

Urban planner touts Downtown Eastside as the next Yaletown

November 23, 2005

The marketing campaign to promote the new Woodward's redevelopment has kicked off with a slick new website and a gorgeous full colour pamphlet, featuring sun-splashed storefronts and smiling faces. David Baxter from Urban Futures admits the area doesn't look like quite like that now but he's betting one day it will. Baxter even goes so far as to call the Downtown Eastside the next Yaletown.

He says the Woodward's Redevelopment could mark the beginning of a radical transformation. It may be hard to believe as you look at all the graffiti and garbage that litter the streets now but Baxter believes it's inevitable the area will get cleaned up and reclaimed by what he calls urban pioneers because there's already a shortage of residential space downtown.

He admits the changes won't do anything to solve the problems for people living here now and will simply push the poverty, street crime and drug market further east.