



# TRUE NORTH, *true beauty*

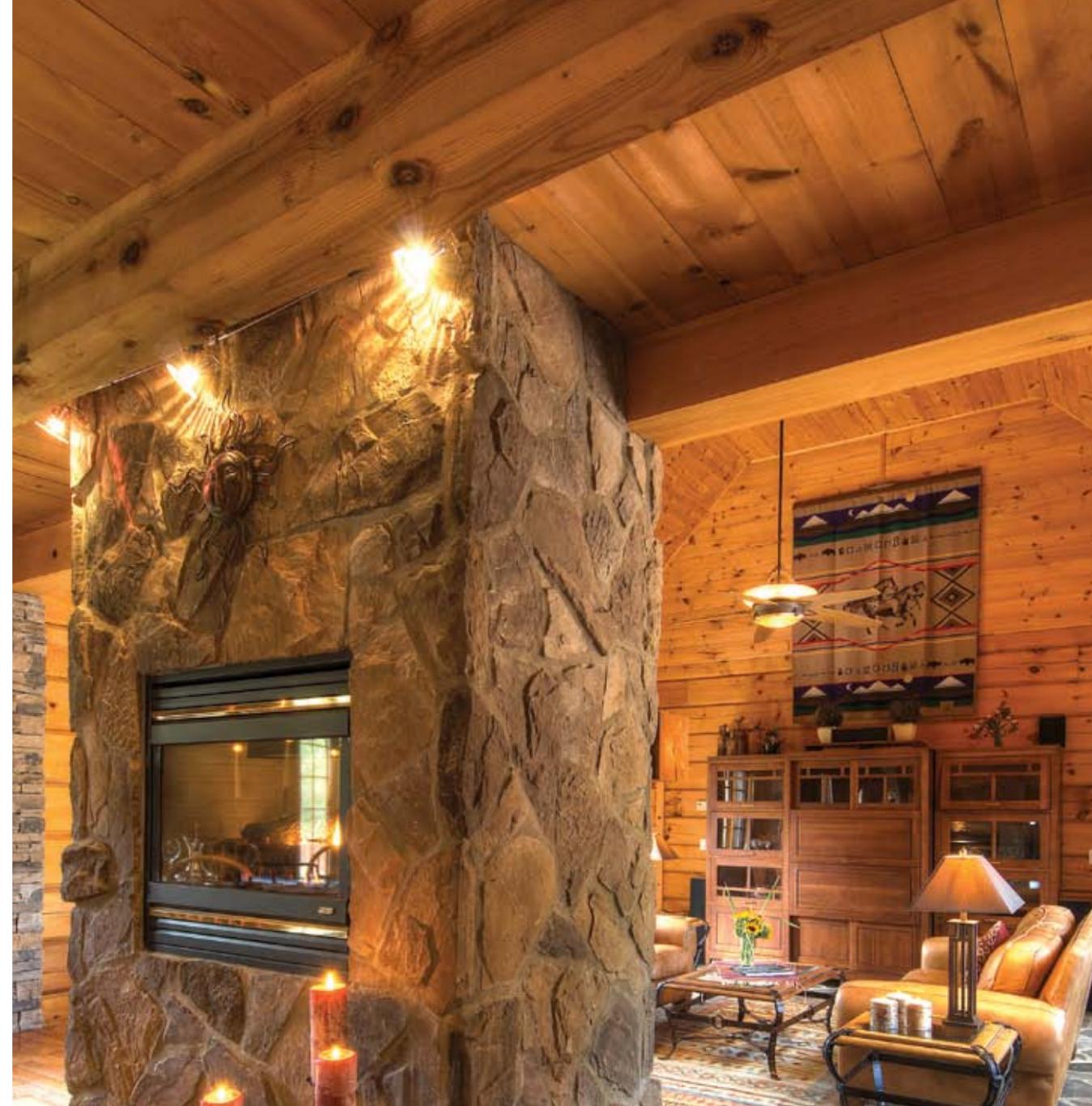
BY SHELBY HILSON // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Nature and luxury come together in perfect harmony to form this extraordinary equestrian estate in Stayner.

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John and Melanie Simioni and their three daughters enjoy a beautiful fall day on the pond of their vacation home. The stunning 7,000 sq. ft. log home sits on 17 acres.



With more than 17 acres of natural beauty and nearly 7,000 sq. ft. of pure craftsmanship to admire and enjoy, John and Melanie Simioni have turned their vacation home into their own personal resort.

Passersby slow down and often times come to a complete stop in adoration of the True North log home, finished with barn-red steel roofs and surrounded by towering mature trees.

Listed at \$1.8 million, it's not hard to see that this home, along with its expansive property is worth every penny.

Having grown up on a farm, Melanie yearned for a country getaway where she could escape the business of everyday city life; a place where she could one day have horses and where her three daughters, Natasha, Sonja and Sophia, could experience the great outdoors.

"I would get horses just to spoil them," says Melanie.

With a spectacular steel barn complete with seven hardwood stalls, a tack room, wash room, rubber flooring and hayloft, it's the perfect place to raise and spoil horses. The professionally designed corrals outside the

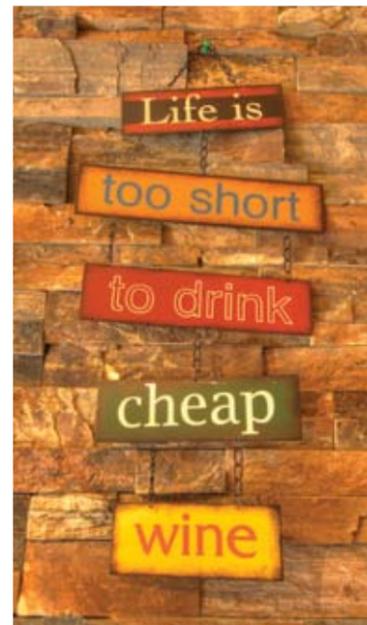
barn and trails that explore beyond the property also make it an ideal location to breed, train and ride for the true equestrian.

An enormous stocked pond with built-in pump system and fountain offers a great place to swim, take in the scenery and catch frogs, a favourite pastime of the Simioni children.

"We love fishing in the pond and then cooking the fish on the barbeque," says Melanie while John smiles in agreement.

When the weather's less than perfect, the family will often enjoy a swim in the pool or soak in the hot tub after a busy day of gardening and playing outside. They also love nothing more than snuggling up and watching a movie in their luxurious great room – a part of the home's generous addition.

It was this particular room that really stood out to Lance Chilton, the property's real estate agent along with his partner and wife, Anne Chilton. The former six o'clock news anchor for /A Channel News has joined his wife to pursue a long-time passion for real estate. *Continued on page 79*



The double-sided fireplace separates the kitchen and dining room from the cosy family room.

TOP LEFT: The original Confederation log home included the kitchen, dining room, basement and the bedrooms upstairs. A previous owner added this family room, office and gym.



**TOP LEFT:** The Simionis love to cook in their kitchen and shop locally at nearby farmer's markets for fresh produce. Their three daughters love to eat at the counter before heading outside to enjoy all the property has to offer.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** A view from the kitchen into the large new great room with loft.

**RIGHT:** The dining room is located close to the kitchen for easy entertaining. Melanie decorates with treasures discovered on her travels.



The backyard pool is located in the courtyard just off the patio. A gazebo pool-house offers shelter and a cozy place to read a book and relax.

TOP LEFT: The great room addition includes a roaring gas fireplace from Yanch. This family loves to gather in this room to watch a movie at night after a fun day outside.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The sliding doors open up to the patio, hot tub and pool.

BOTTOM LEFT: The steel barn comes complete with seven hardwood stalls, a tack room, washroom, rubber flooring and hayloft. It's the perfect place to breed, train and ride for the true equestrian.



Lance wants this gorgeous Stayner home to mark the launch of his new career because, "It's a spectacular house," he says. "And when you're starting something new, you want to make a strong entrance."

The home's addition connects the existing structure with the four-car garage and creates an incredible space for sharing with guests and friends alike.

"We love to entertain," says Melanie. "So we had to turn it into an entertainer's home."

With a soaring 20-foot ceiling lined with solid log rafters, the great room resembles a beautiful lodge. A gas fireplace (**Yanch**) serves as the focal point with an incredible flagstone hearth and slate stone surround that extends the height of the room and features a built-in entertainment system.

The eight-inch, red alder plank flooring, paired with deep leather furnishings, keep the large room warm and cosy while custom-made, sliding Loewen doors span the width of the west wall and offer a panoramic view of the recreational space outdoors, including a beautifully

landscaped riverbed by Dan Fraser of **Fraser Contracting** in Eugenia.

"We host a ton of people here," says John. "Having our friends come and share this with us is a big, big part."

Custom-crafted log railings and stairs by Dale Chauvin of **DC WoodProducts** on Horseshoe Valley Road take you into the great room from the kitchen and also lead up to a loft that currently serves as a playroom for the girls.

At the far end of the north wing, you'll find a sprawling, self-contained master bedroom with views both north and west. It features a huge walk-in closet fitted with built-in cabinetry.

An elegant en suite leaves little to be desired as the sun fills the room through a beautiful bay window finished with a HanStone bench and storage below. It also features a classic claw-foot tub, bathed in the light atop a hand-tiled floor. There is also a large glass shower and his-and-her sinks.

Along with the addition, the couple installed a reverse osmosis filtration system and a geothermal heating and cooling system. *Continued on page 80*

# feature

The home's three other bedrooms and full washroom can be found on the second floor of the original structure, which was a Confederation log home. When first built, the home only included what is now the kitchen and dining area, the small basement room and the second level bedrooms. It was the owners who sold to the Simionis that added the True North west wing addition to include the family room, office and gym. Like the great room, the family room also boasts high ceilings with timber beams and a stone-encased, double-sided fireplace that keeps the dining area toasty too.

Melanie shares that John just loves to stretch out on his recliner chair in front of the fireplace and fall asleep at the end of the day.

"This house, for whatever reason, just seems to put you in a relaxed state of mind," he says.

Although Melanie cites fall as her favourite season, she and John both enjoy snowmobiling in the winter. They'll often take to the trails on their property and set out on an adventure with the girls.

"When we lived up here full-time, we'd take the kids to school on the snowmobiles," explains Melanie. "That was awesome!" adds Natasha, the eldest of the three girls.

Lance may have described this home best when he said it has a "rugged elegance." He is flattered that he and Anne have been asked to represent it and has even dreamed of living there himself.

This amazing Carriage Trade home, along with others for sale, can be found on the Chiltons' website at [www.thechiltonteam.com](http://www.thechiltonteam.com) **OH**



The loft above the great room is a play room for the girls. It was also designed to accommodate a games room.

ABOVE: The gorgeous claw-foot tub is the focal point in the generous master en suite.



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