

# Symphony IN THE CITY

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD CLARK**

A coffered wood ceiling lends a mountain lodge ambience to the family room in Chris and Andrea Hickey's Peterborough home.

It's the best of both worlds, the ambience of a country retreat with all the amenities and convenience of city living.

Just minutes from downtown Peterborough, Chris and Andrea Hickey's new home overlooks a tiny, idyllic lake at the headwaters of Harper Creek, upstream from the city's largest natural woodland and wetland. The little lakeshore teems with wildflowers. Songbirds, redwing blackbirds and ducks flock to the protected pool, their summer oasis.

"It's peaceful, like a symphony orchestra with animals," says Andrea. She and Chris owned a century home east of town and later a house on the north side of the city when they began searching for a home with space, privacy and natural surroundings.

"It took us years to find the right house," says Andrea.

**Stephen Coughlin**, a sales representative with **Exit Realty Liftlock Brokerage**, found exactly what they were seeking. "When we came here in the summer, everything was in full bloom in the backyard. It was just spectacular," says Chris as he recalls the first time he saw the house. He and Andrea, he says, are water people. "We both love the water and being on the lakes. This was the closest we could get in town."

**Jim Williams Construction** built the two-storey 4,500 sq. ft. home about 10 years ago after the original home on the site burned to the ground while the owners were away. With a good knowledge of building practices, Chris thoroughly inspected the home before they bought it and found the quality of construction excellent. "It's a well-built house." *Continued on page 25*

**BELOW:** Chris and Andrea Hickey with son Josiah gather with their golden retriever Ada and Mozier, one of two family cats.





feature



Unique footwear  
doubles as décor.



**TOP LEFT:** The open-concept kitchen allows cooks to remain part of the conversation in the living room. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Knock On Wood furnished the dining room table and cushioned chairs. **LEFT:** An Italian leather sofa with Mongolian pillows offers the best seats in the house for piano recitals.

While the professionally landscaped backyard, with its kidney-shaped swimming pool, thriving mulberry trees and colourful perennials was appealing, the home's large open-concept living space made it irresistible. A wooden coffered ceiling and fireplace give the family room the vibe of a Montana resort. An octagonal dinette adjoins a glass-walled sunroom with a panoramic view of the lake. "It's all windows and warmth," says Andrea. "It's just a lovely place to sit."

Large windows in the family room look

out on the lush backyard and the park beyond the rear fence line. Early morning is a favourite time of the day. "I love when the sun comes up and warms everything up in the living room and in the dinette," says Andrea. "You just sit in the back and have your coffee. I remember growing up in Muskoka and sitting on the lake. It's just about like that and yet I can be five minutes from anything. It's kind of an extraordinary place in that respect."

With the help of designer **Leadia Younan** of **Knock On Wood**, Andrea gave the ground

Topped with granite, the kitchen dinette is one of the family's favourite early morning spots. Cabinetree designed and built the kitchen cabinets.

floor a cosmetic makeover. She finished the dining and music room walls in **Benjamin Moore's** Seattle Gray from **Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper**. To complement the Hunter Douglas wooden blinds, she added French toile curtains, custom-made by **Window Care**. "I just love decorating," says Andrea, who also stages homes when she has the time. "I like making things beautiful." Knock On Wood furnished most of the home. Leather sofas, wood, steel and glass lend the main living areas a modern, eclectic and classical style. *Continued on page 26*



feature

The band Leahy inspired Josiah to learn to play violin.



**RIGHT:** The grand piano takes a prominent spot in the Hickey household where everyone plays at least one instrument. **BELOW:** In one corner of the sunroom, a carved ironwood horse gazes out the window.




A musical family, they keep a baby grand piano in a prominent spot at the front of the home where their son, Josiah, 15, practises and plays. A violinist, he studies with Accademia Musica in Peterborough. Son Caleb, 28, attends University of Toronto. Andrea also plays piano and Chris plays guitar.

Across the travertine-tiled foyer is an office with an antique butternut bookcase they retained from a large collection of antiques that furnished their century home. A large kitchen with a granite-topped island, cabinets, custom made by **Cabinetree**, and a dining bar extends from the dining room to the family room.

Upstairs, oak washstands serve as night tables in the large master bedroom. A hallway runs between a long vanity with double sinks and a walk-in closet to an en suite with a corner tub. Next door to the master bedroom is a luxurious dressing room with open closets, shoe cubbies, built-in dressers and hat shelves. A blue cuddle chair and a polished, log-frame bed define the masculine flair of Josiah's bedroom. In the third upstairs bedroom, a Lake of Bays pillow, perched on a cushioned wooden bed bench, serves as a reminder of the family's Muskoka cottage. *Continued on page 28*

Logan Tree Experts



**Insured. Certified. Professional.**  
705.657.6916 | [logan-tree-experts.com](http://logan-tree-experts.com)  
**TREE CARE & REMOVAL, PRUNING & PLANTING**



*A beautiful home starts from the floor up*  
Mannington Adura

From hardwood to laminate, vinyl, ceramic, natural stone, carpet and window coverings we have a large selection that will help you create that traditional, contemporary or modern space that you have always wanted.

NEW SHOWROOM ≈ NEW FLOORING PRODUCTS  
AMAZING SELECTION OF AREA RUGS ≈ HUNTER DOUGLAS WINDOW COVERINGS

**Sine's FLOORING**

[www.sinesflooring.ca](http://www.sinesflooring.ca)


**Cobourg**  
884 Division St.  
905.372.9117

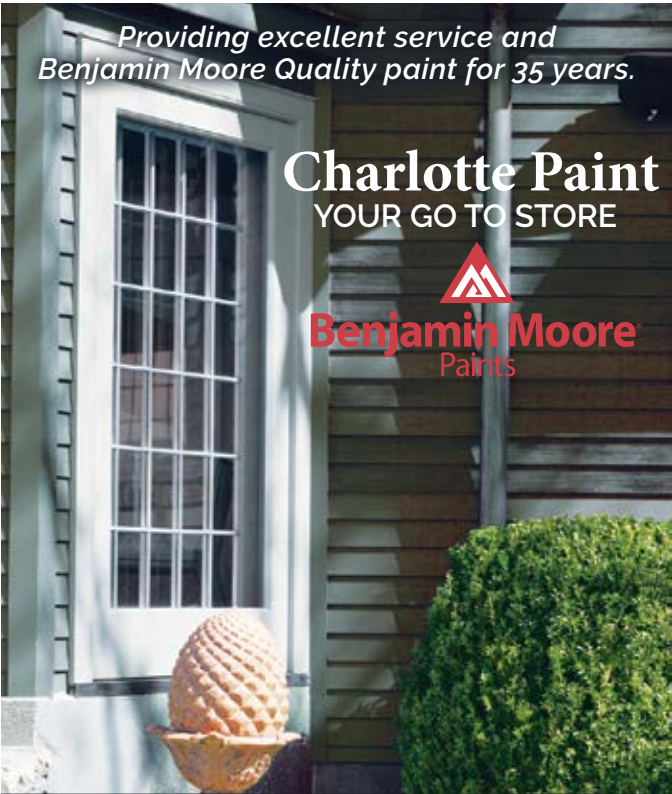
**Brighton**  
23 George St.  
613.475.2764

**Toll Free: 800.354.3091**  
[sinesflooring@bellnet.ca](mailto:sinesflooring@bellnet.ca)

Providing excellent service and Benjamin Moore Quality paint for 35 years.

**Charlotte Paint**  
YOUR GO TO STORE

  
**Benjamin Moore**  
Paints



**Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper**  
451 George Street North, Peterborough  
705.743.5742

[www.shorelinefurnitureco.ca](http://www.shorelinefurnitureco.ca) 705-656-3600



**SHORELINE FURNITURE CO.**

Furniture  
Home Décor  
Home Decorating &  
Design Services





Located beside Tucker's Marine  
9988 Hwy 28 Apsley On.



feature

On the home’s basement level, Chris and Andrea built a kitchen to service the big screen TV room and recreation area. Outside, they installed a hot tub near the pool. They retained the stately exterior look of the home, enhanced with a carriage style garage door by the **Overhead Door Company of Peterborough**.

They like the neighbourhood because nearly everyone has a dog. “That brings everyone together,” says Andrea. “People talk to people with dogs if they like dogs.” The family’s ginger retriever Ada is locally notorious for stealing pool noodles. She has no qualms about leaping from the pool diving board. “You can’t keep her out of the pool.”

Having lived in the home for less than a year, the family is still planning more improvements, a ceiling-high fieldstone finish for the fireplace, new sunroom furniture and carpets. “I just never stop thinking,” says Andrea. “I’m always doing something, always looking for something I can change.”

In the meantime they’re enjoying their new home. There are few places in Peterborough with as much green space, privacy and lakeside tranquility. **Trent Security Systems Ltd.** helps preserve that peace of mind.

“When you come home, you don’t want to go out again,” says Andrea. “It’s that beautiful. There’s nobody looking in your windows from either side or the back. I could stay here, just get groceries delivered and never leave,” she laughs. **OH**



**TOP RIGHT:** A dressing room next to the master bedroom provides roomy storage space. **ABOVE LEFT:** A corner tub occupies a private space in the en suite. **ABOVE:** Wooden wash stands serve as night tables in the master bedroom. **LEFT:** The en suite hall accesses double sinks in the bathroom vanity.

SOURCE GUIDE

- Berardi Bros. • Cabinetree • Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper
- Jim Williams Construction • Knock On Wood • Neil Johnston Heating Inc. • Overhead Door Company of Peterborough • Peterborough Roofing • Stephen Coughlin, Exit Reality Liftlock Brokerage • Stockdale Masonry & Restoration • Trent Security Systems Ltd. • Whelan’s Flooring Centre • Window Care



Beautiful Kitchens  
Built In Peterborough

705.745.9042 | Visit our Showroom 600 Neal Dr. Peterborough | [www.cabinetree.biz](http://www.cabinetree.biz)