

Beachy KEEN

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PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



THE OWNERS OF THIS CAPE COD STYLE HOUSE ON THE THORNBURY WATERFRONT KNEW FROM THE MOMENT THEY LAID EYES ON IT THAT IT WAS HOME FOR THEM AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN. “WE RODE BY ON OUR BICYCLES AND FELL IN LOVE WITH IT RIGHT AWAY,” SAYS THE OWNER.

Continued on page 51

The screened porch offers both a lounge area and a dining table with a view of Georgian Bay's stunning waters.



The ottoman's soft blue echoes the colour on stair treads heading to the second floor. A sailing print over the cotton slipcovered sofa sets the home's nautical theme. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The lounge in the screened porch has comfortable resin-wicker furniture. The owners selected an antique light from Design by Consign for the space. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The informal display on the front hall table captures the essence of this home. A print of a sailboat leans casually against the wall and an antique wooden bowl holds shells collected from seaside trips. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** In a corner of the kitchen, the built-in banquettes have a similar striped fabric to that used on the living room pillows. A chalkboard allows the family to update the day's activities.



When they walked inside for the first time, they could hear waves lapping on the shore and birds in the trees. The turquoise waters of Georgian Bay were visible through the screened porch. "We stood in the hallway and stared at the view, and that solidified it," the homeowner remembers.

It's a dream beach house with a view of the water from every room. Generous windows throughout the home combine with a pale, neutral colour palette and nautical décor to highlight the bay. Hints of the beach are placed around the home here and there: shells, nautical paintings, lighthouses and model sailboats.

The home itself is beautifully designed to showcase the surrounding nature water views. The owners describe the beach as living and breathing, "Every day the water line is different, it's like an ocean in many ways," notes the homeowner. *Continued on page 53*





A bank of windows in the dining room can easily distract from the evening meal. One door leads to the screened porch, the other accesses the outdoor deck. **OPPOSITE:** The all-white kitchen with Carrara marble counters has windows instead of upper cabinets. A few open shelves display favourite glassware and china. Pendant lights with rope-covered chains and clear glass shades from Van Allan Design Centre keep the view out the windows unobscured.



The home's proximity to trails, the marina and downtown Thornbury was important. The family of five enjoys being able to walk everywhere, experience nature and be a part of a busy four-seasons community. In the summer, they ride bicycles along the Georgian Trail, play tennis at the park, shoot hoops in the driveway, kayak, sail and paddleboard. In the winter, they ski, snowboard and hike at their ski club, which they can see from their beachfront. They even have a view of a vintage chairlift,

which once belonged to The Peaks, on the neighbour's property. In fact, several of these chairlifts can be seen on various properties along this stretch of the bay. The house was recently built by **Barry McLean Construction** and immaculate when the homeowners moved in; nothing needed to be finished or refinished. From the reclaimed maple floors by **Floorcrafters**, to the off-white painted walls, the home is the quintessential picture of tradition meets tranquility. *Continued on page 54*



LEFT: In the second floor guest suite, the sound of water crashing onto the beach and a gentle breeze through the windows creates the perfect scenario for a great night's sleep. **BELOW:** A gabled window shines light into the second floor laundry room. The nautical theme is represented here as well, with blue-striped laundry hampers and blue beach towels. **BOTTOM:** Tranquility reigns in the light filled master suite where the simplicity of the furnishings and soft colours allow the view through the windows to shine.



Sharon Allan of Van Allan Design Centre helped the owners decorate and furnish much of the home, including all of the bedrooms. "It has been a pleasure for me to work on this home with this family," says Sharon. "They know what they like and don't like and how they want their home to function." The master bedroom and en suite are on the main floor, allowing the boys to take over the second level where they play ping pong or hang out in their own living space. "We used cotton twill to bind the jute and wool carpeting from Belgium for the children's rooms in order to absorb sound," says Sharon. "We added quilts and funky lamps as well."

In the master bedroom, "the dark richness of the stained wooden case goods provides a contrast to the soft blues and creams in the room," Sharon explains.

Continued on page 56

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Sharon is also responsible for the beautiful pendant lights in the kitchen, which are quite modern. Electrical by **Amber Light Electric**. Bright light flows through the home and reflects off of white surfaces. The mother of the family is a holistic nutritionist and finds the kitchen a perfect place to transform her passion for food into tools for her practice.

Between the main-floor living area and the front deck is an indoor-outdoor dining room, allowing the family to gather around the table while the warm breeze drifts through. Above the living space in the screened porch is an antique hanging light, which the owners found at **Design by Consign**. Having inherited English china from one of their grandmothers, the family was pleased to have found some delicate cutlery at **Adorn II** to complete an elegant dining set. *Continued on page 58*

RIGHT: A deep soaker tub is inviting in the master bath. **BELOW:** A pair of pedestal sinks opposite the soaker tub have a small chest of drawers between them to keep personal items out of sight. **BELOW RIGHT:** An open mudroom has lots of cubbies and hooks for sports gear. The clever placement of the walls means it cannot be seen into from anywhere on the main floor.



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ABOVE: Water-side, the home has three distinct outdoor spaces: a hot tub deck outside the master suite, a screened porch and a seating deck with access to the generous beach area. **BELOW:** With its modified New England saltbox architecture, the inviting front facade of the home has proportioned windows and dormers. Window boxes and urns are by Kettlewells.



A sectional all-weather sofa and ottoman from Tyme Home are ready for beach-goers.



On the large waterside deck, they gather to watch the sailboats racing and the water on a cosy sectional from **Tyme Home**. The couple like to support local businesses as much as possible, and are always finding new sources for décor, like **Kettlewells**, which created the beautiful urns out front and window boxes full of flowers.

The three sons play for endless hours on a basketball hoop from **Canadian Tire** and on the front lawn maintained by **Blue Mountain Four Seasons** and **Eagles Weed Control & Lawn Service**. **The Landmark Group** designed and installed the lovely landscaping around the property, while the flowerbeds were designed and maintained by Blue Mountain Four Seasons.

The Blue Mountains and Georgian Bay offer this family everything they could wish for in their Cape Cod-inspired home. Nestled amongst the rolling hills filled with apple orchards, vineyards, vast views and crystal clear water they look forward to creating family memories here for years to come. **OH**

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