

A Note from the Owners...

5718 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC

In 1989 we were on the lookout to find a very special property on which to build our new home. We wanted acreage, forest with some arable land, oceanfront, topographically high and dry, unspoiled by development and, finally, privacy, with no close neighbours.

Our attention was drawn to 17.9 acres in a convenient location now known as 5718 Canal Road. It met all our requirements, but to gain access from the main road was going to require some engineering and considerable expense.

We tramped all over the forest, up and down the knolls, envisioned the location of a driveway, and selected a special building site with a commanding view over Browning Harbour. We then took a deep breath and bought the property.

Two weeks with an excavator took care of the road access problem and we were "in". The roadway was put all the way up to the house site. This produced a bounty of fir and cedar logs which we intended to use to build the house. Our house plans were ready by this time, so the logs were cut to the correct lengths and were milled into beams and rafters. These were mostly 4" x 12" and many are prominently visible in the house.

An area was cleared for a future orchard. Beforehand however, the site was used for the saw-mill to cut the lumber. This took about a month. The beams and rafters were then stickered and covered and left for one year to dry thoroughly. This worked rather well since, even today, checks and warping in the beams and rafters is hard to find.

To give our driveway a bit of interest and colour, we planted many specimen trees, including red oak trees and over a hundred Rhododendrons. These plants also surround the orchard and residence.

An estate of this size obviously requires some T.L.C. to keep it up. We are now of an age and health that precludes this attention. Additionally, our home is far too large for just the two of us now that our large family is widely spread and all on their own. Finally, we find ourselves requiring services that can only be obtained elsewhere.

So we are moving on, with mixed emotions. We hate to leave, after having carved this special place out of the wilderness and living here for over thirty years. However, we know it is for the best.

Our hope is that new owners will care for this property and enjoy it as much as we have...

-John & Sue Foote