

The owners wanted the fine woodwork that Robin Smith of Paragon Carpentry offered. Beautiful details such as a diamond pattern hinted at in the upper-storey siding are Robin's signature.

shifting SHORES



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They've shared their summers with the Bay since their middle child was two months old on a property just east of Thornbury. "The shape of the shoreline is always changing," says owner Val Tamblyn. "Some years there is more rock showing; last summer there was a peninsula that's now under water again."

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TOP LEFT: Architectural Technologist Pam Farrow used gambrel trusses atop the original cottage, which resulted in a Dutch colonial style exterior to blend the upstairs addition. **LEFT:** A covered deck gives shade for outdoor dining. Place settings and centrepiece buckets from Van Allan Design Centre are playful with banana leaf from Wren's General Store. **ABOVE:** The Tamblyns' "Tiki 20" wedding anniversary gift, a metal bird sculpture, keeps watch.



Stone pillars and a massive stainless-steel-topped island anchor the open kitchen. An opening pass-through to the mudroom brings in light. Candlesticks and metal tubs found at Van Allan Design Centre. **BELOW LEFT:** Summer's bounty of corn from Goldsmith's Orchard Market.



Middle child Harrison is now 8, their eldest, Charles, 11 and the youngest is 6-year-old Julia. The children thrive in their summers and winter weekends at the cottage, even more so now that it has doubled in size and they have a whole upper storey for themselves added by **Paragon Carpentry** in 2014.

Val and husband Rob had been coming to Georgian Bay to visit Rob's parents at Monterra for many years. As their family began to grow, Val and Rob decided to find a cottage where their kids could play in the sand. The family lives in Georgetown but the couple have already planned for their later years in part because of Rob's focus on his pensions and benefits firm

in Windsor; Val nursed in Detroit at one time. "We were very comfortable investing in a second home up here because we could see how much Rob's parents were enjoying retirement in the Blue Mountain area and we could see ourselves doing the same," says Val.

The original cottage was built in 1984 and had a solid foundation with three small bedrooms on one level. Val and Rob bought the property in 2007 and once their three children had all started school, the couple started talking about adding a second storey.

"We were looking for workmanship," says Val. "I found an ad for Paragon Carpentry in OUR HOMES magazine, and I really liked

the homey, cottagey style in it, so I contacted **Robin Smith**." After she and Rob met Smith in spring 2013, they found out that he was on the job site the majority of the time; that was key for the couple doing the renovation from a distance as they weren't able to oversee work at the site themselves.

Smith invited the couple to check out examples of his work. Says Val, "he would call a client and say, 'Would you mind if I brought someone to see your flooring?' and I could tell by the rapport he had with previous builds that he was good – everyone was happy to talk to us or allow us into their homes to see what Robin had built for them." *Continued on page 50*



TOP: A bank of windows trimmed in clear pine create a bright entry. **ABOVE:** Practical hooks on a wainscoting-backed nook offer a place for the busy family to hang their things. **LEFT:** A farm table, red leather chairs and a rustic bench are brought together by a casual, braided oval rug from Meaford Carpets & Interiors.

Arched windows present a serene view and flank the Rumford-style river stone fireplace built by mason John Davies of the Stone and Plaster Company. Robin Smith designed a custom cradle inside the fire and had it forged for the Tamblins. Sailboat sourced at Van Allan Design Centre. Floral arrangement by Paperwhite Flowers.





TOP: On the main floor, the master suite takes advantage of the unencumbered shoreline view, and draws privacy with drapes from Ashton's Blinds Draperies Shutters. **RIGHT:** Wide-plank antique elm flooring creates a warm feeling throughout the renovated main floor and upstairs addition. **ABOVE:** In the main-floor bathroom, a mirror from J'Adorn adds a French country accent.



The family explained what they were trying to accomplish with the addition, and Smith suggested they would enjoy working with **Pam Farrow** for the architectural drawings. "Pam understood me right away," says Val. "The two of them were a really good combination – both good at listening to us to find out what we were after." They settled on a Dutch colonial style with a gambrel roof to maximize headroom on the upper level.

Inside leaned more toward French country. Val appreciated Farrow's 3D renderings to help visualize the layout. Farrow suggested they look ahead 10 years when the kids would want their own lounge area, and laying out the upstairs washroom with separate shower and toilet areas, both features of which were incorporated into the upper-storey addition. A beautiful staircase with a bay window was added off the now open kitchen. A large main-floor master bedroom (draperies by **Ashton's Blinds Draperies Shutters**), guest room and a bunk room remained on the main floor. The former enclosed sunroom has become a bright mudroom for laundry and sandy feet to enter the cottage. A window in the kitchen acts as a pass-through to the mudroom to draw light into the interior. *Continued on page 52*

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FAR LEFT: Sliding barn doors offer easy flow into the upper washroom without losing floor space for door swing. **LEFT:** Two further sets of barn doors provide privacy to the shower on one side and the toilet on the other side of the bathroom. **BELOW:** Beautiful trim in pine on the bay and oval windows as well as the stair railings highlight builder Robin Smith's skillset.



Val and Rob spotted a Quebec farmhouse kitchen they loved in a magazine. It had wire-fronted red cabinets bookended by four-foot-wide stone pillars inset with ovens on one end and cupboards on the other (masonry by **John Davies of The Stone and Plaster Company**). They worked with cabinetmakers **Robert** and **Orleen Anderson** to replicate the style and add an enormous stainless-steel island. The Andersons created built-ins as well for the mudroom and main-floor bath.

Smith's 38 years as a carpenter brought exceptional detail to the exterior and interior finishes. He chooses one or two builds each year where he can challenge himself. His styling is remarkable throughout the Tamblyn's cottage. The main-floor ceiling is coffered into a grid of recessed square panels. "I love working with wood to bring different effects," says Smith. He worked in clear pine on the window interiors and staircase, and poplar for the painted casings. The floors are antique elm. *Continued on page 54*

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One of Rob's only requests was for a large wood-burning fireplace. Smith delivered with a tall Rumford design, constructed by Davies. The exterior chimney is finished in large river rocks. "We planned on site the angles where the chimney tapers to align with the window corners," says Smith. They also poured in place the unique fluted chimney cap, Smith preparing the forms himself on the rooftop.

The busy family is looking forward to seasons in the sun and snow. The kids are learning to paddle board and wakeboard, and they ski both cross-country and downhill. "We all look forward to coming up here. We're the same family but we're a little more relaxed, a little more fun," says Val. "We hope it's a place that we will pass down to our kids and their kids, durable enough to stand for generations." **OH**

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Company • Van Allan Design Centre • Wren's General Store

ABOVE LEFT: Nautical bedding from Van Allan Design Centre plays off the view of the bay from the window in this boy's room.
ABOVE RIGHT: Tucked under the gambrel roof, the pink mirror, lamp and bedding pull warm tones out of the custom woodwork.

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