



As seen in the Toronto Sun, New Homes & Condos
Friday July 29th

FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP &
VACATION LIVING 2011
SUN NEW HOMES & CONDOS



Home is where
the cottage is

— SEE PAGE 10

Urban style with
a cottage feel

— SEE PAGE 12

Taking inspiration
from Georgian Bay

— SEE PAGE 14



Urban style with a cottage feel

DIANNE DANIEL

Special to QMI Agency

Roughing it used to be an expression associated with city dwellers escaping to Ontario cottage country to get away from it all. But with the launch of a new trend in lakeside development, the tables are turning.

Now there's a growing group of adults aged 45 and up, tired of roughing it in the city and looking to set up permanent residence in a lifestyle cottage community that has all the bells and whistles of city dwelling in a peaceful, lakefront setting. And Gerry Kowalski, developer of Silver Beach, a four-season gated community in the Haliburton Highlands, is ready to welcome them.

"It's the great escape," says Kowalski. "The baby boomers who have been in the city for 30 to 40 years are saying, 'I don't need to be here anymore. I don't need to sit in this traffic and congestion. I'd like to live in cottage country year-round.'"

Silver Beach was a simple trailer park when Kowalski purchased it in 2004. Five years and many environmental, cultural and regulatory hurdles later, it's now a stunning "club community" featuring a mix of detached homes and townhomes amid the glacial deposits and pink

and black granite of the Canadian Shield on one hand and lush forested areas on the other.

Townhomes range from 1,300 to 2,800 square feet and start at \$299,000 while three-bedroom bungalows and 'bungalofts' range from 1,150 to 2,470 square feet and start at \$339,000. The idea is to combine urban style with cottage country ambience: the interiors feature modern finishes and conveniences like elevators while the exteriors are done in low maintenance stone and wood siding with fibre glass shingles.

Kowalski's vision was to create a new standard for year-round recreational communities in Ontario, starting with prestige features that include everything from granite countertops and stainless steel appliances to nine-foot ceilings and ceramic tiles. He also aimed to bring cottage country into the 21st century with state-of-the-art, energy efficient Hydronic heating and cooling that features on-demand tankless hot water systems and zoned temperature controls so that each floor of a home can be individually regulated.

Just five minutes from the charming village of Haliburton, Silver Beach offers theatre, shopping and dining, and is just 15 minutes from a new hospital. The lakefront features a 200-foot walkout sandbar and 30 boat slips, while other recre-

ational activities include golfing, hiking, snowmobiling, cross country skiing and ice fishing.

"Part of the problem facing people who retire to cottage country is that they find themselves quite isolated," notes Kowalski. "In a community like this you've got 59 homes and there's always someone around."

In fact, the club atmosphere is already firmly entrenched at Silver Beach. With 19 homes constructed, there's a wine club, regular bonfires and groups of neighbours are always getting together for a round of golf, hike through the bush or drinks on the dock, he adds.

"There's a real social atmosphere and yet you can still have your privacy because we're on an 18-acre property," says Kowalski.

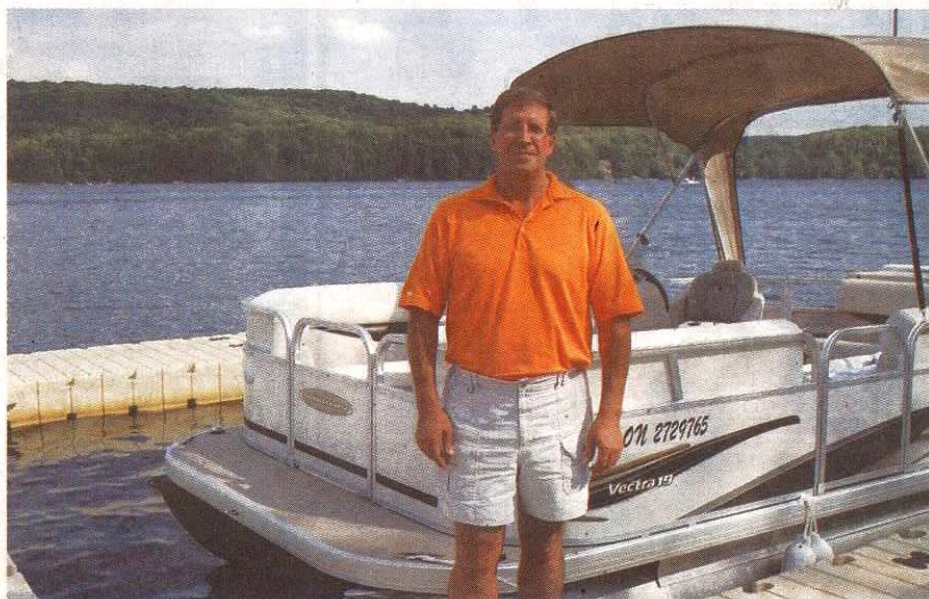
Adding to the community's resort-like feel, Kowalski also plans to build a 5,000 square-foot clubhouse featuring an elevated deck, kitchen, bar, outdoor barbecue area and grand hall, along with an exercise facility, games room, sauna and health and wellness area. And if residents do feel like roughing it every now and then, the city's only a two-hour drive away, he says.



Offering detached bungalows with cathedral ceilings, loft areas and energy efficient heating and cooling systems, Silver Beach combines the rugged Canadian Shield landscape with the modern cottage experience.



Located on the Kashagawigamog lakefront, Silver Beach features a beach with a 200 ft. walkout sandbar and 30 boat slips.



Gerry Kowalski of Silver Beach: "Part of the problem facing people who retire to cottage country is that they find themselves quite isolated. In a community like this you've got 59 homes and there's always someone around."

SILVER BEACH

As seen in the Toronto Sun
New Homes & Condos
Friday July 29th