

planting ROOTS

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PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY
FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS DESIGNS BY BRENDA

Set out north from Wiarton and drive 15 minutes down a narrow and winding Bruce Peninsula road, and there you will come to Colpoys Bay, a place comprised of such peacefulness and beauty that it makes people want to throw down roots and never leave. That's what happened to Ron and Lynn Berchtold.

The story started simply enough for Ron, with childhood summers spent on Colpoys Bay, but as Ron grew up and went on to marry and have children of his own, he and his family continued to return to the charming picturesque waterway. For Ron and Lynn, taking their children to visit Ron's family cottage was an annual requirement, and as the summers passed, the couple longed for a cottage of their own.

Soon, a rustic cabin became their humble seasonal abode, where it still stands adjacent to the site that now features their full-time home. Today, the cabin is visible through the trees beyond the extra-wide glass patio door (**VanDolder's Custom Exteriors**) of their new home designed and built by **The Great Lakes Frame Company** and comprised of timber frame and stone (**Owen Sound Ledgerrock Ltd.**).

As winter sets in, the aroma of freshly-baked bread seeps throughout the two-storey home from a custom wood-fired pizza oven nestled in a stunning stone fireplace on the main floor (**Bloodworth Masonry Inc.**). The fireplace is sufficient enough to heat the home and draws the family together under the soaring timbers of the great room. *Continued on page 40*

LEFT: The great room of Ron and Lynn Berchtold's home showcases the timber frame structure that is a specialty of The Great Lakes Frame Company. The stone fireplace houses a custom pizza oven.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: (1) Colourful tableware adds a touch of the summer cottage lifestyle to this year-round Colpoys Bay home. **(2)** Ron tends to the homemade bread baking in the wood-fired oven. **(3)** Each guest bedroom space features a cosy window bench nook. **(4)** The classic black and white theme of the upstairs bathroom allows for the décor to be changed easily over time. **(5)** Thick maple slabs and iron railings add a contemporary punch to the rustic timber-frame home. **(6)** The guest bedroom features a grey tufted headboard and the elegance of oversize curtains. **(7)** A fun industrial sconce contrasts the rustic mirror in this powder room. **(8)** An ensemble of painted wooden birds adorn one of the couple's many antique pieces.



“It was great to work with **Pliny Loucks** and The Great Lakes Frame Company,” says Ron. “We gave them our wish list and they did a design, then we tweaked it and they were open to everything. Our whole plan, from the original consultation, was to build local and they helped make that happen. He’s a family man like us, so he just gets it.”

The kitchen was an important element in the Berchtolds’ home. Beyond the simple joy of connecting with one another over a table of food, their daughter owns her own restaurant and the whole family seems to possess a natural talent for whipping up delicious dishes. Designed by Lynn and built and installed by **Harvey Stutzman**, it features cherry cabinetry with a contrasting painted lower section and Hermosa granite countertops from **The Stone Show** (stone sourced from **Ebel Quarries**).

“This whole house is geared around cooking,” says Ron. “The pizza oven is great, you can make bread or cook a roast, and we have another outside.”

It’s also geared around their individual hobbies, from a crafter’s haven to a private dock for Ron’s handcrafted Outer Banks 20 fishing boat. The lower level – which houses both the woman cave, a spacious quilting room for Lynn, and man cave, a luxurious spa retreat for Ron – has in-floor heating. The garage is additionally equipped with in-floor heating, in order to accommodate the couple’s eventual plans to convert a portion of the space into a winter greenhouse. They plan to overwinter some delicate plants, including oleander and fig trees. Gardening is a huge part of life at the Berchtolds. *Continued on page 42*

TOP: The look of the timber frame interior is carried through to the exterior façade with timber pillars and arches. **LEFT:** Melissa Emke and Bill Turner of The Great Lakes Frame Company relax on the porch of the Berchtold’s home.



LEFT: The custom kitchen in cherry wood was built by a local Mennonite carpenter and features sleek, dark granite from The Stone Show. **BELOW LEFT:** The main floor living area is comprised of an open-concept kitchen and dining area and a family lounge. **BELOW RIGHT:** A solid wood dining table from County Charm Mennonite Furniture has a sweeping view of the bay.



A montage of antiques (**The Bruce Beckons**) are artfully scattered throughout the home, which was thoughtfully decorated by Lynn. Each of the home’s rooms feature a unique decorative theme and the guest bedrooms offer a pleasant dose of clean symmetry. The master en suite is inspired by the classic glam of 1960s Hollywood, while the upstairs bathroom is decked out in a fun black-and-white look with pops of colour, and the guest bedrooms feature a more traditional primitive feel.

“I designed all the bathrooms; I always wanted a black-and-white bathroom,” says Lynn. “I wanted the upstairs to have a more old world look because of the timber ceiling.” She describes how the shapes and angles of the low timbers became permanent design elements in the upstairs space.

The whole home is knit together by the rich character and colour of wood, from the timbers down to the unique hand-oiled white oak antiques flooring that covers every room, with the exception of the bathrooms (tile installed by **Rob Rutherford**) and the slab maple staircases. Locally crafted interior and exterior wood doors add to the home’s style (**Desboro Doors**).

Though Lynn and Ron never saw a permanent home for themselves on Colpoy’s Bay, it’s almost as if the bay itself had remained poised all these years waiting for them to build their forever home.

“When we originally bought the cottage next door, the owner wanted us to buy this lot as well,” explains Lynn. “He really tried to convince us, but we said no. Years later when it came up for sale again we decided to spend our anniversary savings on the lot and build instead of travelling – this is our safari.”

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TOP: The basement bathroom is actually a luxurious spa-like retreat, featuring an eye-catching slab of granite in the shower. **BOTTOM:** The “woman cave” in this house is an expansive quilting and craft room, featuring ample work space, storage and a tiled floor with in-floor heating.



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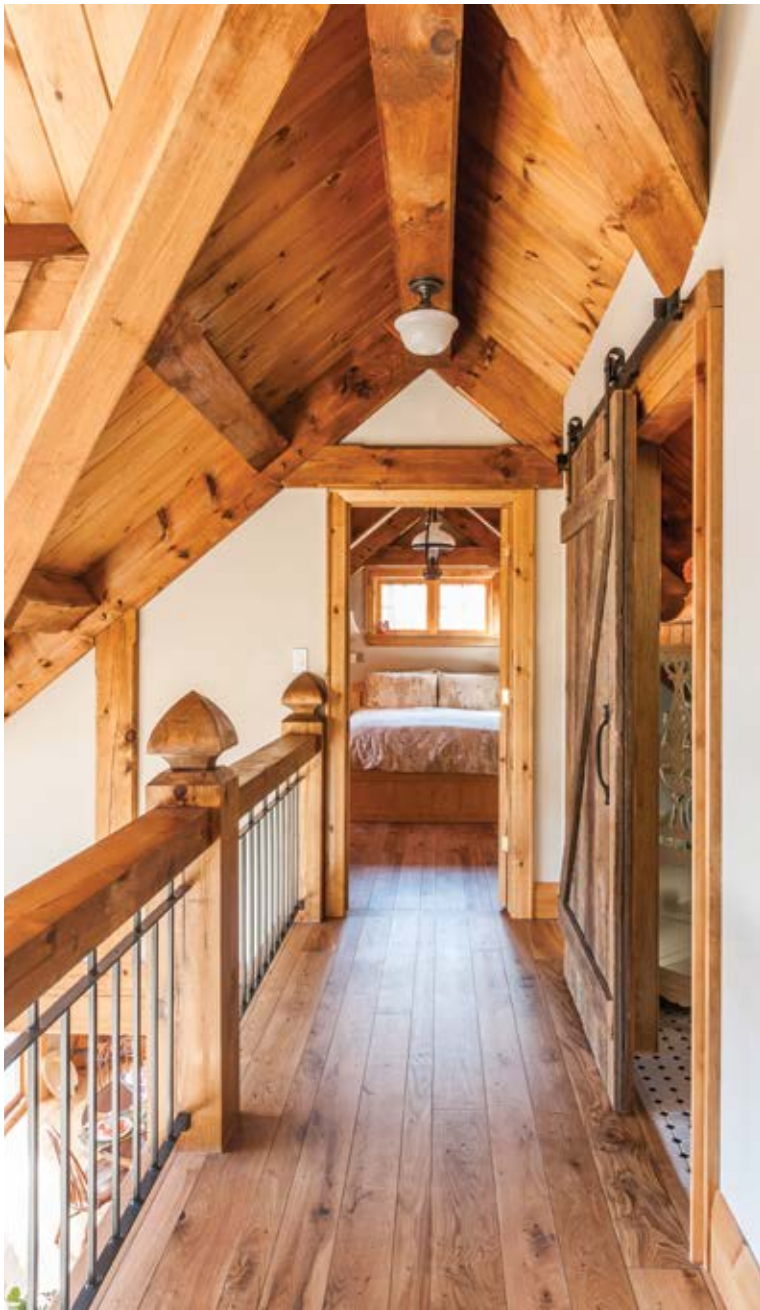


LEFT: The master en suite was inspired by the classic look of Hollywood glam, from its marble floors to the gilded gold vanity mirrors. **BELOW:** The master bedroom is home to several of Lynn and Ron's antique finds, including a vintage light fixture salvaged from a local market. **RIGHT:** The upstairs hallway connects to the home's guest spaces and overlooks the living area below, with a stunning view of Colpoy's Bay.

The Berchtolds will continue to put their old cottage to use, as a second guest space for big family gatherings and as a temporary home for themselves when they gift summer “cottage time” at their new house to the Hospital For Sick Children for terminally ill children and their families through a foundation called Cottage Dreams.

“Our kids grew up in that super rustic cabin,” says Lynn as she looks through her kitchen windows. “We were always loath to tear it down.”

In the end they didn't have to. **OH**



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- Ashpark Electric • Bob Wagner • Bloodworth Masonry Inc.
- The Bruce Beckons • Country Charm Mennonite Furniture
- Desboro Doors • Georgian Bay Marble & Stone • The Great Lakes Frame Company • Grey Bruce Paint and Décor
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