

Chalet homes close to ski hills

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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

THE TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS—Janet and Bruce McKelvey are lottery winners.

Admittedly it was not one of the big lotteries with multimillion-dollar payoffs, but nevertheless they consider themselves lucky that their number came up at the Orchard.

"Our lot has wonderful views of the ski hill, so we were very pleased," said Janet McKelvey.

The Orchard is a 130-home development at the foot of the Craigleith Ski Club and a few minutes walk from the Village at Blue Mountain.

Demand from ski club members was so high that a lottery was held with the winners getting to choose their lots.

The McKelveys, who have been members of the ski club for more than 30 years and have enjoyed their visits to the family chalet across the road from the club, were delighted when they heard their number came up.

MacPherson Master Builders is building on the 20-hectare site.

Although those whose names were first out of the hat got to choose the prime lots, it turned out that there was a mix of needs with some of the winners choosing detached homes, others choosing semi detached homes and others opting for the town homes.

In all, 61 units were sold through the lottery and 27 more were snapped up by the general public but there is a good variety amongst the 40 or so lots still



Post and beam accents and mountain-style architecture distinguish the homes at the Orchard at Craigleith, at the foot of a ski hill.

The Orchard's Paulette Kersley said the homes are attracting a good mix of buyers.

"It's families, retired people, cottages for the summer, cottages for the winter, permanent homes. Some are members of Craigleith ski club, some ski at Blue Mountain and some who don't ski at all," said Kersley.

The McKelveys chose the 3,100 square-foot Panorama model.

This two-storey, four-bedroom house has two and one half baths and with the main living area and master bedroom on the second floor, will have great views of the mountain.

McKelvey particularly likes the master bedroom's large walk-in closet and luxury bathroom.

The Panorama model starts at around \$629,990.

Premiums for prime lots that are either larger or back on to the hills add between \$10,000 and \$185,000.

For the time being, the McKelveys plan to use their home as their weekend place and have no plans to move up to the area permanently.

"But down the road, if we decide to spend a lot more time there the house is certainly suitable for that," said McKelvey.

Construction is underway and the first occupancy is scheduled for September.

The homes will all be chalet-style featuring "distinctive mountain-style architecture" with such features as post and beam accents, high roof pitches and gables. The streetscapes will be lighted by Victorian-style streetlamps and directed by vintage street signage.

Prices for attached chalet villas start at \$409,990 for the 1,925 square-foot Partridge model, the semi-detached chalet villas start at \$505,990 for the 2,272 square-foot Stowe model. Detached chalets start at \$579,990 for the 2,581 square foot Banff model and top out with the 4,063 square-foot Tahoe model for \$739,990.

Interior features include imported ceramic tile, gourmet kitchens and master ensuite bathrooms with oversized acrylic tubs.

For more information click on www.theorchard.ca or call sales representatives Winn Campaigne at 1-705-445-4646 or Linda Killackey at 1-416-385-9642.

A sales office on the site is open weekdays 1 to 6 p.m. and noon to 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

To reach the site, take Highway 26 from Collingwood, head west for about 10 kilometres, turn left at the lights at Craigleith onto Blue Mountain Road. The Orchard is on the right.