

# Country COLLABORATION

STORY **MERRILYN PATTERSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

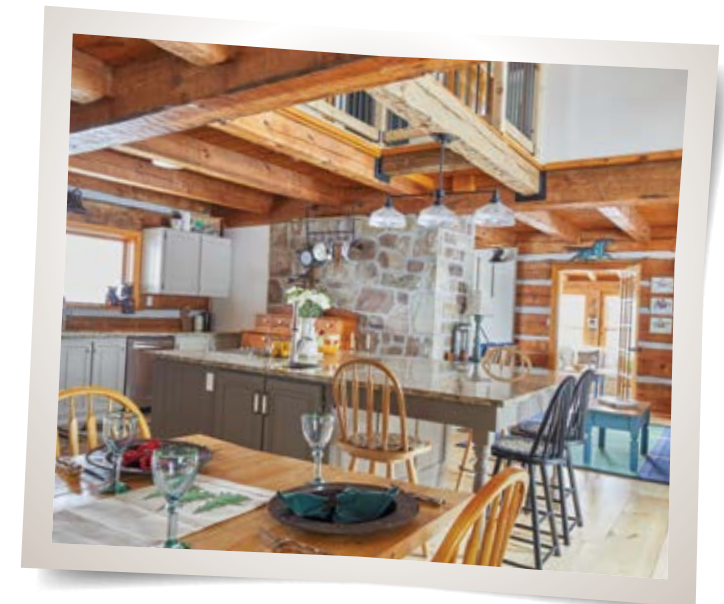
When James was transferred from B.C. to Ontario in 2014, he and his wife Pat decided to relocate in the Caledon Hills. They already knew what they were looking for. Previous owners of one timber frame and three log homes, Pat admits that “once you’re bitten by the log bug, there’s no turning back!”

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**ABOVE:** This picture-perfect property and existing log house was the beginning of a symbiotic collaboration between homeowners, Pat and James, and Dalerose Country. **RIGHT:** Old meets new on the welcoming front porch – a favourite year round, storm-watching spot for Pat and James.



**LEFT:** The removal of a staircase created space for an open-concept kitchen and allowed natural light to flood the room. **BELOW:** A large island topped with a giant slab of granite anchors the kitchen, where all tend to gather. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Centre-staged, the island allows for easy conversation and workflow. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Placement of the upper window was critical to allow views from the catwalk and light into the foyer and great room.





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They searched the hills for a property that would suit their must-have list, which included lots of room for dogs and horses, spectacular country views and the prerequisite log house. In June, they found their piece of heaven. They knew it needed work and more space than the original structure afforded, but they saw the potential.

Pat and James moved into the house in October and spent the winter planning an addition and renovation that would triple the size of the original kitchen, and add a great room and mudroom/laundry room on the main floor. A master suite was planned for upstairs. “I think it’s important to live in the existing structure for a while,” Pat explains. “It gives you the opportunity to see where your best views of the landscape are, where the light falls and to know what you really need to change or add to suit your way of living.”

There were two major obstacles to consider in the sizing and location for the addition – the existing well head and a beautiful maple tree. They juggled the floor plan like puzzle pieces until they got the flow they wished for without disturbing the tree or the well.

While they were developing their plans, Pat looked for a builder to complete the renovation. New to the area, she asked their home inspector for recommendations. **Henry Jansen**, the owner of **Criterion-Jansen Engineers**, suggested **Dalerose Country**.

The sunroom was original to the house and a major factor in the buying decision for Pat and James.



A meeting was arranged with President **Ted Bryk** and Vice President and General Manager **Mary Lawson**, and Pat says the relationship was solid from that moment forward.

Mary explains that the first stage of the renovation process is to get acquainted with the homeowners. “It is crucial that you be comfortable being together and working together,” she says. “You must be able to step into their shoes and have a firm understanding of their design-related ideas.” Pat agrees and says, “after all, you spend a lot of time together – sometimes talking two or three times a day. In this case, Mary and I are like-minded people and decision making was symbiotic.”

One major issue in the original structure became the focal point for many of the renovation decisions. Right in the centre of the existing front entryway, there was an awkward staircase that divided the house into small separate rooms. The kitchen was tiny, dysfunctional and dark. *Continued on page 80*



**TOP LEFT:** A peek into the hearth room reveals an original wood stove and a cosy conversation area off the kitchen. **ABOVE:** The two piece powder room is tucked inside the kitchen door. **LEFT:** Another comfy sitting area for reading.



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The staircase had to move, but where? One take away from their previous reno experience Pat says is that “it’s good to wait and see,” before making big decisions like this one.” By waiting and seeing, they realized that by moving the staircase to the rear of the house, there would be far more light available in the entryway and in the centre of the existing home.

The new staircase by **Royal Oak Railing & Stair Ltd.** was stacked in a stairs-over-stairs design, which maximizes space. In a country home with pets, a floor plan with good flow and easy outdoor access is key. The stairs in the new great room lead up to the master bedroom and catwalk down to the basement level. **Bryan’s Fuel** installed a propane furnace, propane tank, duct work in the new addition as well as running ducts into the existing part of the home.

The new design opened up the main floor for a generous kitchen which boasts a five-and-a-half by eight-foot island topped with a giant single slab of granite from **Stoneworx**.

An intimate and cosy space off the kitchen is referred to as the hearth room. The wood-burning fireplace is original to the house and the barn door on the rear wall was a way of decorating the space, which Pat says can be challenging with log walls.

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**BELOW:** This ever important mudroom is large enough to remove mucky boots, clean dirty paws, and shed wet coats. **BELOW RIGHT:** Pat’s laundry room is outfitted with a galvanized table for folding and a farmhouse sink.



Take a step up to an existing guest bath. The step’s a necessity to cover plumbing in a log structure.



**TOP:** The blending of old and new roof structures takes centre stage in the new great room. **LEFT:** A classic pedestal wash basin is in sync with the country-home flavour. **ABOVE:** Placement of the new staircase was pivotal to all other design choices.





**RIGHT:** This charming under eaves guest room is often used for sewing by the light of the new skylight.  
**BELOW:** The quilt is one of Pat's winter projects.



The new great room also allows for spectacular views of this country property. New windows from **Golden Windows** in the addition mimic the style of the original home.

A catwalk connects the addition to the original structure. On one side, it leads to the spacious master suite, which is graced by stunning

country views. The large en suite is light-filled from the windows overlooking the drive and the front yard. Bathroom vanities came sourced from **Homegrown Woodworks**.

In the original part of the house, one bedroom was sacrificed to create a hallway that connects the two guest rooms and guest baths.

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This original master bedroom suite now welcomes guests.  
**LEFT:** This hallway used to be part of the original bedroom.



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The addition to this charming country log home has been expertly executed by Dalerose Country and feels like “the best home yet” to Pat and James. Pat remarks “this is my favourite home so far because almost all of it is our doing, and it best reflects the way we live. The relationship with Dalerose was key.” **OH**

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**TOP:** Tin ceilings and porcelain century plank-style flooring completes the sizable country master en suite. **ABOVE:** The barn doors lead to his-and-hers walk-in closets. **RIGHT:** This bonus space was created because the verandah below required a certain ceiling height.



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