

JOEL GORALSKI

NIKLAS GROUP

Joel Goralski is the epitome of “practicing what you preach.” The president of Niklas Group has dedicated his career to developing inner-city homes that promote living close to work, healthy lifestyles, and family togetherness.

And he is an accomplished athlete, competing in marathons, triathlons, and biking competitions from Banff to the Cayman Islands, while helping other athletes fulfill their dreams.

Goralski started his athletic career when he was invited to run a ten-kilometre race in Banff four years ago. “I’d never been so sore in my life,” he jokes. But the fire was lit, and he found himself progressing to half-marathons, and then triathlons, competing in his first major race, the Turtle Tri, on Grand Cayman two years ago, placing in the top ten.

“For a guy approaching forty, that wasn’t bad, so I thought I’d keep this up,” Goralski says. He began long-distance cycling, entering events such as last year’s 169-kilometre Etape du Tour in the Pyrenees in France.

“When I started cycling, I realized I enjoyed the freedom—it allows me to clear my head and plan the days to come,” Goralski says.

From infill renovations to cutting-edge projects such as The Cerulean town homes in South Calgary on 27th Avenue SW and the fifty-six-suite Casel on 17th Avenue SW, Goralski’s Niklas Group is redefining inner-city living.

“Our philosophy is, Calgary has been overbuilt,” Goralski says. “More could have been done to contain the growth by building up the inner city and encouraging density.”

Inner-city living is stereotyped as being exclusively for double-income-no-kids couples, empty nesters, and rich singles. Goralski, who lives in one of his own creations with his wife and two children, only blocks from his sales office, says he wants to change this image and make inner-city living more appealing to families.

“Living in the inner city gives us a lot more time to spend as a family, gives me time to work and train more efficiently ... if I was in a car living in the deep south, that’s ninety minutes a day, and what’s going to fall off is probably my training and my health,” Goralski says. “You end up eating poorly, spending less time with your family ... it makes more sense to live closer to where you work.”

Casel is a “back-to-basics” approach to multi-family development, with seven storeys of residential over a hoped-for neighbourhood market that is still in the planning stages.

Construction of Casel is underway, while the low-maintenance, 1,194- to 1,893-square-foot Cerulean town homes are nearly sold out.

Meanwhile, Team Niklas—the new bike club formed by Goralski—is on the hunt for new athletic talent to compete on behalf of Niklas Group. “We have a solid group of competitive riders and just need to balance out the field,” says Goralski. For more information, contact Goralski at joel@niklasgroup.com.

For information on Casel, The Cerulean, and other Niklas Group inner-city developments and renovation services, visit niklasgroup.com.



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