

Buyers stake claim to Mexican lifestyle

BARB LIVINGSTONE
CALGARY HERALD

A wide range of people are making sure they get their share of the relaxed Mexican lifestyle in the Sea of Cortez.

They've purchased properties at La Bella Vita, a seven-hectare development within the 15-hectare master planned, gated community of Playa La Jolla.

The project sits on a pristine beach on a peninsula of the Sea of Cortez.

The development includes beachfront homes, villas and bungalow apartments, many of which have already been sold.

The newest phase is for 62 single-family custom lots (for more information, visit the website at www.la-bella-vita.com).

The following are some of the stories of people who now call the development their home away from home:

- Name: Mesh Dayal.
- Occupation: Certified general accountant at his own firm.
- Age: 64
- What he bought: A single family custom home at the La Bella Vita project near Puerto Peñasco in Mexico. The home was completed in 2008.
- How often he travels to his place in Mexico: "I go six or seven times a year — as often as I can."
- What attracted him to the area: "I had a place in Mesa and was told to check out this area close by that was on the ocean. I came two or three times and decided to buy. I bought a lot and when Bella Vita started building, I decided to build a small place."
- Other attractions: "The beach and the sea. I am a sailor and this area is secluded enough from the main town and is quiet."
- Buyer's tip: "Check out the

developer. Check out his reputation. Ask for references from the developer."

■ Name: Alan Kuysters, his wife, Michelle, and 11-year-old daughter, Jordan.

■ Occupation: Alan is district manager for PCL Construction for northern Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

■ Age: Alan is 49.

■ What he bought: A one-eighth fractional share in a multi-million dollar, 3,600-square-foot house on the beach (with a two bedroom guest house) in the La Bella Vita. He has since bought two bungalows in the project as an investment.

■ How often he travels to his place in Mexico: "I have six weeks a year on a rotating schedule."

■ What attracted him to the area: "I had worked with Sam (Sidhom, the developer of La Bella Vita) and knew him as a friend and I had always dreamed about having an oceanfront property. We holidayed here and when the house was being built in 2004, I knew



Marty Hope, Calgary Herald

Clockwise from front left: Alan Kuysters, a La Bella Vita homebuyer from Edmonton; Martin Lautsch, who is involved in the marketing for La Bella Vita; Calgary Herald Recreation and Investment Properties editor Barb Livingstone; Arturo Guerrero, lawyer for La Bella Vita; Sam Sidhom, the developer of the project; Marcos Vucovich, general manager for La Bella Vita; and Mesh Dayal, a homebuyer from Calgary.

Sam had the vision and I bought in."

■ Other attractions: "The peacefulness. You come from the city where you have been working hard and here, you can take long walks on the beach and find solitude."

■ Buyer's tip: "I bought this as a vacation property but also as an investment. They are not making any more beachfront property." The value is certainly there in Mexico and this development still has access to the

beach, unlike other projects, he says.

■ Name: Bryce Bonneville, wife Connie and son Cole.

■ Occupation: Bryce is a lawyer who has his own firm that does mostly startup oil and gas work.

■ Age: Bryce is 38, Connie is 36 and Cole is two.

■ What he bought: A villa in the La Bella Vita at Playa la Jolla project near the town of Puerto Peñasco in Mexico.

■ How often he travels to his place in Mexico: "Three or four times a year. We spend a month at Christmas and the rest in two-week stints. I am self-employed and I can do everything while I am down here."

■ What attracted them to the area: "I like the development and the relationship with the Calgary developer. Also, it is a good investment, there is proximity to Phoenix and it is somewhere warm."

■ Other attractions: The fact this area of Mexico is so safe and family-oriented, says Connie.

■ Buyer's tip: "We had looked at others areas like Belize. But in this one, we could see what we were getting in the development."