SUMMER ESCAPES

Cottage living with a modern twist

Treetops goes for chic urban feel in a classic Muskoka setting

DUNCAN MCALLISTER Special to QMI Agency

This is the time of year when Toronto families are looking for a getaway from the hustle and bustle of the sweltering hot city and enjoy a fun-filled outing in Ontario's northlands.

The Muskoka Lakes is a very popular destination that offers all the activities of the great outdoors within a two-hour drive from Toronto. The town of Huntsville is the ultimate tourist destination, surrounded by lakeside resorts and golf courses. Well known are the world-class destinations like the Deerhurst Resort, site of the 2010 G8 Summit, Hidden Valley and the Muskoka Grandview Resort.

There's lots to see and do in this town made for tourists. The idyllic setting east of Algonquin Park is situated alongside Fairy Lake, it's breathtaking natural vistas a favourite subject for Canada's celebrated Group of Seven artists.

Imagine owning your own getaway with all the conveniences of a modern urban condominium in a classic Muskoka setting. The Treetops condominium residences is a new development under construction situated on a ski hill and across the road from the Deerhurst Resort.

The property winds its way up a 400-foot wooded hill revealing panoramic views of Hidden Valley below. Plans are underway for an S-shaped road leading to successive terraced perches on the hill overlooking Peninsula Lake and the Lakeside Golf Course.

"This is not your grandfather's rustic cottage," say TreeTops developer Lesley Gregory, "it's a cottage made for the modern family, with modern conveniences and maintenance-free living."

A collection of two and three-bedroom condominiums are housed in intimate buildings designed to fit within the Canadian Shield landscape, 13 three-storey buildings in all when it's completed.

Gourmet kitchens boast stainless steel appliances, Cartier Kitchen cabinets and a breakfast bar. Bathrooms feature floating designer vanities and chrome-finished taps.

"This location has a confluence of lakes and nature." explains Gregory. "We have studied different recreation niche markets over time and our business strategy is to develop residential products in well-established, amenityrich destinations."

Geothermal heating and cooling will provide homeowners with a clean, green energy source at a fraction of the cost of electric or propane systems. The second phase



Treetop Condominium is promising a getaway with all the conveniences of a modern urban condominium but in a classic Muskoka setting.



A view of Fairy Lake from Lions Lookout.

will offer 24 luxuriouslyfinished units, priced from \$279,900 to \$459,900, from 1,000 to 1,600 square feet.

The model home designed by VG Architects is open for viewing. It features magnificent interiors by well-known Toronto designer, Bryon Patton.

All owners will be members of Hidden Valley Highlands ski club and will be able to ski in and out of the property. Nearby are half a dozen golf clubs, riding and snowmobile trails, and a wealth of lake activities. The region is an oasis for golfers. Close by is the sprawling Grandview Golf Course with its marvelous stone clubbouse.

Huntsville Mayor Claude Doughty has been instrumental in transforming the region into a vibrant business and tourist district with such initiatives as the Waterloo Summit Centre and the Muskoka Animation Studio. The downtown Algonquin Theatre is busy 150 days of the year.

The downtown Main Street is an animated promenade with Muskoka-themed boutique shops like SoapStones with their handcrafted soap and skincare products, and sweet delicacies from the Nutty Chocolatier.

Off the main street is Riverside Park, a waterfront promenade with a boardwalk, boat docks and a collection of restaurants with outdoor patios.

Throughout the town, visitors can enjoy the Group of Seven Outdoor Gallery with over 80 outsized reproductions of the artists' paintings. According to Mayor Doughty, one of the murals had some high-profile artists. "When the world leaders were here in 2010, with great reservation they all bought into it and they all put a few brush strokes on, so that's in our Summit Centre."