

Cash In: 54 Recreational Property Buys

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outdoor
dining tips
and
MORE...

Thai barbecue
chicken wraps,
recipe on page 56

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This could be your view:
Watermark on Osoyoos Lake
in the South Okanagan.

2007 RECREATIONAL PROPERTY GUIDE

BY Bruce Weir

WHAT BENEFIT WOULD A SECOND HOME BE IF IT didn't cater to your first love? Whether it's golfing, skiing, horseback riding, wine or wellness, the big trend this year is recreational lifestyle communities that make spending time with your family more fun.

The unwinterized "summer cabin" is but a sepia-toned memory, as today's year-round retreats become four-season getaways or, increasingly, true second residences where you divide your time.

The vision, location, amenities and recreational opportunities of these rising communities represent some of the best spots in the West this summer.*

* Information current as of May 1, 2007.

Where do you want to play?

Vancouver Island
Gulf Islands
Whistler
Okanagan
Interior B.C.
Alberta
Saskatchewan
Manitoba

Lap of Luxury When the project is complete, residents can enjoy a 2-acre tropical garden, spa, restaurants, pool and the resident dinner-theatre troupe. There will also be a private cellar to store personal wine collections.

The Bells Are Ringing In a few years a wedding chapel on site will make it easy to tie the knot.

888-993-5533, theconservatory.ca

Lakeside Living

The Benchlands, Naramata

Location A 15-minute drive north of Penticton, on a rise overlooking Okanagan Lake.

Available Of 44 lots in Stonebrook, 28 are on the market (from \$290,000 to \$609,900). The second phase, 38 lots on about 40 acres, will be released later.

Vinesurround The Naramata Wine Route loops past the local vineyards—20 of them within easy driving distance.

You Say It's Your Birthday This year is Naramata's centennial, and celebratory events, like Blazing Barbecues and a strawberry tea, are planned for summer. 250-496-5517, naramatabenchlands.com

The Conservatory

Location In downtown Kelowna, on the edge of the shopping and commercial district.

Available Phase 2's 135 units will be available by fall (at prices expected to be "well above" Phase 1's \$250,000 to \$550,000).

Lakestone

Location A 10-minute drive north of Kelowna, on the shores of Lake Okanagan.

Available The first 17 estate lots, for homes up to 6,150 square feet (\$650,000 to \$2.4 million). Buyers will become members of the Founders' Club and the golf club. Occupancy is slated for summer 2008; golf course should be ready by 2009. Plus 17 villas (to \$1.8 million).

Valet Mooring The marina will have 75 slips and storage spaces for another 175 sailboats and motorboats. A call to the marina valet gets you in/out of the water.

Choose Your Club In addition to the yacht club and golf club, LakeStone will have a Lake Club with saunas, steam room, hot tub and indoor-outdoor pool. 888-997-7776, lakestoneresort.com

Playa Del Sol

Location In Kelowna, on the eastern shore of Lake Okanagan.

Available The last 27 suites in the final phase; residents who bought in earlier phases will start moving in later this year.

Decked Out Enjoy an inner courtyard with deck, barbecue, hot tub and swimming pool.

Recreation, Recreation, Recreation Easy access to golf, skiing at Big White and sipping at numerous wineries just across the lake.

866-377-5292, playadelsolkelowna.com

Sitara on the Pond

Location In Winfield, 15 minutes outside of Kelowna.

Available About 20 percent of 120 units remain, from 1-bedroom to 2-bedroom units with a den (\$250,000 to \$350,000).

A Pond Lies in It The development is centred around a semiprivate pond but also has a swimming pool, hot tub, exercise room and a lounge.

Sweet Music This year 2 more projects by the same developer—Sonata Ridge and Kaleido—will go on sale. Sonata Ridge sits above Sitara, and its 217 units will have dramatic views. Kaleido is in Westbank, across Lake Okanagan from Kelowna. As of April, prices had not been set (experience.themove.com).

866-493-2772, sitara.ca

Skaha Beach Club & Spa

Location In Penticton, a short walk from the beach at Lake Skaha.

Available The first 4 buildings went on sale at the end of March and were 90 percent sold by early April. The remaining units range from studios (\$358,800 to \$438,800) to 1-bedrooms (\$498,800 to \$598,800) and 2-bedroom lock-offs (\$758,800 to \$988,800). Buildings 5 and 6 will go on sale this summer.

Love Thy Neighbour Lock-off suites are somewhat like adjoining hotel rooms. A 2-bedroom lock-off is essentially a 1-bedroom plus studio. Perfect for, you know, your mother-in-law.

The Spa That Refreshes An 8,200-square-foot spa offers rejuvenation and relaxation. Naturally it takes advantage of its location in wine country by offering vinotherapy.

877-493-3003, skahabeachclub.com

The Strand Lakeside Resort

Location In Vernon, on the eastern tip of Lake Okanagan.

Available Up for grabs: 10 percent of the first phase's 104 townhomes, studios and lofts (around \$340,000 to \$500,000 range, with 1 million-dollar unit remaining). The second phase, expected to include more than 200 new residences, may be released as early as this fall.

True Grit A sand court will be the site of beach volleyball games and sandcastle-building contests.

Chill Out The built-in wine cooler is handy after touring the local wineries. 888-988-7488, strandresort.com

Watermark

Location On the shore of Osoyoos Lake, along 300 metres of sandy beach.

Available Approximately 30 percent of the 153 units, including 1- and 2-bedroom suites (\$250,000 to \$850,000) and several beachfront townhomes.



Seclusion at Arrow Lakeside Resort & Marina near Castlegar, B.C.

Swimming Choices The resort's pool will tempt those who like controlled conditions, but it is worth noting that Osoyoos Lake has the warmest water in the country.

Kid Zone Plans call for a waterslide and kids' zone, meaning the adults can enjoy their own liquid refreshments in peace at the poolside wine bar and patio. 866-453-9797, ownwatermark.com

Arrow Lakeside Resort & Marina

Location A 15-minute drive west of Castlegar, next to Syringa Provincial Park, on the southeastern shore of Lower Arrow Lake.

Available Fractional shares (quarters start at \$89,900) and full ownership in 7 of the 59 units. The first phase of 36 units is slated for completion in early 2008; Phase 2 will be released soon.

No Ice Fishing Lower Arrow Lake never freezes, so anglers can go after rainbow trout and other species year-round.

Beach Life Phase 1 includes 50 metres of private beach, give or take a few metres depending on the water level of the lake.



Soaking at Halcyon Hot Springs Resort & Spa in Nakusp, B.C.

A marina offers easy access to the lake and sailing, kayaking and waterskiing. 866-779-6757, arrowlakeresort.com

Bayside Lake Homes

Location At Captain's Village Marina on the shores of Shuswap Lake.

Available Just 1 lot (\$1.5 million) in the Estates development and 29 of 36 Bayside duplex-style units (from \$679,000 to \$689,000, but expected to rise). The first 18 units should be completed later this summer; the remaining 18 will be built in 2008.

Life Outdoors A barbecue entertainment centre, with bar sink and mini-fridge, makes living outside easy. An outdoor shower/foot-wash station means sand doesn't get tracked indoors at the end of the day.

Rent-a-Tow Captain's Village Marina rents ski boats (\$500 for 8 hours; \$1,850 for 5 days). The 190-horsepower boats should have sufficient power to get you up on the water, whether you choose skis, tube, kneeboard or wakeboard—the marina rents those too.

800-944-3022, baysidelakehomes.com

Halcyon Hot Springs Resort & Spa

Location 70 kilometres south of Revelstoke, in Nakusp, B.C.

Available The first 11 chalets in Phase 1, ranging from 1-bedrooms to 2-bedrooms plus loft (\$395,000 to \$950,000). There

will be 44 chalets in this first phase; additional units should be on sale by fall.

Take the Waters The mineral waters offer relief from sore muscles and, according to the website, "arthritis, osteoporosis and gout." The four mineral pools offer a range of temperatures from 40°C to a plunge pool at a chilly 12°C. The nearby spa offers massage and facials.

A Truly Frugal Gourmet A hike or mountain-biking trip along nearby forestry roads can turn into a lesson in foraging if the mushrooms and fiddleheads are ready for harvesting. 888-689-4699, halcyon-hotspings.com

Kootenay Lake Village

Location About 35 kilometres east of Nelson on the shores of Lake Kootenay.

Available Only 9 of the 20 waterfront lots in the first phase (starting at \$600,000) and 14 lots in the Upland View area (expected to sell for around \$150,000).

Ahead by a Century A little over half of the development's 450 acres will be set aside as parkland. Much of the land to be preserved is 100-year-old forest.

PERKS WE LOVE > Horse stables at Spirits Reach and Tobiano > Marina valet at Lakestone >

Sable Ridge

Location By Radium Hot Springs, 15 minutes outside Invermere.

Available Fewer than 10 units in the second phase furnished (two bedrooms from \$335,900). The 36 2- and 3-bedroom units in the third building will hit the market this summer.

Hope at the Springs Is Eternal The challenging Les Furbier-designed Springs golf course is just south of here, on the Columbia River, so you can enjoy the scenery even if your game doesn't look so good.

Birdies Galore North America's largest



Getting cozy at Sable Ridge near Radium Hot Springs, B.C.

continuous wetland makes Radium an ideal spot for birdwatching. The annual Wings over the Rockies festival celebrates all things avian.

403-228-0900, ownradium.com

Wildstone

Location Within Cranbrook city limits.

Available The first 76 home lots of 6,500 to 12,000 square feet (from \$140,000). By the time the resort is complete in 12 to 15 years, there will be close to 3,000 homes, golf villas and condos.

If You Build It, They Will Fly The Cranbrook Airport has been extensively renovated and renamed the Canadian Rockies International Airport. The bigger terminal includes a Canada Customs and Immigration facility; the longer runway can accommodate direct flights from across North America and Europe.

Be a Player The Black Knight course, to open in late 2008, is designed by (and named after) Gary Player. A Gary Player Signature course is in the plans for 2010. 888-901-2888, discoverwildstone.com

Elk Ridge Resort

Location Next to Prince Albert National Park, 1 hour north of Prince Albert, Sask.

Available Just 4 of 64 3-bedroom townhouse condos in Eagle View Villas (from \$300,000). Of the 130 serviced lots in Elk Ridge Estates, 75 remain (from a quarter to three-quarters of an acre, \$75,000 to \$107,000). In April work began on a 34-room hotel and conference centre that will be finished by next spring.

Summer Sweeping, Winter Sweeping

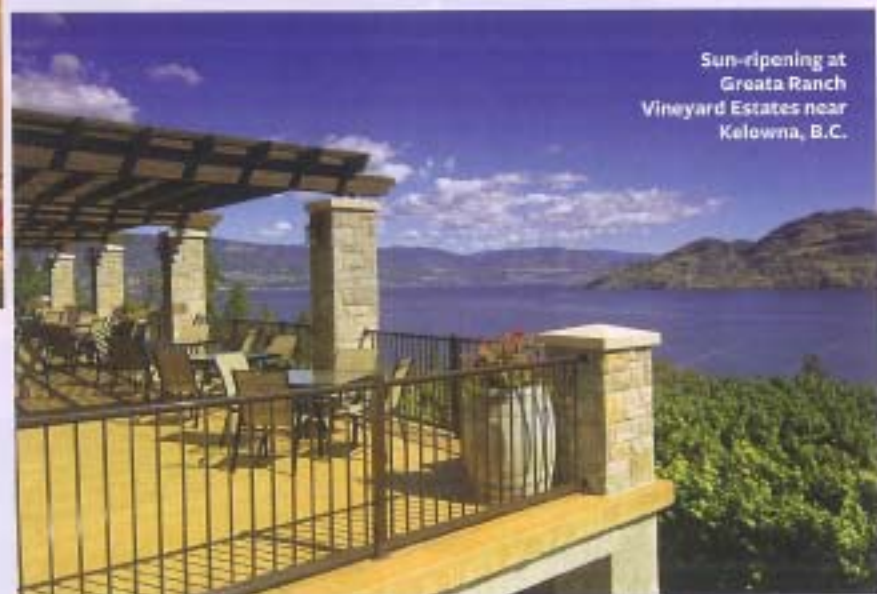
The resort offers 27 holes of golf, carts with GPS to make club selection easier and a Bavarian-themed clubhouse. In winter, golf is replaced by snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, skating,

homes in Antler Ridge (from \$500,000), condominiums in the Piazza Residences (from \$300,000) and the Infinity Villas (invitation-only sales, from \$2-million plus).

Uncork Conversation Living on a vineyard means you can serve some truly local wines at dinner parties. Greata Ranch Vineyards, a division of CedarCreek Estate Winery, produces gewürztraminer, pinot blanc, pinot noir, chardonnay and merlot.

Liquid Refreshment Residents can take a dip in the pool or lake. When built, the on-site marina will make it easy to get out on the water.

888-510-3888, greataranch.com



Sun-ripening at Greata Ranch Vineyard Estates near Kelowna, B.C.

to bogganing and even outdoor curling.

How Green Are Your Greens? The resort is seeking certification under Audubon International's golf course program, which encourages habitat preservation and water conservation.

800-510-1824, elkridgeresort.com

Vineyard Communities

Greata Ranch Vineyard Estates

Location 25 minutes south of Kelowna, along the western shore of Lake Okanagan.

Available Sales of 50 single-family estate lots, 200 townhouses and 150 condominiums start this summer, including town-

Oliver Wine Village

Location In Oliver, in the southern Okanagan.

Available Sales to begin this fall or spring/summer 2008. The first phase will include a boutique-style condo-hotel of about 100 units; next are 130 residential units among a number of buildings.

Eat, Drink, Be Merry The village will include restaurants, a spa and 2 facilities for foodies: the Culinary Arts Centre and the Wine Interpretive Centre. Some 15 wineries, including Tinhorn Creek, Inniskillin and Jackson Triggs, are just a short drive away.

Fly-In, Fly-Out For those with their own

PERKS WE LOVE > Outdoor kitchen at Bayside Lake Homes > Wine cave at Silvertip >



small planes, the Oliver airport is a 5-minute walk from the village.

877-737-6782, oliverwinevillage.com

Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort & Spa

Location In Osoyoos, on Nk'Mip Indian Band land in the southern Okanagan.

Available The second phase, 120 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom condominiums, is currently on the market (a quarter-share starts at about \$60,000; full ownership ranges from \$302,000 for a 595-square-foot condo to \$544,400 for a 3-bedroom, 1,287 square feet in size).

Crushed Grapes The resort is mere steps away from the Nk'Mip Cellars, the first aboriginal-owned and -operated winery in North America.

Enlightening Vacation At the nearby Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre you can learn more about the legends and ways of the Nk'Mip. The truly bold can learn about rattlesnakes at the on-site research centre.

877-313-9463, spiritridge.ca

Live to Ski

Evolution

Location On the eastern edge of Whistler Creekside, about 4.5 kilometres from Whistler Village.

Available On offer: 100 quarter-shares in 70 units (from \$129,900 for a 1-bedroom, and from \$227,900 for a 2-bedroom).

The Bare Necessities Although it is a little older than Whistler Village, Creekside does offer the essentials—sushi and Starbucks—of B.C. life.

Share and Share Alike A quarter-share in Evolution lets buyers participate in Intrawest's Resort-to-Resort program, with access to resorts in other parts of B.C. and abroad, including the Bahamas, Florida, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico.
877-771-6767, myownwhistler.com

Fitzsimmons Walk

Location A 10-minute walk from Whistler Village, close to the trails of Whistler Wetlands and Lost Lake Park.

Available Recently on the market: 41 4-bedroom luxury homes (\$1.8 to \$2.5 million).

Out of Sight All parking in the development is underground, resulting in a pedestrian-focussed neighbourhood.

No Place like Home The chi-chi appointments include an outdoor living room with fireplace and hot tub, a built-in espresso machine and another fireplace at the foot of the soaker tub.

888-932-4114, fitzsimmonswalk.com

Kadenwood

Location Above Whistler Creekside, the highest buildable point on Whistler Mountain.

Available Of 60 lots in total, all 19 in the first phase sold out in a single day in 2001. There are 11 remaining in the current offering (from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million).

A Touch of Venice An 8-person dedicated gondola (the skiing kind) for residents will be ready by the 2008/09 ski season.

PERKS WE LOVE > Private gondola at Kadenwood > Built-in espresso machine at Fitzsimmons Walk >

and 3 bedrooms (\$496,900 to \$525,900).

When the Snow Melts When spring arrives (and with Kimberley's 2,152 hours of sunlight annually, it's only a matter of time), you can play 3 golf courses in the immediate area or 15 courses within an hour's drive. Or exhaust the possibilities of the 6,000-square-foot spa and pool.

Seriously Old School Kimberley's Platzl, a European-themed pedestrian mall with North America's biggest free-standing cuckoo clock, hosts festivals year-round like the International Old-Time Accordion Championships.

877-427-7330,
mountainspiritresortandspa.com



Reconnecting
at Mountain
Spirit Resort
E Spa near
Kimberley,
B.C.

Red Mountain Resort

Location A fast 5 minutes from the town of Rossland (shuttles available from Rossland and from Spokane, Castlegar and Kelowna airports in the winter); 10 minutes north of the Canada-U.S. border.

Available Of the 18 condominiums in Morning Star, 11 are still on the market (\$530,000 to \$890,000), plus 27 of 67 condos in Slalom Creek's two buildings (\$429,000 to \$734,000). More condominiums, single-family lots and rooms in the boutique hotel to come.

Not All Downhill When the snow melts, the resort area offers kayaking, hiking, mountain-biking and fly fishing.

Diamonds Are Not for Everyone A

new quad chairlift will be in place by next ski season, opening new terrain, much of it geared toward beginner and intermediate skiers.

888-362-7007, liveatred.com

Revelstoke Mountain Resort

Location Just 5 kilometres outside Revelstoke, at the base of Mt. McKenzie.

Available A village at the base of the ski hill will eventually include 5,000 units (condominiums, townhomes and single-family homes). In the first phase 59 units (from \$300,000 to \$1.65 million for penthouses) were gone in 3 hours this past spring. Units that were to go on sale in the

fall were released early—and 80 percent of those have already sold. Look for new listings this fall and winter.

Take a Powder The plan includes creating a new ski resort out of the current Powder Springs ski area. This fall the first of 20 lifts—an 8-person gondola and a quad chairlift—are scheduled to be in operation on what is projected to be (by 2009) North America's longest vertical descent, at 1,829 metres.

888-837-2188, discoverrevelstoke.com

Sun Peaks Resort

Location About a 35-minute drive north of the city of Kamloops.

The Coolest Month If the promise of great skiing is not enough to get you

here in January, consider that the annual Icewine Festival takes place that month as additional incentive.

Send the Kids to Camp A variety of day camps—mountain-biking, canoeing, orienteering—are offered for kids, meaning that perhaps you can find some peace and quiet on the golf course or by the pool.

1-800-807-3257, sunpeaksresort.com

Delta Residences Just 39 quarter-ownerships (from \$99,900 to \$184,900) remain in 41 1- and 2-bedroom condominiums, with amenities like room service, health club and pool.

877-578-7781, deltaresidences.com

Lookout Ridge is a subdivision with 47 single-family home lots, 14 of them now available (\$235,000 to \$365,000).

800-663-2838

Bridgegate, a new development of 16 high-end, approximately 2,500-square-foot townhomes (\$825,000 to \$875,000), went on the market in May from Re/Max Alpine Resort Realty.

800-663-2838



Splashing out at Sun
Peaks Resort near
Kamloops, B.C.

Bighorn Mountain Resort

Location An hour west of Calgary, in Canmore.

Available Shares in 20 homes—which feature 3 master bedrooms, a rooftop hot tub, 4 decks and patios, and wireless Internet—go on sale this summer (\$250,000 for a 1/8th share, representing 5 weeks a year of use). The first homes will be completed this summer; the last of

GREEN LIGHTS > Kootenay Lake Village creates a parkland preserve >



Branching out at Silvertip Resort near Canmore, Alberta.

the 20 homes should be built by January.

Towel-Warmer One of the home's 4 fireplaces is in the bathroom.

Do the Math Bighorn bills itself as "Alberta's first private residence club," and membership is limited to 160 owners.

That should make for short waits at the spa, fitness centre and mineral pool.

Pay Your Dues Annual dues will be approximately \$5,800 and will go toward taxes and general maintenance. 866-890-7563, bighorncanmore.com

Blackstone Mountain Lodge

Location Just off the Trans-Canada Highway in Canmore.

Available There are 11 2-bedroom condos ranging from 991 square feet to 1,164 square feet (in the \$400,000s). Construction of the 123-condominium project began December 2005.

Everybody into the Pool I Condo owners can opt into the rental pool, meaning their units will be available as upscale hotel rooms when they're not using them. (Owners get 60 percent of rental income.)

Everybody into the Pool II Two outdoor hot tubs and a pool offer year-round watery recreation. The lodge will also feature massage rooms and a fitness centre.

888-830-8883, hugh@blackstonecanmore.ca

Silvertip Resort

Location A few minutes up the mountain from the town of Canmore.

GREEN LIGHTS > Spirits Reach plans a forest preserve > Safer adhesives and finishes at Crystal Terraces >

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Gary Player
Wildstone Site Visit
September, 2006