness, Canadians (88 per cent) would overwhelmingly choose to invest in a personal trainer and nutritionist, rather than a quick aesthetic plastic surgery or liposuction fix. While Canadians see the importance of looking after their general physical fitness over the speedier surgical beauty fix, they do not necessarily take the same approach regarding their homes.

"Maintaining a fit home makes good financial sense," said Dave Walton, Director of Home Ideas at Direct Energy. "Often we don't think about the cooling or heating elements of

Direct Energy tips

- Schedule an annual maintenance for the air conditioner to ensure it's fit for the summer ahead.
- Check the SEER (Seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating — a 13 SEER rating can deliver as much as 28 per cent more efficiency than that of a 10 SEER air conditioner.
- Make a checklist, much like the one a doctor prepares for an annual physical, to track the age and efficiency of each appliance and when they had their last maintenance.
- If you have updated a room in your home recently, consider having the ducts cleaned.

our home until it's too late, and they need repair or replacement. It is important for home owners to keep the inner workings of their home top-of-mind." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**