
Fractional vs. Whole Ownership

Why a piece of the pie can be better than the whole darn thing

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Sept 22, 2007

Remember those delicious homemade pies mom used to bake (hopefully she still does)? Chock full of whatever fruit happened to be in season at the time, dripping with good old-fashioned, down-home wholesomeness? Remember too how you'd always argue over who got the largest slice? Heck, remember how you'd fantasize about grabbing the whole darn thing and bolting for the door!

Given the chance, there's little doubt most of us would have done just that, but we always hesitated because we knew there'd be consequences.

Owning a cottage or vacation property outright can cause the same kind of dilemma. Yes, we fantasize about having our very own waterfront property, but with the ever skyrocketing costs of real estate in cottage country, most of us can do no more than dream about whole ownership.

Here are just a few of the benefits fractional ownership offers to those willing to share their piece of paradise:

- **Sharing the cost:** With fractional ownership, you pay only what you use (typically, this amounts to five weeks each year). Owning a cottage or vacation property outright entails buying something that costs a great deal of money not just to purchase, but also to maintain – even when you're not using it! Yet due to factors such as limited vacation time or even the weather, you might find you're using it for only a short period of time each year. Sharing these costs not only makes financial sense, it means less wear and tear physically, as well as emotionally on your and your family.
- **Sharing the wealth:** You also benefit directly from the growth of your asset – usually prime real estate with great views of a lake – which is well maintained and, in some cases, extremely luxurious. In addition, many developments will allow purchasers to rent their interval if they want to.
- **Hassle-free holidays:** isn't this what it's all about? Building family traditions, enjoying the great outdoors... With the best of the fractional ownership properties out there, every detail is taken care of.
- **Location, affordability, luxury:** Wholly owned cottages and vacation homes rarely provide the location, amenities and service levels offered by the best fractional ownership developments (certainly not at the kind of price at which a fractional property can be had). For families drawn time and time again to a favourite lake, mountain, or region, fractionals provide the ideal choice – especially if you like the kind of amenities and services usually found only at the best five-star resorts.