

**Work begins on Osoyoos highrise**  
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**Byline Tracy Clark**  
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The Indigo development in Osoyoos is setting many firsts but also marks a significant last for the South Okanagan town.

The \$110 million resort condominium, the most expensive in Osoyoos' history, is being developed on the last piece of available waterfront in Osoyoos.

For the developers that is a major benefit. Craig Anderson, marketing director for Indigo said waterfront property is at premium in Osoyoos and people are willing to pay top dollar for a piece of it. And they already are, starting with the developers of Indigo. The 3.8-acre lot, which formerly contained a single-family home was purchased by the developers two years ago for \$3 million — 10 times the \$297,000 the property sold for in 1986.

The seven-storey development, which will be the tallest building in Osoyoos, also recorded the highest ever one-day sales for the South Okanagan last October selling 130 units for \$70 million. Prices for the Indigo's 171 units, which range from 680 to 2,000 square feet, are selling for between \$404,000 and \$1.8 million. While the majority of buyers are baby boomers from the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley, Anderson said about 40 per cent are buyers from Alberta and the Okanagan Valley — including former B.C. Lions quarterback Dave Dickinson. With just over 40 units left, Anderson expects they will be completely sold out by next summer — a year before the property is slated to open its doors.

Along with its location, Anderson said the amenities and sustainable construction of the project are also a big attraction for buyer. Indigo will be built entirely from concrete — another first for Osoyoos — and will use geothermal energy for heating and cooling. While there is a larger initial investment with these options, Anderson said the building materials will ensure longevity of the structure and the use of geothermal energy will reduce utility bills for individual residents and help keep strata fees down. Other amenities will include an outdoor pool and hot tubs, boat concierge service and fitness training facility designed by former NHL star Ray Ferraro.

Osoyoos Mayor John Slater, who helped break ground for the development this week by knocking down the 70-year-old home on the property, said the town, recognizing the significance of the project, held developers of Indigo to a high standard. The developers came back with a project that Slater said stands apart from the rest.

"It's bringing Osoyoos to a whole different level of development," he said.

Although some Osoyoos residents have expressed concern about the approval of yet another development in the community and the precedent-setting height, Slater said the project does provide some direct benefits to the town.

Developers were required to donate a piece of property that will act as a new public park and contributed to a community fund that will help to pay for public amenities and low cost housing for service industry workers and young families. Furthermore, Slater said tax base from large high-end developments like Indigo help to pay for upgrades to public infrastructure.

"Indigo sets a new standard for responsible resort development and unparalleled luxury that both buyers and neighbours will benefit from," added Greg Rohland, president of Kings Group of Companies, the main developers in the project.

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