

Canmore's Solara Resort and Spa

Development captured the heart of an Edmonton couple

PAMELA IRVING

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Within a few days of viewing it, Roger and Midge Clissold of Edmonton purchased a fourth floor, three-bedroom, 1700-sq. ft. corner suite for \$589,000 in the Aurora building of Canmore's Solara Resort and Spa. The full resort is composed of three buildings: the Bow, Chinook and Aurora, all built to stagger and enhance views so that every suite can enjoy them.

"We walked in and said 'This is lovely! We've got to figure out how to buy one of these things,'

"Roger says from their home in Edmonton. Sales director Heather Blaeser made their decision easier by hosting the couple for two nights in different suites so that they could enjoy a taste of ownership.

Solara Resort is the latest addition to the Bellstar properties and is intended for people who enjoy the ambiance of a chic urban hotel in a desirable mountain setting. The Clissolds own another suite in the nearby Bellstar's Lodges at Canmore but find their newest purchase more elegant and brighter.

All 214 one- two- and three-bedroom suites are complete and furnished at a five-star level with features such as gourmet kitchens, granite countertops, cushiony cork flooring, spa-like bathrooms and oversized windows with views from every room. Roger likes that he has views of the Rockies from all bedrooms and that each bedroom has a flat screen TV and fireplace.

At 69, Roger is an active semi-retired hydrogeologist who spent most of his professional life in the exploration and evaluation of groundwater resources for the oil and gas industry, government and municipalities.

Today he leads a different more adventurous life. In the winter he occasionally enjoys

snowboarding with his daughter Lori at Nakiska in Kananaskis country while in the summer he might be found cycling around Canmore and the Nordic Centre trails. There are over 71 kms of multi-use trails within town limits, which is close to five major ski resorts, hiking, scrambling, climbing, mountain biking, small craft boating, and excellent golf courses.

Midge, manager of the couple's hydrogeological consulting company since 1969, just enjoys her 'down time and puttering' in the luxurious environment close to Canmore town site. They often park the car and leave it parked the entire time they are at Solara on their four, to five day visits.

Her favourite shopping haunt is the Home Hardware store in Canmore. "It is like an old-fashioned general store with everything in it from knick knacks to timber," says Midge who adds that it is a nice change from the big stores they shop at in the West Edmonton mall near their Lewis Estates home.

"Ninety percent of our meals we make in our suite because we enjoy the fully fitted out kitchen so much, but our favourite meal is a freshly made pizza with all the toppings on foccacia crust from Bella Crusta in Canmore. We cook the pizza back at the suite and it is just a fantastic meal every time," explains Midge and Roger about their shared indulgence.

Canmore has 12,005 permanent residents and 5,567 non-permanent and second home owners with a wide range of services, such as award-winning restaurant The Trough featuring local cuisine and the bustling Grizzly Paw Brew Pub; shopping at art galleries, bookstores, gear shops

and a modern hospital.

Only four hours from Edmonton by car, the Clissolds enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream in the town of Cochrane en route. For a slower pace, they may take the scenic 1A highway from Cochrane with views of Yamnuska and the Bow River valley.

They travel light because everything is provided at the resort: kitchen utensils, linen and bedding.

Bellstar will complete the resort's amenities by summer 2011 positioned as the most luxurious accommodation in the Canadian Rockies. Construction of the 38,000 sq.-ft. amenities area is under way and will include an holistic health spa, two hot-pools, restaurant, deli, coffee shop, convenience shop and fitness centre.

"This is perfect for us because we like to have everything onsite," says Midge who looks forward to her daughter and son-in-law's family coming for visits.

For the convention crowd, a full service convention and meeting centre, complete with 100-seat theatre will be housed at Solara.

For Roger and Midge Clissold, the suite in Solara helps keep the love alive in their 50-year marriage. "We love our home in Edmonton and our suites in Canmore. The suites are all about luxury and enjoying the good life. We have the best of both worlds," says Midge. ■

What you should know

- For more information on vacations and meetings at Solara Resort and Spa visit www.solararesort.ca
- For information on purchasing, visit www.ownsolararesort.com
- Prices range from \$279,000 for a luxurious 1-bedroom units, approximately 789 square feet, to \$619,000 for 3-bedroom units with 3 full bathrooms and gourmet kitchen, approximately 1628 square feet. Solara is offering a variety of attractive buyer incentives to a limited number of purchasers right now. Sales team can be contacted directly at 1.403.679.7161 or Toll Free: 1.877.778.5617

PHOTOS: BELLSTAR HOTELS & RESORTS

Above, Solara exterior. Below, a Solara living room.

