

The allure of Serdang

IN this instalment of My Neighbourhood, let me begin by taking you down a “noodle” road to experience a mouth watering journey in my neighbourhood of Serdang.

For starters, try the curry mee made with chunks of soft tofu which is served steaming hot and tastes heavenly.

And once it does arrive at your table, this dish is served piping hot so be careful if you are hungry and eat in a hurry as you might scald your tongue.

The creamy fragrant coconut curry is so tasty.

And when you do take that first bite of silky-smooth noodles topped with crunchy long beans and fish cake, it is spicy enough to cause beads of sweat to form on your brow.

Priced at RM4.50 a bowl, this dish is value for money, and one can opt for the yellow or white noodles or a combination of both.

Here's a friendly tip, having eaten this dish countless times, this writer will definitely recommend choosing a combination of noodles for the dish which blends really well with the fu chok and fresh cockles.

As for the location of this stall, it is nestled between a carrot cake and clay pot rice stall, all located at a restaurant opposite the South City Plaza mall.

With a hearty meal in your belly, South City Plaza is the recommended place to shop if you do not wish

to wait for hours (pardon my exaggeration) looking for an empty car park space at the Mines Shopping Mall.

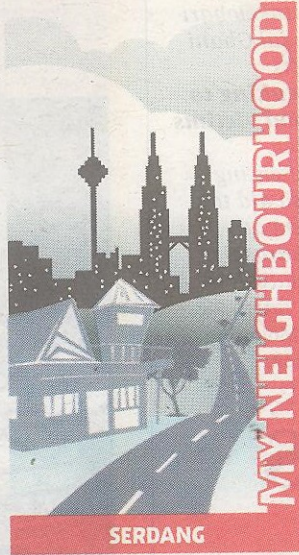
If you wish to buy groceries or make a quick pit stop at the pharmacy, South City Plaza can accommodate all your needs.

It even has a Subway sandwich outlet.

But, if you wish to shop for more up market brands or watch the latest movies, Mines Shopping Mall would be a

better destination.

Previously known as Mines Wonderland, it used to house a zoo and theme park and a man-made Snow House, where children could put on winter clothes and play in the snow



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South City Plaza is a convenient place to shop. Pix by Punitha Kumar

but the park has been closed since September 2011.

However, the place is indeed booming as not too far away from the mall, a 100 hectare green township development by Bluwater Development Bhd known as Bluwater Estate is gradually taking shape.

This area boasts an environmentally-focused township that features bungalows, semi-detached houses and link villas with properties going for a minimum of RM1 million.

Apart from that, it is also home to the Australian International School Malaysia.

The houses in Serdang are now selling between RM1 million and

RM6 million ringgit.

Twenty years ago, this would have sounded quite unbelievable.

As for transport services within my area, there is an ancient-looking KTM Serdang station that has been given a fresh coat of bright blue paint recently, and there are plenty of cabs and RapidKL buses, which is the preferred mode of commute among residents, especially with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) students. However, things were not always this hectic or fast-paced.

Ask any resident who has stayed here before establishments like Palace of the Golden Horses, Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd and the Buk-

it Jalil stadium were built and they will tell you Serdang used to be a sleepy hollow.

In fact, it was known as Taman Putra Jaya during the late 1980s.

It was a former mining town and the only source of entertainment was being with family or friends.

According to a 66-year-old retiree, 25 years ago a double-storey house used to cost about RM100,000 and the bus fare to town was RM1.05.

He said he was happy about the development but missed the tranquility of the neighbourhood.

● **Tomorrow:** Cheras