



Susanna Moodie, the Upper Canada pioneer who wrote *Roughing It in the Bush*, would think she'd died and gone to heaven writing her journal in this luxury log home in rural Harrison. No chilblains, no need for quilts or an extra log on the fire as an early spring chill seeped through the cracks of her 1830s homestead. Instead, she'd make herself a late-night latté in the designer kitchen, flip a switch to turn on the gas fireplace and type stories on her iPad.

When it comes to pioneer stories, **Mandy Sedgwick** and **Mirella Marshall** have more than a few. They met while working with the Milton Historical Society to preserve the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, an 1865 post and beam structure. "With development growing at such a fast pace, it is threatening our Heritage Resource," explains Mandy. "We decided to try and save these old houses one house at a time." "People love old houses, they just don't love the work involved," laughs Mirella. For more than a decade, **Sedgwick Marshall Heritage Homes Ltd.** has been restoring and rehabilitating local century and heritage homes and historically-inspired homes like this log home owned by Joyce and Sandy Moore. This reno includes a 2,000 sq. ft. addition, portico, covered porch and an upper veranda. Mandy and Mirella contacted Architectural Technologist Pam Farrow to supply historical guidance on the design.

"A rural setting so close to urban amenities is a breath of fresh air," says Pam. "The open space and setbacks allow light to move from all directions in a way that urban properties just don't allow. The house

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ABOVE LEFT: The living room maintains much of its character with the home's original reclaimed old growth logs and river rock fireplace surround. **LEFT:** Mirella Marshall (left) and Mandy Sedgwick save and lovingly restore century and heritage homes.



PRESERVING *history*

STORY **JOYCE TURNER-GIONET**
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



maintains many of the outstanding efforts of the original builder who, a half-century ago, had the foresight to use reclaimed old-growth logs, cribs from the shipyards and stone from the property. It's always a pleasure to be part of a re-envisioning that preserves such efforts."

When we think log cabin, we think Canada, but it's a product of Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. Immigrants used cabins for quick, rough shelter. It wasn't about design; it was about durability, a refuge for harsh Canadian winters and wildlife. Log houses came later as families became established.

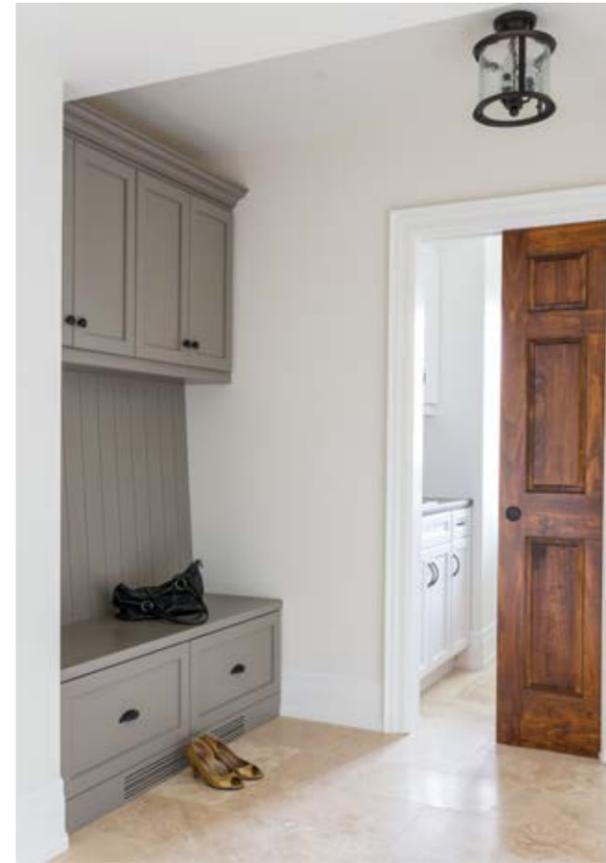
In the 1970s, a back-to-the-land movement saw a resurgence in log home building. This one is a product of the period. Locals remember its wood beams – pine, chestnut and oak cribs from the Owen Sound shipyards – trucked down to the property the year Russel Brothers closed their boat-building business on the Georgian Bay inlet.

When Sandy and Joyce purchased the property, it was running off well water. Heat came from a wood stove. The living room had a wood-burning fireplace – now converted to an open-flame gas insert with its original river rock surround preserved. The original exposed logs remain on the main floor, upstairs hallway, bathroom and original bedrooms. Master carpenter, Manuel Maciel, painstakingly restored the exposed logs. New steel beams were added since the original ceiling beams were over spanned. In the evening, the glow of pot lights intensifies the beautiful contrast between the dark wood beams and the lighter stained ceiling. The Carpet Place supplied Acacia engineered hardwood floors. They're a contemporary backdrop for the modern furniture, figurative landscape art and organic accessories. Custom windows from Kolbe Windows & Doors were hand-stained with an oil-based finish for historical realism.

During the reno, the roof was raised two feet to allow for new ductwork. The addition provided room for a new maple stairway. The hall's southwest wall is an original exterior wall. Its weathered appearance makes it a striking feature.

Mandy and Mirella designed the kitchen that was built and installed by Gold Leaf Kitchens. A 12-foot wall of glass sliders and bank of custom windows with deep sills replaced the single original window. The result is a bright, open space that captures the rural

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LEFT: The mudroom maintains the feel of the home with the addition of a rustic door. **ABOVE:** The kitchen blends old-world charm with modern comfort. **BELOW:** The beamed ceiling blends the old with the new. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The addition of a farmhouse-style dining table and outdoor-inspired candelabra fixture are reminiscent of the home's original structure. **BOTTOM:** The addition and the new staircase blend with the original home's exterior wall.





setting from every vantage. They replaced the 1970's knotty pine cabinetry with custom maple cabinets, painted Benjamin Moore's Timid White. The hardware is pewter. Walls are a creamy ecru called Monroe Bisque from Benjamin Moore. Stainless appliances and Arctic White granite countertops ensure a modern counterbalance; the granite's pronounced veining plays well with the fireplace's river rock. The wrought-iron stools were "a find that just seemed to belong in a modern log house," says Mirella.

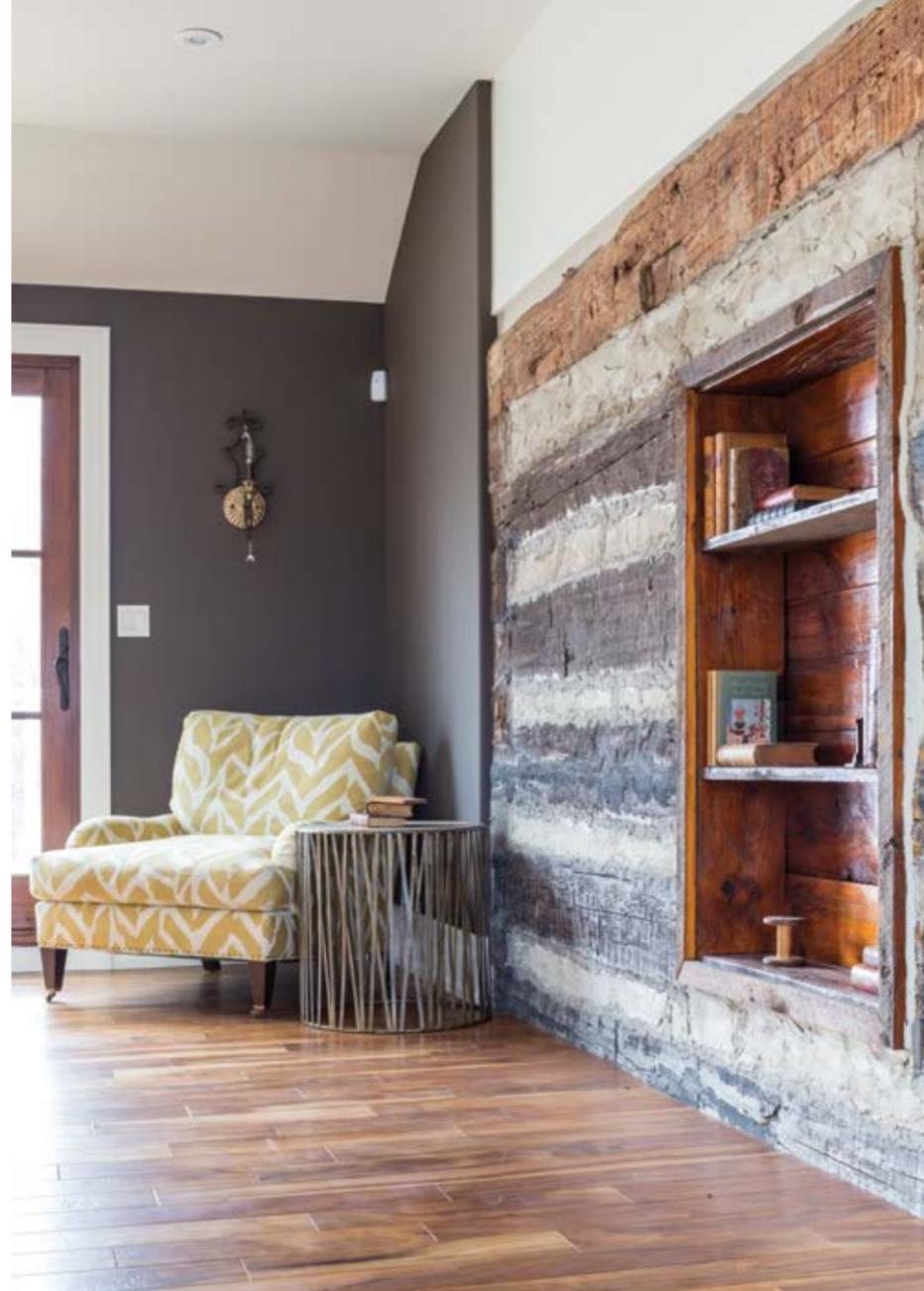
Originally an open space, french doors gave intimacy to the dining room. Two walls of windows allow changing seasons to set the mood. A faux elk antler chandelier is a rustic touch, and the metal-top table adds glam.

Upstairs on the landing, a quirky book niche is framed with reclaimed barn board. Mirella re-stained the chandelier's whiskey barrel slats.

Modern and spacious, neither feminine nor masculine, the addition's master and en suite

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TOP LEFT: A distressed vanity in the powder room adds a vintage touch. **TOP RIGHT:** The home's original exterior wall is a wonderful backdrop for a reading corner. **RIGHT:** A second bathroom on the upper level with a glass-enclosed shower and his-and-hers sinks provides modern comforts.



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are a private retreat. Furnishings keep with the log home feel. Walls of windows add light. In the en suite's walk-in glass shower, creamy porcelain wall tile complements the earth tones in the river rock floor. Perlato-polished porcelain was used on the niche, seat and sill. Mocha porcelain floor tiles are dressed up with texture. His-and-her vanities are topped with luxurious marble.

On the exterior, Mandy and Mirella agonized over a colour for the cedar shakes. It's the same story in King Masonry Yard Ltd.'s yard! They laboured over pallets of stone, choosing ones that complemented the weathered logs. The mortar was over-grouted to give it an aged effect. The gothic curvature over the upper windows adds an old-world detail. The Kolbe front door, a wonderfully energized colour called 'Chutney,' shows beautifully in the wooded landscape.

This house needs nothing more, except, perhaps, the addition of a vegetable and herb garden and pioneer cutting garden. Heritage tomatoes anyone? Herbs for seasoning? A profusion of irises, lilies, pinks, peonies and zinnias in season? And a few heritage roses, ancestors of the tiny cuttings that pioneers carried with them on their journey across the Atlantic. **OH**



TOP LEFT: The master bedroom is bright and spacious, with a sitting area, walk-in closet and en suite. **RIGHT:** The darker tones in the vanity blend with the richness of the wood throughout the home.

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