

# SECOND HOMES

■ Gerald Filipski  
F5  
■ Puzzles / F7

■ RECREATION AND INVESTMENT PROPERTIES ■

EDITOR: JANET Vlieg, 498-5687; jvlieg@thejournal.canwest.com

EDMONTON JOURNAL

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008



Lac Ste. Anne is the crown jewel of the Estates at Waters Edge. Homes in the community are designed to provide great views.

SUPPLIED

## The perfect getaway — close to home

Resort-style community on Lac Ste. Anne just what an Edmonton couple was looking for

Stories by JANE CARDILLO  
Special to The Journal  
LAC STE. ANNE

Joan Currie and her husband, Rick Newcombe, spent nearly a decade searching for the perfect getaway. They finally found it on the shores of an Alberta lake just a short distance from their west Edmonton home

"If we've looked at one place, we've looked at a thousand," Currie says.

The couple's quest for a vacation home came to a halt last summer when Currie, 49, and Newcombe, 51, found the Es-

tates at Waters Edge, a resort-style community on the north shore of Lac Ste. Anne.

"When you've been looking for a recreation property for a long time you start to form a list of criteria," says Currie. "On our list, Waters Edge resonated on virtually 99 per cent of the things that we were looking for."

The couple take possession of their three-bedroom bungalow in Phase 1 this July.

"It's coming up very quickly," Currie says of the move-in date. "We're getting quite excited."

Currie has a lot to be excited about. She and Newcombe will step out their new front door into a world of meandering wilderness trails, woodland animals, shady glades and long, lazy stretches of sandy beach.

And the crown jewel in this setting — the vast lake with its crystal waters lapping at kilometre upon kilometre of shoreline — is never far from view.

The lake can be seen from just about anywhere in Waters Edge, says Rick Arndt, one of the project's founders.

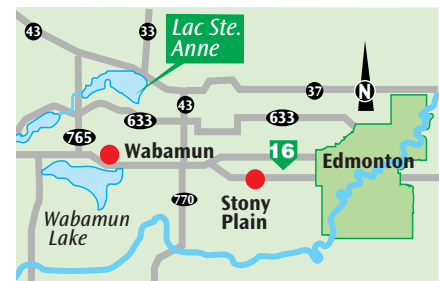
"We have three types of lots: lakefront, lakeview and lakeside. Every time you

move on the property, you connect with the lake.

"So even though your cabin might not be on the lakefront, you have a connection with the lake visually on every piece of property."

Newcombe and Currie plan to live full-time at Waters Edge when they retire in about 10 years. For the time being though, the property is close enough to their Edmonton home to enjoy on weekends.

"We live in the west end, so we can literally get from door to door in 40 minutes," says Currie.



Proximity is an attraction, says Arndt. "We are 45 minutes west of Edmonton and only 35 minutes west of St. Albert. We're two blocks off Highway 43 and it's a paved road all the way to the gate."

See WATERS EDGE / F2

## Community designed with lake in mind

Special to The Journal  
LAC STE. ANNE

With sloping roofs and deep, covered porches, big windows and airy floor plans, the homes in the Estates at Waters Edge lend their own magical charm to an outdoor setting that abounds in natural beauty.

Features such as the covered front verandas on the Craftsman-style dwellings allow residents to enjoy life on the shores of Lac Ste. Anne to the fullest, says Rick Arndt, one of the project's founders.

"The verandas are very large, they're 10 feet by 32 feet, so it allows you to be able to sit and enjoy the view or sit out on the deck and dine."

Designers definitely had the lake in mind when they created the two-, three- and four-bedroom bungalows.

"The whole front of each unit, has the living room and dining room and kitchen looking out onto the view," Arndt says. "They're open great-room floor plans with the bedrooms and laundry rooms on the back."

Just kilometres from Alberta Beach and less than an hour's drive from Edmonton, Waters Edge appeals to everyone from professional couples to young families and retired seniors, says Arndt.

"Whether you're a small family or a large family, you have a unit that can suit your lifestyle.

"If you're a senior with mobility prob-

lems, the unit's perfect for you."

There are six floor plans available. They range from 1,100 to 1,600 square feet.

Low-energy appliances and high-efficiency furnaces mean the homes are built to withstand the elements and save on utilities.

"We're using R-20 (insulation) in the walls and R-40 in the ceilings," says Arndt.

"So they're designed to provide all the modern energy-efficient features, low-energy consumption and low-water usage consumption."

Some people are living year-round in the community, says Arndt, who notes there are elementary schools, a high school and food stores, banks and en-

tertainment just minutes away.

"You have Stony Plain and Spruce Grove, which is only 15 minutes away, Alberta Beach is only 15 minutes away.

"And right on the doorstep of our development is a neighbourhood convenience grocery store and a gas bar and a liquor store."

The roads in Waters Edge are paved and homes are connected to municipal services.

"We have a water treatment plant that provides for high-quality water, so you don't have your own well, and we have a computerized septic system."

House prices start in the upper \$300,000 range.

Arndt's family has summered at Lac

Ste. Anne for generations.

Strong ties to the area and a love of the lake were reasons behind the creation of Waters Edge.

"We really enjoy the lake," says Arndt. "When you arrive there, time seems to stop."

"You can drive out to this property in the evenings after work, you can open up the car door and walk into the cabin and you could be sitting on the deck with a cold beverage, simply enjoying life."

To view the showhomes at the Estates at Waters Edge and tour the site, call 1-877-405-1105.

For more information on the project, visit the website at [www.watersedgeestates.ca](http://www.watersedgeestates.ca).

North shore of Lac Ste. Anne, just 45 minutes west of Edmonton.

THE ESTATES AT  
WATERS EDGE

LAKESIDE LIVING LIKE NEVER BEFORE



Our secure, gated community with condo style controls offers all the benefits of lakeside living without the burden of pier or common property maintenance. Choose your perfect lot — all with access to the lake. Find your personal style in our Craftsman style home plans. All construction and landscaping is included, leaving more time to relax and enjoy!

To visit our show home and tour our site,  
please call for an appointment: 1-877-405-1105

[www.WatersEdgeEstates.ca](http://www.WatersEdgeEstates.ca)



Hellebore in bloom at Scott Canning's weekend home

STEWART CAIRNS, NEW YORK TIMES

# When a garden is a weekend affair

Tending your vegetable patch so intermittently means accepting the fact not everything will go perfectly

STEPHEN ORR  
New York Times News Service

On Friday evenings during the spring and summer, journeys of great optimism are repeated all over the country. City dwellers, eager to see what is happening in their weekend gardens, make their way up winding roads in the twilight. Once they've arrived, even the darkness won't keep them from making the rounds they've been looking forward to all week. Who knows? It might be necessary to rescue a wilting plant, scare off a hungry animal or merely mutter an expletive over a long-awaited flower that was in bud just a week ago but now, past its bloom, is nothing more than a limp dishrag.

"Last night we were late leaving town and didn't get to our house till 11 p.m., so I had my husband aim the car headlights into the garden," Julie Hebert, a writer and director in Los Angeles, said of a recent visit to her Ojai Valley weekend place. "I couldn't wait to see what was going on. I had to make sure that nothing needed my immediate attention."

From the eagerness in her voice, one imagines the car hadn't yet come to a complete stop.

To Hebert and other ardent gardeners, the flower beds and vegetable plots of their second homes are a sublime refuge, a place to leave the workaday world behind. Outsiders might view these primarily untended plots as the weekend equivalent of work camps, full of a slate of catch-up chores and the unceasing demands of hundreds of little vegetative voices: water me, feed me, weed me, protect me. They'd be right. Second-home gardeners do have it rough.

Even under ordinary circumstances, the challenges of nurturing plants and controlling nature are all too well-known to gardeners. But add the frequent absences of this kind of homeowner (five days out of seven equals almost three-quarters of the week spent away), and you have a recipe for impending disaster. During the height of the season, a



Scott Canning waters flowers at his home in Columbia County, N.Y.

missed visit can spell catastrophe.

Even with all the responsibility, these homeowners insist the rewards are great. And to help their gardens make it successfully through the week, they show up each weekend armed with an ever-increasing list of hard-learned lessons and shortcuts. One of the essential elements for success is plant selection.

"I tell people that some things are just too fussy," said garden centre owner Cristina Spindler. "I try to steer people away from plants like hydrangeas and vegetables since they take so much water."

Spindler finds that most of her customers don't want to garden all weekend; they want to relax. For those customers she recommends shrubs, especially broad-leaved evergreens like cedars.

"I also tell them to grow herbs if they're into edible gardening," she said. "They are so much more drought-tolerant. Just buy your vegetables at the farm stand."

But some gardeners still want the challenge.

"Sometimes I think I bit off more than I can chew with my place," Scott Canning said. And this is quite a statement coming from the director of horticulture at a botanical garden in New York City. "My standards are much higher than I can maintain being at my garden only two days a week. I have to tell myself, it's going to look the way it looks — but I know I could never survive without it."

Once at his upstate New York farmhouse on a Friday night, Canning likes to get out right away and do a tour of his fenced vegetable garden, tomato patch and long double flower borders. To accomplish this in the dark he has acquired an ingenious hands-free device — a backpacker's headlamp that allows him to check on new developments and even do a little work well after dusk.

The next morning usually finds him out early. "My favourite time is dawn on Saturday," Canning said. "I go out in my bare feet with a cup of coffee and start weeding, always the first task of the weekend. Before I know it, it's noon."

Mish Tworkowski often leaves New York City overstimulated after a busy week as a jewelry designer. Mentally, he wants to get lost in his second-home garden. "It gives me a sense of quiet and the time alone that a lot of people never have the chance to find," he said. The flowers actually refuel his creativity for the following week, providing inspiration for the design and colour harmonies of his intricate pieces.

Hebert calls her 30-foot-by-30-foot fenced garden "a playground for her thoughts." But she has also made it into a memorial to members of her close-knit Cajun family who have passed on. Her brother, once a New Orleans florist, gets a commemorative corner filled with his favourite plants. She planted roses for her godmother and installed at the garden's centre an imposing flamboyant blue and purple salvia that she calls Grandpa Shepherd.

"The work I do all week is so cerebral, with lots of interpersonal politics. This

place is peaceful in a way I don't find anywhere else," Hebert said. "I'm out here on my knees in the dirt, sweaty, never thinking about anything but weeding and plants and my family."

Tworkowski had to have roses, and his walled garden is filled with them. Even though he dotes on the romantic 19th-century varieties like the once-blooming bourbons and gallicas, he has added more and more of the David Austin roses that bloom throughout the summer. "June is such a busy month for me in the city and I don't want to miss the peak," he said.

But all three gardeners admit animals are their biggest scourge. Tworkowski says he has kept deer at bay with a walled rose garden and a deer-resistant woodland area planted with species such as ferns, lily of the valley and spring bulbs. However, even in the walled area the scene is not really animal proof.

Canning has a truly gruesome tale of garden carnage. Several years ago, he went away for a week and rabbits got into his deer-fenced vegetable garden and ate everything off at the base, leaving limp piles and dangling stalks of fully grown plants no longer good for any-

thing but the compost heap.

"The entire garden was wiped out," Canning said. "I just quietly closed the gate and didn't go back in till next spring. I couldn't bear to deal with it." The next season he rallied and installed rabbit wire fencing at the base of the existing fence with good results.

On the West Coast, Hebert struggles with her serious gopher issues. "We dug trenches and then lined them with chicken wire," she said of her vegetable and flower garden. "Otherwise the gophers tunnel around invisibly eating all the roots. Then the first strong wind comes along and they fall right over."

On Sunday evenings, the hours of remaining freedom (and yardwork) tick away. Canning often stays outside in his headlamp until well after dark, striving "to get just one more hour in" before heading back to a full week of professional gardening.

Hebert has cultivated her own realistic but sanguine attitude toward her garden. "When I leave, I just say good luck to everyone as I close the gate," she said. "Whoever survives gets to stay. I never know who is going to make it through the week."

## WEEKENDER'S TIPS

Gardens can handle being on autopilot for much of the summer, if their owners take a few crucial steps.

- ▶ Install automatic irrigation. Watering by hand is a time-consuming chore and uses much more water than a drip system.
- ▶ Learn to love perennials and shrubs. Plants that return year after year will establish deep roots that require less water.
- ▶ Avoid lanky varieties that need support. Shop for sturdy species that don't require staking.
- ▶ Shop for natives and wildflowers. Be sure to look around to see what is already growing in your area. These varieties are sure to thrive.
- ▶ Pay attention to the locals. Look at your

neighbours' plants to see which types can handle neglect. Some specimens will have been growing successfully for generations. Also ask at the local nursery for recommendations.

- ▶ Use wildlife barriers. The animals will soon discover that you've left them an unguarded feast. Fence for deer and use one-inch-by-one-inch wire netting against rabbits and woodchucks.
- ▶ Avoid container plantings during the height of summer. Potted plants may need water every day during the hot months.
- ▶ Don't be a control freak. Mother Nature is running this show. Just relax and enjoy the process of gardening. Nothing will ever go just as you planned.

## Properties serviced by condo association, protected by 24-hour management and on-site security

WATERS EDGE  
Continued from F1

But the lure of Waters Edge goes beyond a short drive time, says Arndt, who describes the project as a condominium-style community of single-family residences situated on 800 metres of south-facing lakeshore.

"Waters Edge is in its own bay," Arndt says. "That gives it a secluded feel. And when you look out onto the lake from the Estates at Waters Edge you just see the whole vastness of the lake."

All properties are fully serviced and maintained by a condominium association; there is an on-site marina with private boat slips, a waterfront beach recreation area and a children's playground.

Homes come with such amenities as a paved driveway and storage shed. Residents have access to a secure yard with personal storage stalls.

"We completely landscape the lot," Arndt says. "We grass it, we put trees and shrubs on the property line, we put a

firepit in the front yard, the deck is built, sidewalks are on."

There's nothing for the buyer to do but move in, he says.

"We're creating a community right out of the chute. We're taking away all the hassles of lakeside living. It gives you more time to do absolutely nothing."

Currie and Newcombe plan to spend that time gardening, walking their little dogs, Carlos and Carlita, and making new friends.

"We really liked the fact that it is a community, and we're quite excited about going into a place where we're going to have neighbours that, hopefully, will become friends," Currie says.

An on-site clubhouse accommodates intimate gatherings and community events. It has a dining room, fully-equipped kitchen and games area.

"It's gorgeous," Currie says. "In fact, we are holding a welcome-to-the-neighbourhood party there for friends as well as for the other people who have bought. "We love to entertain, so it's nice to have

the option of the (clubhouse), opposed to just your home."

Future plans include a fitness centre, hot tub and seasonal outdoor pool.

"My husband and I are big fitness nuts, so that was a criterion — that there was a facility that we could use for fitness," Currie says.

She also gets peace of mind knowing her vacation home is safe in the gated community.

"I don't want to have to, when I leave Sunday night and go back into the city, worry incessantly whether my home and my property are going to be safe."

There's 24-hour management and security on-site every day of the year, Arndt says.

It all adds up to a dream come true for Currie and Newcombe.

"We actually never, ever thought that we would be able to make this happen for ourselves, but it did," Currie says.

"And as a result, we're naming our cottage Wishbone. We're going to get a sign made that says Wishbone Cottage."



There's nothing left for buyers to do at Waters Edge but move in, the developers say. "We completely landscape the lot ...," says Rick Arndt, a project founder. "We put a firepit in the front yard, the deck is built, sidewalks are on."

SUPPLIED