

## Calgary's retail landscape expands; Property group leasing space at Bow tower

By David Parker, Calgary Herald - Apr 9, 2013



Paul McCloy, left, and Bernie Bayer of Taurus Property Group are leasing retail space in the Bow building tower.

**Photograph by: Edward Tsang, Calgary Herald**

Taurus Property Group is the largest retail landlord representative firm in Alberta with a current portfolio of 32 properties totalling more than 1.7 million square feet.

President Bernie Bayer, vice-president leasing Paul McCloy and director of leasing Bonnie Cooke cover a broad range of retail properties in major markets in this province and in Saskatchewan, including all aspects of retail leasing for Brookfield Properties, Dundee Realty and Triovest in Calgary.

They know their business well and process a lot of deals, but still get excited to share new leases, particularly those that are newcomers to this city.

Oska is not only new to Calgary, but the high-end internationally renowned Bohemian-style fashion store that will open on the Plus 15 level of Bankers Hall is the first of the German house's retail shops in Canada.

McCloy said another first for this city is Mastermind Toys. In business since 1984 and with more than 20 stores throughout Ontario, it has signed a lease with Taurus to take the 5,000 square feet vacated by Sony Store next to Urban Barn in Westhills Towne Centre - its first store outside of Ontario.

Taurus is responsible for all of the retail leasing in Westhills for Triovest and recently completed a contract that will see the Concorde Group open another National location later this summer in the former Blockbuster store there.

When the Bow building was in the initial design stages, Taurus was hired as a consultant to assist in the merchandising and planning of the retail spaces. In 2011, it was engaged by Matthews Southwest on behalf of H&R REIT to lease the 21,000 square feet of retail areas on the first two floors of the new tower.

Apart from a small 457-square-foot space, the leasing assignment has already been completed.

The main floor will be occupied by a 5,900-squarefoot CIBC branch, Fish-man's Cleaners, Sheffield Express convenience store and Starbucks Coffee Company.

On the second level, workers in the Bow will be happy to see a 3,500-square-foot area leased to MTY Group of Montreal that will divide it up into separate brands - all new to Calgary's downtown - O'Burger, Koya Japan, Villa Medina and Kimchi Korean.

Tim Hortons, Extreme Pita and Denim & Smith Barber Shop have also leased space but the big excitement will be the opening of Mercatino and Patisserie Du Soleil.

Mercatino is taking 3,700 square feet to open a new concept marche-style restaurant. Owner Amit Va-dan, whose family has been in the Calgary restaurant business for many years, has Tony Spoletini of Spolumbo's on his advisory board, so we know the quality of its sausages.

The Bow will be the third Calgary location for the hugely popular Patisserie du Soleil, selling its fresh baked daily savory French delights.

Bayer and his team are enjoying a very successful year to date that also includes locating a Marcello's on the east end of the Plus 15 level of Suncor Energy Centre and leasing the main and lower levels of the historic Bank of Montreal building on Stephen Avenue Mall to Goodlife Fitness.

A new contract is to handle the leasing of Crowfoot Crossing shopping centre and they are already researching who would be the best retail fit for Brookfield's new tower at 225 6th Avenue S.W. on the former Calgary Herald building site.

I'm sure that many like me stash small change in jars . TD Canada Trust has placed automatic coin counter machines in a number of branches that will save you the hassle of rolling them.

Friday is the date to register for this year's Ride for a Lifetime, a fundraiser to send children with cancer to summer camp and fund life-saving research. An event organized by the Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta, it will take place June 21-23 taking motorbikes from Calgary to Cranbrook and Nelson, back to Cranbrook and home to Calgary.

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