

Best waterfront buys across British Columbia

FEATURE | Pristine lakes, spectacular oceanfront and entire islands offer getaway property, some for not much more than the price of a Vancouver residential property

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The price of a Vancouver house has now surpassed \$1.1 million, and it is quite common for buyers to spend \$5 million or more for a larger detached house in some of the city's west-side neighbourhoods.

But for this price buyers can find spectacular waterfront, even oceanfront, property.

The following is *Western Investor's* annual selection of what we see as some of the best waterfront deals in British Columbia:

Roberts Creek, Sunshine Coast: Considered one of the top communities on the Sunshine Coast, which is a 35-minute ferry ride from West Vancouver, this area offers some of the lowest-priced waterfront easily accessible from the city.

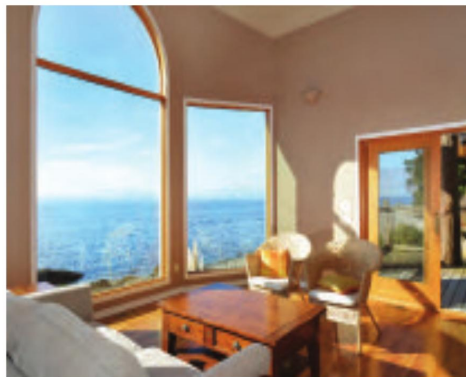
Our pick is a Beach Avenue two-storey, 2,367-square-foot house with four bedrooms. The WestCoast-style home sits on a 15,960-square-foot waterfront lot with level access to a sandy beach and southwest views to Vancouver Island. The asking price is \$1.59 million through realtor **Brynelsen O'Reilly Group**.

Powell River: Located on the northern Sunshine Coast and accessible by ferry from both Vancouver and Vancouver Island, Powell River has lower waterfront prices than on the lower coast. Our pick here is a



The entire 66-acre South Secretary Island in the Southern Gulf Islands is for sale at \$4.95 million.

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Four-bedroom waterfront house on Beach Avenue, Roberts Creek, on the Sunshine Coast, is priced at \$1.59 million.

| LINDA SABISTON



Sidney Island, off the southern tip of Vancouver Island, has sandy beaches with waterfront building lots from \$179,000.

| LANDQUEST REALTY CORP.



On Watch Lake in the South Cariboo lots for recreational vehicles sell for \$59,900.

| LANDQUEST REALTY CORP.



A 10-acre waterfront parcel is for sale on Big Bar Lake, near Clinton, for \$235,000.

| RICHARD OSBORNE

two-bedroom house of 1,466 square feet on a landscaped 0.75 acres of waterfront. It needs some work but has level access to the beach and spectacular views. The listed price is \$499,900 through Powell River realtor **Warren Behan**.

Gulf Islands: Prices have come

down from the peak seven years ago, said **Janet Moore**, a **Royal LePage** agent in Nanaimo. Moore provided examples on ferry-accessible Thetis Island. These include a 2.7-acre, west-facing waterfront parcel with a 1,100-square foot cottage listed at \$675,000; and 1.6 acres of

level waterfront with a high-end, 1,800-square-foot house for \$1.25 million.

On Sidney Island, at the southern end of Vancouver Island, oceanfront acreage lots are available from as low as \$179,000, said realtor **Richard Osborne** of **LandQuest Realty Corp**. "More

than 40 houses have been built, including some amazing architect-designed homes and fantastic cottages," Osborne said.

If your budget can handle it, there are also two amazing entire islands for sale in the Gulf, both listed by **Mark Lester** and **Alan Johnson** of **Jones Lang LaSalle Specialized Assets**.

Breakwater Island is just off the southern shore of larger Gabriola Island in the Gulf, near Nanaimo. Breakwater is serviced with municipal power, well water, a dock and boat ramp. The 65-acre island is listed at \$7.95 million.

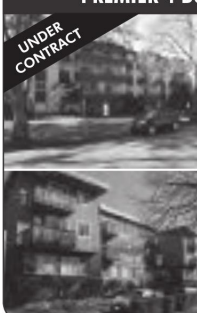
South Secretary Island is a 66-acre gem in the southern Gulf Islands. It has been preserved in its natural state by the long-time owners. "Secretary Island is a quiet haven that offers several beautiful sandy and clam shell beaches. The island has a number of areas to construct a dock that would provide for protected moorage," Lester said. It is priced at \$4.95 million.

Cariboo: At Big Bar Lake, near Clinton, a 10-acre waterfront parcel is for sale, complete with its own artisan well. Considered the last lot for sale on Big Bar, it is priced through LandQuest at \$235,000.

The least expensive waterfront we found is at Watch Lake in the southern Cariboo. These are fully serviced recreational-vehicle lots at **Ace High Resort**. These lake-front lots start at \$59,900. ■

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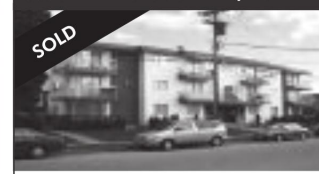
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