

RECREATION & INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011

“Bill was sitting on our deck reading the newspaper one day when he said, ‘I think we’ve just found our vacation property.’”

HIGH RIVER RESIDENT AND RECENT WILD COAST COTTAGES PROPERTY OWNER KAREN FOWLER



Lorraine Hjalte, Calgary Herald

Above, Karen and Bill Fowler of High River purchased a small cabin in Port Renfrew, B.C., where they can go crabbing or hiking at Wild Coast Cottages, below.



MARTY HOPE
CALGARY HERALD

Three hours almost door to door. That’s how long it takes Bill and Karen Fowler to escape when the urge comes over them.

The High River couple purchased a micro-cottage in Port Renfrew, British Columbia in the first phase of the Wild Coast Cottages development by Three Point Properties after reading an article on them in the Calgary Herald’s Recreation and Investment Property section last summer.

“Bill was sitting on our deck reading the newspaper one day when he said ‘I think we’ve just found our vacation property,’” recalls Karen.

Bill, a realtor with Re/Max in High River, and Karen talked about it for a while, agreeing that the concept suited them, as did the affordability aspect — and that was that.

“We thought they’d go fast, so we did some research and flew right out there to finalize things,” says Karen, who works as a public health nurse for Alberta Health Services.

Port Renfrew, a fishing village at the end of the scenic West Coast Road on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island, has fewer than 200 residents.

Karen Fowler estimates it takes three hours to get to the front door of their cottage from the Calgary airport — and to get away from their hectic working schedules.

The cottages are functional, well built, and planned with buyers’ needs and affordability in mind, says Jack Julseth, a principal in Three Point Properties.

And all of these elements have proven successful — 35 of the 40 cottages in the first phase have been sold or reserved.

When complete, there will be 80 cottages, each built off-site by Westco Construction then delivered to the Port Renfrew location.

The 400-square-foot Wild Coast Cottages Oceanside, which make up the first phase, are priced from \$149,000 to \$199,000.

In the second phase, Water’s Edge at Wild Coast Cottages will measure from 550 to 650 square feet and will range from \$249,900 to \$399,000. Phase 2 will be constructed on the oceanfront, with views to the Pacific Rim National Park and the West Coast Trail.

The price point at Wild Coast Cottages has created a bit of a frenzy,” says Julseth.

SEE FRENZY, PAGE H10

Catching cabin fever

Couple buys a fishing haven in Port Renfrew, B.C.

ONLINE:



Whether you’re looking for a tiny cabin or a mansion-like hacienda, we can help with everything from photo galleries to our Recreation and Investment Properties magazine. Visit us online at www.calgaryherald.com/homes

INSIDE:



So you’ve never heard of Port Renfrew? If you love hiking, fishing, crabbing and beautiful scenery, it’s the next place to be. See page H12.

NEXT WEEK:



It’s the first new development in Kauai, Hawaii in more than 10 years. Come visit Kaku’u’ula with us. Read about it next Saturday.

ABOUT PORT RENFREW

Although Port Renfrew, located on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island, has a small, year-round population of just 200, it has more adventure and outdoor opportunities than most can possibly imagine.

Wild Coast Cottages is just steps away from the Pacific Ocean, shops and restaurants and challenging hiking trails (including the West Coast Trail and the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail).

Port Renfrew is home to some of Canada's largest trees, including the famous Red Creek Fir and Avatar Grove, and is an area that offers its resi-

dents great surfing, canoeing, kayaking and tide pool watching. Swimming spots ideal for kids include the nearby Fairy Lake and Botanical Beach.

Port Renfrew is known all around the world for its fishing opportunities and was even named as a finalist in the national Ultimate Fishing Town Canada 2011 competition.

To make the region even more enticing for anglers, Wild Coast Cottages is in the process of completing a new marina for its residents.



FROM PAGE H10
FISHING:
'We're ready to go'

The fact that the places were small was part of what appealed to the Fowlers — all they were looking for was an escape destination where they could hike and enjoy the ocean.

"We've got our crab licence and crab traps, so we're ready to go," says Karen.

THE PROPERTY

Wild Coast Cottages is a multi-phase, affordable recreation-property concept in Port Renfrew on Vancouver Island, B.C. The Wild Coast Cottages property is situated on high-bank waterfront that looks across to the West Coast Trail and Pacific Rim National Park and has beach access as well as beautiful forested boardwalks along the water's edge. For more information, visit www.wildcoastcottages.com.

large covered decks, cedar shingle front elevations, full kitchens with quality appli-



Photos courtesy, West Coast Cottages

Above, Wild Coast Cottages project manager Ben Mycroft, left, and Jack Julseth, a principal with the developer Three Point Properties. Below, the exterior of the West Coast Cottages in Port Renfrew with a deck — perfect for lounging after a day of fishing.

ances, engineered hardwood floors, double-pane windows and more. Optional add-ons include wood or propane fireplaces and storage sheds for fishing, surfing or paddling gear. Also, many of the cottages have enough driveway space to comfortably store an RV or boat trailer.

"Those who grew up in Ontario or B.C. during the 1960s or 1970s probably have a good idea of what cottage lifestyle is all about — spending long days fishing in the nearby oceans or lakes, lounging in the sun on the front porch and getting caught up with that reading list or having all the neighbourhood kids over," says Julseth. "Wild Coast Cottages is on a mission to bring back this lifestyle and the response to-date has been extraordinary."



ABOUT THE DEVELOPER

Three Point Properties is a Victoria B.C.-based comprehensive real estate development company capable of planning and conceptualization, design, construction and sales. For information, visit www.threepointproperties.com.

ALSO SEE

■ Port Renfrew the next Tofino H12

ABOUT JUAN DE FUCA PROVINCIAL PARK

Juan de Fuca Provincial Park on the west coast of southern Vancouver Island offers scenic beauty, spectacular hiking, marine and wildlife viewing and roaring surf in its course along the Pacific coastline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

There are four main areas to the park: the China Beach

Campground, the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail, the China Beach day-use area and Botanical Beach.

The park's Juan de Fuca Marine Trail follows 47 kilometres of wilderness stretching along the western shoreline of the southern Island. There are four trailheads to the Juan de Fuca Trail at Juan de Fuca East (China Beach),

Sombrio Beach, Parkinson Creek and Botanical Beach. Marine mammals, including Grey and killer whales, can often be spotted feeding just off the points. The park also has waterfalls, grottos, old growth forest, estuaries, tide pools and shale and quartz rock formations.

— BC Parks



Hikers explore Botanical Beach near the southwest Vancouver Island town of Port Renfrew.

Calgary Herald Archive

Port Renfrew the next Tofino

MARTY HOPE
CALGARY HERALD

Looking for somewhere different to hang out on vacation? How about the Pacific Marine Coastal Route, a 255-kilometre circular driving route through the wilds of southern Vancouver

Island, and spending a weekend in the west coast village of Port Renfrew.

With about 200 full-time residents, Port Renfrew might just be the Tofino of tomorrow, says Ben Mycroft.

"Many take the long drive to Tofino when Port Renfrew is 40 minutes from Sooke and less than two hours from downtown Victoria, that's 20 minutes further

than the drive to Cowichan Lake," says Mycroft, project manager for the Three Point Properties' Wild Coast Cottages development project in Port Renfrew.

"This area has a lot to offer — in one afternoon you can be surfing the waves, exploring the tide pools on Botanical Beach and walking among the giant trees of Avatar Grove."

Surfers, kite boarders and paddlers already know about the village that is in a bay with big wave breaks, two paddling rivers and a diversity of beaches.

But it's also home to some of Canada's biggest and most spectacular trees. Avatar Grove, a section of gnarly giant old growth, has been able to attract big-tree-tourists to this one-

time logging town.

Matter of fact, the grove now has its own visitor information centre, a little kiosk next to Port Renfrew's tiny farmers' market.

Thanks to Port Renfrew's relative remoteness in days prior to the Coastal Route completion, the area has retained much of the signature West Coast wilderness.

The village is flanked on both sides by major national and provincial parks: to the south is the Juan de Fuca Provincial Park and the San Juan Trail, and to the north is the gateway of the world-renowned West Coast Trail in the Pacific Rim National Park.

And when it comes to wildlife, Port Renfrew has it all.

Avid photographers take

delight in the resident eagles, black bears and elk, while anglers flock to the area for the great trout and salmon fishing (just this year, Port Renfrew was named a national finalist in the World Fishing Network's Ultimate Fishing Town Canada competition).

"Since the completion of the paved Circle Route highway, there's been remarkable growth in tourism and a noticeable buzz in the air around town," said Mycroft.

"There has also been dramatic changes in who comes here and who's opening up shop: now you'll discover delicious restaurants and some great shops alongside the hiking trails, beaches, lakes and fishing spots."

NOT TO MISS DRIVES

Pacific Marine Coastal Route has many must-see scenic drives, including: **IN SOOKE:** No visit to Sooke is complete without a visit to the Potholes — deep pits carved into sandstone bedrock during the last Ice Age, making for some of the best freshwater swimming around. After working up an appetite, stop off at Mom's Café, an old school diner that's been serving up delicious, home-style meals since 1963.

IN PORT RENFREW: An ideal Coastal Route half-way point, take a full day to explore the hot spots of this laid-back fishing community: sample some ocean treats at the Coastal Kitchen Cafe, walk among centuries-old trees in Avatar Grove and take a hike on the renowned Juan de Fuca marine trail. Then take a tour of the Oceanside neighbourhood of Wild Coast Cottages to learn more about how to make Port Renfrew a home-away-from-home.

IN LAKE COWICHAN: Take a dip or cast a line in Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island's second-largest lake. Or maybe grab a tube and float down the clear waters of Cowichan Lake. Get out the camera and snap a few shots of the spectacular canyon and gorge views in Cowichan River Provincial Park.

IN DUNCAN/SOUTH COWICHAN: Get to know the first peoples of this land by stopping by the traditional buildings at the Quw'utsun Cultural Centre, a place where carvers still practice their trade. Spend the rest of the afternoon whetting that whistle and exploring the many wineries and cideries this area has to offer.

CHECK IT OUT

For more information on Port Renfrew visit www.portrenfrew.com