

Paul McCarthy's casual friendly manner masks a meticulous penchant for design. With his business partner, Brett Lindros, of NHL fame, the two take the task of building homes seriously. McCarthy acts as general contractor and Lindros collaborates with McCarthy on development and design. Continued on page 86









Their high school friendship blossomed into a very successful partnership following McCarthy's stint with Windemere Homes and Brett's retirement from professional hockey. It helps that both men have similar tastes in home design. Aside from building in their home base of Toronto, the two have taken on custom home projects in Muskoka and here in Southern Georgian Bay.

This elegant four-bedroom home at Lora Bay is a prime example of the care both McCarthy and Lindros take with each custom project **Cobalt Custom Homes** takes on. "Brett and I offer a customized layout," McCarthy explains. "After deciding on elevations and overall size, we work from the outside in, determining the best angles for natural light and the best views. Interior flow between the spaces is extremely important to us both. Brett's strength is interior spaces and the final layout is a result of our collaborative attention to detail. It's fun to work with a friend who has the same taste."

The Lora Bay community offers amenities homebuyers crave, including the challenging Raven Golf Club, four-season on-site recreation and the

close proximity to the quaint town of Thornbury, Blue Mountain and private ski clubs.

Back inside this stunning country home, visitors need look no further than the spacious foyer to see the builder's focus on the finer points of construction, which include antique hemlock banding and the old-world iron lantern chandelier. Natural light floods the atrium.

Upstairs, there are three bedrooms with en suite bathrooms and a walk-out to a beautiful covered veranda with spectacular views.

There are California Gold slate tiles at the access points, Tumbled Noce and Crème Marfil limestone in the bathrooms, but the rest of the flooring is reclaimed, antique barnboard hemlock, from **Floorcrafters** in Thornbury. McCarthy is pleased with the look. He says, "one of the most distinctive aspects of the home is the reclaimed hemlock. The wood was provided locally from a Mennonite barn, and the unique widths and warm hues that each board provides results in a truly custom wood floor arrangement. "People prefer wood flooring, it gives a cleaner look and the country feel that suits the area and people can create the warmth they desire with area rugs." *Continued on page* 90





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"I knew that I could tell him what I wanted and I could trust it would be built to look like that. He was a great listener. And our home is absolutely the home of our dreams.

> -Jana Temple on the second home recently built for her and her husband by Paragon Carpentry.







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RIGHT: Double doors open into the master suite.

BELOW: The Asian-inspired master bedroom has a walk-out to a backyard patio and a fabulous en suite with a jet-tub.

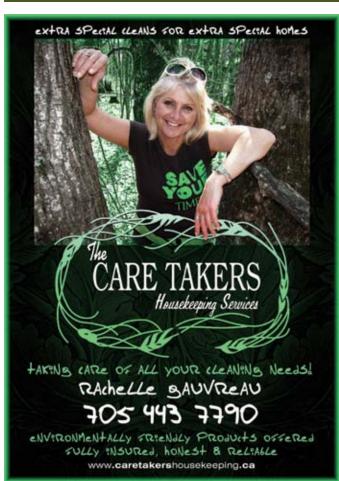
The entranceway leads to a ground floor master bedroom and a spacious family room bathed in natural light. Light streams through French doors that open onto the rear deck and the rustic, low-maintenance garden landscaped in local rock, flowers, shrubs and grasses by **Clarke's Landscaping**. The comfortable family gathering space is anchored by a gas fireplace, which is bordered in dark cherry wood shelving that allows for a wall-mounted television. Here, discreet ceiling pot lights and a built-in main floor audio/video system make relaxing easy.

The family area shares an open space with the dining area, which has its own beautiful views of nature as well as access to the outdoors. A few steps away, the roomy kitchen continues the classic country look with antique white cabinetry by Woodworks Design, a back splash of wheat-toned tumbled marble and granite countertops in "ivory fantasy." The large cherry-wood island with its own sink, wine cooler and ample storage adds to the work surface available for food preparation. Professional stainless steel appliances make the kitchen a suitable playground for any budding chef. Continued on page 92

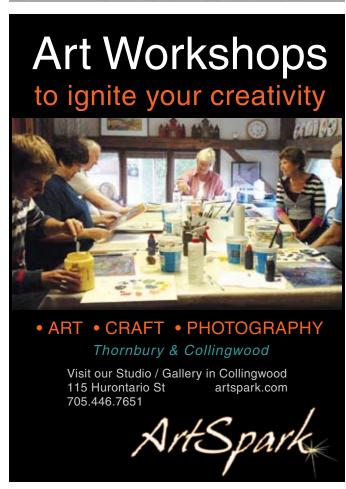












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The master en suite is large and bright. The bead-board panelling gives the room a relaxing feel.

RIGHT: This large built-in shelving unit is located in an upstairs bathroom.

Fine touches like the built-up crown and baseboard mouldings, solid core beadboard doors to every room and nine-foot, cloud white, V-joint ceilings give the home a bright, relaxed yet sophisticated air. Add to this upgraded country trims, antique Baldwin hardware, heated bathroom floors and a built-in steam shower unit in the master en suite and you have a country home that is a notch above. All this reflects Cobalt's attention to fine details. "We take the time necessary in the planning stage to make sure everything works out well," McCarthy says. "What I want to have is a happy client. I want to see that their dreams for the home are met."

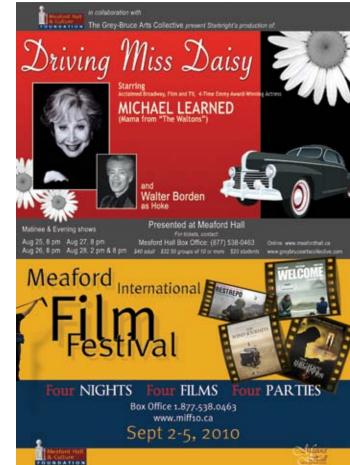
Particularly striking is the excellent use of space where the kitchen opens onto a short hallway leading to a powder room, a generous laundry room, a large storage cupboard and separate entrances to the double garage and the front porch. Here, the builder's foresight has provided an easy, all-season entrance and exit for today's busy families.

The home has put its best face forward because of the superb staging of **Andrea Rinaldo** and **Patti Clipperton**.

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"We used the home itself as a jumping off point for our designs," says Rinaldo. "This is a very sophisticated home. We try to match its sophisticated tone with simple colours and textures, taking into account the superb exterior and interior views. In the main living area, we used an antique pond boat and vignettes of pears and other natural elements to enhance the home's look."

Rinaldo and Clipperton used their own decor and furnishings and sourced accessories from Clerkson's and The Garden's Nest of Collingwood as well as the work of local artists Andrew Peycha, Sue Tupy and Janine Stonhill. All these elements combine to enhance the attractiveness of this luxury country dwelling.

If you are interested in viewing this sophisticated home, contact Shelly Paul of Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited. on



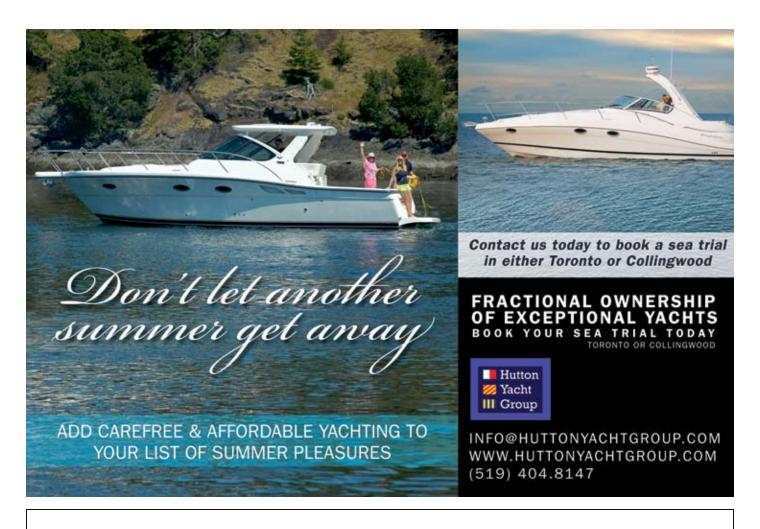


SOURCE GUIDE

Woodworks Design, Clarke's Landscaping, Pella Windows, Cedarport Windows and Doors, Bruce Eccles Electrical, De Bruin Plumbing, Great Northern Insulation, Thornbury Home Hardware, Melvin Martin Doors, **McNabb Construction.**

This covered porch, located upstairs, is a wonderful place to relax with a morning coffee or an evening cocktail.

BELOW: One of three upstairs bedrooms, decorated in bright summer colours. The inspiration comes from a painting on the wall by Andrew Peycha.



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