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Richmond gets a new mall

RETAIL | The redeveloped Aberdeen Centre will house more than 250 stores from around the world

BY WYNG CHOW
VANCOUVER SUN

Richmond's new \$135-million Aberdeen Centre mall opened Friday to drumrolls and bursts from a Las Vegas-like musical water foundation.

Minutes later, hundreds of customers crammed into the centre's anchor retail outlet, the 26,900-square-foot Daiso store offering more than 40,000 items for sale at the uniform price of \$2.

Mall developer and owner Thomas Fung, CEO of the Vancouver-based Fairchild Group, said his new 380,000-square-foot facility — triple the size of the original one he had demolished — is designed to house more than 250 stores from around the world by the time it is fully opened next summer.

"This is not a conventional mall with the same tenants you'll find at the average North American shopping centre," Fung said.

"We searched the world for the best, most successful retailers in home, lifestyle, food and fashion, and brought them together under one roof.

"The majority of the retailers are making their North American debuts."

So far, the new mall is about 75 per cent leased, Fung said.

International retailers include Flash Living Design, Heroic Rendezvous, Moisselle, Imaroon, Moi and Ozone, while local businesses include HSBC Bank Canada, OSIM, Tropica Restaurant Group, Cell City, St. Germain Bakery and Fishermen's Terrace Seafood Restaurant.

The Daiso store is a joint venture between Fairchild and Japanese-based Daiso-Sangyo Co., owned by tycoon Hirotake Yano, who has more than 2,500 outlets in Asia and plans future expansion to other parts of Canada and the United States.



BILL KEAY/VANCOUVER SUN

The new \$135-million state-of-the-art, 380,000-square-foot Aberdeen Centre shopping mall in Richmond.

The new Aberdeen mall, at Hazelbridge and Cambie, also features an 800-seat international food court, Internet access, video streaming and an entertainment district.

A Science World exhibition and educational centre is scheduled to open early next year.

Designed by noted Vancouver architect Bing Thom, the new three-storey Aberdeen Centre features more than 2,300 panels of glass that wrap around the building.

"Aberdeen is highly accessible and visible," Thom said.

"The centre itself will emit a soft glow at night-time due to the coloured glass panels.

"We see it as an 'urban lantern' and possibly the biggest piece of public art in the Greater Vancouver area."

wchow@png.canwest.com



BILL KEAY/VANCOUVER SUN

Japanese tycoon Hirotake Yano, CEO of Daiso-Sangyo Co., has opened the first Daiso two-dollar store outside Asia in the Aberdeen Centre.

Renters of residences can expect to pay more in the new year

Telus labour talks blackout to continue until January