



The Daniels Corporation and BAIF Developments celebrates Indigenous culture with the unveiling of new Public Art Installation at The Thornhill in Vaughan

Impressive new sculpture, titled "Circle of Life", created under the Vaughan City-Wide Public Art Program creates pathway for pedestrians to rethink the use of public space.

Toronto, ON (September 16, 2024) – On September 12, [The Daniels Corporation](#) (Daniels), and BAIF Developments (BAIF) celebrated the official unveiling of a new public art installation titled, "Circle of Life" at The Thornhill, the newest master-planned community in the City of Vaughan, built by Daniels in partnership with BAIF.

The installation is a 16 feet wide and 35 feet long installation which includes two stainless steel cut panels—each 4.5 feet tall and 16 feet long—and seven boulders. The two stainless steel sections form a mirror-like brushed surface screen across the façade of The Thornhill's public sidewalk at the corner of Bathurst Street and Beverley Glen Boulevard.

Created by Edward Pien, a Toronto-based Canadian Artist and Jay Soule, an Indigenous Artist from the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (Deshkaan Ziibing Anishinaabeg), the sculpture represents a fast-flowing river replete with salmon swimming and jumping upstream and is purposefully accompanied by the seven river boulders, each inscribed with an image and a word in Anishinaabe and English representing one of the seven elements, acknowledging the seven ancestral teachings that aid in walking through the world in a positive way. Intentionally designed to create a pathway for pedestrians to become part of the flow of the sculpture and history of the place, the sculpture creates a remarkable aesthetic presence and acts as a teaching tool, reminding us to reflect on our past, honour the present and take care of the lands and waters for future generations.

"*Circle of Life*" highlights the importance of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of Indigenous artists and the cultural richness they bring to our communities," said Jake Cohen, Chief Operating Officer at The Daniels Corporation. "We firmly believe that art has the power to not only beautify spaces but also create meaningful impact by fostering a sense of place and community connection. We wanted residents of The Thornhill to love where they live, work and play, and enjoy all that this vibrant and sought-after community has to offer," added Cohen.

The stunning installation was commissioned by Daniels and BAIF under the umbrella of the Vaughan City-Wide Public Art Program and managed by ART PLUS PUBLIC Unlimited.

"Fostering arts and culture is a key priority for the City of Vaughan. We are dedicated to supporting Canadian artists and helping them thrive to contribute to our community's vibrancy and exceptional quality of life. The "*Circle of Life*" installation by Edward Pien and Jay Soule marks a milestone for Vaughan's City-wide Public Art Program as the first monumental sculptural work and piece of art outside of our downtown core, the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre. I want to thank The Daniels Corporation and BAIF Developments for commissioning this piece to be enjoyed by the community for years to come," said Mayor Steven Del Duca, City of Vaughan.

"This art installation is for everybody in the public to see, and to encourage them to appreciate our history, our heritage, and the wonderful, thriving community we have here in Thornhill. I'm looking forward to meeting lots of the new residents here at Daniels' and BAIF's The Thornhill. With the opening of this installation, this area will become a hub and destination for people to gather," said Ward 5 Councillor Gila Martow from the City of Vaughan, who was also present at the unveiling.

Other Members of Council from the City of Vaughan attending the official ceremony were Local and Regional Councillor Mario Ferri, Local and Regional Councillor Mario G. Racco and Ward 4 Councillor, Chris Ainsworth.

"This is one of my most important public art projects because it speaks of a step going closer towards reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. I'm really happy that Daniels and BAIF have started to work with Indigenous cultures and people who are local to the area when they're building new developments. This is a very meaningful collaboration (for me) because it gave me a chance to listen to Jay,

to talk about things that we take for granted, to learn about the First Nations Peoples and the tolerance and sense of good will they have to always be there for us," said Artist Edward Pien.

In praise of the Vaughan City-Wide Public Art Program, through which the collaboration between Daniels, BAIF, the City of Vaughan and the artists was made possible, Indigenous Artist, Jay Soule said, "The most positive thing is that the whole idea of bringing me on this was to mentor me in public art. For me, the opportunity to work with Ed through this (program) gave me the skills and the guidance of how to put together public art proposals. And with that guidance and mentorship, I won (the commission of) another public art piece in Toronto."

Indigenous delicacies such as Bannock bread was catered by Indigenous caterer, [Tea N Bannock](#), and served at the celebration. For more information about The Thornhill, please visit: <https://thethornhill.com/community/>

About The Daniels Corporation

The Daniels Corporation is one of Canada's pre-eminent builders/developers, building nearly 40,000 new homes across the Greater Toronto Area for over 40 years. Daniels is the developer of TIFF Bell Lightbox in Toronto's Entertainment District and the City of the Arts community on Toronto's East Bayfront. Among its many initiatives, Daniels partnered with Toronto Community Housing to revitalize 53 of the 69-acre Regent Park community in Toronto. Regent Park is home to the World Urban Pavilion, a collaboration between the Urban Economy Forum, UN-Habitat, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Daniels. Understanding that quality of life is created by much more than physical buildings, Daniels goes above and beyond to integrate building excellence with opportunities for social, cultural, and economic well-being.

About BAIF Developments

BAIF Developments is a fully integrated real estate development company founded by builders Sandy Hofstedter and Simon Minz in the early 1960s. Since its inception, BAIF has built, through its homebuilding arms, over 20,000 new homes and executed both urban communities—like the original assembly and development of the Yonge-Eglinton Centre, one of Toronto's first large-scale, mixed-use projects—and significant new suburban communities throughout the surrounding regions of the GTA. A prominent community builder of master

planned home developments in Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Newmarket, Oakville, Toronto, Whitby, Mississauga, Markham, and Brampton, BAIF continues to make a lasting impact on the landscape of the GTA.

The principals of BAIF are known as thoughtful, forward-thinking developers who work collaboratively with municipalities to create outstanding communities

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