



Stay Awhile

When guests visit this breathtaking, timber-frame home, located just outside of Peterborough, they never want to go home. “People don’t tend to leave. They get settled in, have a few drinks, and that’s that!” homeowner Janice laughs. “But that was our focus when building our home, to have everyone feel very comfortable and relaxed.”

Janice and her husband had an idea of what they wanted when first sitting down with **Phil Jenkinson of Integrity Construction Services Inc.** to design their home. They wanted something practical.

The search for the right location went on for a few years until they finally decided to build on family property. The country lot sits away from the main road, down a long gravel laneway. “We feel like we are in the middle of nowhere, but we are still so close to everything,” Janice says. So **Bob Thompson of R.W. Thompson Construction** orchestrated the build and brought the house to life. *Continued on page 22*

LEFT: This rural home incorporates stone and greenery around the pool for a more serene experience. **BELOW:** A soaring pergola and extensive hardscapes combine to create the perfect place to soak up the sun while enjoying the sounds of nature. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Strong, arched, wood beams draw the eye upward and add to the character of the home. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The colours around the property are spectacular.



feature

RIGHT: The open living room offers a space to sit by the fireplace in the evenings, or enjoy the boundless amount of natural light during the day. **BELOW:** The outdoor seating provides another vantage to relax and enjoy the property. **BELOW RIGHT:** Exposed structural beams emphasize the room height, creating a sense of grandeur. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Dine more formally in this space, just a step away from the kitchen. **TOP RIGHT:** The screened-in sunroom is the ideal place to enjoy the scenery during any season. **BOTTOM:** The kitchen features a warm stone backsplash, pot lights and seating around the island.



The home is a visual delight after circling the roundabout driveway and passing a three-car garage. Muskoka chairs suit the rural atmosphere and are positioned along the low-profile front deck, creating a warm welcome. All of the stonework in the house, completed by **Barry McClennan Masonry**, enhances the look. **Trough'It** installed the eavestroughs. The custom, oversize, solid-wood entry door, designed by **Mintlaw Woodcrafters Inc.**, makes an instant impression and piques curiosity about what's to come.

Inside, attention is immediately directed to the living room's dramatic high ceiling, exposed and arched wood beams and large windows. Ornate black chandeliers and ceiling fans from **Lighting Interiors and More**, highlight and adorn the space. Olive

green furniture, from **Knock on Wood and More**, connects to the outdoors and curves around the stacked-stone fireplace (all fireplaces provided by **Friendly Fires**). Alder hardwood, ordered from **Monaghan Lumber Specialties**, runs consistently throughout the house. **Discovery Dream Homes** supplied the timber frame used to build the home.

The kitchen is especially designed for practicality and includes a granite-topped island fitted with a prep sink and convenient seating. The appliances are stainless steel – a propane gas stove, microwave, refrigerator and a wine and beer fridge, stocked with a variety of beverage options for guests. There's also a small dining area and access to the back deck from the kitchen, living room and sunroom.

The most popular spot in the home is found through a glass door (**Home Hardware**) from the living room. The sunroom is an excellent area to catch up on reading, sip morning coffee, or spend time with friends while enjoying the cool breeze. It even features a two-sided fireplace, backing onto the living room. "We entertain a lot out here because there are no bugs," says Janice. "You can sit out here when it's raining and you're protected from the elements."

The main floor has a modern powder room complete with a frosted window, stone counter and stone vessel sink.

Reach the second level via open-riser stairs and look down into the living room from above. It's here that a reading nook was created. *Continued on page 24*





From such a spectacular height, the master bedroom boasts the best view of the countryside, extending as far as the eye can see. With a high slanted ceiling, electric fireplace and four closets, it feels like a ski lodge. At the far end of the bedroom, the en suite creates the ultimate spot for relaxation, featuring a corner soaker tub, built-in wood vanity and makeup table by **Goodwin Creations**.

The lower-level space is used as the family rec room. You'll find something for everyone: a chess table, pool table, workout area and an 80-inch television next to a third wood-burning fireplace.

The bathroom on the lower level offers a spa-like retreat, complete with a large steam room, a built-in shower with seat, another stone vessel sink and a heat lamp.

Step outside from the rec room to go for a swim in the beautiful in-ground saltwater pool. Sit around the fire pit in the evenings or

barbecue with the Big Green Egg. Speakers hidden in the garden look like rocks. The sound system throughout the house is all connected. "Everything is wired to everything and you can designate certain rooms from your iPad," Janice says. The garden is lively and well maintained by **Meyer's Landscaping Ltd.** with many plants purchased from **Greenhouse on the River**.

Beyond the garden is an assortment of trails where the homeowners go out on their ATVs and dune buggies. It's a great chance to enjoy nature. "On a daily basis, we see wildlife like deer or wild turkeys. Occasionally, we hear coyotes, but only once have I seen a bear – he crossed in front of my car down the laneway," says Janice.

Future plans include building a guest house to create more room for visitors. So it's quite possible that guests will unpack their bags, put their feet up and stay forever. Not even a bear could scare them off. **OH**

TOP LEFT: A long and open hallway overlooks the living room and leads to the master bedroom. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Open risers contribute to an airy feeling. **LEFT:** This lower-level bathroom combines a unique, framed mirror with a more rustic sink and accessories. **TOP RIGHT:** The warm lighting and stone around the fireplace create a cosy ambience in this master bedroom. **RIGHT:** The en suite bathroom features a makeup table with a gorgeous view.



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