



OCEANSIDE *plulence*

RESORT COMBINES PRISTINE WILDERNESS SETTING WITH
URBANE PLEASURES

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRACY HANES

If you yearn to escape from the hassles of urban life—gridlock, smog alerts and crowded sidewalks—and don't want to forsake urbane pleasures, Fox Harb'r Resort could be the perfect compromise.

The Maritime luxury resort sits on 1,150 acres along a craggy Atlantic coastline on Nova Scotia's Northumberland Strait. As well as stunning ocean views, a tranquil atmosphere and unspoiled wilderness, you'll find sophisticated pleasures: gourmet dining, pampering spa treatments, a championship golf course and, of course, a jetport to park your plane.

Tim Hortons co-founder Ron Joyce built the resort near his hometown of Tatamagouche with the goal of creating jobs for local folks. It's evolved from a well-kept secret into one of Canada's best upscale resorts, with a residential option for those who want to own a vacation home in this ruggedly beautiful part of the country.

Getting there, even if you don't have your own private plane, isn't difficult. It's a quick



two-hour flight from Toronto, then a 90 minute drive north from Halifax or Moncton through spectacular landscapes on uncrowded roads. When it opened in 2001, Fox Harb'r was intended as a golf resort with its Graham Cook-designed championship course. Tiger Woods set the course record in 2009 when he played at a charity event there. While golf is still an important part of the offerings, "it's become much more than a golf resort," says Kevin Toth, Fox Harb'r president. He's working to broaden awareness of the resort as a destination for everyone, even those who have never swung a club. There is clay shooting, fly fishing in two stocked ponds, horseback riding, hiking, biking and kayaking.

The Dol-ás Spa, housed in the same building as a fitness centre with junior Olympic pool, gym, mineral bath and hot tub, has a full roster of treatments. And chef Shane Robilliard (pictured left) and his culinary team serve up superb seafood as well as chicken, pork, beef and lamb in the Cape Cliff dining room. There's also a pub for less formal fare. Robilliard is a passionate advocate for sustainable food with most items on the menu being locally sourced. The restaurant also has one of the best wine lists in the Maritimes, plus the resort planted its first grapevines in its new vineyard this year, which should yield the first wines in 2019.

Anyone who buys a home or building lot at Fox Harb'r gets full golf playing privileges and access to all resort amenities. Homes can serve as principle residences or seasonal getaways. Residential offerings in Stone Harb'r Village include serviced half-acre lots with golf course, ocean and forest views, priced from \$195,000 to \$385,000 for those who want to build custom homes. Executive townhomes with Craftsman-style architecture boasting golf course and ocean views are available from \$525,000 to \$749,000, with 10-foot main floor ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, spacious great rooms, gourmet kitchens and master en-suites with private decks, heated floors and walk-in closets. The towns come in three or four bedroom plans with three bathrooms and range from 2,700 to 3,000 sq. ft., plus 1,355 to 1,670 sq. ft. basements. Fractional ownership of an executive townhouse is an affordable option at \$169,000 to \$215,000 for 12 weeks use per year.

Two new custom homes are available for purchase, including the Craftsman-style Edgewood, with four bedrooms and 6,479 sq. ft. of living space. It has terrific views from one of the highest points of the resort, and has B.C. timber fir accents, double-height ceilings and a stone fireplace. It's priced at \$1,595,000. The Seagrove, a three-bedroom, three-bath New England-style home coming in at 3,100 sq. ft. plus basement, with two-car garage, flagstone patio, media room, a floor-to-ceiling fireplace and ocean views is priced at \$1,029,000.

With real estate in Ontario's most popular cottage country areas characterized by high prices and multiple offers, a vacation home at Fox Harb'r could be an attractive option—and no roughing it required.