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Tom Field
General Manager

The Crow's Nest

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On Golden Pond meets The Lake House

Alex: *This house is about connections.*
Kate: *I sometimes feel as if I'm invisible,
as if no one can see me at all.
I never felt that way when I lived
at the Lake House.*

— from the movie *The Lake House*; 2006

Billy Ray: *So, I heard you turned 80 today.*
Norman: *Is that what you heard?*
Billy Ray: *Yeah. Man, that's really old.*
Norman: *You should meet my father.*
Billy Ray: *Your father's still alive?*
Norman: *No. But you should meet him.*

— *On Golden Pond*; 1981

What is it about a lake that attracts the most colorful characters? The romantics. Like Alex and Kate. The young know-it-all whippersnappers and their insatiable quest for entertainment. Like Billy Ray. And of course, every lake has its acerbic, well-seasoned and surprisingly witty old guy. Like Norman.

And like the casting call for *What About Bob II*, you can see the characters forming at Smith Mountain Lake. (No, we don't know of plans for such a sequel, it's just that other very popular movie that happened to be filmed here.)

Tom Lovegrove appears to be building an incredibly elaborate set for the next great epic on the silver screen. It's a whole neighborhood. It's going to be a story about the best of lake living. It's got "luxury, serenity, stunning scenery, and security," says Lovegrove, in his best director-like voice. You can almost see a megaphone in his hand.

"The scene" is a gated community called Villages at Emerald Bay.

And it's no quaint, rustic old cabin, where you dust off the rooms and chase out the critters each summer for your two-week camp getaway. This is lake living at its best. All the golf, boating, boutiques and galleries, dining, and festivals —

a lifestyle that is now defining and characterizing the "new" Smith Mountain Lake. But there's still "no place like home," and whether you're coming home to cozy up to the fire with a book and glass of wine, overlooking the glistening water... or you're setting up to entertain your swanky friends — here's the place on the lake where you can easily make that happen.

The Villages at Emerald Bay site is well under construction. The homes are currently listed from \$595,000 to \$1,200,000. The community is



Tom Lovegrove on site at the new Smith Mountain Lake development, Villages at Emerald Bay

designed for thirty-one homes; seven are completed, and ten are currently under construction. Homes range from 3,100 to 5,465 square feet.

Like a good movie, the Emerald Bay community has both form and function. The luxurious style is presented by granite kitchen countertops, quality fixtures, custom tiled showers, gas log fireplaces, wood floors, detailed trim and molding, with striking balconies and porches. Other nice touches include recessed framed ceilings with ambient lighting, a built-in office, and spacious master and guest bedrooms. Homeowners also have oversized garages and a boat slip with electric lift. The model home shows off upgrades like the wet bar, multi-media theatre room, wine "cellar", and Smart

House Technology. The tasteful siding, matching metal roofs and careful placement of each home in the lake viewshed complete the scenery for a Kincaid-like painting.

Tom Lovegrove, president of Bayview Construction, is the builder, developer, and owner. He also owns Bayview Holdings, LLC, an intellectual properties licensing and venture investment business consisting of various technology and real estate holdings. A past president of the Smith Mountain Lake Chamber of Commerce and active in several Franklin County community and regional organizations, including the Smith Mountain Arts Council and Smith Mountain Lake Marine Fire-Rescue Department, Lovegrove's vision of the lake is one of progressive growth, enhanced recreation and cultural amenities.

According to Lovegrove, the characters filling this picturesque story are likely to be self-made entrepreneurs, professionals of former Fortune 500 companies, and retirees. Couples who have their eyes on the finer things and their sights on comfortable, relaxed lakeside living, with access to activities whenever they want them. Now there's a script that's about to be written.

Mary: *Do you ever miss our old place, John?*
John: *You're sitting there, looking over the lake, the light glittering like jewels dancing on the surface...wearing your silk robe, sipping champagne...and you're asking me that?*
Mary: *Well, I just mean we lived there for so long.*
John: *Along with the rat race, the traffic, the maintenance...*
Mary: *But we had good memories.*
John: *Yeah, and I remember you saying you wished you lived at the lake.*
Mary: *I remember (she says, smiling). I'm so glad I found this place.*
John: *Me too, dear.*

He takes her hand gently. They step outside. Like the first three steps in a waltz. She points at the low golden sun as it begins to kiss the water. A sailboat drifts by. And somewhere off in the distance, they hear a loon beginning the evening's song.

— *Life At Emerald Bay*; 2008

The Villages at Emerald Bay community is located on Smith Mountain Lake on Scruggs Road just about six miles from the expanding Westlake area. For more information or tours, visit www.VillagesAtEmeraldBay.com.