

Relax LAKE

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The winter holidays should prove extra special for Lisa and Tim Konnry.

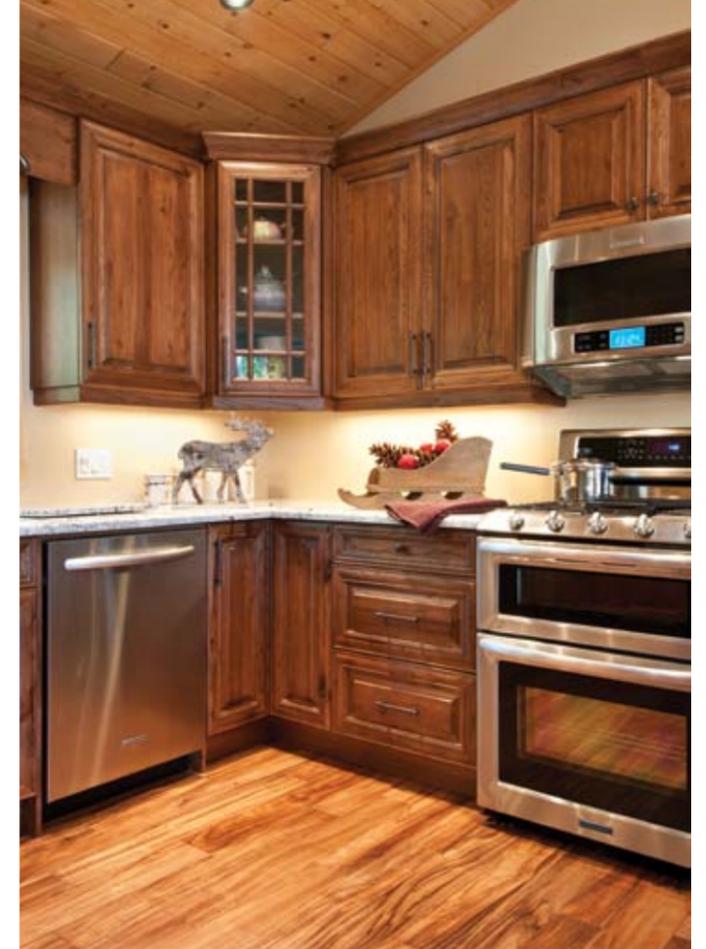
This marks the first occasion the Toronto-based professionals and their two children will get to spend Christmas and New Year's at their new retreat just north of Penetanguishene.

"We plan to have a huge Christmas tree that fills the room," Tim says during a stop in their new cottage's imposing great room that features a cosy stone fireplace and affords a wonderful view of a scenic lake near Awenda Provincial Park. "I've always wanted to have that. Maybe, I'll even put a fake squirrel in it that I can attach to fishing line and make it move when guests least expect it... just like in Christmas Vacation."

That kind of relaxed and fun atmosphere, far from the hustle and bustle of the big city, is what initially attracted the Konnrys to the region and played a factor in their decision 11 years ago to purchase the prime waterfront property, which until last year featured a quaint, 900-square-foot cottage. *Continued on page 78*



The stockings hung by the chimney with care, along with the flowers throughout the home are all from Fresh By Leanne in Midland. Other accessories, including the ikat pillows and tall glass candle holders are from Saturday Afternoons.



Originally, Tim, a 51-year-old realtor, and Lisa, a 46-year-old senior executive, planned to build their dream getaway upon retirement. But with continued low interest rates, Tim says they decided to realize their dream sooner.

They turned to **Midland Home Hardware Design Showroom** and the company's **Beaver Homes and Cottages** offerings to bring their dream to fruition, a decision Lisa describes as easy.

"We loved that we could do it locally from the Midland Home Hardware and we loved the layout of their design," she explains. "Beaver Homes had what we wanted. We have our space and the kids have their own space."

Working with local contractor **Joël Laurin** of **JVL Home Improvements Ltd.**, the Konnrys designed the cottage using the existing Beaver Home plans and adding their own personalized choices as they planned their "forever" cottage.

"We tore down the old cottage last Labour Day weekend and had the new one ready for the May 24th weekend," Joël says, adding he and his

crew worked on the project throughout the winter months. "I tried to make it as easy as possible for them."

Beaver Homes and Cottages offers 120 models available, ranging from small cottage layouts in the 600 sq. ft. range to large estate homes coming in at 5,000 sq. ft.

"We have a lot of homes in the 2,500-square-foot range," says Beaver Homes and Cottages sales consultant **Michael Philippe**. "We also have some coach houses. It's really quite versatile."

Philippe says packages include most building supplies with the exception of the foundation, interior finishing materials, HVAC and electrical and range in price from \$40,000 to \$250,000.

Packages also include a number of specific guarantees covering everything from ensuring the finished design will meet all national and provincial building codes to a promise the premium material package price will not increase from the beginning to the end of the project (in normal construction time). They also guarantee the quantity and quality of supplied building components and materials. *Continued on page 80*

OPPOSITE: The kitchen, with rustic hickory cabinetry, was designed and crafted by Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath. **ABOVE LEFT:** Lisa and Tim Konnry escape the city each weekend to unwind with family and friends at their lake-front cottage north of Penetang. They selected a Beaver Homes Package from Midland's Home Hardware Design Showroom and then hired Joël Laurin of JVL Home Improvements to build their home away from home.



LEFT: The finishings in the home are exceptional. Local tradesmen were used in every aspect of the construction.

BELOW LEFT: Caroline Brown of the Home Hardware Design showroom helped the Konnrys make their blue prints come to life with her design expertise.

Beaver Homes also boasts a great interactive website (www.beaverhomesandcottages.ca) to help potential buyers get a feel for the many different models and layouts.

Located a stone's throw from the Midland Home Hardware Building Centre near downtown Midland, the dedicated design showroom features a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere to help clients design that perfect kitchen, bathroom or other dream renovation or construction project they might have in mind.

Caroline Brown, who brings a wealth of design expertise to her role as the Midland showroom's senior designer, helps new homeowners take their Beaver project from the blue-printed page to reality.

"There's a lot of trust involved because some homeowners can be overwhelmed with the number of choices out there... it can be daunting," Caroline says, noting she and the design centre's team can help buyers with everything from paint and flooring choices to fixtures and kitchen cupboard options.

"This allows our clients to relax and it turns into a nice process that's creative. Some people might have an interest in design, but we can help simplify the process."

The Konnry home features many unique customized touches, including an outdoor shower that leads directly into the massive finished basement, providing a welcome hangout for son Blake, 15, and his friends.

"We do a lot of water sports and this means a lot less sand makes it inside," Tim says, noting the basement walkout also provides easy access to a nearby fridge and washroom.

"As well, we hope to ensure Blake continues coming up with us as he gets older so we wanted him to have his own space and a fun place to bring his friends."

They also sought to ensure their new build wouldn't create too large of an environmental footprint so they wanted plenty of natural light and positive airflow through the home's many windows while leaving as many trees standing as possible.

"We're close to nature here so we tried to keep it as natural as possible," Lisa says, noting they chose paint, ceramic, stone and hardwood flooring shades that wouldn't be overpowering, but rather suit the ambience they hoped to create.

On the main floor, the large master features an en suite with a steam room/bath and also provides easy outside access thanks to a huge deck that provides 180-degree views of the long sandy beach.

Upstairs a play/den area can be found just outside the well-appointed children's rooms for Blake and daughter Brooke, 10, while another guest room awaits visitors on the main level. As well, radiant floor heat should keep everybody's toes toasty warm during the family's winter visits.

And while a new build can often have its share of hiccups, everything seems to have gone according to plan in this case.

From the external work of **BC Roofing & Renovations Inc.**, **Duquette Excavating & Septic Inc.** and **RM Custom Concrete** and to the interior travails of folks like **Dave Frandsen** painting and **Dupuis Window Sales**, everything progressed smoothly. *Continued on page 82*



The master suite has a spectacular view of the lake and an en suite that combines river rock in and around the glass shower, a contemporary all-white vanity and a crystal chandelier hanging from the pine-covered peaks.





FAR LEFT: Joël Laurin of JVL Home Improvements Ltd. built this home. He's young and talented and knows this lake area very well. He lives nearby.
LEFT: Joël tore down the old cottage, shown in a painting hanging in the basement, on Labour Day 2012 and handed the Konnrys keys to their new cottage in May of this year.

But the couple can't say enough good things about JVL Home Improvements. "Our builder really went beyond," Lisa says, pointing to an intricate staircase Joël created using Douglas fir timber he had shipped from British Columbia as just one example. "It's the pièce de résistance."

The couple also love their user-friendly kitchen that features plenty of workspace and beautiful hickory cabinets from **Perkinsfield Kitchen and Bath (PKB)**, which also provided the bathroom vanities, along with high-end appliances from Midland's **Barber and Haskill**.

Others involved in bringing the project to completion include: **Advantage ICF, D&R Air Supply, Nepsco Plumbing Supply** and **Prestige Landscaping**, which Lisa says came up with great ideas and a solid plan on a low budget.

Lisa and Tim are also especially content with **Electrical Layout Design's** plan that created an effective lighting system featuring different moods in each of the rooms.

"We love the different lighting combos and dimmers," Lisa says, adding they also enjoy using the sound system that can be employed in different areas of the home.

Avid outdoor enthusiasts, the Konnrys enjoy not only playing in the lake and nearby Georgian Bay, but also biking, golf and winter activities.

Adds Tim: "We're really looking forward to exploring all seasons up here. It feels like we made the right decision." **OH**

BELOW & LEFT: The lakefront home includes a covered verandah on the lower level, which leads into a full basement and entertainment area. The top-level deck extends the full length of the main floor and has lots of space for entertaining.



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