

The Donald coming to TO

By **LAUREN LA ROSE**
The Canadian Press

TORONTO — The Trump name may brand the building, but the first luxury hotel and residence in Canada sharing the moniker of the famed U.S. property mogul features its share of homegrown touches.

Guests arriving at the Trump International Hotel and Tower Toronto won't have to wait long or look far for their first taste of Canadiana.

The spacious entranceway to the portecochere features the colourful work of Canadian artist Stephen Andrews. The expansive mosaic is fashioned from 500,000 pieces of porcelain, glass, stone and gold tiles which, from afar, reveals an image of a multicultural crowd of cheering people.

The homegrown influence extends to the food and beverage offerings with room fridges stocked with beer from local breweries and potato chips from provincial producers. Director of marketing John Bullock said they're trying to obtain and provide as many locally grown treats as possible to guests.

Situated at Bay and Adelaide streets in the heart of Toronto's financial district,

the 57-storey building towers more than 274 metres (900 feet). It is touted as Canada's tallest residential building and second tallest structure overall.

And keeping in step with its emphasis on luxury hospitality, the latest addition to the Trump Hotel Collection features an abundance of opulent touches and consistent attention to detail.

Entering the soaring lobby space bathed in a colour palette of Champagne and caviar, two distinct entranceways mark the corridors leading to the residential and hotel suites. The walls are crafted from light-green onyx panels while flooring, of laser-cut granite inlays showcasing a pattern of interlocking squares, can be found throughout the hotel.

A three-dimensional cherry blossom branch crafted from crystals to be lit with LEDs adorns the wall behind the reception desk. The floral pattern is also visible elsewhere, from the etching above the elevator landing to the blossom design affixed above bed headboards.

Touch panel controls for window coverings and lighting, in-mirror TVs and proximity keys to access suites are among the more high-tech touches in the spacious guest rooms, which are also outfitted with soaker tubs, glass-enclosed rain-

fall showers and blanche-noir marble countertops with leather finishes.

Other elements consistent throughout the rooms are that no bed is ever visible from the doorway, and desks always face the window, said Bullock.

Guests will be able to hobnob in the lobby-level bar or dine at The Stock Restaurant and Lounge on the 31st floor, which will have a private dining room and an international sommelier.

An indoor heated salt-water infinity lap pool and the 1,672-square-metre (18,000-square-foot) two-level Quartz Crystal Spa are among the amenities.

Bullock said what will distinguish the hotel will be the high level of service offered to customers.

"We ask for a lot of information when you make your first reservation with us, so we can understand what temperature the room is to be set at, what the lighting level should be, what are your preferences for bottled water," he said. "Anything you'd need in the room, we'll have here for you."

The Trump International Hotel and Tower Toronto is offering a promotional special for the month of February with room rates starting from \$375 on weekdays and \$285 on weekends.

Madonna's new movie taking its critical lumps

TORONTO (CP) — Madonna's second foray into film direction will hit theatres just days before the Material Girl struts across the stage at the Super Bowl halftime show, and the critics would already appear to be running a blitz.

"W.E." has been dismissed as a "vanity project" by Entertainment Weekly, "borderline offensive" by the Los Angeles Times and "extraordinarily silly" and "fatally mis-handled" by the Guardian.

When the film screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, Madonna suggested that some of that criticism had more to do with the film's high-profile director than its content, and star Andrea Riseborough agrees.

Riseborough herself said she came to the film free of any pre-conceptions about Madonna or the film's controversial subject, Wallis Simpson.

"W.E.," opening in Toronto on Friday, hops back and forth through time to tell the story of Simpson — the divisive American whose romance with Edward VIII led to his abdication of the throne — while Australian actress Abbie Cornish portrays a despondent modern woman who is obsessed with her.

Madonna, whose previous directorial project was 2008's "Filth and Wisdom," involved herself in virtually every part of "W.E.," from music to the script (which she co-wrote) to the lush set designs and intricate clothes, which recently received an Academy Award nomination for best achievement in costume design.

Riseborough said she didn't feel intimidated by the 53-year-old pop star, if only "because there's so little time for intimidation."

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