

THE ECHOES HARRISON RIVER RETREAT

At 31 years of age, Susan Bohonos-Thomson decided to make her dream, of owning a wilderness retreat, a reality. Her and her husband Clint, left Vancouver and pooled what little money they had to buy 40 acres of forested, boat-access only property on the Harrison River.

“At the time, I don’t think we realized what we were getting into,” says Susan. The first time on the property we literally carved paths through the bush with machetes. Everything had to be done by hand, because we couldn’t get any big machinery to the property. All we had was our two hands and the excitement of our new journey.

It took them an entire year to build the log home they live in now. “The biggest thing was learning how to live off the grid,” says Susan. “We are completely self-sustaining. Through our land we produce our own water and electricity. Our communications work through satellite and cellular.

After their used, make shift dock blew away in a storm, they invested in a 150 ft pier and dock system, at which float planes can dock. Three years after purchasing the land, they were ready to launch The Echoes – Harrison River Retreat.

“It took us another year to build the three guest cabins. We also have done a tremendous amount of landscaping. The nice thing about doing it ourselves is we were able to make everything very green. Solar panels produce electricity to cabins, a micro hydro system supplies power to the other buildings. Composting Toilets are used in the cabins.

The Echoes has now been operating for five years, and people come from all over the world to stay at this secluded piece of paradise in the heart of the Fraser Valley. Several repeat customers are European fishermen, who come to fish the ancient Great White Sturgeon, synonymous with the area.

“Because we are only 90 minutes from Vancouver, it’s so easy for people to make a quick and easy trip to the Harrison Hot Springs area,” says Susan. “It’s the perfect romantic getaway.”

A hot breakfast is delivered to your private cabin. Picnic lunches are available to take for day-time activities like canoeing, kayaking, or hiking. Dinners are three courses and include a bottle of wine. A wood-fired hot tub is steamed and ready 24-hours a day.

To book your stay at The Echoes – Harrison River Retreat, visit www.harrisonriverretreat.com or call 1.800.970.2083.

*Photos by
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