



Walls are painted Muslin

Benjamin Moore:
Muslin CC-110

bass fishing ON BARNSTABLE BAY

STORY **M. CAROLYN BLACK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

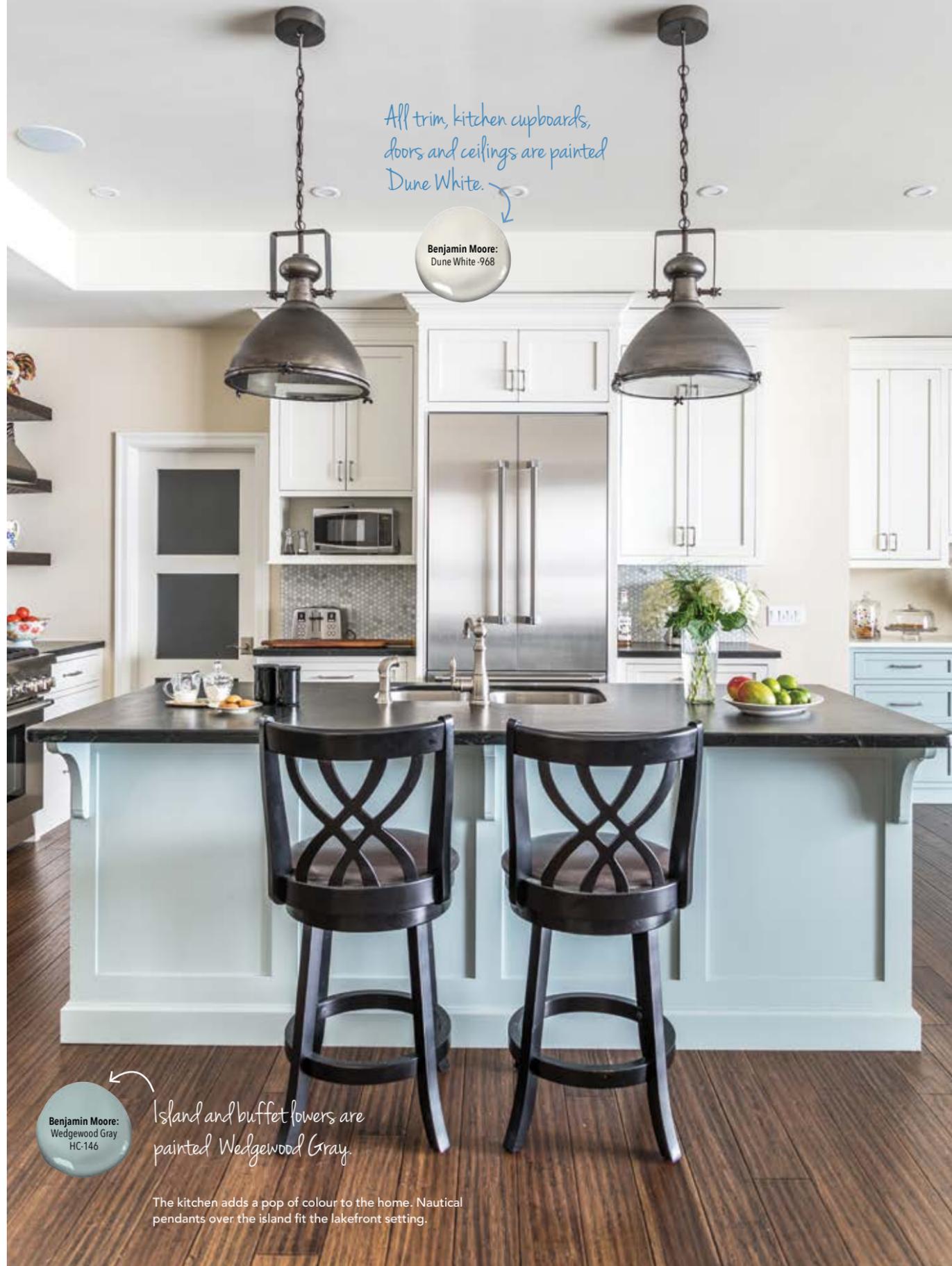
Des and **Veronica Barnes** took a two-day road trip in 2011 to look for a waterfront property. On Barnstable Bay, an inlet of Lake Simcoe, they found the ideal location for their custom home. “Designing and building a home of our own has been a dream of mine ever since we got married,” Veronica says. They chose **Prycon Custom Building and Renovations Inc.** as their builder and couldn’t be happier with the final result.

Veronica and her oldest son Brent had studied layouts for many months before they had a workable design on paper. The home needed to have a comfortable, private space for Veronica’s mother, Ilse Ulbrich, room for each of their three adult children – Brent (and Kelly); Derek (and Jackie); and Jessica (and Daniel) – to stay for visits, plus it had to maximize the spectacular west-facing view of the bay. Prycon put them in touch with **Mark Taylor** of **Cornerstones Residential Design Inc.** and it took about a year of back and forth ideas for that paper design to evolve into the perfect layout. “This is our first and only house we’ll build so it had to be just right,” Veronica says. *Continued on page 57*



Veronica and Des Barnes relax by the fire with Temba, their Rhodesian Ridgeback. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The view of Barnstable Bay from the Barnes’ home is incredible in all seasons and ideal for bird-watching. **BOTTOM:** Builders Stephen and Matthew Pryce of Prycon Custom Building and Renovations Inc.





All trim, kitchen cupboards, doors and ceilings are painted Dune White.

Benjamin Moore: Dune White -968

Benjamin Moore: Wedgewood Gray HC-146

Island and buffet lowers are painted Wedgewood Gray.

The kitchen adds a pop of colour to the home. Nautical pendants over the island fit the lakefront setting.

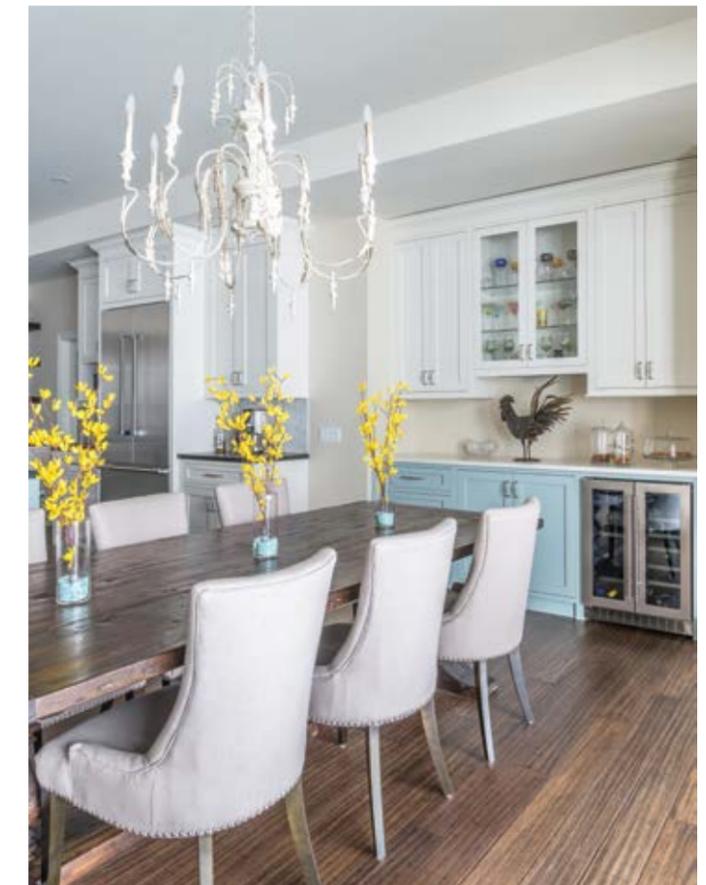


Ilse has a bedroom wing with a mini-kitchen, bathroom, private porch and a view of both the rising and setting sun. The lower floor has three bedrooms and a large family room with a pool table, dart board and lighting from Sanders Recreation & Fitness; it is a cosy retreat when the weather outside turns blustery. Veronica jokes that their new home is, "City in the front, cottage in the back," because it has municipal services, yet it's situated on a lakefront that beckons happy guests most weekends, year-round.

The main floor guest suite, tucked behind pocket doors for privacy, includes a smart TV so guests can stream online music or movies without requiring a separate satellite box. Originally from Aurora, the move north last year meant more travel time for visitors and Veronica says the guest suite, "encourages family and friends to come and visit us; it's like a holiday for them."

Their waterfront teems with swans, ducks and other wildlife but the real draw is the fishing. To say that Des is an avid fisherman is to understate: In 1995 he founded the Canadian chapter of Bassmaster, the world's largest freshwater fishing organization, and it's grown to

Continued on page 58



TOP LEFT: The laundry room has a basket for keys, Temba's toys and a fun message board. **BELOW LEFT:** Back in the kitchen, an inviting backsplash with small hexagon tiles creates a beautiful backdrop for open shelves and a stainless rangehood. **ABOVE:** A stunning dining table from Restoration Hardware fits the whole family.



Warm wall colours in the Master:
Caramel Apple (bedroom) and
Bluffs (en suite)



about 30 clubs in Ontario and other provinces. Obviously, finding the perfect lake for bass fishing was pretty important. “Lake Simcoe is a known world-class lake for smallmouth bass,” says Des. “To be able to catch a six- or seven-pound smallmouth, people will travel here from around the world.”

Des is particularly fond of his large garage and its 50-foot depth means it is easy to store his 20-foot bass fishing boat and trailer. He says, “The whole idea is that a fisherman needs to be able to back his rig all the way in and never have to put anything away.” The 14-foot-high garage includes an entrance to the basement and a dog-wash station plumbed with hot water for Temba, the couple’s 10-year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback.

The central part of the house encompasses kitchen, dining room and living room; a massive pantry just off the kitchen also holds a desk, computer and filing cabinet for Veronica’s office. Dubbed the “poffice” by her kids, it provides a quiet place to work and ample shelving for spices and the kitchen equipment “the chef” (Des) needs to create delicious meals. Since there is no need to store food in the main kitchen there is plenty of room to tuck pots, pans and dishes behind cupboard doors. The soapstone countertops are by Dessco Countertops.

Veronica says, “We bought our dining table through Restoration Hardware and it was a very rustic, unfinished, light-coloured wood but we thought, what if someone spills wine on it or we don’t use a coaster for our morning coffee?” The table is a focal point and the couple wanted it to fit with a casual, waterfront lifestyle so they asked their kitchen and bathroom cabinetmaker, **Mike Bateman of Benchmade Furniture Co.**, to find a solution. He came up with a rich, dark spill-resistant stain for the table and went a step further, staining the rustic kitchen accent shelving, Rumford wood-burning fireplace mantel and pillars framing the entranceway, which ties the great room design together.

Just off the great room is a bright sunroom, with comfortable rattan furniture and newly-installed top-down/bottom-up blinds by **Complete Blinds** that preserve both privacy and waterscape. The back porch, an expansive area Veronica terms “the number one feature of the house,” was the ideal gathering spot for summer board games and sipping cold beverages, but Des confesses that he enjoys it so much he’ll bundle up and look at the view with a hot coffee even as winter’s chill clings to it. He is currently building a large outdoor table that may rival the beautiful one indoors.

When a large expanse of windows face west, the typical homeowner may find that even in a cool spring, the interior rooms heat up uncomfortably from the intense sun. **Paul DeCola of DeCola Windows + Doors** suggested to the Barneses that they install LoE³-366 windows from Ostaco to reduce this effect. Des says, “Some of our neighbours get baked out of their houses and these windows really make a difference.” *Continued on page 62*



The master suite has an incredible view of the water.



Veronica's mother Ilse has her own suite with a walkout and a glorious sunroom just outside her door. Her suite includes a mini-kitchen and a beautiful en suite bath.



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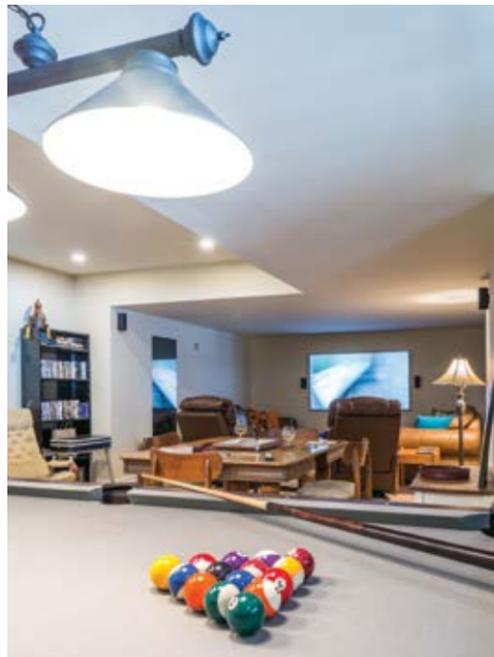
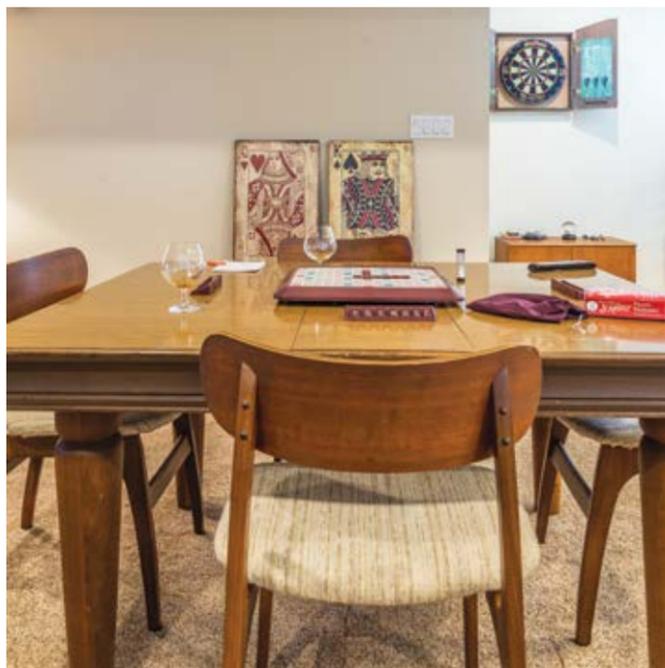
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Downstairs, Veronica and Des have created three bedrooms, one for each of their kids when they come to visit. The vast lower level also has a games room and home theatre.



Another feature the Barneses love is their new Sonos sound system, installed by **Shaun Hart** of **Simcoe Audio Video**. They purchased seven televisions in all from Hart. Veronica says, “He met with us here last year and we were discussing the art of the possible and he knew exactly what we were looking for.” Des adds that he uses the streaming sound system on their back porch every morning, listening to news from around the world while drinking coffee.

All bathrooms have heated tile floors and they were very impressed with tile installer **Steve Bernacchi** of **Fano Home Improvements**. “He did such a great job, and was a very professional, courteous person who showed great pride in his workmanship,” says Veronica.

The couple were completely satisfied with their Prycon building experience in general and Veronica says, “I can’t say enough good stuff about Prycon. They directed us and suggested things to us that really made this place the dream come true. We really enjoyed working with **Matt** and **Stephen** and a special shout-out to **Brett Hodges** and **Brent MacDonald**. We worked so closely with all of them, and it was a joy every step of the way”

Veronica is the first to admit she’d rather create the floorplan than tackle interior design, so she adds that she’s grateful to friends Sandy Parolin and Brenda MacNamara, who helped source décor and add finishing touches. **OH**



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