

STORY JENNIFER SCHLEICH
PHOTOGRAPHY ALAN SHISKO

COMING HOME *Holidays* FOR THE



PHOTO BY LISETTE STOLP



PHOTO BY LISETTE STOLP



TOP: A baby falcon landed on the Stolps' backyard deck this past summer, close enough for a close-up. **MIDDLE:** A light coating of frost adds a magical touch to the sweeping lawn in the backyard. **ABOVE:** The entrance to the cottage is filled with natural light and features wood-look tile flooring. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** A set of owls welcomes guests at the front door, offering a helping hand for sunglass owners. **RIGHT:** The deep blue front door pops off the façade, featuring an arch of colourful bricks.



On a bright frosty morning over Thanksgiving, the Stolp family invited us into their home-away-from-home. An all-season cottage on the banks of the sandy Sauble River, the Stolps' vacation home is a luxurious retreat at the beach and a holiday gathering spot year round.

For Stacy Stolp, who hails from the community of Sauble Beach, visiting his family's cottage really is like coming home.

"I grew up in Sauble Beach and that's why we decided to build here," he says.

It's a place where Lisette, Stacy and their two children Jadelyn, 11, and Mason, 7, can detach from their busy lives in Oakville and enjoy spending time together. The siblings even agree to share a bedroom at the cottage, which functions as a base of operations allowing the family to visit their favourite destinations around Bruce County and make use of the sporting equipment overflowing their garage. *Continued on page 20*



TOP: An open-concept living and dining area offers a panoramic view of the river. **ABOVE:** (left to right) Stacy, Jadelyn, Mason (front) and Lisette stand with their builder Ken Burrows of Ken Burrows and Son on the family's dock overlooking the Sauble River.



ABOVE: The foyer features a modern open-concept staircase in white, contrasted with neutral wood accents. **RIGHT:** Granite countertops, wood-style ceramic floors and soaring cabinetry form this custom kitchen, built by Seedling Woodworks. The kitchen's glass-tile backsplash ties in with the glass tiling used throughout the cottage.



They adore their cottage, which was built by **Ken Burrows and Son Custom Homes and Additions**, but they love the outside more: the decks, the dock, the beach and the smooth flowing Sauble River, which is rife with wildlife. The rural atmosphere of Bruce County is important to the Stolps, who enjoy immersing themselves in nature.

"We love the winters in Sauble; they are peaceful," says Lisette. "We go snow tubing, cross-country skiing and take night walks, which are magical in the winter. The kids love nature. They feed peanuts to the blue jays and chipmunks and we love that Blue Mountain and Scenic Caves are so close."

Four years ago, the Stolp family purchased a parcel of land and its accompanying aging cottage, and then promptly demolished it. Shortly after, the family set to work building their holiday getaway with the help of Stacy's long-time friend Dan Burrows.

"Dan and I have known each other since we were teens," he says. "We worked together at Home Hardware when it was called Beaver Lumber. I knew he was honest and sincere. When you are working with a person like Dan it's one-on-one and he adds a personal touch."

Six months later, the family moved in.

"Nobody I know of could do what Dan did for us in six months," says Stacy. "He got it

done for Christmas and we spent the holidays here that year."

The cottage was designed with the help of Architectural Technologist **Craig Johnston** (**Craig Johnston Design**). Together they created plans for a two-storey brick home (**Shouldice Designer Stone** and **John Bloodworth Masonry**). It features an open concept kitchen (**Dan Spitzig of Seedling Woodworks**) and living area, complete with roomy 10-foot ceilings and expansive windows showcasing the river view. And that view sure is something: glistening blue water and vibrant vegetation interspersed with soaring pine trees and friendly neighbours.

RIGHT: A pair of french glass doors, originally intended for the study, form unique fronts for built-in shelving on either side of the fireplace. **BELOW:** A barrel-shaped side table with metal accents and a curvy white lamp complement the leather sectional and stylish, yet casual, feel of the living area.

A classic stone fireplace with a gas insert (installed by **Ken Philip Plumbing & Heating**) draws attention along the length of the living area. Stationed on either side is a unique floor-to-ceiling, built-in shelving unit fronted by a pair of glass doors.

"It was an accident," admits Stacy. "I ordered french doors for the study and got the wrong size. Just by a fluke they fit perfect in the niches around the fireplace and my wife said 'Oh my god that looks amazing' so we hung them up."

Adjacent to the living room, the patio doors open onto a sprawling deck (**Andrew Kivell** and **Miller's Home Hardware Building Centre**), which is home to a harvest patio table built by **Jason Hawk**. The upper-storey deck provides cover for the outdoor dining area, which is shielded from the sun by a retractable transparent solar screen. The lawn (**Grey Bruce Sod Supply Ltd.**) slopes gently down to the river, lined by landscaped gardens (**McCartney Property Maintenance** and **Westside Nurseries & Greenhouses Ltd.**), ending at the dock (**Garrett Baker Contracting**). *Continued on page 22*





ABOVE: The spacious master bedroom features engineered hardwood, a walk-in closet and master en suite. **LEFT:** The balcony off the master bedroom offers a stunning view and a quiet space for Stacy and Lisette to wind down. **BELOW:** Vintage buffet-style vanities and a glass tiled shower pair nicely in the upstairs guest bath.



"I wanted something different for our dock," says Stacy, who built an elegant sunburst-patterned gate. "I'm a sunset guy and I wanted to keep it simple; I'm not a master craftsman," he jokes.

The ground floor of the cottage is only half the story. The open staircase leads upstairs to four bedrooms and two bathrooms; a space designed to accommodate guests. The atmosphere on the upper level, influenced by softly hued and glossy engineered hardwood (installed by **North Acres Hardwood Floors**), is warm, airy and inviting.

The rooms and hallway are adorned with Mason and Jadelyn's artwork, including Jadelyn's impressive painting of *The Hobbit*. Paintings by Lisette's cousin **Lina Serrano** are also found throughout the cottage.

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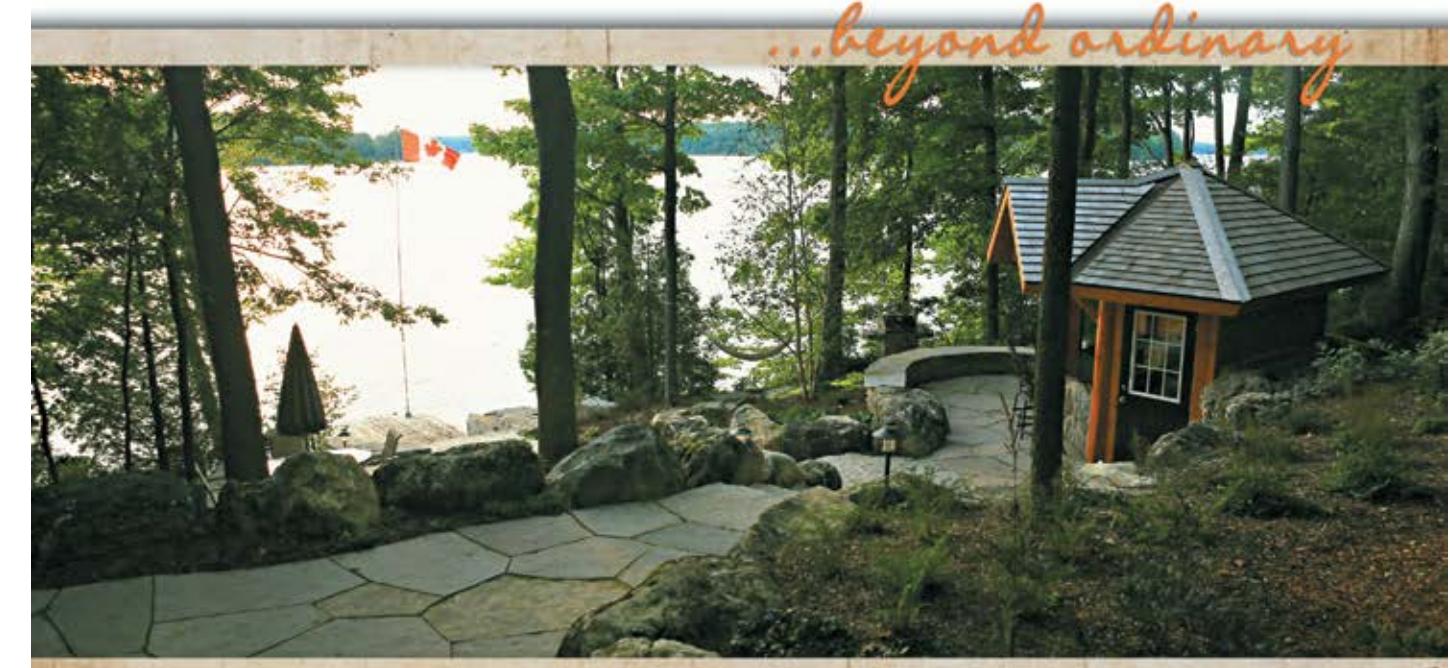
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TOP: A his-and-hers vintage vanity, in distressed white, is a central feature of the master en suite.

RIGHT: Adorning the guest bedroom wall is an original acrylic painting of *The Hobbit*, painted by the Stolps' daughter Jadelyn.

BELOW: Jadelyn and Mason's bedroom features the siblings' artwork and their collection of stuffed animals.



...beyond ordinary

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"Both my son and daughter paint," he says proudly. "We brought them, just for fun, to an art school course and they love it. Jadelyn especially loves to read, she reads so much," he adds about her choice to paint a scene from J.R.R.Tolkien's novel.

The upstairs bathrooms are a fusion of traditional and modern styles. The antique vanities are accompanied by glass-tiled showers ([Mike Sollazzo of Finest By Sollazzo](#)).

"I have always been a fan of antiques mixed with modern pieces, they call it a transitional look," explains Lisette. "I picked the glass tiles for the showers because the turquoise colour produces a waterfall effect when the water runs. We paired them with frameless glass doors to complete the look." The guest bathroom and the master en suite mirror each other conceptually.

The master bedroom houses Lisette's favourite feature: a west-facing balcony large enough for both her and Stacy to sit and enjoy the Bruce Peninsula's world-renowned sunsets. What better way could there be to end a day at the cottage than watching the sun slowly sink below the horizon with your loved ones? **OH**



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