



The great room is central on the upper floor of the Currie home. The view looks south to Lake Ontario. **TOP RIGHT:** Adjacent to the kitchen is the breakfast/casual dining area and a computer station. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mike and Linda Currie with resident canine Tyson sit on the landscaped outdoor pool/patio area.



If you long for the proverbial room with a view, you've come to the right place. This house is positioned to afford gorgeous views for 360 degrees, so every room, every window, presents a spectacular panorama.

In the forested land that rises and rolls north of Lake Ontario, Linda and Mike Currie chose their four-acre home site on a knoll. Sweeping vistas of the lake greet the viewer from southeast to southwest. From northeast to northwest, scenes of the pleasant hamlet of Grafton resemble Currier and Ives prints, with charm in every season.

"This is the first time we had a home built. It was a new design from **Stalwood Homes** of Cobourg," says Mike. "They are a very good builder."

Stalwood Homes owner and president **Al Rose** says "customer relations and communications" are his keys to success. In business over 20 years, he notes this home was highly customized to provide good use of space. He and the owners "concentrated on getting the maximum sun and the best views." It's one of his personal favourites.

The 7,000 sq. ft. home has a very private, rural setting with the added advantages of natural gas and municipal water. *Continued on page 39*

A HOME FOR *all seasons*

BY EILEEN ARGYRIS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY



RIGHT: The master bedroom's south views extend over woodlands to Lake Ontario. **BELOW RIGHT:** The master en suite is accommodating and luxurious. **BELOW LEFT:** Let the games begin in the lower level games room!



The house has a unique design. Essentially, this is a bungalow with a partially finished basement and walk-out to the backyard and pool, by **Clear Choice Pool & Spa Centre**. But, inspired by tours of some other Stalwood Homes during the design phase, Mike wanted to add an attached three-car garage with a “man cave” above. Accessed by an interior staircase, Mike’s spacious sporting sanctuary, with its own washroom, houses hockey memorabilia and a huge flat-screen TV for catching all the action. Even the custom area rug from **Sine’s Flooring** bears the NHL logo. Central audio-visual and home-security equipment by **Alliance Security Systems** finds a home here, along with fitness machines. The great views are not wasted, with windows on three sides, two with built-in cushioned window seats.

The elegant entrance to the house features frosted glass panels in the door and windows on either side and across the top to create a private foyer flooded with light. From the foyer, the house’s arms spread east and west toward six possible bedrooms, but straight ahead, it flows into the spacious living room with its Lake Ontario views. The cathedral-style

living room ceiling rises to 16 feet. One wall provides the library effect, with ivory-painted panelling, built-in bookshelves, comfy and elegant furniture and an inviting gas fireplace. It’s the perfect space to while away an afternoon with a good book.

One main-floor room, originally intended as a dining room, has been conveniently converted into a home office that doubles as a bedroom. With a blended family of three adult children (one of whom shares the home), three grandchildren and a large, vivacious dog, Mike and Linda are big believers in comfort and convenience for overnight guests. The home has five-and-a-half bathrooms, one for each of the possible bedrooms.

Besides the views, one of the main attractions on each floor is the flooring. On the main level, the Curries’ choice was Eddington Plank, ash hardwood, three-and-a-quarter-inches wide, in a honey-warm shade. In the basement and in Mike’s man cave, the choice was Mannington Hamilton, deep cherry wood, five-inch wide engineered hardwood, both from **Floortrends**. The lighter, narrower ash suggests elegance, while the wider cherry tone gives a rich, rustic look. *Continued on page 40*



TOP LEFT: The dining room opens south onto the sun room. **ABOVE:** The kitchen is a popular gathering place. **FAR LEFT:** Original art works and Linda Currie’s décor “finds” accent a sideboard in the great room. **LEFT:** The front entrance foyer is easy-maintenance with tile floors. Natural light through the transom and side door panels exudes welcoming open airiness. The MDL Doors entry was sourced from Rona Cashway in Cobourg. Supervision Windows, also sourced from Rona, were used throughout the home.





ABOVE: The views from the sunroom, located off the main dining room, look out over fields, hills and trees to Lake Ontario. **BELOW:** The “man cave” over the garage was incorporated into the Stalwood Homes home by homeowner Mike Currie. There are quiet reading spaces and window nooks, televised sports and fitness stations and lots of natural light streaming in on three sides of the room.

In a house of views, where so much depends on the windows, the window coverings were a crucial choice. The Curries relied on **Vosburgh Home Décor**. Vosburgh also helped them choose furniture and custom designed the bed frame in the master bedroom. “They made it easy for us,” says Mike. Many of the window coverings are automated so that, at the touch of a switch, they let the sun shine in or dim rooms for an afternoon nap.

The master suite offers the utmost in comfort and luxury with overviews of the village and the lake, an adjoining private bath with super shower, soaker tub with jets, toilet/bidet with heated seat, a walk-in closet and a make-up table that prompts Linda to exult, “I just love it!”

Another area where Linda shows her deft touch is the kitchen, which is definitely dressed for success. Granite counters by **Delray Granite** add sheen to Tom Clarke’s custom designed cabinetry (by **Clarke Kitchen Centre**). It was Clarke who suggested the above-the-upper cabinets with frosted glass fronts. Such space is often wasted in bulkheads, but this way, they add a decorative touch while providing storage for seldom-used items. The dining area looks out over the backyard, pool and concrete upper and lower level decks, and, of course, the view continues for miles down to the lake. The round glass-topped kitchen table can seat eight. For larger gatherings, the formal dining room is just off the kitchen, as is the inviting sunroom with coffered ceiling.

The basement level offers another living-and-entertainment section with walk-out and circular chaises sourced through Vosburgh. Here, too, is a games area, kitchenette, workout room and utility/storage/laundry room, which is also home to Linda’s stained-glass studio.

Since moving in just over a year ago, the Curries have added over 100 shrubs and trees to the property. They’ve installed lovely gardens with the help of **Davey’s Landscaping**. They credit **Lighting Interiors and More** with their innovative and practical choices of illumination.

Other contractors and suppliers include: **Simplified Electronics**, **Sears Canada**, **Mike Irwin** of **A&M Electric**, **Comfort Zone Heating and Air Conditioning**, **Remax Lakeshore Realty Inc.** and **Kelly Excavating & Utilities**. The exterior stone, Shouldice Estate Stone Kingston Blend, was sourced from **Rona Cashway Building Centre**, Cobourg, **ON**



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