

PINNACLE RIDGE CHALETS

Outdoor Enthusiasts Finding Their Way To Fernie

By Anne Gafiuk

What location first comes to mind when you think of skiing in the winter and mountain biking in the summer? Whistler, perhaps? Well, start to consider Fernie!

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Developer John Paone of AHC Developments Ltd., the oldest building construction company in BC, thought that Fernie reminded him of Whistler twenty years ago, according to Sheryl Hancher, Sales Director for Pinnacle Ridge Alpine Resort. “John fell in love with the area and in 2001 built our first phase with The Condos at Pinnacle Ridge. He considers Fernie his second home.”

With the expansion of the Cranbrook Airport, an hour away, and the planned Greg Norman Signature Course, Blackstone, this small logging and mining community is on the cusp of re-discovery! Many people have already found its appeal, as can be seen up at The Fernie Alpine Resort and other developments, including Pinnacle Ridge Limited Edition Chalets. The number and types of activities in and around Fernie include skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, golfing, hiking, biking, flyfishing and white water rafting on the Elk River; and Lake Koocanusa, a half hour's drive away, offers beaches, boating, and waterskiing. “We are known for our winters but more people are realizing Fernie is a four-season destination.” Sheryl adds, “Centrally located between the ski resort and town, only 1.7 kilometres in either direction, our Chalets also have walking and biking trails conveniently located nearby along the river into town, and in the winter, every thirty five minutes, a shuttle service is offered to pick you up and drop you off each day.”

Utilizing local trades, materials, and suppliers, Pinnacle Ridge supports the community. Sheryl

elaborates: “The timbers come from a husband and wife team and their company close to Fernie. They are hand picked and we don't have to wait for the wood to come from Vancouver!”

“We have listened to what our clients and owners have said about our condo units. We've taken their recommendations and built the Chalet townhomes. We use even higher quality materials, inside and out, ensuring low maintenance and added value over time!” states Sheryl with pride. “We have gone beyond the normal requirements

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to make the Chalet a home,” she continues, with a full furniture package available to those who do not want to be concerned with choosing and moving furnishings. Many of their clients and owners come from the United Kingdom and the United States, along with fellow Canadians. “It's a service we provide.” Everything a person could think of from the smallest details, including art work and accessories, towels and sheets, beds and couches, to a corkscrew are provided, and the package complements the chalet's fine features.

“The Chalets are part of a strata,” explains Sheryl, “which keeps the outside of the building

Photos by Anne Gafiuk



FERNIE FACT FILE

- Named after William Fernie, who brought coal mining to the area.
- In 1898 the Canadian Pacific Railroad arrived.
- In 1904, Fernie was incorporated.
- Logging became the second largest industry in the area as Fernie continued to grow.
- In 1963, Fernie Snow Valley opened.
- Fernie bid for the 1968 Winter Olympics.
- In 1997, Fernie Snow Valley was renamed: Fernie Alpine Resort.
- Located in the corner of south-east British Columbia, in the Elk River Valley (East Kootenays) set against the Lizard Range of the Canadian Rocky Mountains.
- Average snowfall on the ski hill: 879 cm
- Average snowfall in town: 360 cm
- Average winter temperature: -11C
- Average summer temperature: +25C
- Ski Season: mid-December to mid-April
- Population: approximately 5200 people
- Distance to Vancouver: 945 km
- Distance to Calgary: 326 km

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and grounds maintained, making it maintenance free for the owners, so they have more time for the activities the area has to offer.”

There are two floor plans available: The Elk, at 1824 square feet on two levels, and The Bear, at 2537 square feet on three levels, and both include a single garage. The Elk has three bedrooms and two full baths, while The Bear has three bathrooms and three bedrooms, plus a den and loft. The gourmet kitchen and dining areas in both plans accommodate up to ten people and feature granite countertops, cherry wood-stained cabinetry, stainless steel appliances, and radiant heating in the slate flooring. The kitchen island is wired for high speed internet access. Wood is used extensively in the large post and timber stairways and balconies. Natural wood baseboards, doors and trims are found throughout both units. The Elk has one ledge stone fireplace, and The Bear has two fireplaces. Views from the numerous large windows are

spectacular!

Upgrades are available: a wine fridge, a hot tub for the deck, and hardwood flooring throughout the vaulted great room spaces.

There is also option to place the townhouse in a rental pool to generate income. Sheryl explains another alternative open to purchasers, being fractional ownership: “an opportunity to own a beautiful chalet fully furnished for one quarter of the price.”

Sheryl also compares the cost of square footage for the similar size and quality of the same type of unit in other recreational areas found in Alberta and British Columbia: “Whistler: \$620 per square foot, Canmore: \$525 per square foot, Invermere: \$420 per square foot. Our cost per square foot is only \$289!” Prices for the units start in the mid-\$400,000 range to mid-\$600,000’s for full ownership and from \$129,000 for The Elk and \$169,500 for The Bear for quarter ownership.

“Fernie is surrounded by Crown Land. We know the change in Fernie is going to happen. We want to make sure it’s done slowly to ensure quality and not affect the special aspects of the valley.” R

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