

SECOND HOMES

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Retire on Canada's warmest lake

Cottages at Osoyoos an artful blend of nature and nurture

PAMELA IRVING
Edmonton Journal

The drive along Road 22 to the Cottages at Osoyoos lake is a microcosm of south Okanagan topography: red-winged blackbirds in wetlands, wild horses in fields and desert sagebrush near Osoyoos lake.

"I love the curvature of that drive," said Jacquie Trobec of Calgary, one of the first to purchase in the new Cottages at Osoyoos on the Lake. Jacquie and her 96-year-old mother, Teddie, bought a home together and are excited about its completion next spring.

"We never dreamed we would own such a beautiful place for under \$500,000," said Jacquie.

While many people their age are downsizing, the mother-daughter team's new home is more than 3,000 square feet.

"When we saw the spectacular panoramic view of the Osoyoos lake and the beauty of the backdrop native land, we knew that was the location of our retirement dream home," said Jacquie.

Though Chilliwack-based developer Eric Van Maren has been developing property across Western Canada and the U.S. for over 38 years, The Cottages on Osoyoos Lake is his pet project, taking years to develop the concept and land deal.

"There is a magic there you can feel. I wanted to do something very special for people of all ages, from seniors to toddlers," said Van Maren, 58, a father of six and grandfather of 13 children. "Most buyers are from Alberta and B.C., many in their late 40s to 60s, with children and grandchildren who may want to visit."

Van Maren was so taken with the 28-hectare site on Osoyoos Lake, he scoped the entire Okanagan for developments to model The Cottages on.

"I didn't see anything that matched my vision, so I took a trip to Veranda Beach just south of the border in Washington and thought, 'This is more like it,'" Van Maren explained.

Canadian team Rositch Hemphill and Associates created 14 prototype homes and cottages ranging in floor space from 1,281 square feet, including veranda, to 3,013 square feet, including patio.



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The road to Cottages on Osoyoos Lake includes a turtle crossing.

THE DETAILS

Buyer Tip: Pay no GST/HST or property transfer tax on purchases at the Cottages on Osoyoos Lake

Fly and Drive: Fly to Penticton and rent a car from National Car Rental at airport. A road map is available at Cottages website

Look for: Cottages signature giant roadside Adirondack chairs advertising the Cottages on Osoyoos Lake

Stay: Spirit Ridge in nearby Osoyoos, 20 minutes from the Cottages

Do: Golf, wine tours, lake activities, hiking and culture abound in the south Okanagan

Contact: Florence Lethbridge, sales manager, 1-855-742-5555; Florence@osoyooscottages.com, osoyooscottages.com

Prices start as low as \$294,900 for a cottage on the meadow near the lake and range up to \$969,900 for a lakeside home with four bedrooms, three bathrooms and loft.

Features such as in-ground geothermal heating and cooling, six stainless steel appliances and wireless security are included in the prices.

The exteriors feature low-maintenance landscaping, Hardi plank siding, private side door entrance and 30-year shingle roof. Most homes have a lake view and screened veranda with stamped concrete flooring.

Floor plans combine the best



Developer Eric Van Maren looks out over four new show homes that are part of The Cottages on Osoyoos Lake.

SUPPLIED



One of four new show homes at the new waterfront development The Cottages on Osoyoos Lake in B.C.'s Okanagan wine region

SUPPLIED

of cottage and modern living. Interior features such as old-fashioned window seats, Victorian lofts and durable vinyl plank flooring blend functionality with beauty and comfort. There are four decorating packages to choose from with options to mix and match.

"It's important to us that people feel like this is their home from start to finish, with their own unique imprint," said Van Maren.

The Cottages sit on federally leased land with the 99-year lease prepaid by the developer. Homeowners pay no GST/HST or property transfer tax. Property taxes are set at the same rate as those in the adjacent Town of Oliver.

"There are definite tax advantages, and because we

own the lease, buyers know that we are here to stay," said Van Maren.

The homeowners' association fees of \$250-\$350 per month insure maintenance-free landscaping and membership in a 7,500-square-foot luxury clubhouse with two swimming pools, hot tubs and tuck shop. The soon-to-be developed marina will accommodate up to 150 boats.

The community will have playgrounds and trails running throughout for universal easy beach access. Owners can rent out their homes for a five-day minimum to avoid the "week-end warrior crowd."

"We want this to be a place where the whole family can come and stay and play: kids, grandkids and everyone our



A screened veranda overlooks the natural landscape of the Sonoran desert, one of many unique features in the cottages.

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community holds dear," said Van Maren.

Nearby Oliver has a host of services, including hospital and emergency response. Oliver has a small-town feel, right in the heart of wine country, with 21 wineries within a short drive. Just up the road on the "Golden Mile," Black Hills

Estate, famous for its rich red Nota Bene, recently opened a new \$1-million roadside wine centre for sampling and sipping.

"Time can't pass quickly enough for us to begin our new lifestyle on the lake and enjoy the wineries and landscape," said owner Trobec.



Why just spend the weekend?

Own a piece of B.C.'s Okanagan Valley real estate. Year-round homes with fantastic lake views and cottages with screened porches just steps from a wide sandy beach on Canada's warmest lake. Clubhouse, swimming pools, hot-tubs, playgrounds, walking trails, and almost 20-acres of lawn for all to enjoy! Come take a look at the Okanagan's most affordable waterfront!

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*This is not an offering for sale. Any such offering must be made with an Information Statement. Prices are subject to change without notice and may require on-going lease payments. E&O.E

