



Photos courtesy, Kootenay Lake Village

Lookout point in Kootenay Lake Village Park.

OPINION

Lakeside opportunity comes a-knockin'

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SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Kootenay Lake has been described with words ranging from picturesque to stunning. Suffice to say that it is a sight to behold.

About one third of the way up its 100-kilometre length, an arm suddenly juts westward, taking the lake all the way to Nelson and deep into the heart of B.C.'s West Kootenay region.

At the point where this arm leaves the main lake, a development as unique as the Kootenays themselves is unfolding. It's called Kootenay Lake Village.

It has been said that the very best developments happen when a magnificent property and inspired developers come together and a vision for something special is born.

Kootenay Lake Village presents an opportunity to test this theory.

First, the property: 180 hectares of mostly forested land that slopes gently upwards and into the Selkirk Mountains; three kilometres of shoreline; and an exposure that pro-

vides for prolonged hours of sunshine in a land of mountain shadows.

As for the developers, Oliver Berkeley and Jon Long are not the norm.

Oliver has a background as a project manager and is therefore used to pulling together numerous people and pieces in getting things done.

Jon, on the other hand, is a film director by trade, with his best-known works being the IMAX movies *Extreme* and *Sacred Planet* voiced over by none other than Robert Redford.

Oliver says his and Jon's lives converged at the Kootenay Lake Village Development.

After years of searching the listings for waterfront on the main lake, they immediately recognized the potential of this parcel when it came on the market and acted instantly.

For Oliver and Jon, this development is both a journey and a destination.

The journey is the development phase of the project.

As for the destination, they will live and raise their families here. In a very real sense, they are building their dream community.



Kayaking on Kootenay Lake.

The property is stunning and the developers inspired but the true uniqueness of this development is the vision of these two men.

They have attempted to capture it in the slogan: "Live in nature. Play in nature."

To support the "live in nature" theme, the developers have endeavoured to find a way to establish up to 100 homes with a minimal disturbance to the natural cover.

From a total property perspective, 60 per cent has been permanently set aside as green space. Typically, it's only 10 per cent.

From an individual lot perspective, the same approach has been taken.

The building envelopes, on the approximately 0.2-hectare lots, have been sized to allow just enough space for a house and parking, protecting the natural cover and ensuring privacy.

Oliver and Jon's commitment to "playing in nature" is equally impressive.

With three kilometres of shoreline and community beach areas set aside, all forms of boating are possible.



Mountain biking trail at Kootenay Lake Village.

With up to 20 kilometres of hiking and biking trails in development, owners have a backyard extraordinaire, all for their private use.

These are designed and built by

professionals.

Residents will walk on pathways surfaced with Douglas fir bark chips and cycle on trails featuring split cedar bridges over water obstacles.

Indeed, residents of Kootenay Lake Village will be able to "play in nature."

A closing thought — the creation of a development that is consistent with the Kootenay lifestyle seems at first blush, to have all the makings of an oxymoron.

Still, if that lifestyle can be described as laid-back, sensitive to the environment and underscored by a desire to plan in nature, then the Kootenay Lake Village Development may just be as close as it's possible to get.

For more information on the development, visit www.kootenay-lakevillage.com

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