

BY GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

honey OF A SPOT

The Metherells are enjoying life in their new cottage on South Bay in Honey Harbour.

Marty, Barb and their three 20-something kids – Scott, Todd and Brynn – are looking forward to spending their first full-summer season in the custom **Viceroy**.

But the Metherells certainly aren't new to the area. "I've been coming here since I was knee-high to a grasshopper," Marty says.

His parents bought the cottage next door in 1978. When Marty married Barb and started a family, the couple knew they wanted their own slice of paradise on the bay. Marty and his brother Brian approached their father, knowing the land next door to the family cottage was available.

Marty chuckles when he tells the story. "We had a few choices that we talked to Dad about but in the end we agreed to go a-third, a-third and a-third," Marty says. "But here's the catch, my Dad said 'My third is the land.'" *Continued on page 31*



The custom Viceroy cottage has personality plus. Marty saved an old canoe from the landfill and with some TLC created a wonderful focal point in the main living area. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Todd, Marty, Barb, Brynn and Scott gather 'round the custom harvest table with matching pastel-painted chairs, by Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath.





Barb and Marty added this glorious sunroom off the dining room to the original home plans. **SNAPSHOTS:** The before and after shots reveal the huge transformation that has taken place on the cherished site in Honey Harbour. The Big Red Shed is located behind the liquor store in town and the barge is just one of eight boats in the Big Red fleet.

His father bought the waterfront property in 1986 and handed it over to the boys, who had big plans for the site.

“We were young, foolish and poor, and neither one of us was a builder,” Marty laughs. None of that mattered as Marty, Brian and three buddies raised a cottage the families enjoyed until a few years ago, when the second of two structural beams cracked, signaling it was time to make a move.

By this time, Brian had bought in Cognashene and built his own family cottage. Marty and Barb remained smitten with the land this cottage was on and decided to stay put. After carefully considering their options Marty and Barb decided a Viceroy custom home was the most economical way to build the cottage of their dreams.

“Here’s the thing,” Marty explains. “Seventy-five per cent of all cottagers in Honey Harbour get to their cottages by boat, including us.”

For the Methereells, it just made sense to build a pre-engineered cottage. “It took just two barge loads to get the whole cottage here, which is why we chose pre-fab,” he says.

Marty and Barb got a deal on their barge costs too, from **Big Red Works**, the company their kids own. Scott and Todd worked summers as teenagers at the local marina – Scott out on the water and Todd in the office. One summer found Scott the odd man out when the marina changed hands. Armed with their marina experience and some seed money from their parents, the kids bought a barge and Big Red Works was born.

Six years later, the company has eight boats, including three large barges, which they use to haul goods and provide services for cottagers. Their motto is “Helping You Put Time Back Into Your Weekend.” Proceeds from the business pay for their post-secondary educations. Scott recently graduated from Queen’s University with a commerce degree. Todd is taking environmental engineering at Conestoga College and Brynn is taking business at Laurier. *Continued on page 35*



feature

This custom kitchen, from Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath, has it all. Barb and Brynn love to bake and there's lots of room for two cooks in this beautifully designed space. **RIGHT:** This island is used for prep-work. Barb and Marty always have a cottage-full of guests and Barb delights in making sure everyone eats well. The sleek solid-surface counters (Di Pietra Design) make cleaning up a snap.





OPPOSITE: Imagine waking up in this master bedroom with a panoramic view of the water. This room is all about the architectural details. The extra-high, finished ceiling with faux post-and-beam details and curved windows (trim by Dave Barks) make this room an easy escape. **THIS PAGE:** The blue and white master en suite is full of surprises, including scenes from nearby wetlands etched in the glass-shower.

“We could have just paid for their schooling,” Marty says. “Instead I gave them some money to start a business and I haven’t had to pay one nickel of their education. They’ve paid for it themselves and the life skills they’ve learned are incredible.”

This is a family that works hard and plays hard. Their new cottage offers a spacious, comfortable spot for the kids to come home to after work. For Marty and Barb it’s a fabulous place to spend time away from their busy lives back in the city and entertain family and friends.

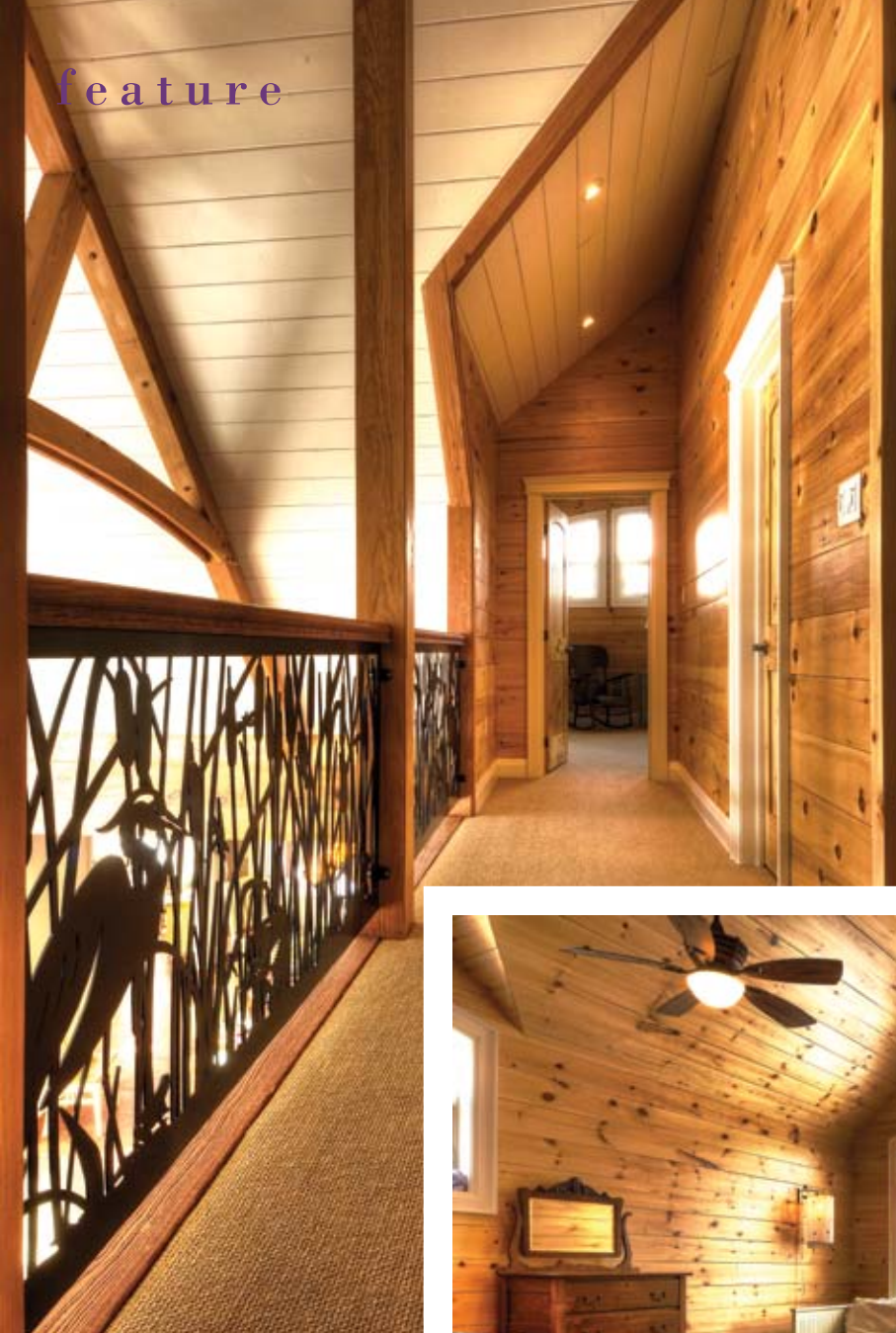
They purchased the Viceroy package from dealer **A&R Carpentry** in Innisfil after viewing a similar home built on Lake Simcoe. Marty and Barb added a gloriously bright waterside sunroom to the original design, bringing the square footage to about 3,000.

They hired **Mike Desroches** of **Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath**

to design and build the all-important kitchen, the cabinetry in the bathrooms and some custom furniture, including the long harvest table with 12 chairs (plus extensions) in the dining area. All the counters in the kitchen and bathrooms were designed, fabricated and installed by **Di Pietra Design**. Desroches also added wood veneer to the decorative beams in the great room.

The master suite is located on the main floor while the kids’ rooms are all upstairs in the loft, which overlooks the living room below from a custom laser-cut decorative railing, featuring wetland creatures (**Tier-1 Products Inc.**)

The master en suite is pretty in white and sea-blue accents. Etched in the glass-shower door is a Blue Heron hiding amidst the bulrush and a duck in flight. (**Barrie Metro Glass**). *Continued on page 36*



TOP LEFT: The custom railing with more wetland scenes is another eye-catching detail in this charming cottage. **TOP RIGHT:** The stairway (D&L Barks Stairs) with two curved stairs at the landing leads to the kids' bedrooms. Brynn's room is pretty and furnished with some great refinished finds.



Wood from the old cottage was used on the ceilings in the main floor powder room and the kids' bathroom upstairs.

A huge 100-year-old pine tree, growing precariously close to Marty's Mom's cottage next door, was brought down – the wood milled and used throughout the home. The best piece was reserved for the mantel in the living room. The reclaimed Douglas fir floors came from an arena in Orangeville.

The home is full of old treasures refinished and repurposed, including a dresser and an old rocking chair in Brynn's pretty room.

Barb purchased most of the light fixtures at **Rafters Living Lighting**

in Barrie and is particularly fond of the chandelier in the dining area. Marty's incredible handy work hangs high above the table – half of an old wooden canoe left for the landfill. Marty sanded the hull and dozens of brass tacks by hand, then added six coats of Varathane. It's a completely unexpected yet fun addition to the beautiful décor.

There are still some finishing touches to add to the cottage. This season, the Methereills will settle into their beautiful new cottage in Honey Harbour; their kids will open shop at Big Red Works and together they'll enjoy the spoils of hard work. **OH**

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