

## Bancroft

# Picture perfect four-season getaway in Bancroft

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**ROBERTA AVERY**

As a pioneer of fractional ownership in Ontario, John Puffer knows a thing or two about the concept of shared ownership in a cottage.

"We introduced the idea at Chandler Point (Group of Companies) in 1998 and it has been so successful that others have copied it," he says.

Since the launch of six cottages at Chandler Point near Haliburton, Puffer has built three other successful fractional ownership cottage projects and is now onto a fifth, which he has named Group of Seven — a play on the name of the famous group of Canadian artists who painted cottage and lake country scenes and the fact that he's building seven cottages.

Located on a 12.5-acre site with 1,000 feet of shoreline on Baptiste Lake near Bancroft, Group of Seven cottages are "real cottages" that offer "real privacy" in a natural setting says Puffer.

The site looks out over crown land so is not overlooked by other cottages, says Puffer.

Puffer says that the fractional ownership model answers many of the concerns about cottage ownership by leaving the worries of constant maintenance to someone else and ensuring that purchasers of a one-tenth fraction get exclusive usage for five weeks a year.

The five weeks are made up of one fixed summer week and four more weeks that rotate each year.

"That's so everyone gets chance to have Christmas at the cottage," says Puffer.

Owners pay \$2,100 annual fees, which cover utilities, taxes, maintenance and cleaning.

Initially, Puffer planned to build a mix of three and four bedroom cottages at Baptiste Lake, but there was so much demand for four bedroom models that he's decided to make them all four bedroom.

Some of the features include gas fireplaces, hardwood floors, pine walls and custom-designed cottage furniture, including Muskoka chairs and tables for the porches.

Puffer says that Group of Seven offers large screened-in porches, which are very popular with owners.

Some of the amenities include lakefront and wooded hiking trails, bikes and storage, kayaks, paddle boats and a swim raft. There will also be a dog park and a skating rink in winter.

The launch price is \$56,900 for a one-tenth share in the first cottage being built, which is scheduled for completion this fall. A one-tenth share in the next cottage will be \$58,400.

“There is a price increase for each cottage we build, so it pays to get in early,” says Puffer

There is a model cottage already built on the site and viewing is by appointment. Call Charlie at 416-520-5583 or go to [www.chandlerpoint.com](http://www.chandlerpoint.com) for more information