

FROM PAGE J8

COTTAGE: 'New amenities'

But thank heavens, the project is far from the outhouse and mice of the old-style cottage or cabin of grandma and grandpa.

"This is Old World cottage country with new amenities," says Van Geel of the planned 18-hectare resort, which will have 230 cottages when completed — plus a wealth of amenities to keep owners entertained.

"Twenty per cent of the development will be park area," Van Geel says.

"We built the amenities up front so people would see what they are getting. We have to create the whole story."

What they are getting includes a \$5-million, 10,000-square-foot amenity centre for residents — which includes two outdoor pools, two hot tubs, a fireside lounge, kids' club, fully-equipped media centre, fitness centre and outdoor barbecue — opened in late spring. The gated community also has tennis courts, a children's playground, a trout pond, a boat storage area, and a park with an open log pavilion.

It also has a kids' club, a fully-equipped media centre, a fitness centre and an outdoor barbecue.

It mixes the old and new in an exciting way, says Van Geel. "It's more contemporary, but with heavy timber, open trusses and wood beams."

It opened during the May long weekend, with close to 500 people in attendance, he says.

"They came to see what was delivered. They had bought a cottage off the brochures and were pleasantly surprised that the actual building exceeded expectations."

Other outside entertainment and recreation venues include a children's playground, tennis courts, boat storage areas, a trout pond and a 0.8-hectare park with an open log pavilion.

The complex has a private, gated entry with on-site manage-

ment, a private lagoon and country roads.

"Half of the site used to be an old campground for at least 50 years and it is beautifully treed," says Van Geel.

"We've spent time retaining as many of those trees as possible because we wanted it to look like a development that has been there a long time — and people feel like they are out in the wilderness."

"The streets are very narrow and curvy, like lanes, and we've put in a system of 'paved grass' to add country charm."

Paved grass consists of a heavy plastic embedded into the sod in a grid pattern, protecting it from heavy traffic that would otherwise cause ruts in the soil.

The community is "about 500 yards (457 metres) off the lake, which is six kilometres long," says Van Geel. "It's a warm-water lake with lots of swimming and boating. It's next to a little golf course and near the Lindell Beach community."

Then, there are the cottages, themselves.

"An important goal of ours was to create a neighbourhood where people owned the whole property — not a condo and not a timeshare," says Van Geel.

The first phase of 90 cottages — 20 of which are already occupied, with many more under construction — sold out in six hours.

"We had a phenomenal response," he says. "Now — even though the economy has changed — even over the last four months, we've had 10 reg-

IN SHORT

BUILDER/DEVELOPER:

Cultus Country Investments Ltd.

PROJECT:

The Cottages at Cultus Lake, a \$110-million, master-

planned resort just 500 metres from the lake which will have 230 cottages on 18 hectares by completion.

The first phase of 90 cottages sold out in hours and the second phase has just been released.

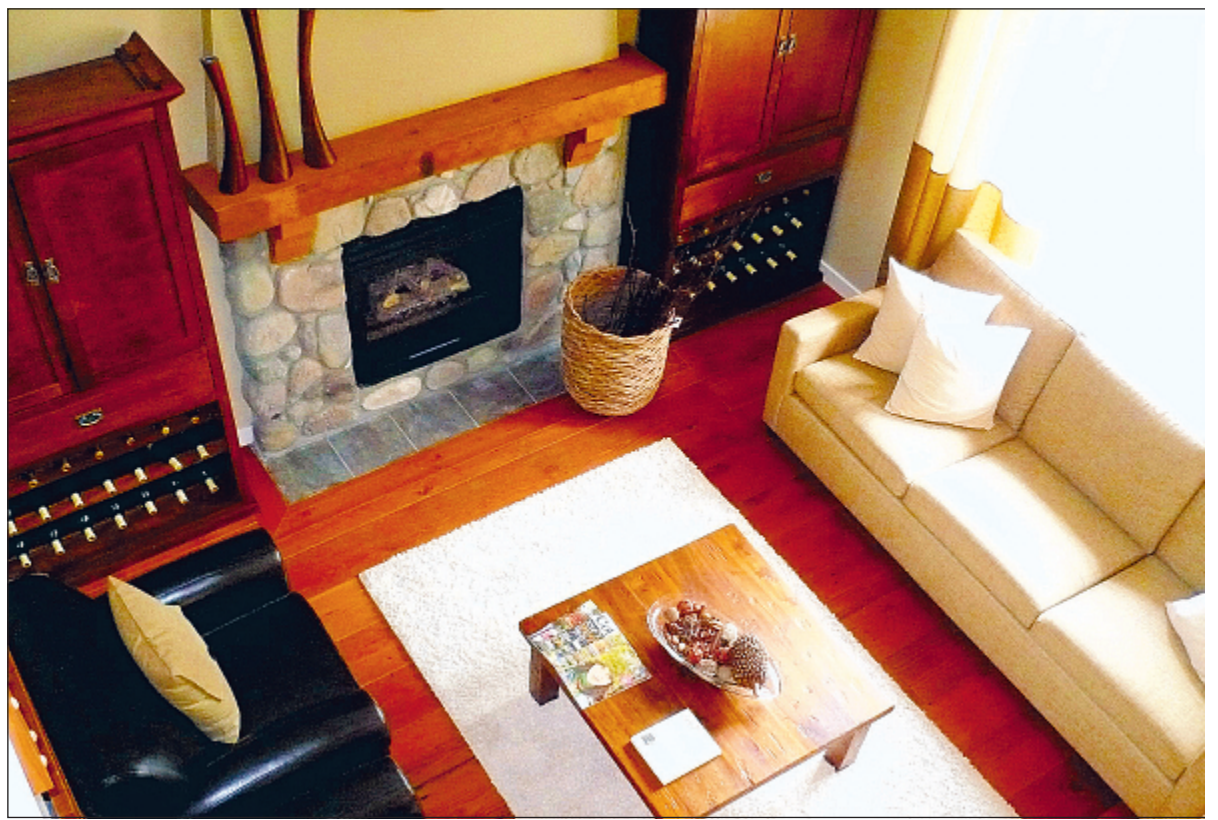
The Tree House — a 10,000-square-foot amenity centre for residents — which includes two outdoor pools, two hot tubs, a fireside lounge, kids' club, fully-equipped media centre, fitness centre and outdoor barbecue — opened in late spring.

The gated community also has tennis courts, a children's playground, a trout pond, a boat storage area, and a park with an open log pavilion.

LOCATION: Close to the town of Cultus Lake just a short distance from Chilliwack, B.C.

PRICES: Only full ownership is offered with cottages from 966 to 1,900 square feet (some with walk-out lower levels). Prices range from \$339,900 to \$599,900.

INFORMATION: Check the website www.cultuslakecottages.com.



Courtesy, Peak Communicators

The cottage feel is enhanced by the use of wood and stone in a unit in the Cottages at Cultus Lake.

istrants a week, which suggests we will go full steam ahead with the next phase."

That phase has now been released with a limited number of walk-out lots.

Inside, the homes have vaulted ceilings and open lofts, with floor plans that range from 966 to 1,900 square feet.

Prices are from \$339,900 to \$599,900.

"They are themed — like veranda living with large, covered porches front and back — because with cottages, the living is off the verandas," he says. "Outdoor fireplaces are important even in urban settings today."

Van Geel and his business partner have been active in residential development in the area for close to 30 years, primarily



The elegant, functional kitchen includes an island to prepare food.

in Surrey and White Rock. "We have done about 75 projects between us," he says. "For us, this is a real pleasure

because it's not the type of residential development that we normally do. But it is a full-time job, it is so comprehensive."

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2201	2 Bed	1,117	\$357,900	\$264,000	\$93,900*
4112	2 + Den	1,136	\$399,900	\$330,000	\$69,900*
2403	2 + Den	1,224	\$344,900	\$274,000	\$70,900*

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406	2 + Den	1,333	\$599,850	\$439,900	\$159,950*
804	Penthouse	1,316	\$1,052,800	\$549,900	\$502,900*

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