

# Spirits Reach development to provide fibre optic cable

*Submitted by Spirits Reach*

A new development beside Columbia Lake will be the first subdivision in the valley to have fibre optic cable to every home.

Spirits Reach, now being constructed by Columere Park Developments Ltd., will include the fibre optic connection to allow high-speed internet access to residents.

"A fibre optic line in each home can provide high speed internet access more than 20 times faster than cable or DSL lines," says Dan McCarthy of Columbia Mountain Open Network, the fibre optic service provider.

Homeowners will enjoy the benefits of faster internet service at Spirits Reach than many will have in their principal homes in larger centres such as Calgary or Kclowna.

"Every home will have fibre optic cable installed to its premise. Based on experience with developments in the area, it is clear to us that access to the level of services and applications that this will provide to homeowners is in demand and growing," said Donna Rae, who owns Columere Park Developments with her husband Dave.

The Spirits Reach project will le-

verage the work underway on the fibre backbone project with the Regional District of East Kootenay.

"We believe this is a vital next step in community development and see that represented in projects underway with member communities such as the Village of Radium Hot Springs. This is a progressive approach for community vitality," Donna Rae said.

Also, recreational residents of Spirits Reach will be able to remain connected to their homes and businesses outside the valley with advanced telecommunications and services such as video conferencing and security monitoring.

The Raes said that providing these services will result in the recreational homeowners spending more time at their properties, resulting in economic benefits to the valley as a whole.

Construction of the Spirits Reach community is underway, including placement of the fibre optic conduit. Services and applications will be available to the homeowners upon possession of their new home at Spirits Reach.

Meanwhile Radium residents will vote in a Sept. 30 referendum about whether to accept council's plan to borrow \$2.45 million to provide the fibre optic cable to each home in the village.