



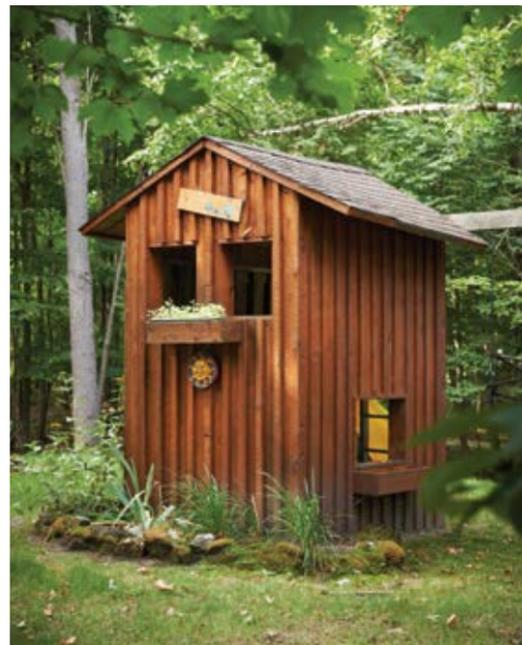
Lasting MEMORIES

STORY MORGAN BARNES
PHOTOGRAPHY JESSICA DEEKS



Even without knowing who lives here, it's easy to see, from a simple stroll around the property, that this year-round cottage belongs to people who cherish family above all else. That the purpose of this home is to have a space for loved ones to gather, reconnect, and be physically near one another.

ABOVE: Catching the sun in the relaxing lawn of the cottage. **RIGHT:** This children's slide/playhouse is in the perfect spot for play. **FAR RIGHT:** Days on the dock, or on the boat, are a fun part of the summer. **OPPOSITE:** Fabulous floral displays add a burst of colour.



It's easy to imagine magical days with the sound of children's laughter echoing from the play fort, rambunctious splashing at the waterfront, large family dinners on the deck, and stories shared around the fire pit.

Blissfully situated on Morris Island along the famous Ottawa River, the 2,400 sq. ft. board-and-batten cedar home has shore appeal. Built in 1996 by local homebuilders, **Ron Wallace** and **Jimmy Wilson**, the two-storey walk-out, with its four bedrooms and three baths was based on a former log home company's blueprints that Ottawa residents, Eric and Lori, had acquired. It's a far cry from the small indoor/outdoor Beaver Lumber cottage that once occupied the land.

Exquisite landscape design and gardens by Carp-based **Kare-Mor Enterprises**

Co. Ltd., highlights the property's natural surroundings. Running from the house to the waterfront like a river, a bold stone walkway made from slabs of Permacon Rosebel expertly marries natural beauty with functionality. Just ask the feet of wet swimmers as they make their way from the water.

The majestic lakefront property boasts 200 feet of shoreline, while heaving maples offer privacy from nearby neighbours. As if the land and water hadn't been generous enough, the maples provide plentiful sap during melting spring days, perfect for harvesting homemade maple syrup to be enjoyed all summer long over lazy pancake breakfasts with family and friends. It's a tradition that Eric, Lori, and their two children, Jodi, 19, and Carter, 18, have enjoyed cultivating over the years.

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Family business owners with demanding city lives, Eric and Lori cherish all the time they can muster at their cottage. When it came time to renovate their cottage for an updated look, they went to long-time collaborator and designer, **Patricia Miragliotta** from **Interior Images**, for guidance.

“I couldn’t even imagine how beautiful the cottage would turn out, but Patricia did,” says Lori. “She has vision. She asks detailed questions, listens and then goes above and beyond your expectations.”

Just past the foyer, you are struck by the great room, with its vaulted 20-foot pine ceiling and fish-bone placed boards. The spacious room is positively awash in warm sunlight. Patricia aimed to accommodate Eric and Lori’s traditional and formal style, while creating a rustic charm and no-fuss casualness to the great room.

That is certainly achieved in the open-concept kitchen, designed by Interior Images. Sienna antique glazed and distressed cabinetry with a contrasting oxblood colour island from Downsvew Kitchens, through **Astro Design Centre**, playfully dances with the ceiling’s height. The same cabinetry panels conceal the sub-zero fridge for a subtle, cohesive look. The soft travertine backsplash by **Euro Tile & Stone** and hood fan from **Universal Appliances** give the kitchen a very European influence. Two shaded wall sconces over the cooktop are from Gingers.

ABOVE: One of the many outdoor seating areas. This one looks out on to the stunning lake. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A coyote statue overlooks the property. **RIGHT:** An outdoor dining area is ideal for family entertainment. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The grill set in this fully-functioning outdoor kitchen overlooks the rear of the property and lake. **MIDDLE:** The outdoor fireplace and lounge area is a place to relax with friends and family. **BOTTOM:** The back of the property leads straight out to the water.

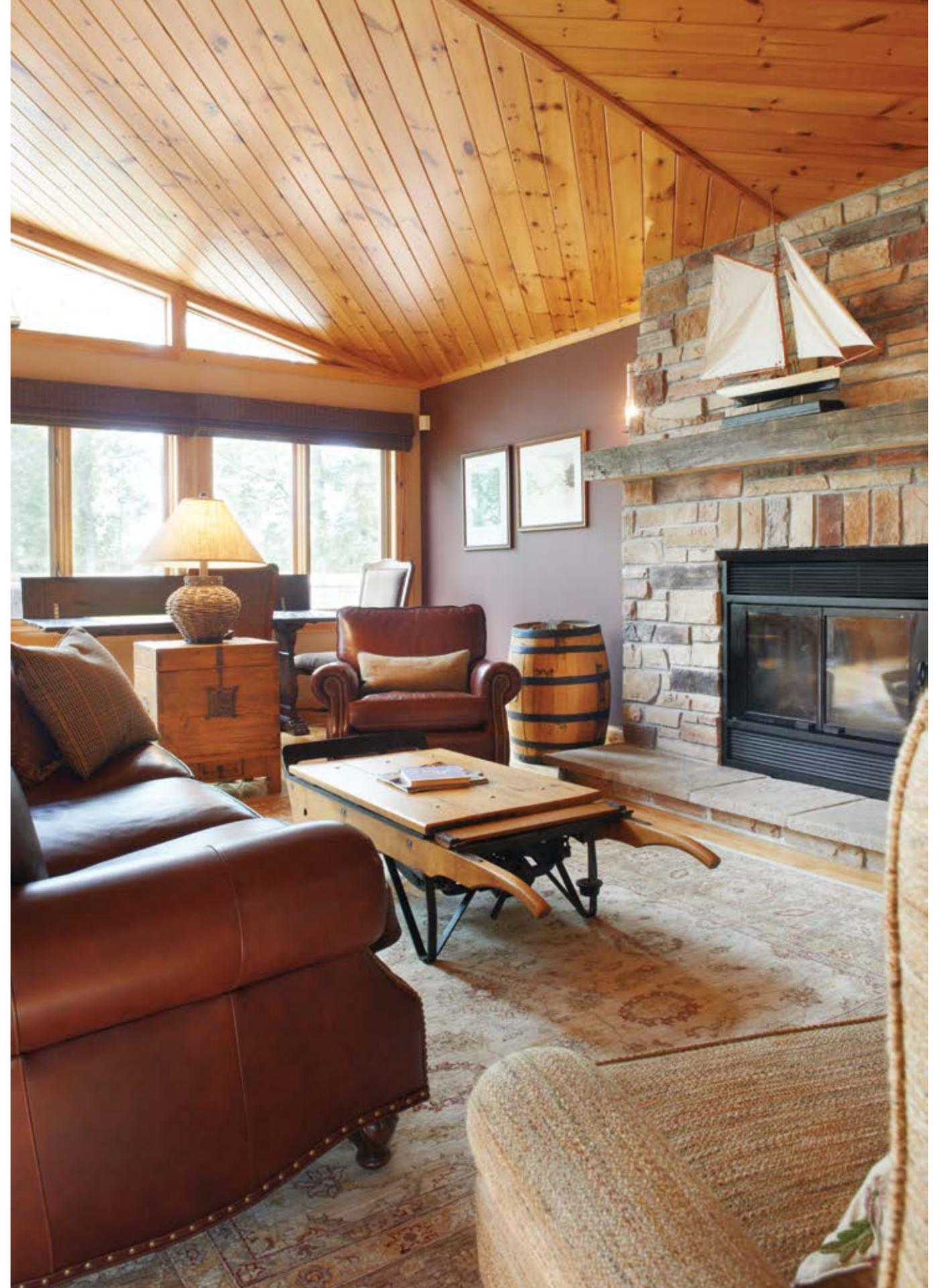


In the dining area, a stunning Hubbardton Forge chandelier from **Marchand Lighting + Electrical** is an inspired choice with its rustic black chain and smoky glass cylinders that give off a soft turn-of-the-century yellow glow.

Patricia clearly wanted to help Eric and Lori honour cottage life in the family area of the great room. “The furniture and fabrics were selected to lend a relaxed elegance Eric and Lori would feel comfortable in, but with nothing too precious for wet bathing suits, sand and cottage living,” says Patricia. “Since this home-away-from-home is used year round, resurfacing the existing fireplace with cultured stone and a reclaimed wood mantel was used to create warmth for cooler days and nights.” Tying it all together are the selections of oxblood and straw colours found in the wool plaid fabrics from Stroheim & Romann and Kravet, woven wood shades from Hunter Douglas, and a luxurious wool rug from Weavers Art.

There are many personal accents of family history displayed throughout the cottage, including a handsome wooden barrel with black straps that Lori’s father, a self-taught craftsman, refinished. It holds a special place in Lori’s heart. A weigh scale, once used for seed and grain was an auction find for Eric, who refurbished it himself. It now serves as the family room coffee table and a conversation piece. The sailboat on the fireplace was a gift from Eric’s parents, and a nod to the family’s favourite summer pastime, boating on the Ottawa River.

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A good cottage night's sleep wouldn't be possible without Eric and Lori's sleigh bed from [The Emporium](#) on Main Street in Ottawa. In fact, all of the cottage's bedroom furniture hails from the local store. Lori credits the Emporium's high-quality furniture for its beauty and durability as the reasons she's a return customer. In the en suite bathroom, Patricia designed the custom cabinetry supplied by Astro Design Centre to fit the space with a limestone countertop from [The Granite Shop](#). Silvery-grey Renwil mirrors, and charming accent lights came from Restoration Hardware.

Whether it's enjoying morning coffee or a late night gathering with family and friends, Lori and Eric's favourite place is the 55-foot deck that spans the front of the cottage. It's hard to believe it was once just half the width it is now. Patricia redesigned it for entertaining, with two separate seating areas; dining near the beautiful California-style outdoor kitchen, and lounging in front of the magnificent outdoor fireplace by [W.O. Stinson & Son Ltd.](#) The deck, made with Ipe wood from Decks Toronto Inc. and gorgeous cultured stone by [Merkley Supply Ltd.](#), is trimmed with a natural railing that blends seamlessly into the surroundings by [Eco Landscaping Ltd.](#) Adding contrast is the stainless-steel barbecue and outdoor cabinetry courtesy of [Capital Appliance & BBQ](#), an outdoor sink and faucet from [The Electrical & Plumbing Store](#), and a state-of-the-art outdoor speaker system

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THIS PAGE: A rustic kitchen complete with unique lighting. **OPPOSITE:** The wood ceiling, brown walls and leather chairs create a warm cottage feel.



RIGHT: The master bedroom with large windows is full of beautiful natural light. **BELOW AND RIGHT:** The bathroom emphasizes the rustic feel and light wood cabinetry of the home.



from **Bleeker Audio Video & Appliances** cleverly hidden in the planters. Glamorous low-voltage tree lighting from **Lorne's Electric** illuminates the living space and stairs perfectly so as not to drown out those beautiful stars.

"Eric and Lori are what you'd call good people and great clients," says Patricia. "It was truly a privilege to have the opportunity to create their dream cottage space."

Inspired by their love of family both here and gone, Eric and Lori's cottage encourages guests to come and relax, get grounded and savour how precious time really is. **OH**

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