

# Sometimes grass is greener at home

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Tom Dennehy is looking forward to doing absolutely nothing when he's at his new vacation home on the shores of Lac Ste. Anne.

Well, not exactly nothing. He'll be waterskiing with his family and sitting on his covered front verandah, watching the water lap at the shoreline of the big lake.

In winter, Dennehy can explore the area on his snow machine. He may stroll the wilderness trails that wind through the recreation community, or throw a party at the clubhouse with its fully equipped kitchen and games area.

What Dennehy won't be doing are the chores usually associated with life at the lake. There are no piers to scrape down and paint, no septic tanks to empty and no property to landscape.

Those were all prime reasons for buying into the Estates at Waters Edge, a condo-style development made up of single-family homes in a secluded bay on the north shore of Lac Ste. Anne.

Located off Highway 43, Waters Edge is less than an hour from Edmonton and just kilometres from the popular summer resort area of Alberta Beach.

"I have a brother who has a lake property and putting the pier in and taking the pier out is always a hassle," says Dennehy. "So there's a lot of trouble-free about this whole development.

"The maintenance of the common area property is taken care of and if you don't want to cut your own lawn, you can hire people to cut it for you."

Add to that the development's proximity to his home and Dennehy was sold.

"The location with respect to Edmonton was fantastic. It's 47 minutes from our house, so I'm expecting to spend quite a bit of time out there in the summertime."

Dennehy's comments are exactly what the developers of Waters Edge were hoping to hear.

The whole idea was to create a community where residents could relax and enjoy their surroundings, says Rick Arndt, one of the project's founders.

"Our vision was to provide for lakeside living that was hassle-free," Arndt says.

"Not only do you own your lot and your residence, you own your fractional ownership of everything else."

Residents have full access to the lakefront, boat launch and marina, their own private boat slips, a clubhouse, kids' playground and a secure storage yard with personal stalls for their recreation equipment.

The paved roads in the community are plowed in the winter and private driveways are also cleared after heavy snowfalls.

"All of that is maintained for you as part of your condominium fee," Arndt says. The monthly cost is about \$120.

The gated community has 24-hour management and security every day of the year. Future plans include a fitness centre, hot tub and seasonal outdoor pool.

"It's like living in the city," says Arndt of the municipal services that provide treated water and a septic system to each lot.

Houses come with fully landscaped yards, exposed aggregate sidewalks, fire pits, covered verandahs, stainless steel appliances, wood laminate floors and gas fireplaces.

The Craftsman-style homes, with Great Room design, are highly insulated and energy efficient to make living at the lake comfortable year-round.

All of that for a price new owner Cindy Strickland calls reasonable. "It's lakefront property reasonably priced," says Strickland of the home overlooking the lake that she will share with her new husband, Dave Hands.

"We paid around \$550,000. Considering what you'd have to pay in B.C. for something similar, you'd probably look at double that."

Strickland and Hands live in Calgary. Their hectic jobs in the oil and gas industry make the lakefront retreat that much sweeter.

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**TOM DENNEHY**, property owner, Estates at Waters Edge

"There's a lot of solitude, serenity," says Strickland. "It's a place to get away. We wouldn't have been interested in anything that was too crowded or congested and it's not that way."

No matter where your house is situated, there is always a view of the lake, says Arndt.

"You have a connection with the lake visually on every piece of property," Arndt says. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for people to enjoy lakeside living even if they didn't live right on the lake."

Some lots are still available in Phase One. More are coming on stream this summer with the launch of Phase Two.

For a closer look at the Estates at Waters Edge visit the website at [www.watersedgeestates.ca](http://www.watersedgeestates.ca) ■



PHOTOS: MATT AUBIN - PUREVISION

AT TOP: On-site marina maintained for residents by Waters Edge management.  
ABOVE LEFT: Exterior of a show home; all homes are designed in the Craftsman style.  
ABOVE RIGHT: Show home interior featuring kitchen layout and finishing.