



STORY **JENNIFER SCHLEICH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

BEACHSIDE beauty

Only a small rustic hand-lettered sign, half obscured by tall summer grass, points the way to the California coastal-inspired summer home of Jane and Dave Matthews.



The Matthews' back deck was a Father's Day gift that transformed their outdoor living experience. More like a second living room than a deck, it's a favourite space at the Bruce Beach summer home.

Originally a prefab home, it was passed down to Jane and Dave from Dave's parents. The Matthews family has called Bruce Beach their summer residence since 1979, but according to the couple they are comparative newcomers to the neighbourhood.

“That’s not a long time for up here,” explains Dave. “We’re new people on this beach. These people next door have been here for over a hundred years.”

Though the cottage may be relatively young, it’s undergone a number of changes over the years. However, none of those changes compare in scope or scale to the stunning remodel Jane and Dave executed between 2014 and 2015 with the help of **Grant Frook Contracting Ltd.**

“He was very creative,” says Dave of Grant’s work on the remodel. “We found him through friends who had used him for minor projects and they spoke so highly of him that we thought, ‘We should give Grant a call.’”

RIGHT: Sea glass turquoise is a subtle colour scheme dispersed throughout the cottage, including this painting of two golden retrievers in a truck. **FAR RIGHT:** The porch doubles as a sheltered breakfast nook on windy days. **BELOW:** This light sconce is reminiscent of an oil lamp, lending a nautical look to the porch. **BELOW RIGHT:** Dave and Jane sit on coastal-style wicker chairs with dog Izzy in their remodeled living room.



In order to customize the summer home to suit their growing family, which now includes four young granddaughters, Dave and Jane decided to expand the home’s footprint (building materials from **Kincardine Timber Mart**). They added five feet onto the lake-side of the home, and another three feet to the front of the home (foundation work by **D W B Armstrong Ltd.**, and excavation work by **Elliott Construction**) and redistributed existing space to maximize the size of the cottage (drywall by **Polfuss Drywall**).

“We created a sunroom, and took away a bigger bedroom to make a mudroom,” says Jane. “We had four bedrooms before, but they didn’t function well.”

Much joy ensued as Frook’s team whisked away the impractical wall-to-wall carpet and

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The transformation from dark wood panelling to contemporary whites and greys makes the space feel much more light and airy, aided by a coastal-style stone hearth in place of outdated brick.

stripped down the pine tongue-and-groove ceiling. The removal of the wood ceiling paved the way for Jane and Dave to select a bold hand-scraped engineered hickory hardwood floor with the help of Sheila Britton Design, who lent her expertise to the redesign.

“Sheila Britton, who is a very good friend, is a designer in Collingwood/Thornbury,” says Jane. “She was of great assistance in helping us select our hardwood and the tiling options in our bathrooms.”

Clean white lines were chosen to

complement the wood floors and bathroom tile, including contemporary straight-edge trim and baseboard, and a bright white kitchen by **Dungannon Kitchens Ltd.** The couple selected a series of pale grey Benjamin Moore paints from **Home Hardware** to soften the stark whites, including Revere Pewter for the main living areas, Edgecomb Gray in the master bedroom and bathrooms, and Inukshuk for their childrens’ bedrooms (painting by **Bill Morrison of Bill’s Painting**).

“A lot of the colours and even our countertops and backsplash were inspired by the Hendersons’ renovations – friends of ours on Bruce Beach,” says Jane. “A lot of her choices were so influential, specifically our quartz countertop colour Shitake, the river-rock backsplash, and the Revere Pewter paint that we love.”

The soft, light brown countertop gives a suitably sandy vibe to the kitchen and pairs well with the unique river-rock backsplash

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Benjamin Moore:
ReverePewter HC-172



before





SOURCE GUIDE

Bill's Painting • Current Electric
 • Dungannon Kitchens Ltd. • D W
 B Armstrong Ltd. Concrete • Grant
 Froom Contracting Ltd. • Home
 Hardware • J'Adorn • Kincardine
 Timber Mart • Polfuss Drywall • Elliott
 Construction • Sheila Britton Design
 • Southampton Art School & Gallery
 • Valerie Cargo

above the stove. "The backsplash echoed our stone fireplace, and we really liked that coastal feeling," says Dave.

The kitchen is now the heart of the home. Previously, two people would be lucky to work in the kitchen at one time due to its size restrictions and layout, and the space had a noticeable lack of functional storage.

"We love our kitchen so much and everyone in the family loves to cook," says Jane. "Now everyone congregates around the island and the kids play hide-and-seek in the pantry."

The neutral browns and whites of the kitchen are broken by a series of bright pops of sea glass turquoise, a colour trend that was inspired by a gurgler purchased from **J'Adorn**, one of Jane's favourite places to shop for décor. The subtle turquoise is repeated in the island pendant lights, and throughout the great room's décor.

"This colour to me was the colour of the water, the colour of the sky, and that was sort of the start," explains Jane.

Though the original cottage had its decorative failures (remember: beachside carpeting), the couple really wanted to keep the soul of the family home alive. "We liked the character of the home," says Jane. "We loved the vaulted ceiling and that sort of 70s California vibe it had, and we were trying to maintain that feeling."

They drew on those beloved parts of the cottage's original architecture and decorative elements when designing the décor scheme for the post-reno space, such as the wicker chairs, seashell lamps and pine. She then turned to magazines and the Internet for contemporary inspirations that would pull her vision together.

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ABOVE: To make room for an island featuring a breakfast bar in the new kitchen, the Matthews had to reduce the size of their dining area. **LEFT:** The home's new sunroom is a multifunctional space that doubles as an all-season sunset view, TV room and guest bedroom. **OPPOSITE:** The river-rock backsplash was inspired by a family friend's cottage and pairs well with the nearby stone fireplace.

feature

RIGHT: A glass bottle lamp with rope elevates the style of this lakeside home. **BELOW:** A little girl's bedroom with sweet mint and pink accents is the perfect respite for the couple's grandchildren. **BOTTOM:** The master bedroom features a wall-to-wall view of Lake Huron.



Benjamin Moore:
EdgecombGray HC-173



Benjamin Moore:
Inukshuk CC-460

Soft greys throughout the home are punctuated with sea-glass turquoise and brilliant orange.



“We already had all these classic wicker Pottery Barn chairs, and a set of glass lamps filled with seashells that had been brought back from Florida,” says Jane. Even the kitchen-table chairs, with their fun rattan seats, were sourced from the Matthews’ own furniture supply.

Though the kitchen has become a family-loved space, something about the brand new sunroom makes it one of Jane’s favourite places. Before the renovation, the cottage was surprisingly open concept for its age and once the grandchildren began arriving, life became very chaotic at the cottage.

“It’s so nice to have a place to let them colour, or for us to go and watch TV quietly,” explains Jane about her love for the sunroom. “We ate dinner in there just last night because the sunset was so nice.”

With retirement on the horizon, the Matthews have many more Lake Huron sunsets waiting for them in their “new” summer home. **OH**



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