

feature

enclave BY THE LAKE

BY GINA MAKKAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

Nestled between the Niagara Escarpment and breathtaking views of Lake Ontario, the City of Burlington is ranked one of the best places to live by MoneySense magazine.

“The Lakeshore area is highly sought after because of its large mature properties, character homes and proximity to the lake and parks,” says **Michael Brejnik**, Sales Representative with **Royal LePage Burloak Real Estate Services**. “I’m seeing an increased trend of people from north Burlington and Oakville focusing on south Burlington for its excellent value and its luxurious allure.”

Just steps to the lake and within walking distance to their children’s high school, the Burns family found a stately home on a secluded lane that was everything they’d been looking for.

“We always had an eye on the lakeshore and the big beautiful homes,” says Liz Burns. “Living in this area and being close to the water, we’ve always loved it.”

The home mingles traditional style with modern elements, an aspect that quickly drew the family in. The traditional stone and stucco exterior with its dormer windows, copper accents and stately columns is nestled among soaring trees.

A solid mahogany door and heated limestone floors provide a warm welcome in the entranceway. “The floors are heated throughout,” says Liz. “It’s one of those things. When you don’t have it, you don’t miss it, but when you do, you wonder how you lived without it,” she laughs. *Continued on page 40*



BOTTOM LEFT: The traditional stone and stucco exterior is adorned with an arched entryway that leads to a golden-brown mahogany front door. **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** The unique wenge wood used in both the kitchen and great room creates consistency in the open space. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The open floor plan provides plenty of space for the family to lounge, grab a snack or dine. **LEFT:** Beamed coffered ceilings create visual interest in the great room where the Burns family often gathers to spend time together. **BELOW:** Muskoka chairs surrounding the exterior gas fire pit provide a tranquil retreat and warm backdrop for outdoor entertaining.



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ABOVE: Warm earth tones and intricate ceilings exude classic elegance in the dining room. **TOP LEFT:** Hints of girly sophistication customize the upper level media room for the family's teenage daughter. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The theatre room is the perfect setting to spend family time with a game or a movie.

Inside, modern touches like the open-concept floor plan and a glass-and-wood staircase create a unique yet unassuming space.

The intermingling features give the home warmth, style, and presence – elements that satisfy the tastes of both Liz and her husband, Steve, who liked the idea of a loft-style space. “You don’t walk in and find it so contemporary that it’s jarring,” says Liz. “There’s a lot of dark wood, but it all works well and manages to blend in.”

Black walnut hardwood floors lead the way to a magnificent great room adorned with a waffle ceiling. A gas fireplace, encased in limestone, anchors the space and dramatic floor-to-ceiling wenge wood built-ins are flanked by cosy window seats.

Neutral sofas and cognac-coloured club chairs are paired with pillows and fluffy throws from Burlington’s **In House** to provide a graphic pop of colour and texture. Liz says when house-hunting, they needed something move-in ready, and the home didn’t need a lot. “I love neutrals, and the house spoke for itself,” says Liz. “Too much colour and furniture would have taken away from the beauty of the home and all its architectural details.”

When the family first moved, they realized that much of their existing furniture wouldn’t suit the new space, so they added character by refurbishing

each room, one step at a time. “The space deserved bigger pieces of furniture and a fresher and newer look,” says Liz. With over 6,200 sq. ft. of living space and large principal rooms, they tackled the great room first. “We knew it was the room we’d be living in. We spend 90 per cent of our time as a family there.”

The open-concept space continues into the eat-in kitchen, where novices and chefs alike can create to their hearts’ content in the bright and spacious workspace. Granite countertops provide a nice contrast to the dark wenge wood cabinetry. White subway tiles provide a hint of clean, modern sophistication. French doors lead out to the deck where an entertainer’s delight awaits with a seating area, a hot tub and an outdoor fire pit. Lavishly manicured lawns provide a secluded retreat, and in cooler temperatures, the family often sinks into a Muskoka chair to toast a marshmallow and enjoy the crackle of the fire.

The house is now for sale. Brejnik says the home’s subtle elegance and luxurious finishes give the space a warm and comfortable feel, making it ideal for a family or for those who love to entertain. “Being near the lake on a private street south of Lakeshore Road, you notice the peace and tranquility. Once you enter this home you will quickly realize and appreciate the splendour of its opulence.” *Continued on page 42*

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Upstairs, the master suite is a sanctuary. Dramatic bedding from the Eastern Accents line carried by **Blind Advantage** creates a luxurious backdrop. Patterned carpet creates a unique texture underfoot, and a dark fireplace enclosure provides a vivid focal point. French doors open to an upper deck where one can read a book or lounge with a drink in hand.

Heated limestone floors warm the master en suite, and Zucchetti faucets marry function and beauty. One can close the door, leave the world behind and sink into the deep tub to the sound of music streaming through the surround sound.

No stone is left unturned, including the lower level where nine-foot ceilings, a sauna and a theatre room provide a place to play and entertain. In fact, the Burns family can often be found eating popcorn and watching movies. "It's great to be able to come home, not worry about anything, and just relax," Liz says.

With the home for sale in a competitive market, Michael says he's proud that his brand sets him apart. "I treat each and every one of my clients and their homes, however great or small, with the same service and attention. We pride ourselves on customer service and focus on what our clients really want from their agent to make the journey of selling a pleasant experience." **OH**



TOP: The master bedroom sets a scene for sweet dreams with elegant bedding and accessories. **ABOVE:** His-and-hers vanities and additional matching shelves provide plenty of storage in the spacious master bath.

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