

MasterBUILT to develop two hotels

David Parker

Around Town

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On a choice piece of land nestled right in-between the dominant, soon-to-be-opened South Health Campus and an 800,000-square-foot retail shopping centre anchored by a Superstore and Save-On Foods, Superior MasterBUILT Hospitality is going to build two hotels.

Developed by MasterBUILT Hotels, a joint venture between Marc Staniloff of Superior Lodging and Jay Westman of Jayman MasterBUILT, the \$47-million project will provide a total of 224 rooms in the Seton district that is heralded to become this city's "south downtown" with a mix of high density residential, commercial office and retail as well as institutional development.

Seton is a unique, masterplanned, multi-faceted development by Brookfield Residential Properties on 148 hectares, an ambitious district that will eventually hold 2.5 million square feet of office-retail, a public library, schools, recreation centre and 1,300 residences.

Add the hospital, which is roughly the size of Chinook Centre and will employ 2,400 full-time equivalents, and it's going to be a busy community .

Designed by Norr Architects Planners, the hotels are separate buildings but will sit side by side and be connected by a common pool area with waterslide. They are set at right angles around a shared surface parking area and both have underground parking.

The seven-storey Courtyard by Marriott will feature 121 guest rooms specifically targeted for business travellers. A mid-rate, select-service product with a strong portfolio of downtown and business park locations throughout North America, the Seton Courtyard offer retail spaces for a spa and coffee shop as well as amenities .

The Residence Inn by Marriott brand is the company's extended-stay product and the MasterBUILT Hotel's six-storey property, will have 103 guest suites in the first true extended-stay property in South Calgary. All rooms are equipped with full cooking facilities.

Chandos Construction will be ready to start construction between Front Street and Market Street this fall to be able to schedule the opening of the hotels by mid-2014.

I've always commented that the very best Chinese food is at the Consulate of the People's Republic of China. I was able to sample foods by a newcomer to Calgary: chef Wang Xu, who until recently was responsible for the kitchens at

the Beijing International Hotel. The occasion was a reception held by Consul General Liu Yongfeng that she organized to help us celebrate the Centennial of the Calgary Stampede. It was a first for the Consular Corps and drew an impressive number of guests, including Premier Alison Redford, Mayor Naheed Nenshi, several MLA's, and leaders of our Chinese community.

Congratulations to Heather Douglas in being recognized by Worldwide Who's Who for showing dedication, innovative thinking, leadership and excellence in communications. A former journalist with Daily Oil Bulletin, she joined the public affairs department of Mobil in 1988, was appointed vice-president public and government affairs with Atomic Energy of Canada and was the first executive director of SEPAC. But she is perhaps best known here as the president and CEO of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce. In 2010 Douglas joined Athabasca Oil Sands as vice-president of communications and external affairs and serves as the representative on the In Situ Oil Sands Alliance's management committee.

I've heard so much about Canadian Beef Bacon from Bill Lister, director of the Calgary-based company that he says offers, "the inherent advantages of beef with the desirable characteristics of bacon." I must try it in one of his BBLT's. But I'm not sure about the popular Manwich - loaded with bacon, eggs, chipotle and brisket-infused chili.

They are available at his chuckwagon trailer on the Stampede grounds. And next week Canadian Beef Bacon will be on sale at both Costco and Co-op .

DAVID PARKER APPEARS TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. READ HIS COLUMNS ONLINE AT CALGARYHERALD.COM/BUSINESS. HE CAN BE REACHED AT 403-830-4622 OR E-MAIL INFO@DAVIDPARKER.CA

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