

EDMONTON JOURNAL

Local firm
makes Indian
cuisine for
North America
BUSINESS / F1



Premium
ice cream
combat
**LIFESTYLE
/ G3**



The Family Piano
STEINWAY & SONS
BOSTON PIANO
ESSEX PIANO
PIANOcentre
EDMONTON
10624-170 St. 780-484-3170
www.pianocentre.ca

ESTABLISHED 1903

Breaking news at edmontonjournal.com

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010

SECOND HOMES

edmontonjournal.com/homes

RECREATION AND INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

H6 / EDITOR: JANET VLIEG, 780-498-5687; jvlieg@thejournal.canwest.com

EDMONTON JOURNAL / SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010

Kokanee Springs not just for golfers

Mountain views and year-round lakeside fun lure Albertans to world-class resort

Laura Severs
Special to The Journal
EDMONTON

A desire for mountains, water and golf could find you taking a swing at Kokanee Springs for a second-home hole in one.

A new golf-friendly development on the edge of one of British Columbia's most celebrated courses is underway at Crawford Bay, where the Kokanee Springs Resort Club is being transformed into a master-planned, world-class golf destination.

"Guests can look forward to a new generation of vacation and residential resort," says Ed Romanowski, president and CEO of Calgary-based Bellstar Hotels & Resorts, the project developer.

"From luxurious cottages steps away from the course, to cliff-top villas with panoramic views across the valley, Bellstar is thrilled to be involved, honouring Kokanee Springs Resorts' heritage and legacy, realizing the dream of the original owners."

Opened in 1968, the Kokanee Springs Golf Course was the vision of Calgary oil broker Ken Jennings, who dreamed of a championship course with a luxurious full-service resort, set against the inspiring backdrop of the Kootenay mountains.

Now, some 42 years later, the original plans are getting a new look with a goal of placing not only the resort, but the entire region on the tourism map.

"The vision is to create the No. 1 destination resort in the Kootenays," says Curt Jansen, director of real estate for Bellstar Hotels.

Once completed, the project will include a state-of-the-art clubhouse facility with pool, fitness centre, world-class restaurant and conference space.

"The tourism traffic is already there; the people are already coming," adds Jansen, noting that the development makes sense even with a slow recovery from the recent recession.

"There's a demand for this type of accommodation at Kokanee Springs and it has been established over the last 40 years."

That traffic includes a strong interest from Edmontonians—who face a nine-hour drive to get there—as well as Calgarians, who are six hours away.

"We even get a number of people that will drive from Fort McMurray or Grande Prairie; they'll drive 15 hours to play our golf course and they just love it," says Greg Garbula, vice-president of the Kokanee



Mountains form the backdrop for the Kokanee Springs Golf Course.

SUPPLIED



This artist's rendering shows the exterior of the 12-unit villa-style condominiums at the Kokanee Springs Resort Club.

SUPPLIED

Springs Golf Resort.

"There's something very unique about the Kokanee experience. Every golf hole has a character to it, with oversized, undulating greens that are challenging."

The course has received four stars out of five from *Golf Digest*, and *Travel + Leisure Magazine* described it in 2006 as the most underrated golf course in North America.

"The first tee drops 100 feet down to the fairway; it's a great opening hole. Your ball carries like it's suspended in the air," says Garbula, adding that Kokanee Springs was the crowning jewel of pre-eminent golf course architect Norman Woods' career. The holes are framed by mountains in the backdrop, and the Kokanee glacier is front and centre in many vistas.

The area's and the course's natural beauty is also a draw for wildlife,

and an additional space that could serve as either a third bedroom or an entertainment room.

"One of the great things we've done with cottages is the outdoor deck area, which is screened in and will have an indoor/outdoor fireplace," says Jansen. "It creates a beautiful ambience on the outside deck."

Cottage prices start at \$329,000 for unfurnished versions, with furnished versions available. The first cottages are expected to be ready for spring 2011.

The furnished versions of both the cottages and villas are available through fractional ownership, with prices starting at \$65,000 for 25-percent ownership.

That, says Jansen, will give you one week per month during the resort's high season from April 15 to Oct. 15. You would also get one week a month during the low season—Oct. 15 to April 15—with the option to pool your weeks, depending on availability.

Right now, early buyers are being offered an additional incentive to choose Kokanee Springs. The first 12 villas and seven cottages sold qualify for a lifetime Kokanee Springs golf club membership, valued at \$10,000. That would mean discounted green fees either by the game or yearly.

For more information on Kokanee Springs Resort, visit kokaneesprings.com. To purchase real estate, visit ownkokaneesprings.com.

and an additional space that could serve as either a third bedroom or an entertainment room.

"You get a rejuvenation factor at Kokanee Springs that you don't get anywhere. It's kind of a Jasper Park Lodge of the Kootenays," says Garbula. "You feel like you're a long ways away from everything. There's a wilderness feel to the place that almost takes you back in time."

The development's first phase will include 17 cottages and two 12-unit villa buildings.

The Villas, three-storey condominium-style buildings, will have an Appalachian influence to complement the area's mountain peaks, and will be built onto the hillside overlooking the golf course and the mountains.

Site preparation has begun and units are expected to be ready for occupation in 2011. Units will range in size from 594 square feet for a one-bedroom to 896 sq. ft. for a two-bedroom.

Prices for the villas start at \$199,000 for the one-bedroom units and \$299,000 for a two-bedroom version. They come fully furnished and offer a combination of engineered hardwood and carpeting in an open-concept space that also includes fireplaces, flat-screen televisions and GE appliances.

Meanwhile, cottage choices range from a two-bedroom, two-bath bungalow style at 968 sq. ft. to a spacious 1,573-sq.-ft. loft model, which includes one bedroom and open living space on the main floor, while the loft level features a second bedroom