

# Cultus cottages 'snapped up' by urban retirees

By Robert Freeman  
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## 93 'get-away' cottages

### **sold in six hours**

Cottages in a new resort located outside the Cultus Lake Park boundary were selling like hotcakes last Saturday, mostly to Vancouver retirees eager to find a "get-away" home at the right price.

Ninety-three of the Cottages at Cultus Lake were "snapped up" in six hours says George Hare, president of Residential and Recreational Project Marketing (RPM) Inc.

Initially only 57 cottages - none of them except one show home built yet - were scheduled for sale during the first phase of the development, which will eventually see 230 cottages and a recreation centre on the 45-acre site near Lindell Beach.

But another 36 were put on the market due to the number of potential buyers responding to advertising in Black Press newspapers and the Vancouver Sun.

Hare says the 93 cottages, ranging from 966 sq. ft. to 1,900 sq. ft., sold for between \$324,900 and \$579,000, compared to the \$450,000 price of a new condo in Vancouver.

Combined with the natural beauty of Cultus Lake and just an hour away from Vancouver, he says, "you can see how that becomes attractive" to a retiree looking for a weekend or summer home.

Although the price and proximity of Cultus Lake is ideal for many, local realtor Richard Wenham says there is "limited" space around Cultus Lake for more developments like it.

He says sales are also "busy" inside the park boundary where properties are leased, rather than freehold.

Still, Wenham says he was "impressed" by the sales during the "introductory push" of the cottage development.

Park board chair Owen Skronberg says the addition of 230 property owners in the area is "great for our commercial business," but could impact traffic on the only road into the area - and on the lake itself.

"Any development is positive for the area," he says, but "we only have one access road to the lake."

Although the cottages don't have direct access to the lake, there could also be more boaters heading for the already-busy lake.

The park board has no jurisdiction over Cultus Lake, but Skronberg says he is "sure common sense will prevail."

Developer Jon Van Geel, president of Adriana Pacific Development, says the idea behind the cottage development was to build a "home away from home ... with all the comforts and conveniences of West Coast living."

The cottages are all-season homes, and the resort will eventually include a network of hiking trails, a two-acre evergreen park, tennis courts, a children's playground and access to the lake. A recreation centre, with outdoor pool and hot tub, fireside lounge, theatre and fitness facility are also in the plans.

An announcement on the second phase of cottages will be made in 2008.

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