



Sue Lebrun and Peter Maheux are gifted in making visitors feel welcome immediately. It only makes sense that their serene Calabogie home would do the same, from the way it is pleasantly perched on the lot, to the way the interior design leads you in and lifts you up. *Continued on page 35*

# COMING *home*

STORY HEATHER WRIGHT | PHOTOGRAPHY GORDON KING



**ABOVE:** Homeowners Sue Lebrun and Peter Maheux (seated) with builder and Generation-3 owner Chris Fleming. **LEFT:** Sue and Peter customized the Linwood Custom Homes' Denver model to suit their taste and how they planned to enjoy the space.



Although this is categorically a dream home in the truest sense of the word, its origins were less idyllic. Sue and Peter both lost their spouses to cancer but had the serendipitous luck to connect in a support group. They helped each other to heal and continue to include both of their late spouses (Luc and Jay) prominently as part of their current family. Their presence is felt and seen with photos and artwork throughout their home. Sue and Peter both wrote books about their grief and loss, donating the proceeds from book sales to charity, which is a testament to their strength and to their desire to help others.

Sue and Peter's home is built with traditional materials, but it is the emotional fabric that really gives it its strength and its energy. It is rare that you get to see the transition from a house to a home and that is precisely what they have accomplished together.

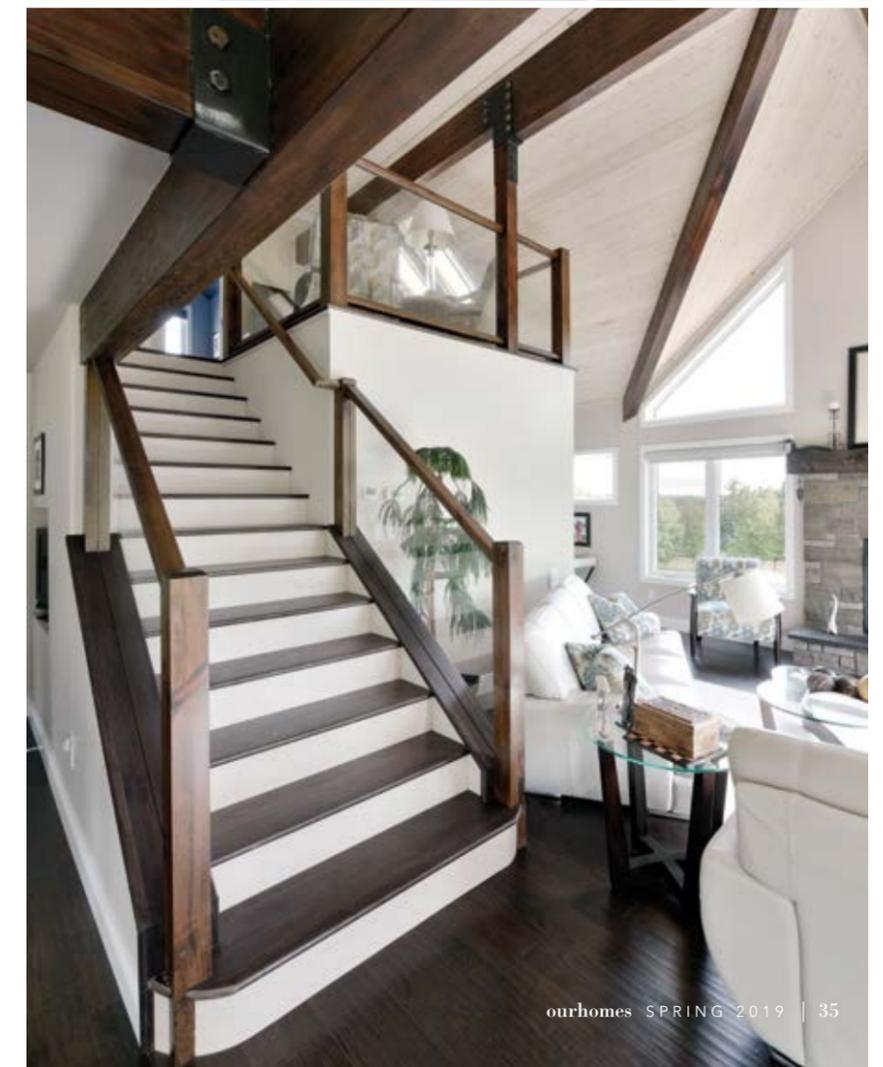
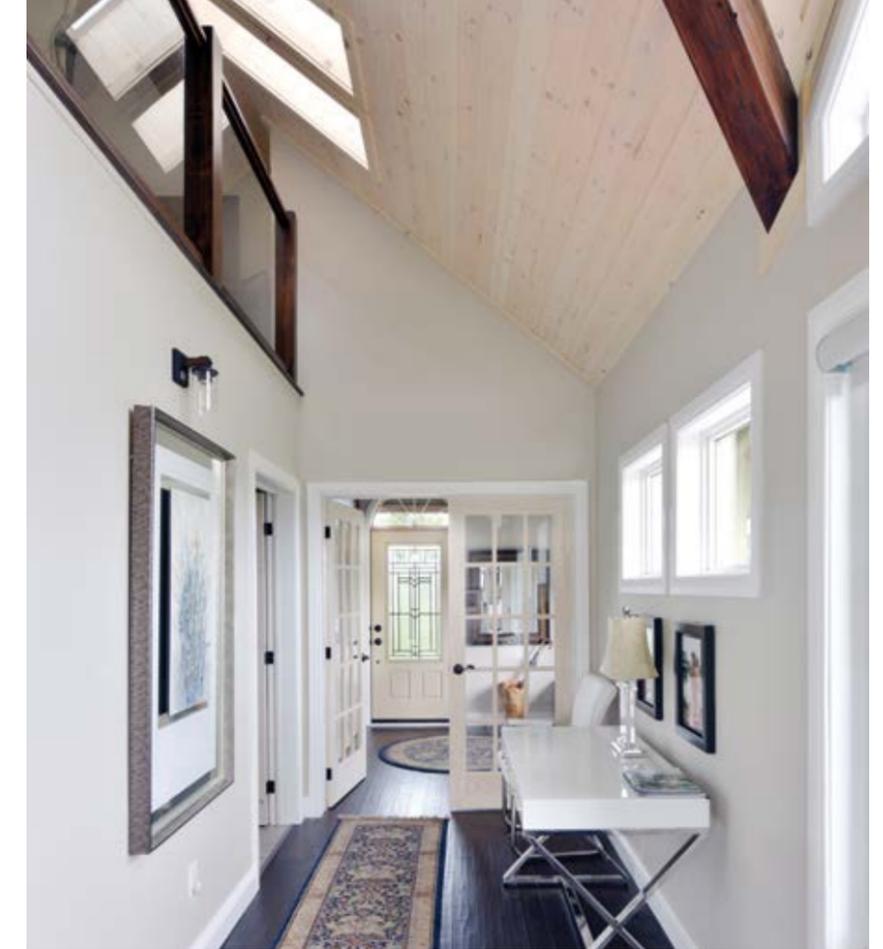
Typically, homeowners climb a property ladder; for Sue and Peter it has been more of a property journey. They have run the gamut of lifestyle homes and property types, including this home's polar opposite: high-rise urban living. Nothing quite fit. There is a real sense, with the construction of this comfortable Calabogie home, that they have truly arrived.

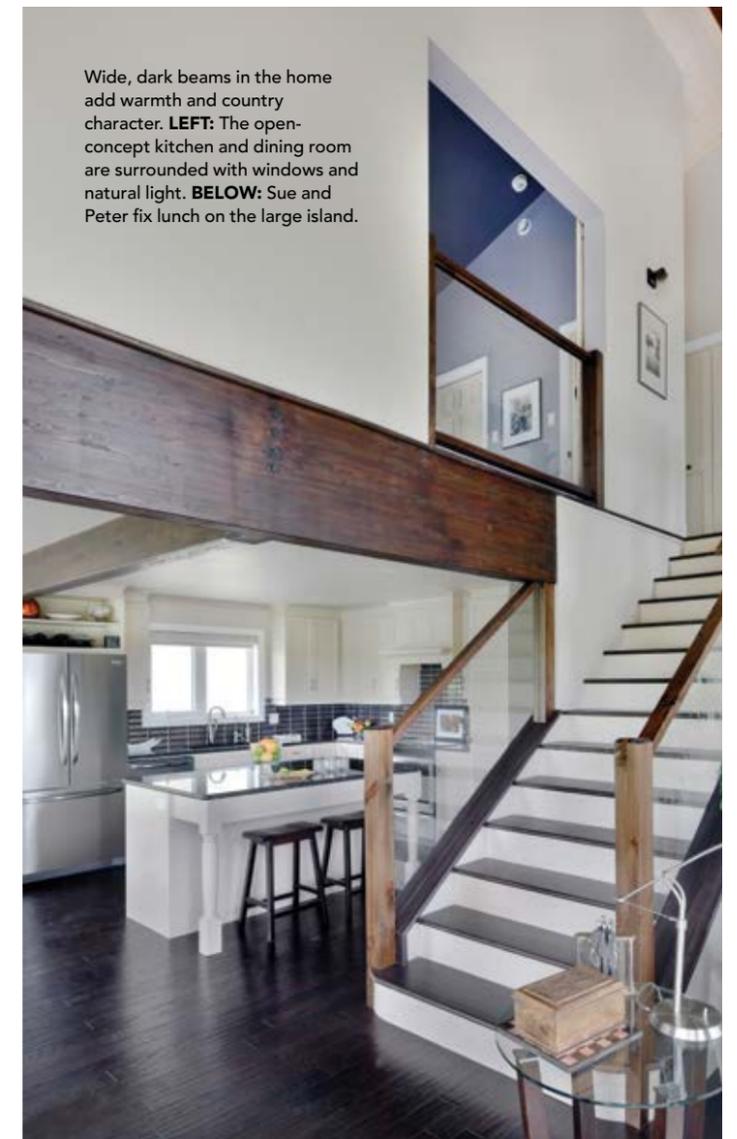
Sue and Peter worked with project manager and builder **Chris Fleming** who specializes in **Linwood Custom Homes**. His company is aptly named **Generation-3** because he is the third generation of his family to build homes in the area, with his grandfather starting to build in the 1960s.

In October 2016, Sue and Peter went on a home tour hosted by Chris.

"We invite pre-existing clients to open their homes up for interested clients to come and view them," says Chris. "During the home tour, we continued to get to know Peter and Sue better and developed a strong working relationship that yielded very positive results." *Continued on page 36*

**OPPOSITE:** The living room is one of the couple's favourite spots in the home because of its tranquility and countryside views. **TOP:** One design decision Sue made was to have dark floors and dark beams against light, high ceilings. **BOTTOM:** This striking staircase is a focal point and contributes to the overall design commentary with contrasting colours.





Wide, dark beams in the home add warmth and country character. **LEFT:** The open-concept kitchen and dining room are surrounded with windows and natural light. **BELOW:** Sue and Peter fix lunch on the large island.

From Chris's standpoint, this was an important first step in establishing this personal connection, which is the compass that steers his building philosophy towards success. Custom homes begin with a deep understanding of a homeowner's wants, needs, budget and really, how they envision themselves in their home.

They eventually picked the Denver model and added upgrades and modifications, including lightening and heightening the ceiling, adding a loft and skylights. "It is a finished product that we love," says Peter.

Sue has an interior design background,

which explains the specific strategy in the home's design. "This home gave me a great opportunity to set rooms on angles," she explains.

This is made more prominent by a number of other details, like angled ceilings, exposed beams and angular windows that lend the vistas symmetrical context. This theme even extends outside, with a slight angle of the home on the lot, increasing its curb appeal.

The foyer, featuring a smart built-in bench (**Deslaurier Custom Cabinets**) and pine doors (**Calabogie Rustic Woodworks**), gives you a sense of what is to come: a

thoughtfully laid out home that benefits from sweeping pastoral vistas. From the foyer, an open-concept living room curls around into the open kitchen and dining room.

In the living room, a stone fireplace (**Friendly Fires**) is at once both subtle and striking in its impact on the rest of the space. It serves as a personal gallery for Sue's late husband Luc's artwork. They elected not to run the stone (**Dougherty Stone Masonry**) all the way to the ceiling, instead placing a pine beam that Chris had sourced from Algonquin Park, adding a rustic but refined quality.

The flow of light through this home is

incredible, with windows strategically placed at multiple vantage points. The light is so substantial that Peter jokes, "When we first moved in, I kept walking around turning off the lights in the master bathroom, even though they weren't on."

In the kitchen, Sue says, "I knew I wanted a unique island and cabinets going up to the ceiling (**Deslaurier Custom Cabinets**)," she says. The colour scheme reflects her love of dark colours and contrast, with the backsplash (**Arnprior Floor Covering Ltd.**, who also did all the ceramics in the house) and flooring (**Kember Kreative Interiors**).

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**ABOVE:** Barn doors slide back to reveal full panoramic views from the master bedroom. **TOP RIGHT:** Yet even more sunlight drifts in through a skylight in the master bathroom. **MIDDLE:** The master bedroom is a serene retreat in Sue and Peter's dream home. **BOTTOM:** The master bathroom displays Sue's colour philosophy of including two tones in each space.

In the master bedroom, barn doors (Calabogie Rustic Woodworks) slide back for "the big reveal" as Peter and Sue can gaze out at the countryside through the banks of windows right from their bed: "The sun peeks in when we wake up through the tops of the windows, making this home bright and cheery," says Sue.

With all of the decisions to be made when building a custom home, Chris supports his clients through the process, starting with allowing them ample time and providing resources to research and consider their choices.

"Linwood Homes provides clients an opportunity to look at a comprehensive website that gets them excited about their plans. It helps them develop plans to suit their needs," he says.

There is a fairy tale element to this home, not just because Sue and Peter's property search had a Goldilocks storyline of trial and error. ("Peter and I met with Chris multiple times and developed eight sets of blueprints to get our home just right," says Sue), but also because this home brims with hope and happily ever after. **OH**



*Sue and Peter both authored books about their experiences with grief and how they both found love again with each other.*



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