

River Run

STORY SARAH SLOAN
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

Imagine for a moment slipping into the bathtub, where your only interruption is the light of the moon cascading through the windows as you lay stargazing into the dark night sky. All you can hear is the sound of the river and the leaves rustling in the wind. For Anne and John North, this is a reality in their new 2,376 sq. ft. home nestled on a rocky escarpment property near Chatsworth.

While Anne would most likely laugh and say things aren't quite so harmonious at *River Run* – the name aptly given to the property – there's certainly opportunity to soak in the serenity of such a setting. Pulling up to the Grey County property, not only are you greeted by the couple's beautiful retreat, built by **Pliny Loucks** of **The Great Lakes Frame Company**, but by their bounding golden retriever, Matthew.

"That's why we call it *River Run*, because Matthew goes up there and he runs like mad, and the river runs; everything is in motion," explains Anne. "So even though it looks extremely relaxing, cool and calm, life is constantly moving right along." *Continued on page 48*

TOP RIGHT: Melissa Emke, Bill Turner and Pliny Loucks of The Great Lakes Frame Company pose in the Norths' timber frame home. **RIGHT & BELOW:** The stone exterior of the home is complemented by the natural stone landscaping, giving it a sense of oneness with the land. **OPPOSITE:** A swirling pool of water in a bend of the river on the Norths' property is a favourite swimming destination for their golden retriever Matthew.



Upon climbing the natural-stone stairs, guests are welcomed to the entranceway (footings and foundation by **Neelcrete Concrete Designs and Construction**), which is flanked by timber columns and beautiful masonry work. **McCutcheon's Masonry** completed the cool, earth-toned stone on the exterior and all the masonry work inside.

"The thing about Anne and John's house that is different, is that 100 per cent of the outside is stone, all local ledge rock (**Owen Sound Ledge Rock Ltd.**)," explains Pliny.

Leaving the shelter of the large portico, you are led through an impressive front door and into the foyer. Grey stone tile greets and ushers you through beautiful French doors and into the main living area, complete with wooden pillars and beams finished with precision by Pliny's team to mimic the beauty of the home's natural surroundings – a property that's been in the family since the 1970s. *Continued on page 50*



The rustic look of the stunning timber frames is contrasted by the contemporary style of the light fixtures, fireplace and leather arm chairs. **LEFT:** French doors open into the living area from the home's spacious foyer.



Much of the surrounding forest has been planted with trees from the **Grey Sauble Conservation Authority**, which have grown to maturity over the past 40 years.

“John and I were really interested in developing the property because there’s just so much nature and things to preserve: the water, the forests and the lands,” says Anne.

To achieve their goals, the Norths worked alongside Pliny and Construction Engineering Technologist **Melissa Emke** (Great Lakes Frame Company), who was responsible for drawing up the plans for the home.

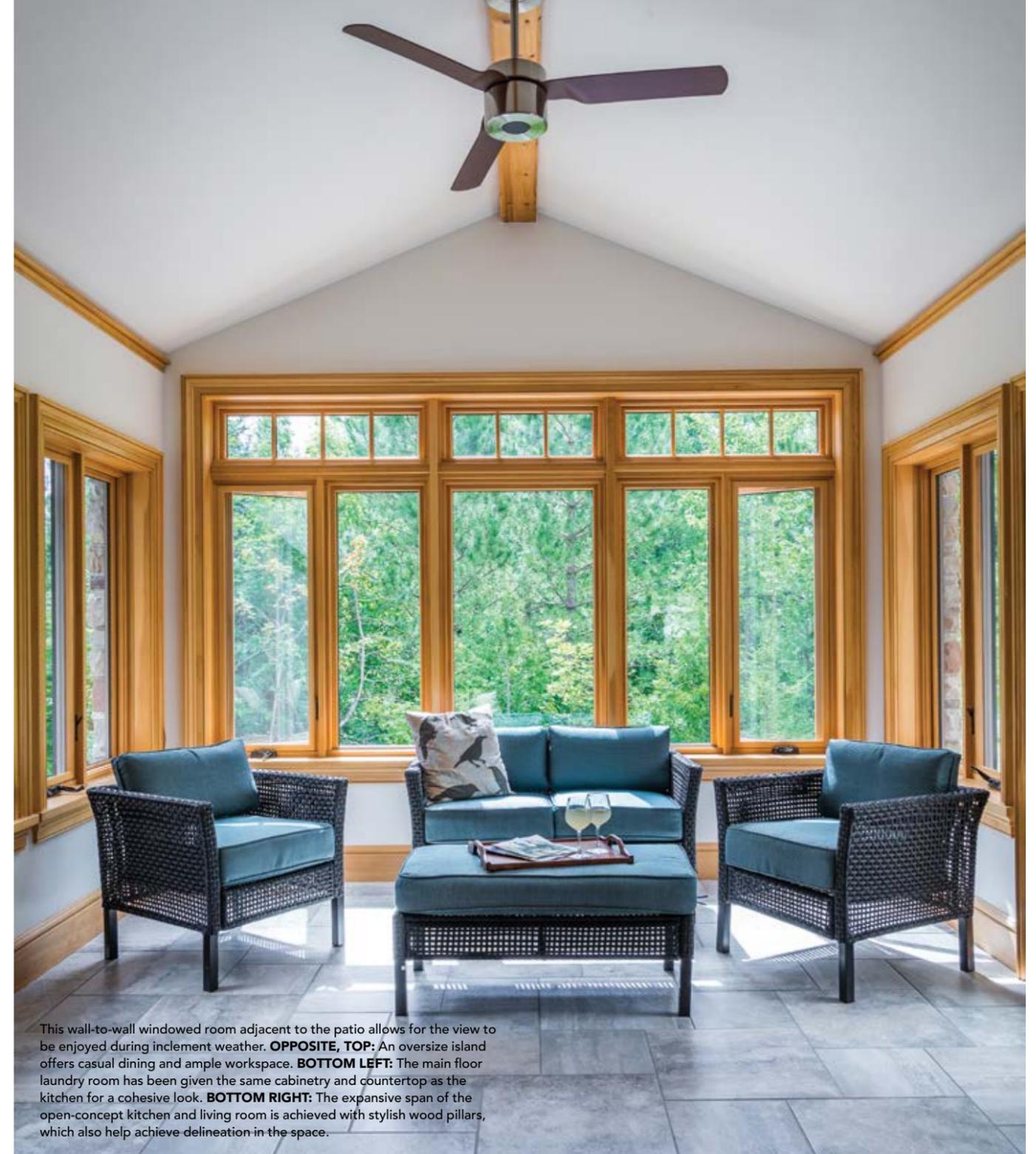
“It had to all look natural,” says Anne. “To show how the timber that is growing out there can be preserved when brought inside for the future.”

Overhead, hand-cut traditional timber-frame beams and arches sourced from local, sustainable harvested wood become the focal point next to the impressive, stone floor-to-ceiling fireplace (**Chantico Fireplace Gallery**) and surround. Huge windows enrich the great room, granting Anne’s wishes of bringing the outdoors in, with light bouncing from each of the rustic wooden beams. Pliny worked alongside an impressive team of tradespeople to accomplish the look his clients desired and it is reflected in the final product.

“It is a very energy-efficient house,” he describes. “There is in-floor heating and very good quality windows and doors built with energy efficiency in mind.”

All of the home’s windows and coverings were purchased at **Van Dolder’s Home Team Custom Exteriors**, while the window framing and trim was completed by **J.E. Trim Johnson Enterprises**.

When it came to decorating their home, Anne stuck to the mind-set of less is more, embracing a minimalist style.



This wall-to-wall windowed room adjacent to the patio allows for the view to be enjoyed during inclement weather. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** An oversize island offers casual dining and ample workspace. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The main floor laundry room has been given the same cabinetry and countertop as the kitchen for a cohesive look. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The expansive span of the open-concept kitchen and living room is achieved with stylish wood pillars, which also help achieve delineation in the space.

“The art is what is outside; the windows are the frame,” explains Anne. Pliny kept their aesthetics in mind while working alongside carpenter **Harvey Stutzman** to design and install the Norths’ open-concept kitchen. Rather than closed-in cabinetry doors, Anne and John requested glass for the uppers that radiates in the abundance of natural light in the space.

Working with **Mario Nunno** of **The Stone Shop** (countertops in kitchen, bathrooms, and mudroom) and other local companies, such as **MacDonald’s Brandsource Furniture & Appliances** and **Fulford**

Kitchenware Bathware Hardware, Pliny was able to accomplish the state-of-the-art look Anne and John desired.

The home is illuminated by Hubbardton Forge Lighting and was selected by Anne to match the rustic and rugged construction found throughout.

The couple have always wanted their guests to feel relaxed and at home from the moment they walked through the door, which spurred them to create a series of guest spaces in the lower level of the home, accompanied by additional seating and kitchen space. *Continued on page 52*



LEFT: The metal railings of the staircase mimic the black metal of the Hubbardton Forge light fixtures, while glass panels are a clean contemporary alternative to spindled railings. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The walk-out lower level is infused with natural light, and is home to a set of handcrafted tables made by the builder. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A farmhouse-style guest bedroom is flooded with natural light and features an intricate hand-carved headboard.

“It’s a retreat,” Anne says of the space, “A sanctuary away from everything.”

John also finds comfort in the home’s 1,500 sq. ft. basement, as he can put his feet up by his wood burning fireplace (Chantico Fireplace Gallery) after a day on the slopes or taking in the splendour of their rural property. And while tile can be found on the floor of the basement, Anne was able to make the space cosy and comfortable with deep, reclining leather chairs and rustic wood furniture constructed by Pliny and his team from The Great Lakes Frame Company.

“Anne and John had brought us a design of another house – a similar house – and we took that design and altered it to suit the timber frame and Melissa made it work and flow properly for them,” says Pliny. “They were pretty open to new ideas and different local sources.”

“Melissa helped to make it what it is,” adds Anne. “She was my go-to person and made sure the rooms were the spaces we needed.” *Continued on page 56*



ESTABLISHED 1989

THE GREAT LAKES
Frame Company

Facebook icon | YouTube icon

Three inset photos showing interior details of a timber frame home: a living area with a stone fireplace, a dining area, and a view of a lake through a window.

Exquisite handcrafted timber frame homes

519.794.0400 WWW.GREATLAKESFRAME.COM



The principal en suite is a spa-like retreat, complete with a fresh egg-shaped freestanding solid surface bathtub and a glass shower enclosure with river rock flooring.

BUY DIRECT FROM THE SAWMILL!



- ALL DECKING MATERIALS
- BOARD & BATTEN ■ POST & BEAM
- WHITE PINE FLOORING ■ T&G SIDING

High Quality: White Pine, Red Pine, Cedar, Hemlock
1" Boards - 2" Dimension; 4" and 6" Squares

CALL FOR QUOTE



MOGGIE VALLEY TIMBER INC.

RR#1 Holland Centre, ON

519-794-0018

www.moggievalleytimber.com

Mon - Thurs - 7:30am to 5:30pm

Friday - 7:30am to 12:30pm

**WE'RE JUST AS RELIABLE,
WITHOUT THE DROOL.**

In the face of a heating and cooling emergency, consider us your new best friend. We'll go to great lengths to make you comfortable and happy.



— RECEIVE UP TO A —

**\$1,600
REBATE***

with the purchase of a qualifying Lennox® home comfort system

AND

**RECEIVE UP TO \$650
IN IESO REBATES.**

OFFER EXPIRES 11/25/2016.

*On a qualifying system purchase. Lennox system rebate offers range from \$275 to \$1,600. Some restrictions apply. One offer available per qualifying purchase. See your local Lennox Dealer or www.lennox.com for details. Lennox dealers are independently owned and operated businesses. © 2016 Lennox Industries, Inc.



**J.J. McLellan
& Son**

Plumbing and Heating

695 Queen St. W., Mount Forest, ON N0G 2L0

519-323-2000

www.jjmclellan.ca

The Home Comfort People.

PREMIER DEALER

LENNOX

Products to Preserve & Protect Your Log Home



LOG HOME STAINS & FINISHES

CHINKING TOOLS & BACKER

LOG CAULKING

PRESERVATIVES

RESTORATION

MASONRY

**Canada's Only
Weatherall Distributor**

— FREE DELIVERY —

Call today! 519-378-3590

home & builder

RIGHT: The floating vanity in the principal en suite is given a contemporary edge with flat drawer faces and oversize cabinet pulls. **BOTTOM:** The principal bedroom offers a waking vista of the forested Grey County property.

Anne knew they needed a place more substantial than a cabin, but needed the help they received to make it into the space it is today. *River Run* is now somewhere they can be close with nature and within close distance of the ski hills and other recreational activities. The build took approximately five years from drawings to completion, a length of time that Anne feels was appropriate.

“The house has evolved like a painting,” she says. “It’s good to wait. Your thinking evolves as you talk with retailers and tradespeople you meet during the building process. It’s really good not to have something permanent in your mind while you are building.”

Though *River Run* was only meant to be an overnight stop, it has developed instead into a beautiful home.

Describes Anne, “*River Run* itself is like the river – flowing from the past to the present to the future – and so the house as well is coming from the past to the present, and hopefully future elements will be in there too. It is really nice to see what it has become. Not many people are able to experience that, coming to a property and living through its lifetime of change.” **OH**



Come in
and see
what’s new.



Grey Bruce
Paint & Décor



1580 20th Street East
Owen Sound
519-371-4207



SOURCE GUIDE

- Chantico Fireplace Gallery
- Fulford Kitchenware Bathware Hardware
- The Great Lakes Frame Company
- Grey Bruce Paint & Décor
- Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
- Harvey Stutzman
- J.E. Trim Johnson Enterprises
- Owen Sound Ledge Rock Ltd.
- MacDonald’s Brandsource Furniture & Appliances
- McCutcheon’s Masonry
- Neelcrete Concrete Designs and Construction
- Quality Air Systems
- The Stone Shop
- Van Dolder’s Home Team Custom Exteriors



Art in stone has a long and venerable reputation for arousing awe and stirring emotions. Beauty and longevity memorably command our attention and respect.

Our extensive range of styles and colours will appeal to your inner artist or connoisseur as you are inspired to create timeless memories in and outside of your home. From modern and contemporary to classic or functional, style need be no barrier to your expressive legacy.

The natural choice in stone

www.shouldice.ca | 877.265.6696



Download our app or visit our website for endless inspiration!