

# River Song

## *'A Special Place on the Coast'*

Back in around 2004 we began our search for our perfect place to retire. We looked everywhere within a 2 hour drive from Vancouver, finally finding our perfect place in West Sechelt, which we named 'River Song'. We wanted an ocean view, a quiet and peaceful spot but close to a bus, and room for a garden. We found it on Lynwood Court, a short street on a cul de sac, with the best neighbors if you need them.

In the beginning it was just a lot with 10' high blackberry bushes and Alder trees. Originally the house was supposed to be a move-on house from Vancouver, but as we moved forward that became impossible and a brand new custom designed rancher was created. The house is 1200 square feet, positioned and created to both fit the area and take advantage of the fantastic ocean views. It is, I believe, the first full SIPs (Structurally Insulated Panels) house - exterior walls and ceilings - on the Coast. As a SIPs house, it is environmentally friendly and energy efficient as well as rated very high on the earthquake safe side of buildings. The house is both warm in the winter and comfortable in the worst summer heat without an air conditioner.

As you come up to the front porch you are greeted by 2 logs, the first log has 2 sculptured owls, an adult and a baby welcoming you. Inside the house is a special place, and with the music flowing is both peaceful and relaxing. Its 9 foot ceilings and very open plan make the house feel very spacious. Where possible the walls add to the open feeling by minimizing 90 degree corners. The RSF wood fireplace was the most energy efficient one available at the time and is used to heat the entire house. The ceilings on the south side are vaulted and covered with blue denim pine tongue and groove. The ceiling beams are 16 to 18 inch Western Red Cedar Logs, with a feature Western Red Cedar Post dividing the family and dining areas.

The house is wired for both an in-house sound system and a wireless computer system. It has 2 bedrooms, both facing the north side of the house so they are cooler in the evenings. The kitchen has custom made cabinets that match the ceilings, and the interior kitchen wall does not go to the ceiling to accentuate the open feeling. The bathroom is referred to as our 'Breathing Room' and to understand this you must see it. It has a large Jacuzzi tub, with piped in stereo, and you can watch TV or a video. Two sinks, shower and toilet complete the master bathroom. The Ponderosa Pine staircase leads to the loft where a perfect room awaits your TV entertainment, or perhaps just a place to sit and read. Its half wall allows you or your guests a place to look down into the living, dining and family rooms. It is currently set up for watching TV, and a special private place for our guests to stay with its 1/2 bath Powder Room and double size bed.

Outside, though, is where the magic of River Song lies. The deck from the South Side of the house, with its Spanish tiles and custom etched glass railings, is the perfect spot to watch the cruise ships or a passing sailboat while enjoying dinner, or just a nice book. The east deck, also with a good ocean view is our "orchestra deck" and is used for breakfast or a morning tea. The west deck is accessed either off the back porch or through the double French Doors off the Master Bedroom, and leads to our ground level deck and fire pit area, with its privacy.

River Song got its name because any time of the year you can hear the sound of water cascading down Wakefield Creek, even in the hottest times of the summer. The feeling of River Song is encapsulated in the etched glass railings on the south side deck, with its ducks, deer, bears and river motif. The garden is visible from all sides of the house and from all rooms. It has plants from all over the world including 3 different varieties of Pineapple Lilies from South Africa, Kangaroo Paws (the National flower of Australia), over a ½ dozen different types of Pine and Japanese Maples and much, much more. For lawn, instead of grass there is non-flowering chamomile, so no mowing required, and when walked on the wafting aroma follows you, adding to the experience and peach. Add a beautiful Silk Tree, Japanese Painted Fern and Hostas, to mention only a few, and 'River Song' is the perfect name for this special place.

Come see for yourself.

