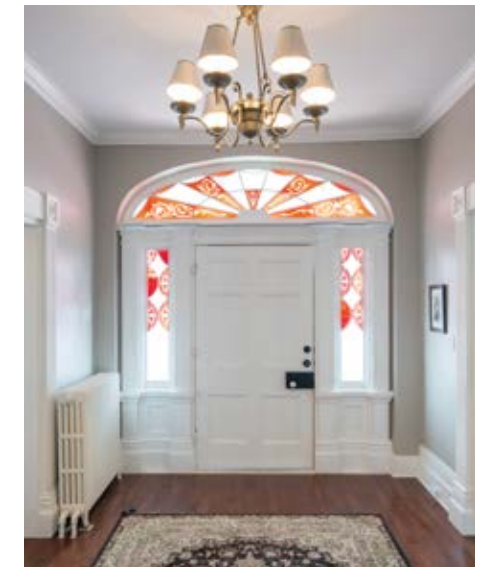


# Lakeside LEGACY

STORY **WALTER FRANCYK** | PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD CLARK**



The south side of the large kitchen at Lakehurst retains its historic look with a carved wooden fireplace mantel, hardwood floor and herringbone panelling on the walls and ceiling.



A home steeped in history will survive a few more generations thanks to a young Cobourg family.

Mark and Heather Good spent more than two years restoring Lakehurst, a stately, two-and-a-half storey Loyalist-style house, built on the shore of Lake Ontario more than 180 years ago. Believed to be the town's oldest surviving brick house, Lakehurst was originally constructed by wealthy Irish brewer James Calcutt, who immigrated to Canada in 1832 and established a successful brewery, distillery and flour mill on a three-acre property just west of the harbour.

"We've given Lakehurst a new life," Mark says of the five-bedroom home.

A former British soldier and police officer, he learned to build while managing construction of a new home on his 16-acre riverfront property in Northern Ireland. That land had a two-storey, derelict stone cottage with trees growing through the roof. Mark renovated and rebuilt the old stone cottage. Heather, a florist and flower shop owner, helped Mark and when the renovations were finished they married.

They moved from Ireland to St. Helena, the remote tropical island in the South Atlantic where Napoleon Bonaparte was exiled. After a year, they moved back to Canada where they had originally known each other as children and where they wanted to raise their own family. Cobourg's great pool of history, architecture and small-town ambience attracted them. "Cobourg ticked all the boxes," Mark says.

When they first saw Lakehurst, it was tired looking and needed attention. It was

sectioned into half a dozen apartments. "We fell in love with the grandeur of the home, its architecture" says Mark. The 9,500 sq. ft. house could serve as home to their extended family who all wanted to move from Ireland back to Canada. "If we bought a big house, then we could assist with bringing my family back to Canada and then continue renting out some of the property later on." They saw it as an intriguing project and bought the place.

Work on the house was painstaking and extensive. They opened up walls, sorted out

*Continued on page 38*

**TOP LEFT:** A wide veranda and upper-floor balconies overlook the lake from this heritage home near downtown Cobourg. **TOP RIGHT:** Coloured glass panels and a fan light of the same vintage flank the home's original front door. **RIGHT:** Stainless steel appliances, vinyl tiles and a granite dining bar lend contemporary style and function to the north side of the kitchen.







**ABOVE:** Red leather couches furnish the ornate great room, panelled in oak, ash and maple. An intricate pattern of inlaid hardwoods frames the floor. **RIGHT:** Mark and Heather Good furnished the home with antiques in keeping with its history.

wiring and plumbing, repointed and capped chimneys. They installed a new roof, fascia, soffit and eaves troughs. Wooden windows were removed, refurbished and new sash cords installed. Floors were refinished or replaced. “We renovated from top to bottom,” says Heather. “It was nice to work on a renovation with such history.”

The home’s exterior walls were painted soft yellow, the trim white. The couple cleaned

## SOURCE GUIDE

Andrew Smith Building Design • Bill Glenn Vinyl & Aluminum Products • Canadian Tire • Childley Carpentry & Contracting • Comfort Zone Heating and Air Conditioning • Floortrends • Gilmer’s Home Hardware Building Centre • Gerald Davidson Plumbing & Heating Ltd. • Home Hardware Building Centre Cobourg • The Home Depot • Jacqueline Pennington, RE/MAX Rouge River Realty Ltd., Brokerage • Joice-Sweanor Appliances Furniture Electronics • Lafarge Canada Inc. • Linton Windows & Glass • Quinn’s Blooms & Greenery • Rent All Centre



up the yard, planting trees, shrubs and cedar hedges from **Canadian Tire Garden Centre**. They laid flagstones and installed pillars, iron gates and iron fencing. “We totally transformed the outside space,” Heather says. They restored a carriage house that was moved from another historic site to the rear of their property. They wired the entire house with high-performance Cat 6 cable for multi-media networking.



**LEFT:** The drawing room at the front of the home has side windows recessed in arched alcoves on either side of the electric fire. **BELOW:** New flooring was installed in the formal dining room where Heather made plaster castings to repair the acorn and oak leaf crown moulding that frames the ceiling. **BOTTOM:** Lakehurst’s main entrance was restored with trim to match the original woodwork. Wide hallways make it a spacious home.

While Mark and Heather did a lot of the work themselves, with the help of relatives, carpenter **Joe Chidley** of **Chidley Carpentry & Contracting** provided expert assistance, invaluable when replicating wooden trim around doors and ceilings. “You couldn’t source it here, so you had to have it made,” Mark says. “The carpenter did a great job of making wooden mouldings to mirror what was already here. He’s a very good craftsman.”

**Bill Glenn Vinyl & Aluminum Products** installed exterior elements, **Linton Windows & Glass** rehabilitated storm windows, while **Home Hardware Building Centre Cobourg** provided most of the building materials and paint along with helpful advice from **Eric Hobe** who tracked down rare hardware to suit the old house. “We’ve tried to restore the home back to its original character,” Mark says.

Renovating the kitchen was a joy, says Heather. They removed walls to reveal the original floorspace and created a spacious new kitchen, 18 feet wide and 35 feet long. A revamped butler’s pantry is at one end and a gas fireplace, surrounded by a carved wooden mantelpiece, at the other. **Tammy Adley**, a kitchen designer with **Gilmer’s Home Hardware Building Centre** helped steer the transformation. With a granite-topped island, dining bar and large wooden table, the kitchen has lots of room for children Hannah, 8, and Elijah, 6, to hang out when they get off the bus from school. “It’s my dream kitchen,” Heather says. *Continued on page 40*





feature



**TOP LEFT:** Original wooden flooring was preserved during restoration of the master bedroom where wainscoting and big windows create a light-filled alcove. **TOP RIGHT:** The master bedroom's walk-through closet leads to a modern en suite bathroom with glass-walled shower, ceramic flooring and marble-topped vanity. **BELOW:** Floral drapes and white furniture surround the sleeping space in Hannah's bedroom.

grand room," Mark says. An elaborately carved mantel surrounds the gas fireplace. Wooden shutters shield the windows. The room's provenance is uncertain. It was either brought here or copied from a room in a Scottish castle visited by Judge J.D. Armour, a Supreme Court of Canada judge, who owned Lakehurst in the late 19th century. "At today's standards you couldn't replicate it because it would be just too expensive," says Mark.

A short walk from a pebbled beach on the lake, the house has a front porch spanning the width of the building. Two balconies, one on the second floor and the other above it, also face the lake.

Mark says they love the home and the room it provides their two young children. "It really is a welcoming house," he says. "When you walk in through the front door, you instantly feel at home. We've had a lot of good times here."

They now have their sights set on moving to a home in the country where they can do some organic gardening and perhaps keep a few chickens.

The home is listed for sale with **Jacqueline Pennington** of **RE/MAX Rouge River Realty Ltd., Brokerage**. **OH**

Replacing and matching the herringbone-patterned wooden ceiling took patience and skill. Ceiling boards were manually-planed to retain the original look. Armstrong vinyl tiles from **Floortrends** shield the kitchen floor.

As many as 25 family members, including Mark's parents, lived in the home, in their own space, during the restoration. "Because of the magnitude of the project, we were able to do it in sections," says Heather. They used zippered doors to confine construction dust. Their own living space was the last to be done. The renovation left five bedrooms and a sewing room on the home's second floor; a games and television room, artist studio and

an in-law suite on the top floor as well as a two-bedroom, attached rental townhouse plus a one-bedroom nanny suite.

Heather's favourite space is the drawing room with its view of the lake and large windows nestled in arched alcoves flanking an electric fire. Pale green walls are trimmed with 14-inch baseboards. "I like the front room as a quiet reading room," she says.

Mark enjoys the lavish wood-panelled great room that links the formal dining room with the new kitchen. Walls, ceiling and floors are finished in ash, oak and maple. An intricate pattern of inlaid multi-coloured wood skirts the hardwood floor. "I love relaxing in such a

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