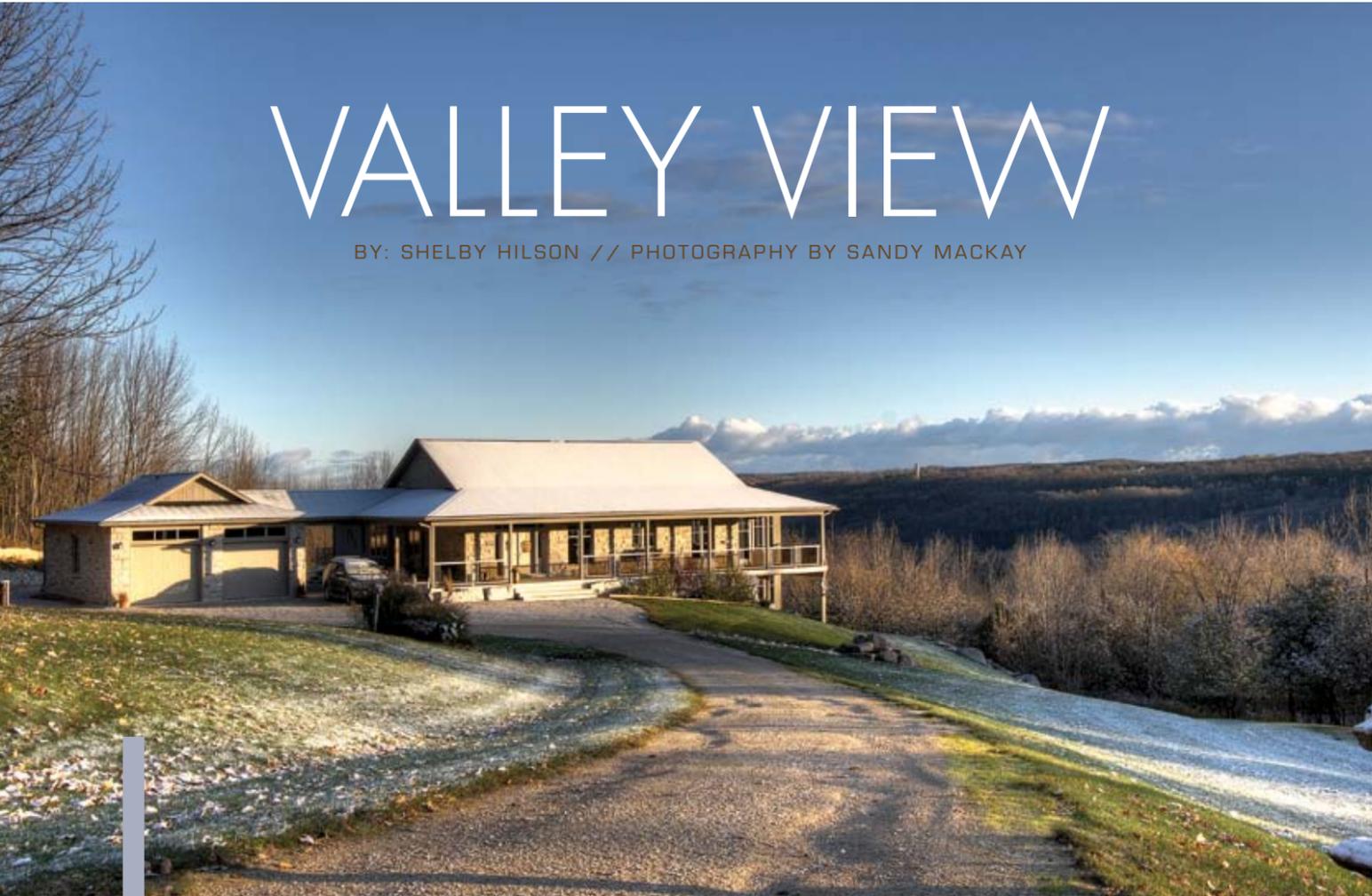


VALLEY VIEW

BY: SHELBY HILSON // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY



It's something that locals and visitors alike hike for miles to see. Something that many of us don't even know exists so close to home and something that is astonishing no matter the season; no matter how many times you see it.

"We bought a view," says Laura Artibello. She and her husband John have always admired the beauty of the Beaver Valley as long-time members of the Beaver Valley Ski Club. They knew they would someday own a second home here; one they would eventually retire to.

What they didn't know is that every morning they would wake to the view of countless treetops, meandering trails and an endless horizon.

Nearly 15 years ago John stumbled upon the property in awe of the view from the road. He had no idea the land mass stretched to encompass 50 acres and he wasn't in a position to buy, but it was a place that made itself at home in the back of his mind. Then one day, just as they were looking to buy in the Valley, a close friend noticed a "for sale" sign go up and the Artibellos owned the vast property just four days later.

"It was fate!" exclaims Laura.

They didn't build right away. When the couple came to visit they would set up chairs at the top of the property and envision their new home together.

To bring those plans and visions to life, they worked with Architectural

Technologist **Pamela Farrow** of Holstein. With her stamp of approval they brought the plans to Gerald and Paul Lawler of **Gerry Lawler Construction** in Markdale.

Laura can't say enough about the Lawlers. She uses words like impeccable workmanship, trustworthy, knowledgeable, organized, kind, dependable and even, awesome, to describe her experience working with them. She also says they were fairly priced and stayed on budget. She and John chose the Lawlers because they had an "exceptional reputation" and after touring homes they had built, they knew they were the right people for the job.

Gerald Lawler had similar feelings about the Artibellos. "They were the perfect people to build for. They knew exactly what they wanted," he says. "It's a nice feeling when you're working for people like that."

The home was designed with an open-concept living, dining, kitchen and sunroom area, all with a spectacular view to the great outdoors. Having the sunroom as part of the central living space was important to Laura. *Continued on page 22*



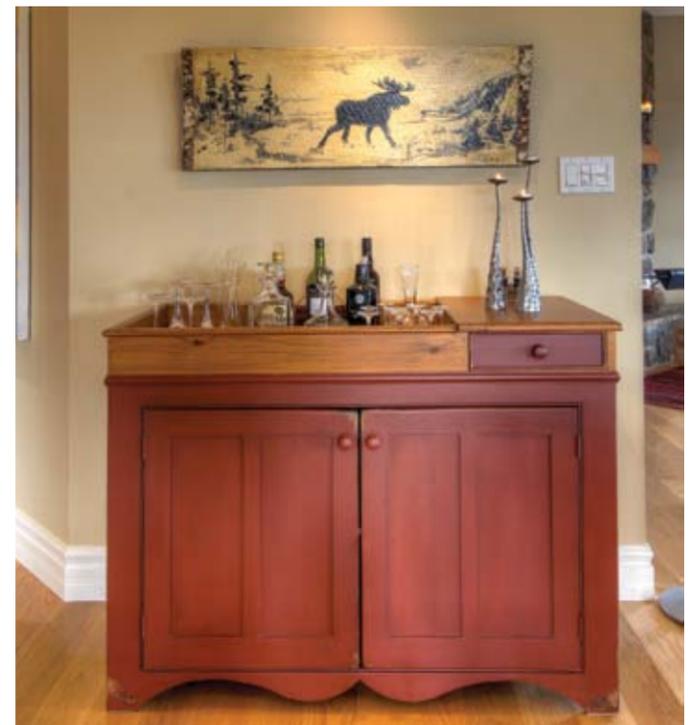
LEFT: This cozy, warm living room is a great place to curl up and watch the snow fall.

A beautiful custom-made harvest table is dressed for guests.



This gorgeous kitchen features a large island where the Artibellos gather with guests and serve buffet-style dinners.

RIGHT: A small rustic bar perfect for après ski.





The master bedroom boasts one of the best views in the house.

RIGHT: Laura Artibello celebrates the fabulous view from her deck.

FAR RIGHT: A back door leads out to the hot tub.



"I wanted a relaxing space that would be included in the life of the house," she says. "Where you can still be a part of any room activity, inside or out – or just sit quietly and enjoy the view."

Equipped with walls of windows and a door to each of the two decks, the sunroom is Laura's favourite place to spend time, along with the kitchen.

Beautiful finished oak flooring runs throughout the main level of the home and meets limestone in the kitchen. A large granite-topped island, complete with painted maple cabinetry, serves as the anchor of the entire living space, creating an ideal spot for gathering with family and friends, and to serve a delicious meal, buffet style as the Artibellos always do.

Just outside the kitchen, the story of their gorgeous harvest table is framed and hung for visitors to read. It was built with first growth Yellow Birch cut during Ontario's logging days between 1880 and 1910. It remained waterlogged for several decades before it air-dried for three years and was custom built for John and Laura, who love nothing more than a full table sharing great food and wine.



Entertaining guests is something that's done frequently in this home, which is really no wonder considering the functional layout, the breathtaking view, numerous outdoor activities and Laura's innate ability to make visitors feel right at home. Just recently, the couple hosted a post-wedding celebration for their only daughter and their new son-in-law.

With professionally maintained, private trails to explore on foot, snowshoes or cross country skis, a new addition to the Bruce Trail just steps away, a hot tub and a great fireplace to cosy up to, John and Laura can't get enough of winter and neither can their loved ones who come to stay.

Everything about the Artibellos' home is welcoming, warm and cosy. "It was meant to be lived in," she says. "There's only one rule when you come here. You have to dance!"

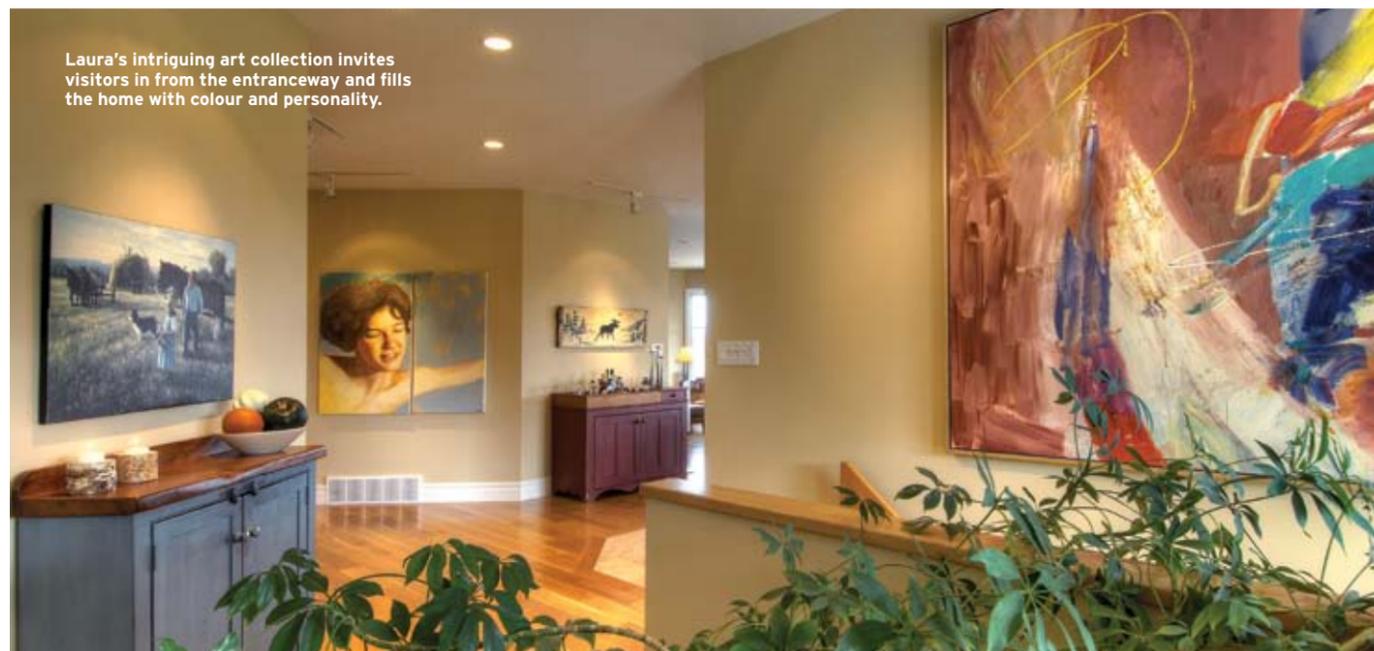
Another feature that makes this home such an intimate space is the phenomenal artwork displayed in nearly every room. Original works by

local artists **Peter Beckett, Pie Atkinson, Jorgen Fleischer, Nick Furgiuele and Louise Moore** fill the home with colour and personality. Laura chooses art that reaches out to her and pulls her in. She doesn't choose it by the space it will show in or by any particular style, just by what speaks to her and she'll tell you about each wonderful piece like it was painted just for her.

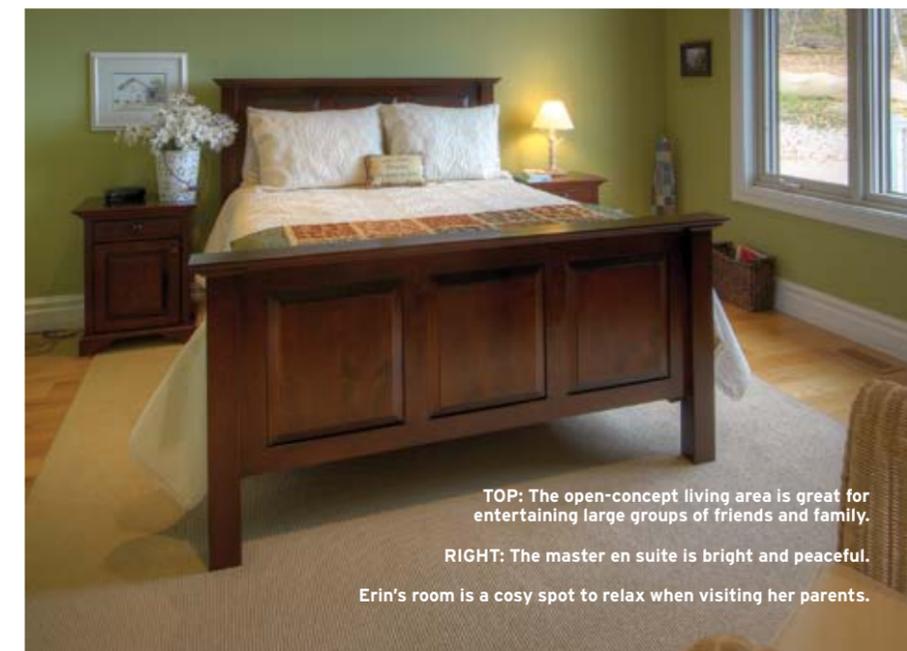
There are three bedrooms on the main level, including a guest room suited for two singles in chalet-style décor, their daughter Erin's room and the master, which has the most incredible view from both the bed and the luxurious soaker tub in the en suite.

The lower level is yet to be finished, but with a grandchild on the way, John and Laura plan to have the Lawlers finish it for them in the near future.

Until then, the couple will continue to enjoy their weekly retreat and their unmatched view of the Valley; a place that Laura says is still a secret. One that's "captivating once found; a beautiful part of Ontario." **OH**



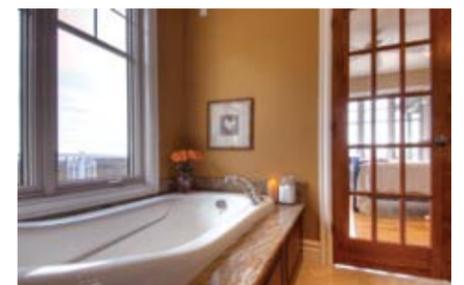
Laura's intriguing art collection invites visitors in from the entranceway and fills the home with colour and personality.



TOP: The open-concept living area is great for entertaining large groups of friends and family.

RIGHT: The master en suite is bright and peaceful.

Erin's room is a cosy spot to relax when visiting her parents.



SOURCE GUIDE
 Gerry Lawler Construction,
 Boynton Team RE/MAX, Pamela
 Farrow, Peek Thru My Window,
 Edward McNabb Roofing,
 Peninsula Overhead Doors, Pratt
 Plumbing & Heating