

On the Living Edge

Your Handbook for Waterfront Living

British Columbia Edition

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Preface

Living near water has its joys, and its occasional challenges. Finding information about how to deal with these challenges can sometimes be difficult, as we've found out over the years we've been shoreline residents. This book is designed to help you find answers to commonly asked questions. If you're about to build, or buy shoreline property, it may even help you avoid some of the mistakes we – and many others – have made. We learned the hard way. Although we never knowingly would harm our property or do anything to potentially reduce its value, we found that on occasion this was precisely what we were doing!

During the 1990's we ran a waterfront resort and campground. Besides serving the needs of our customers who had come to relax and enjoy a quiet time by the water, we renovated and built a number of buildings, and managed a major redevelopment project involving roads, water and sewage systems. As consultants, we advised a variety of clients on approaches to waterfront development. And, as members of the community we occasionally volunteered to help with things like cleaning up the local park.

During these busy years we have found that one of the things that has kept us going is the peacefulness of living by the water's edge. We think of our shoreline as a very special place; family and friends are drawn to it as well.

It was from our search for simple, tip-oriented information that this book was born. Our aim has been to cover a wide range of topics, providing enough information to get you started, as well as references for further research. We have drawn extensively on the experiences of other waterfront residents, the stories we've been told, and the questions we've been asked. We have also utilized both published and unpublished materials from many sources, and interviewed officials with government and non-government agencies.

Over the past years, we have met on the phone, and in person, many of you who live by water, and listened to your stories. We have been inspired by the strong feelings of caring we have heard expressed; there is a collective urge among us to protect and look after our coastal waters, lakes, rivers and streams. We hope that this book will provide you with information to assist you in your goals – and save you time, money and frustration!

Sarah Kipp and Clive Callaway
Gardom Lake, British Columbia
May 2002

Foreword

"On the Living Edge" comes on stream at just the right time. With a friendly, personal style and a few warnings to all of us to take good care of our shorelines, this book contains a wealth of time and money saving tips, drawn from the authors' own experiences as waterfront residents and from the experience of others who live by water. You will become informed and wiser by reading this book cover to cover. In a time when shoreline properties – whether in our towns or cities, rural or cottage areas – are getting harder and harder to come by, and when we're also discovering that changes to natural shorelines can have expensive consequences for owners, you'll want to keep "On The Living Edge" as a ready reference for better living by water. Whether you're an owner, a prospective owner, or simply someone who cares about our shorelines, it's in your interest to "do it right" - to look after valuable investments, and safeguard our waters for recreation, fish and other wildlife, and in the case of freshwater, to protect our drinking water. Cottage Magazine has supported the work of authors Sarah Kipp and Clive Callaway in the past and we applaud them in this and all of their endeavours to keep you informed.

Michael Love
Editor, Cottage Magazine

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*Living edges, where land and water meet,
are the richest, most productive areas
on earth. Keeping your 'living edge'
natural will give you time to enjoy
its uniqueness.*

