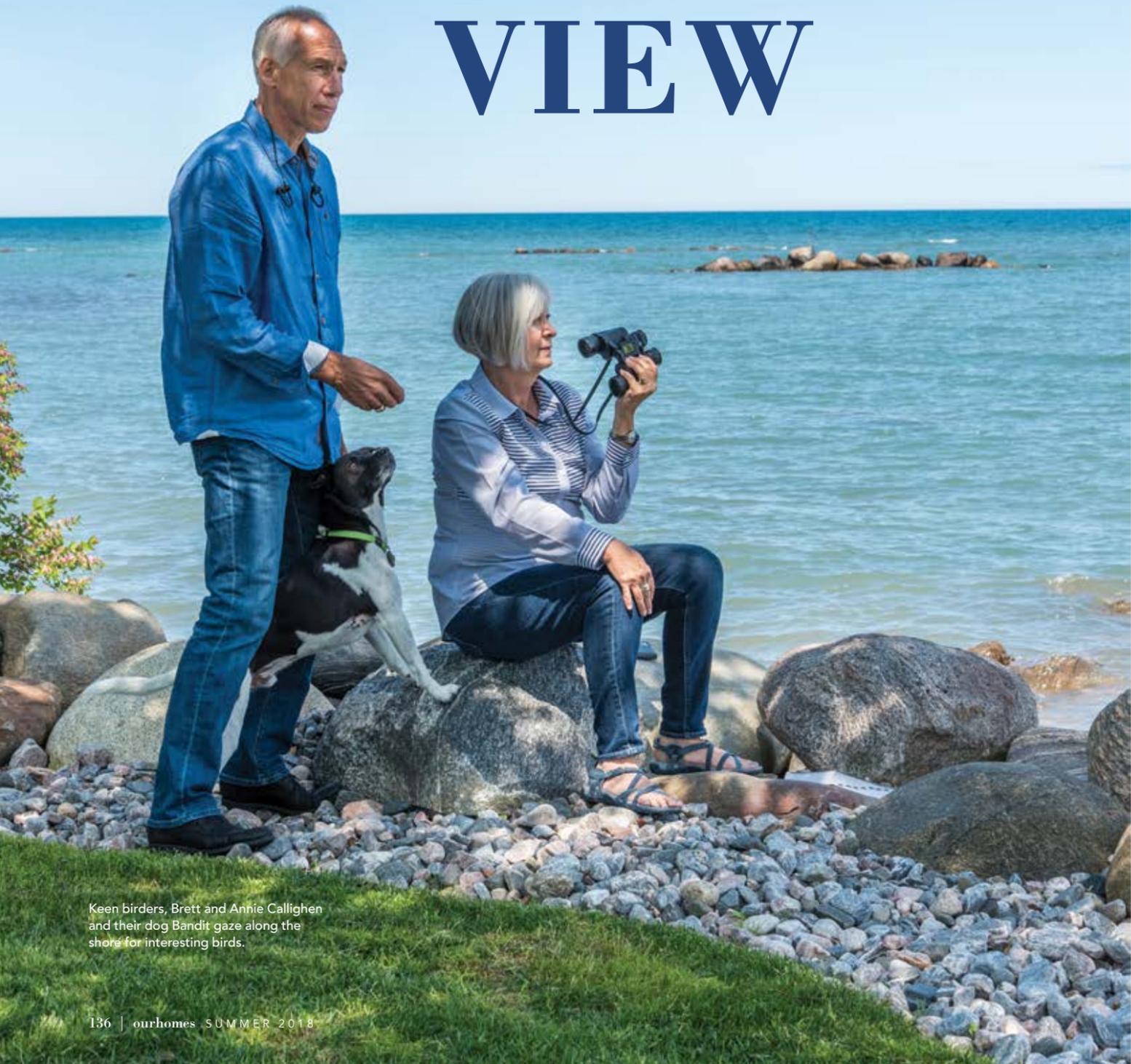


Scoring a BAYSIDE VIEW

STORY **AMANDA MOORE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



Keen birders, Brett and Annie Callighen and their dog Bandit gaze along the shore for interesting birds.



With its breathtaking views and year-round activities, Brett and Annie Callighen decided Southern Georgian Bay was the ideal place to settle down.

TOP: The home's outdoor space is designed with multiple seating areas, each with their own personality. **ABOVE:** Under the pergola, the outdoor dining area has easy access through a side door that opens into the great room near the kitchen. **BELOW RIGHT:** Wide, low steps invite you into this welcoming home. Pops of yellow in planters add a splash of colour. Garden staging by Green Love. **INSET:** Wicker containers and furniture have a timeless look as well as offer durability.

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ABOVE: Standing in front of a custom firewood rack by Desiron, Chris Allen and Scott Carter of Carter Allen Ltd., turned house plans into reality for the Callighens. **RIGHT:** The view can be enjoyed by all at the dining table. Flowers by Collingwood Flowers and Home Decor. **BELOW:** The Callighens display treasures with a special meaning in the front foyer.



The couple split their time between Muskoka and Arizona over the past eight years. Nearing retirement age and with two adult children, daughter Harli and son Ryan, the Callighens were looking to set down roots in one place. They chose to return to Ontario.

Where in Ontario was the big question. They wanted to settle somewhere reminiscent of Muskoka's dramatic landscape with plenty to do and see all year long.

"Southern Georgian Bay ticked all the boxes," says Annie, finishing her dinner at the quartz-topped kitchen island in their open-concept, modern bungalow in the Town of The Blue Mountains, two hours north of their old home in Unionville, where they had lived for several years while raising their family. "So we started to look for property."

There was one piece of waterfront property on the market and the Callighens quickly scooped it up. They sold their homes and made plans

to renovate the modest cottage to take advantage of the property's expansive Georgian Bay panorama.

"What sold us on the property was the view," adds Brett, a former NHL Edmonton Oiler – who was Wayne Gretzky's first regular left winger – now working as a players' agent.

A home inspection quickly extinguished plans to renovate. The cottage, unfortunately, was filled with mould.

The Callighens had previously sought the expert advice of **Chris Allen**, co-owner with **Scott Carter** of Thornbury home building firm **Carter Allen Ltd.**, when deciding on the property. They chose to hire the firm to build a new home on the site – a 2,500 sq. ft. modern bungalow just steps from

the bay. Annie, who practised for many years as an interior designer, worked closely with Carter Allen and **Mountainside Designs** to plan and draw a sleek, yet warm, open space that takes advantage of the property's most advantageous feature – the waterfront. Carter Allen took those plans and crafted a beautiful home.

"We wanted to be part of the landscape," Annie says, gesturing to the large, floor-to-ceiling windows showcasing the shoreline, a mere 40 feet from the home.

Simple yet elegant landscape designs by **Rock Solid Landscapes**, made up of a mix of several perennial plants for easy maintenance, surround the wood bungalow, painted in Behr's Intellectual, a

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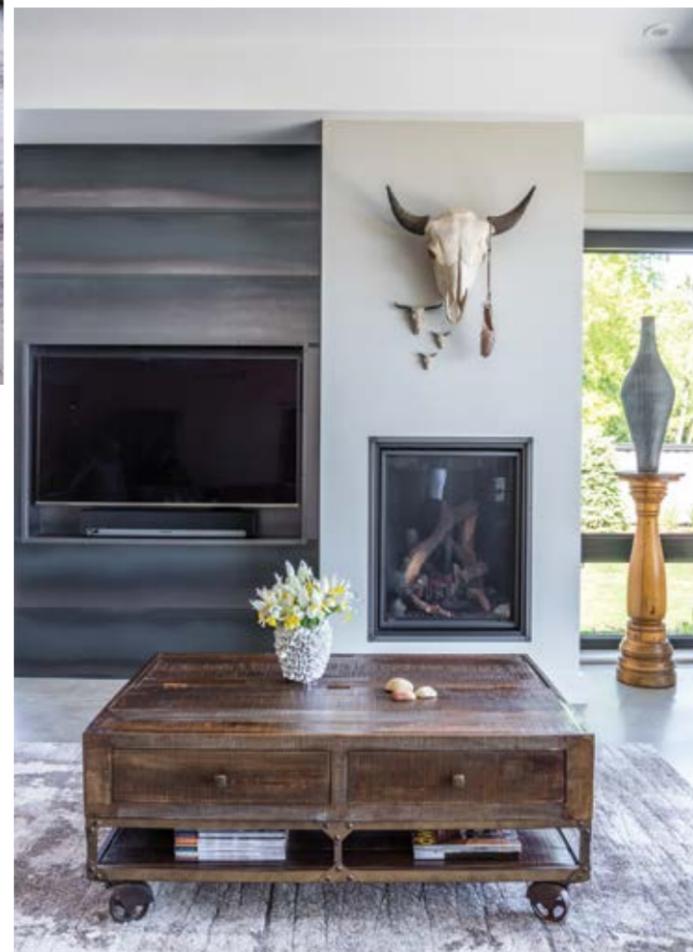
Apricots, raspberries and brie on a wooden board are ready for cocktail hour.



Eating, gathering and prepping can happen all at once at the large, quartz-topped island. **TOP LEFT:** A large pantry is located just around the corner from the kitchen. Full height, split, sliding barn doors give easy access to this walk-in pantry that houses small appliances, including the coffee machine. **LEFT:** The open, galley-style kitchen makes the space very functional.

home & builder

The living room sectional is another comfortable spot to enjoy the endless views of Georgian Bay, and hopefully spot some unusual birds flying by. Floral arrangements by Collingwood Flowers and Home Decor. **RIGHT:** "Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seed, you can grow flowers or weeds," – inspirational words written on the blackboard over Annie's father's refinished workbench. **BOTTOM:** The southwest/rustic style of this home is apparent on this wall in the living room.

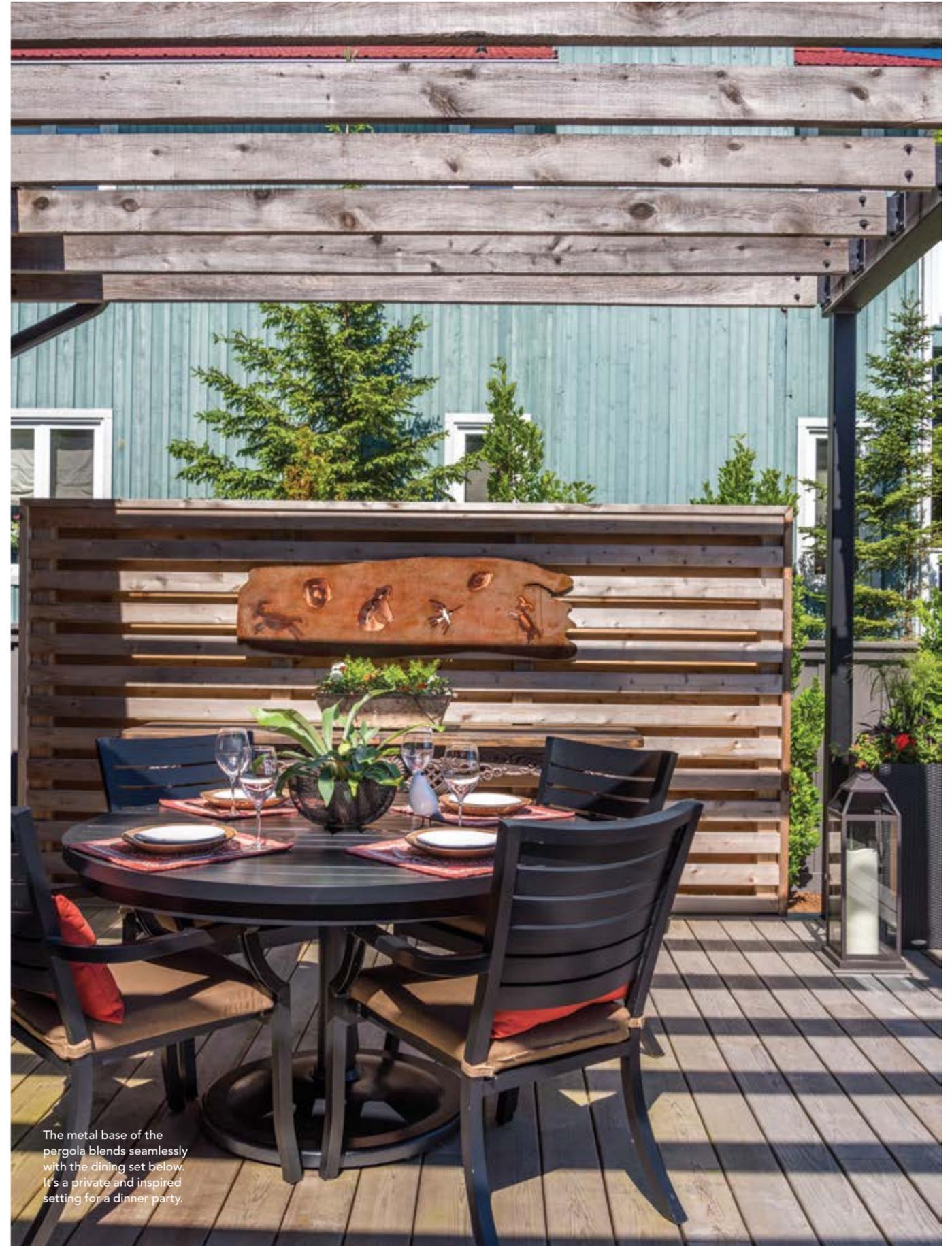


medium grey, on all sides. Black Ostaco window and door frames from Ridley Windows & Doors create a sleek look for the home, which the Callighens affectionately call *Four Feathers*, is tucked away on a quiet street. A mix of wood deck and stone patio extends the length of the home at the rear with plenty of areas to relax and enjoy the view.

Muskoka chairs circle a modern fire bowl. Firewood is stored in a unique, custom wood rack built by **Skot Lawrence** of **Desiron**. **Green Love** styled the backyard.

The indoor and outdoor furnishings, both sentimental and loved, were brought from the couple's previous homes. The décor is a blend of woodsy Muskoka and southwest Arizona, including heirlooms from the couple's history together. Annie's father's workbench has been refashioned into a serving area off the kitchen. Across from the workbench is

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The metal base of the pergola blends seamlessly with the dining set below. It's a private and inspired setting for a dinner party.

BELOW: Daughter Harli's bedroom is ready anytime she pops by. **RIGHT:** Annie works at the computer in her office. Many of the items, including the red chair, are pieces Annie loves. **BOTTOM:** With highlights of his NHL career hanging on the wall of his office, Brett is busy booking hockey players overseas.



a large pantry, which makes up for the absence of upper cabinets in the kitchen, a choice Annie says makes the open living space more intimate.

"We wanted it to feel like a living space," Annie explains, adding there is plenty of cupboard space along the contemporary quartz-topped island custom designed by **Hanover Kitchen & Bath Gallery**, which also provided the modern finishes in the home's three bathrooms. The millwork in the kitchen and bathrooms is made of Fenix Laminate, a relatively new product on the market that is clean, durable, heat and fingerprint resistant with a soft, matte finish. Stainless steel appliances, from **Macdonald's Furniture and Appliances**, and a washed grey stone tile backsplash, complete the classic look.

Annie chose one colour for the entire

home, **Benjamin Moore's** Pale Oak, a "greige" with warm undertones to achieve the cosy look she was after. The dark furnishings and window frames, coupled with polished concrete floors, achieve Annie's other design goal – a modern look.

The concrete floors feature in-floor heating and stretch the 2,500 square feet of the home carefully and thoughtfully designed by the owners, builders and architectural team. The house is fully automated and secure, thanks to **Red Brick Group Inc.**

"Aside from featuring a very efficient and airtight building envelope, this home has most of the features and amenities found in a much larger build within a conservative slab-on-grade footprint," says Chris Allen, discussing what stands out most for him. The home features a spacious master suite, large guest quarters,

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Tranquil, soft grey bedding works well with the Benjamin Moore Pale Oak wall colour. The view and sound from the bay means that after the curtains (from Baywood Designs) are closed, a good night's sleep is guaranteed. **TOP RIGHT:** A sliding barn door in the master bath maximizes the space. **RIGHT:** A view is offered by the painting of birch trees that mimic the linear window above. A metal side table holds everything needed for a relaxing bath.



open-concept living space, a mudroom, laundry room and offices for both Brett and Annie, who works alongside her husband placing North American hockey players overseas.

Daughter Harli, working for Carter Allen at the time, had a hand in the early construction, helping with form work, prepping the exterior for siding and framing inside.

"Annie was instrumental in spec'ing each and every design feature and material in this beautiful home," says Chris. "She had strong opinions and ideas that we executed together from start to finish. This home is a true reflection of its owners, Annie and Brett."

The Callighens couldn't agree more.

"We love it," Annie says. "It never gets old. The beauty of this place in all seasons. There is always something."

The Callighens have fit right into their new surroundings and enjoy the many activities Southern Georgian Bay has to offer – from the ski slopes and golf courses to five-star dining and outdoor adventures. The couple have taken up paddle boarding and kayaking and Brett has even found a group of guys to play hockey with.

It's a great place to enjoy a new life. **OH**



ABOVE: Just off the master bedroom, two sheltered loungers invite the owners to enjoy the first coffee of the day, or the first glass of wine at the end of the day.



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