

NORTHUMBERLAND TRANQUILITY

Nestled deep in the heart of the rolling Northumberland hills, this charming tongue-in-groove, square-log home is surrounded by such an expanse of towering trees, "it feels like we're living in a forest," says Laverne Lunny. She and John Benson have lived here for nine years.



STORY
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PHOTOGRAPHY
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Private, serene, the very picture of rustic elegance, this 3,000 sq. ft. custom-built log house is situated on a beautiful five-acre, treed lot with a generous 1,500 foot frontage. It's located near Castleton, just a short drive from Colborne, and features a detached, extended, two-car garage and extensive perennial gardens.

"We enjoy the freedom of living in the country," says Laverne. "There's lots of wildlife, which is lovely."

Smiling, she recalls watching from her window as a herd of deer helped themselves to apples right off a tree that had blown down in a storm. A flock of not-so-wild turkeys also meander over frequently, she says.

"We love the quiet, there's a view from every window, and there are no neighbours nearby. We have to travel to see houses."

The distinctive slate floor in the spacious foyer makes a statement without saying a word. Installed by **Wayne Marsh Construction Ltd.** of Cobourg, it extends into the guest bathroom, which he also renovated. A new glass shower door, a black marble-topped vanity, and distinctive tumbled stone and glass-tile wainscoting enhance its appeal.

Pocket french doors separate the foyer from the open-concept main level. Here,

you'll find exposed beams and gleaming, natural oak hardwood floors throughout the kitchen, dining room and great room. Finished walls provide decorating versatility, and track lighting concealed along the beams accentuates walls adorned with art the couple have acquired throughout their travels. An abundance of natural light flooding through french windows adds to the open, airy ambiance.

With such interesting architectural details and a judiciously-designed floor plan, Laverne says "it's a very warm-feeling home, people find it very comfortable. I really like that most of the inside is dry-walled, so it's not just wood inside and out."

A stone propane fireplace, augmented with decorative railway spikes, adds warmth and personality to the great room. Just off to the side, a carpeted, three-season sunroom with a walk-out to the large deck offers a beautiful view of the surrounding wilderness to stimulate the appetite.

"We eat out here nearly every night in the summer," Laverne says. Picturesque perennial flower beds draw the eye past an interlocking brick walkway and stairs, created by **Margaret Mackenzie Landscape Architect** of Cobourg.

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OPPOSITE: A stone propane fireplace in the great room adds warmth and charm to this open-concept home.

TOP LEFT: Beautiful views of the surrounding forested property make this three-season sunroom, with a walk-out to the deck, a popular spot for dining. **TOP RIGHT:** Enhanced with interesting architectural details and a well-designed floor plan, this custom-built home is rustically elegant.



TOP: Sunlight streams through many large french windows, bouncing off the gleaming oak hardwood floors throughout the great room/dining room area. **RIGHT:** This large eat-in kitchen with storage space to spare features a granite counter, wall-mounted electric fireplace, maple cupboards, and a large window to let the sun shine in.



As you enter the roomy eat-in kitchen, the first thing you notice is the exquisite granite countertop Laverne personally selected. “We chose it because it looks like it has a river running through it,” she says. The countertops and tumbled stone backsplash were installed by **Frank Bouwmans Cabinet Maker** of Baltimore. Storage is made simple with an expanse of natural maple cupboards that complement the hardwood floor. An electric fireplace, mounted above the table brings instant heat and charm to this kitchen, lit with hanging lights as well as under-cabinet mounted lights.

“It’s a nice workable kitchen, big enough to have people in while you prepare meals,” says Laverne, adding she likes having it conveniently close to the formal dining room, but out of the direct line of vision, concealing any meal preparation disarray from guests.

The master bedroom, guest bedroom and a den, are all located upstairs, along with the main bathroom. Wide-plank pine flooring throughout adds to the country ambience, while track lighting highlights paintings by local artists displayed in the hall.

Natural light streams through the window of the luxuriously-spacious main bathroom, finished in natural-coloured granite floor tile installed by Wayne Marsh Construction Ltd. A jet tub with a porcelain surround dominates the space, with the toilet discretely located at the far end of the room. *Continued on page 28*

TOP LEFT: In this luxuriously large second-floor main bathroom, the toilet is located at the opposite end of the room from the sink and jet tub. **TOP RIGHT:** Wide plank pine floors give a feeling of warmth to this second bedroom on the upper level. **LEFT:** Though it’s currently being used as a den, this second-floor room could be easily converted into a third bedroom.



The master bedroom at the end of the hall is so large it dwarfs the king-size bed, leaving an abundance of room to sit and read, or simply bask in the peace and serenity. It features a large, walk-in closet and two windows from which to admire the surrounding natural beauty. At the opposite end of the hall is a charming guest bedroom, and between the two sits a den, which could easily be converted into a third bedroom.

There is a finished walk-out basement, where the taupe carpet from **Ontario Carpet Supermart** in Cobourg is complemented by neutral-toned walls, painted by **Alex Hamilton Painting** of Brighton. This space really comes alive on movie night, when family and friends snuggle in authentic theatre seats, equipped with cup holders and food trays from Cobourg's **Urban Loft** to watch movies projected directly onto the opposite wall.

"We enjoy entertaining family and friends, and often have movie nights in our home theatre," says Laverne.

A pellet stove, installed by **Gerald Davidson Plumbing & Heating Ltd.** in Cobourg, keeps things cosy. Just behind it, a neutral-toned, tiled wall with stylish granite accents retains the heat and matches the walk-out and laundry/utility room floors. A home office and a gym equipped with a treadmill and Elliptical bike are also located on this level.

As much as they have enjoyed the time they've spent living here, Laverne and John are selling their home to relocate to Cobourg. For more information please contact realtor **Tony Pulla** of **RE/MAX Lakeshore Realty Inc., Brokerage**, Cobourg. **OH**


TOP LEFT: This spacious master bedroom easily fits a king-size bed and separate seating area, and has two large windows from which to view the surrounding natural beauty. **BELOW LEFT:** The main-floor bathroom, located in the foyer, is finished in tumbled stone and glass tile wainscoting in earth tones, offset by an espresso vanity with a black marble top. **TOP RIGHT:** Authentic theatre seats and a home theatre projector make movie nights memorable in the comfort of home. Just add popcorn!

SOURCE GUIDE

Frank Bouwmans Cabinet Maker, Cobourg Home Depot, Urban Loft, Tony Pulla, Alex Hamilton Painting, Margaret Mackenzie Landscape Architect, Rona Cashway, Cobourg Home Depot, Wayne Marsh Construction Ltd., Ontario Carpet Supermart, Future Shop Belleville, Davidson Plumbing and Heating Ltd., Cobourg Sportcheck, Belleville Sears

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