

Real estate agent sells water-front living

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While hunting for waterfront property for his real estate clients, Scott Freerksen quickly discovered it was difficult to find homes directly situated on a lake. He had to sift through multiple listings containing terminology such as “across the street,” “walking distance,” “riverfront,” and “oceanfront.” One “waterfront” listing, Freerksen recalls, merely had a pool.

So nine years ago, the Mansfield broker created Lakefront Living Realty (www.lakefrontliving.com), an agency specializing in the purchase and sale of pond- and lakefront property in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Freerksen, who lives on Bungay Lake in Mansfield, said nothing compares to having a waterfront home. “It changes the way you live,” he said. “Every morning, the lake provides a backdrop to recreation, wildlife, and pure relaxation.”



George Rizer for The Boston Globe

Scott Freerksen has inspiration right outside his home office on Bungay Lake in Mansfield.

What are the hot lakefront properties at the moment?

Webster Lake (Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg) in Webster MA. This lake was mostly undiscovered for a long time but now is one of the largest fully recreational lakes in Massachusetts, with restaurants and marinas. In New Hampshire, Lake Winnepesaukee gets a lot of attention, but there are two to three lakes that are just as spectacular and smaller and more intimate, such as Newfound Lake and Lake Wentworth.

If you buy a lakefront home, do you also own a part of the lake?

Usually your property would end at the high water line. But there are certainly lakes where you have a deeded extension into the lake. There are also a couple of lakes in Massachusetts where the lakefront residents share ownership of the lake.

What’s the most unusual lakefront home you’ve seen?

A really cool house on Big Spectacle Pond in Lancaster was really unique. It was very Frank Lloyd Wright-ish, with an open design, exposed beams, and extended balconies.

You helped find an isolated lake setting for the Martin Scorsese film “Shutter Island.” How did that come about?

They found me from a Google search. They wanted an isolated lake setting with shallow water and no modern houses in the background. I took them around to various lakes. They chose a little stone cottage in Borderland State Park in Sharon.

How has real estate for lakefront property changed in the last few years?

Five or six years ago, prices were out of the world. Now it’s more affordable, and some buyers are purchasing and holding a lakefront cottage for future retirement.

How did you discover the lake you live on?

I was born and raised on this lake; my wife also grew up here. You’ll find that once people move onto a body of water, they tend not to move away.

What’s the biggest fish you’ve caught here?

A 5-pound largemouth bass. There are bigger ones out there. I just can’t seem to find them.

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