



MODERN MAKEOVER

The Richardson Centre Concourse redevelopment project nears completion



The curtain is about to rise on the newly redesigned Richardson Centre Concourse after months of work behind the scenes to revitalize the underground plaza.

"Tenants are seeing the hoarding coming down and the new storefronts behind them are gradually being revealed. It's a very exciting time," says Shirley Mattreck, General Manager of Richardson Centre.

When the extensive renovation project was announced by Richardson Centre in March 2010, it was expected to take nearly a year to complete and so far, Mattreck says everything has gone according to plan.

"A lot has already been done and we're moving forward toward final completion of this project in May," she says.

In March, a brand new Tim Hortons opened. The prime location, next to the escalators, attracted over 1,400 eager tenants and visitors to order Double Doubles and maple-dipped donuts on the first day alone. "It was actually one of my smoothest openings," said owner Janet Shearer.

Several longtime tenants, including Young's Jewellers and Nathan Detroit's Sandwich Pad, were relocated into newly-refurbished retail spaces earlier this month, following AON Reed Stenhouse which moved into its new offices in December.

Along with the new storefronts and the installation of a new ceiling, wall coverings and flooring in the Concourse, spacious new public washrooms have also been completed. With this phase finished, Mattreck says that crews will be able to focus on building the new state-of-the-art Conference Centre.

"Construction has commenced on the Conference Centre and is on track for completion in May," says Mattreck. Once finished, tenants of Richardson Centre will be able to access the facility for their meetings and business functions, as it will have capacity for close to 200 guests.

An estimated 33,000 downtown workers are located within a five minute walk of the Richardson Centre Concourse, giving them direct access to the climate-controlled pedestrian underground and skywalk system. Conveniently situated in the centre of the city, the Concourse is just steps away from Winnipeg's major hotels, the Exchange District, The Forks, Shaw Park and the MTS Sports & Entertainment Centre. **jrn**