



Media Backgrounder

On the edge of serene Columbia Lake, Spirits Reach is a year round resort community in the heart of British Columbia's East Kootenays. Its first neighbourhood, Spirit of the Lake, will be the resort's only lakefront community. Working with the land planners for 2010 Winter Olympic Venues Whistler and Cyprus, Brent Harley and Associates, Spirits Reach has created an award winning resort community that is setting a new benchmark for innovative, sustainable development.

The resort community features a private waterfront Lakehouse with community kayaks, paddle boats, canoes, sailing boat for exclusive residents' use, together with extensive hiking and walking trails on the community's Ranch. There are nine homes remaining in the first lakefront neighbourhood and the second lakefront phase will not be launched until 2011. As the resort community continues up the hillside, this will be the only lakefront neighbourhood at Spirits Reach.

In 2009, Spirits Reach received the BC Hydro Power Smart Excellence Award in the category of Builder/Developer for demonstrating leadership in energy conservation. More than half of Spirits Reach's 500 acres will remain open green spaces. Its lakefront homes range from 1,600 to 1,800 square feet and are priced between \$489,000 – \$699,000.

The lakeside luxury cottage-styled homes at Spirits Reach are held to exceptional quality standards including estate quality finishing, a highly energy efficient building envelope and environmentally responsible construction. The interiors are finished with locally grown and harvested hardwood floors, solid alder cabinetry, interior doors and casings, along with granite countertops and premium hardware and fixtures. Energy Star rated appliances are used throughout the homes. Geothermal heating and cooling is employed in all homes at Spirits Reach for highly cost effective and environmentally sustainable climate control.

While Spirits Reach is a mere 20-minute drive from Invermere, British Columbia, the tranquil setting is worlds apart. It is a three hour drive from Calgary, Alberta and 55 minutes from Cranbrook, British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies International Airport.

Columbia Lake is located in a recreational Mecca with five ski hills and more than 15 golf courses within an easy drive. Opportunities for activity abound with hiking, fishing, boating, mountain biking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing throughout the Columbia Valley.

The natural beauty of Columbia Lake will be preserved as 50% of the lake's shoreline is a Wildlife Management Area and Provincial Park. Public access to Columbia Lake is limited to one public boat launch at the southern tip of the lake, making a day on the water a relaxing and peaceful experience.

Spirits Reach has a dedicated family swimming area and Columbia Lake is known for its low boat traffic, making it a safe and peaceful getaway. Spirits Reach is the only community in the Columbia Valley with a waterfront Lakehouse for community bar-b-ques and fun-at-the-lake activities.

Ideal for recreational property owners, homes are maintenance free. Strata fees for the community look after building insurance, water and sewage, amenities, exterior maintenance, landscaping of common areas, road maintenance, snow removal and yearly window and chimney cleaning.

The developers of Spirits Reach, Dave and Donna Rae, have a long track record of building quality communities on Columbia Lake. They are the creators of the popular Columere Park community development at the north side of the lake and Columbia Ridge Country Estates on the west side of the lake. As long time residents in the Columbia Valley, they are striving to build communities that feel like home.

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