

feature

The Cox home has wonderful curb appeal. A covered porch with crisp white benches and festive fall decorations offers just a hint of what's inside.

RIGHT: The family room is located just off the foyer in the front of the home. There's lots of room on the big comfy sofa. Black and white family photos displayed in all-white frames add a lovely personal touch to the room.



IT'S A.
family
affair

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When a smiling Stacey Babcock-Cox welcomes me into her immaculate home, it is immediately apparent that family is the most important aspect of her life. Turn left in the large foyer to see a collection of white-framed family pictures in the living room; turn right and family adventures are documented along the wall of the mudroom, each in a unique frame.

Stacey grew up in Penetanguishene, daughter of Teresa and Dave Babcock, who, along with Dave's brother Paul, owned local movie theatres and the Midland Drive-In. The theatres were eventually sold, but not before Stacey met her husband, Gord Cox, when he worked there for her father as a teen. Paul Babcock died in 2005 and the following year Dave passed away, so the next generation – Stacey, brother Mark and their spouses – stepped in to keep the Midland Drive-In tradition alive. Stacey says, "It was always known that if something happened (to my dad) we would continue on (with the business). Even though we all went on to different jobs, we always helped my dad and my uncle out... so when my dad passed away, it wasn't really a decision. We just knew that's what we had to do."

Stacey and Gord, a lead hand equipment operator at Penetanguishene Public Works, bought a lot on Jury Drive from her parents, and they acted as their own general contractors, hiring **Brian Vandervoort** of **Quality Contracting** to do the framing and **Balm Beach House of Glass** to install windows. They moved into the two-storey, 2,950 sq. ft. house on the July long weekend in 2003. *Continued on page 57*



Located along the back of the home, the charming living room combines big comfortable seating with antique and natural elements. Stacey's decorating style is classic.

TOP LEFT: More family photos, this time in black frames, grace the walls in the hallway leading to the kitchen. Every nook in the Cox home has a delightful, seasonal vignette.

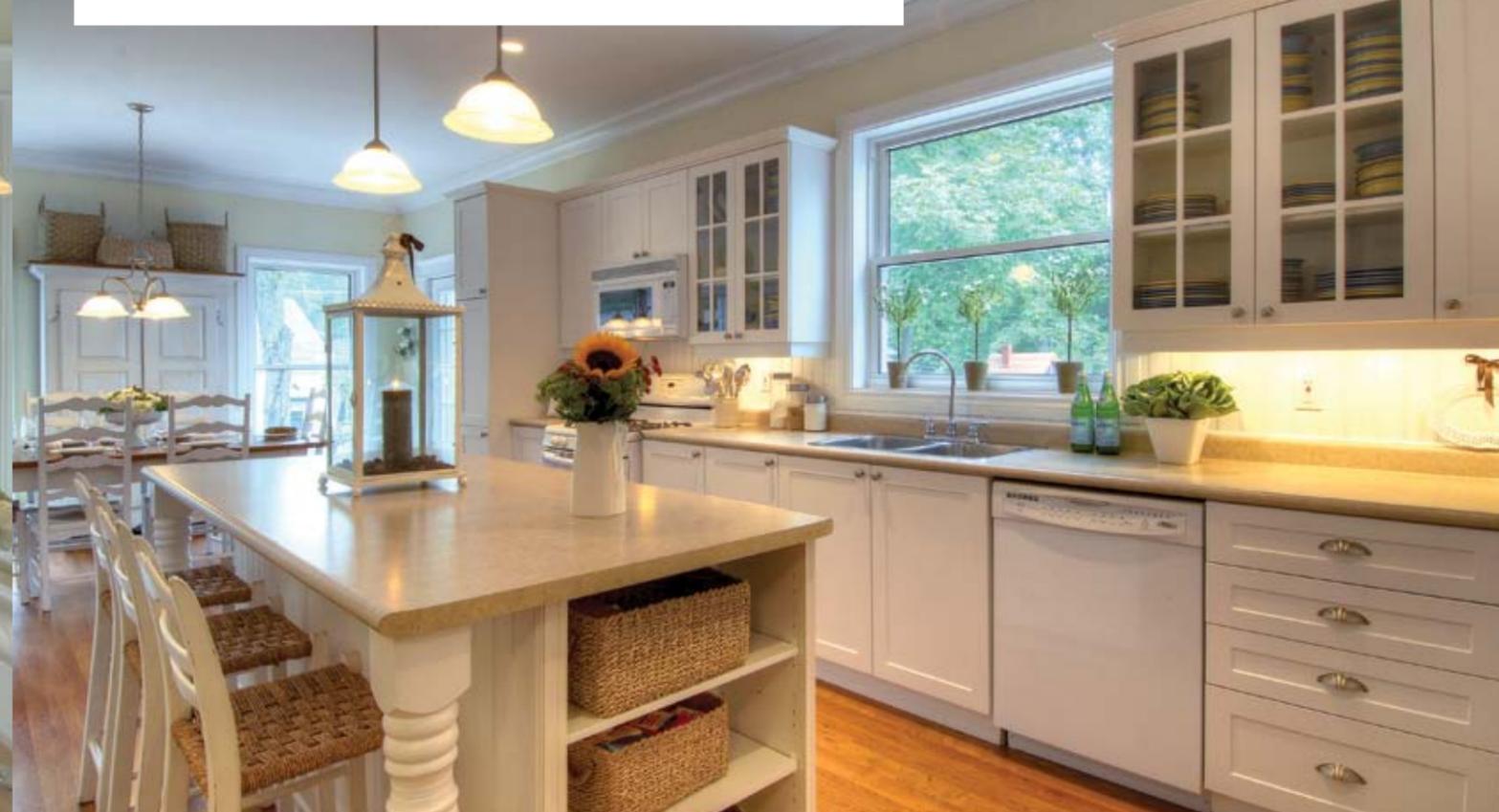
The dining area off the kitchen is white and bright. The storage armoire is a creative solution that adds height and character to the room. All flowers courtesy of Saturday Afternoons, Midland.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

TOP LEFT: Every inch of this home is furnished, including the deck, located off the kitchen. A pergola and a gazebo add architectural interest to the space, which includes maintenance-free decking. The family spends a lot of time outside and entertains often.

TOP RIGHT: Tanner feeds his fish in the backyard pond.

BOTTOM: The kitchen is a bright, open space with lots of work surfaces, a desk and lots of natural light. Stacey uses baskets to eliminate clutter. Stacey and Gord bought all their appliances at Barber & Haskill.



The Babcock family also owns drive-ins and theatres in other parts of Ontario – notably Can View near St. Catharines and Oxford in Woodstock. Stacey says, “It’s sometimes hard to find time to do things as a family because we work the drive-in, but on our weekends off we cram everything in. We go anywhere and everywhere. We just pack up.” Their favourite place to camp so far is Craighleith Provincial Park in Collingwood: “It’s right on the shale rocks and when you’re camping it sounds like you’re on the ocean – the water splashing up onto the rocks – and it’s gorgeous.”

The Cox family loves to entertain and does so frequently. “My whole family lives on this street. My mom lives right next door and my brother and his wife Sheila live in the last house on the right and they just had a little boy, Nathan, a year ago. They come up once a week for dinner, it’s awesome.”

The large lot – 71-by-324-feet – is partly forested and an all-family oasis. **Nicole Pattenden Landscape Design** did a fabulous job on the landscape. Indicating the fire pit, Stacey says, “That is our favourite thing

in the world. We have so many fires, we love it. What we do is we have everyone over, then we swim at my mom’s and we come over here and have a s’mores party.”

The backyard pond contains six goldfish that belong to their son, five-year-old Tanner, and the challenge now is keeping them safe from a determined raccoon. “We’ve got lily pads and elephants ear and lots of little places for the fish to hide,” Stacey says. Backyard play dates are fun because Tanner and his friends can climb on the wooden play set or dig in the sandbox.

The back deck, pergola and gazebo were built by Gord and his father Don with products purchased at **Elmvale Tim-br Mart** and **Huronia Steel**. “I saw a picture, gave it to them and they did it,” she says. The outdoor table, chairs and gazebo furniture were purchased at **Canadian Tire** and it is apparent the Cox family has many talents – Gord’s mother Kathy made all the comfy cushions. *Continued on page 58*

feature

The kitchen and bathrooms in the house are all by Canac and the candles, sconces and tabletop décor are from **Saturday Afternoons** in Midland. Teresa and Stacey owned **Wyebridge Country** until 2004 and much of the furnishings – kitchen table and chairs, living room furniture and some bedding – come from there. The family photos adorning many of the walls are by **Robert Barnstaple Photography** and **M.E. Photography** in Barrie. The wall paint came from **Tripp's Paint and Decorating Shop** in Midland. All appliances were purchased at **Barber & Haskill**.

Up the curved staircase there are three bedrooms plus a home office and a still-decorated nursery waiting “for the next baby, whenever that comes.” A sign on Tanner’s bedroom wall – Vroom Vroom Tanner’s Room – declares the transportation theme apparent on his cosy bedding. His bed was purchased from Saturday Afternoons. Tanner has his own little fort in the large closet of his bedroom with a comfy chair, games, puzzles, books, an easel for his paintings and a clothes trunk for dressing up like Darth Vader or Batman. “It’s just his little place to hang out,” says Stacey.

The master bedroom ceiling is white-painted, V-joint poplar panelling from the **Perkinsfield sawmill**. The brown, cream and sea grass-coloured bedding was ordered from DKNY. All flooring in the house is high-quality laminate from **Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home** in Barrie. Stacey says, “We didn’t want to put the money into hardwood while our kids are young.”

As I’m leaving the Cox home, a crowd of family and friends are playing bocce in a court behind the next door pool and I receive several friendly waves. If Jury Drive doesn’t have a nickname yet, a very fitting one might be “Babcock Lane.” Stacey laughs, “I’ve lived on this street my whole life but moved four times. I really like this street!” **OH**



ABOVE: This pretty storage cabinet sits in the guest bedroom on the second floor.

LEFT: Tanner’s room is big and bright with red and blue accents. As you can see, he loves trucks and cars

OPPOSITE PAGE:

LEFT: The master bedroom is a sanctuary for Gord and Stacey. The décor is timeless, with a subdued, natural colour palette and light furniture.

BOTTOM: The large en suite is designed for the needs of both Gord and Stacey.

