

by Ken Donohue

For more than 700 years glassmakers in Murano, Italy, have been practicing their craft. Centuries of skill and innovation have produced glassware prized around the world for its colour, intricate design, and quality.

It is that timeless dedication to craftsmanship and perfection that has inspired the Murano Kelowna. This unique 68 suite "green" condominium project in the heart of the city, offers buyers one to two bedroom and den homes at affordable prices.

Like those Italian glassmakers, innovation marks this one of a kind development by a team with more than four decades of building and designing quality homes. The Murano embraces green living by using geothermal technologies. *Think globally, act locally.* At the Murano Kelowna it's more than just a slogan. They want to help you lessen the footprint on the environment, and have teamed up with GeoTility Corp. to bring you the latest in geothermal heating and cooling. Geothermal technology is all about taking advantage of the heat that is naturally created below the earth's surface. During the winter, a geothermal system collects this energy from the earth and transfers it to your home through a heat pump. In summer, the process is reversed providing a cool and comfortable environment. (See www.geotility.ca/why_geothermal.html to learn more about geothermal technology.)

For you, a geothermal home means an environmentally friendly home and substantially lower heating and cooling costs. Geo utility has a life span equal to the approximate life of the building and while installation of geothermal technology is paid for by the developer, strata owners own the utility. The Geothermal system will provide heating, cooling and domestic hot water which is all included in the low monthly strata fee. This translates into large savings for the individual home owner.

"We are excited that the Murano is a Geothermal building where the homeowner enjoys the comfort and economy of ground source energy", says Harvey Benson of Rosland Contracting. Benson adds that the cost of the Geothermal systems is included in the building costs and will not affect the monthly strata fees.

The building, designed by New Town Planning and Architectural Services, also features low E double-glazed windows for efficiency and comfort. And for those homes facing Harvey Avenue, triple-glazed windows are thoughtfully being installed for added comfort. Each home includes secure underground heated parking and personal storage lockers.



The interior of Murano boasts nine foot ceilings throughout, with vaulted ceilings in some select fourth-floor suites, providing spacious and elegant surroundings. All homes feature an open great room design, and stylish kitchens, complete with six designer, name-brand appliances. Perfect for entertaining, or just enjoying a quiet evening at home.

Crystallo Interiors, which has been designing homes for 13 years in Hong Kong, Vancouver, Calgary, and now Kelowna, has created three professionally designed interior packages for homeowners to choose from. Warm, vibrant, and stylish elements combine to create a functional living space that your family and friends will envy.

The Murano is all about convenience. Centrally located in the heart of Kelowna, your home will be within walking distance of restaurants, grocery stores, shopping centres, parks and entertainment. Close to everything, yet nestled in an established residential neighborhood.

"The Murano will appeal to young couples searching for their first home, those looking for a holiday home, or empty nesters," says Benson. "We have designed attractive, affordable homes without sacrificing quality. It is designed for those ready to Live Life Now!"

Visitors are invited to the Murano Discovery Centre located at 850 Saucier Avenue. Discovery Centre hours are Wednesday through Saturday 1 PM to 5 PM, or by appointment. Sales enquiries can also be made by calling 250.859.5642 or check out the website at www.muranokelowna.com.

Come see your new home today!