

# real estate

BY SHELBY HILSON // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

The time to buy a new home is now. OUR HOMES takes you on an incredible tour of three beautiful model homes and one spectacular country estate.

## COUNTRY LUXURY

Heaven on earth by many standards, this country estate, surrounded by breathtaking views in every direction is located just 15 minutes from Thornbury and is up for sale.

Bill Brennan's beautiful home sits on 50 acres of pure natural beauty and has come to be known as the **Epping Falls Farm**. The name couldn't be more fitting as Epping Creek wanders through the property, creating a private waterfall amongst the many trails. It's perfect for exploring the land by foot, bike, snowshoes or skis.

If the sweeping views of the Beaver Valley and private trails aren't enough, the property is also located right across from the Epping lookout and abuts the Bruce Trail, which offers endless miles of scenic discovery.

Along with the 16 acres of recreational land are 34 acres of certified organic farmland divided between three separate fields. Brennan currently leases the farmland to a local farmer who plants something new each year, with the latest crops being organic hay and spelt, which is a more soluble species of wheat.

The home, located on the magnificent property's rolling hills, has an easy-living contemporary interior.

Brennan's entire home is furnished with pieces from his very own home décor store, **Terase Art and Home** in Thornbury. All of the art is from the Black Dog Gallery, which is located on the third floor of Terase and was suitably named after his Portuguese water dog Lola.

The large three-or-four bedroom home, completely renovated by **Terase Contracting and Development** in 2003, features a high quality wood siding exterior resembling a modern mountain home and three levels of uniquely designed living space.

The main floor is filled with tons of natural light entering through many windows and skylights built into a soaring 20-foot vaulted ceiling. The floors are made of an eye-catching walnut-stained, German-steamed beech that adds a great deal of warmth to the cosy living room, expansive dining room and lovely galley kitchen.

There are deep-set, wood-burning fireplaces in both the living room and master bedroom, but they aren't necessary to heat the home. Brennan installed a GeoThermal furnace and air conditioner that also heats two hot water tanks and keeps utility costs to a minimum.

The upper level has well positioned openings that look over many areas of the main floor and the master bedroom has an incredible view looking down the long country driveway to the street that is often referred to as The Millionaire Mile. It also features a great ensuite with double-headed stand-up shower and a Jacuzzi tub.

Other home features include: a large dressing room with Murphy bed, two lovely guest rooms, an open lower level with family room and wine cellar, and of course, an extra-large, in-ground gunite pool, complete with a pool house attached to a separate three-car garage, that can also serve as a workshop or coach house.

So much more could be said about this one-of-a-kind property, but seeing is believing. **OH**

Bill Brennan has decided to sell his estate.

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Josie Schywiola, Century 21 Offord Realty Ltd., 705.445.5640

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FROM LEFT: The modern kitchen connects the west and east ends of the home. Lola grabs a quick nap in the comfortable living room. The master bedroom features a wood-burning fireplace. Sweeping views are seen from the ensuite tub.

*The home, located on the magnificent property's rolling hills, has an easy-living contemporary interior.*





## EXTRA EXTRA!

**Grandview Homes** always finds a way to give you that little extra something that makes a big difference to a homeowner. Mountaincrocft, their newest home development in the area, is certainly no exception.

Located in a desirable area, surrounded by natural beauty on Poplar Sideroad at High Street, **Mountaincrocft** is attracting families of all sizes; from couples who just want a second home to stay in while skiing in winter to young professionals with small children.

The development's proximity to the mountain and outdoor recreation, while still being so close to town and schools is luring many. There are an incredible number of home styles and sizes to choose from.

Mountaincrocft offers more than 20 designs ranging from 1,270 sq. ft. to 3,650 sq. ft. and from \$224,900 to \$437,900, making it possible for even first-time homebuyers to live in a gorgeous home and community.

Grandview's generous bonus packages make this price range even more attractive. Packages often include free upgrades like hardwood flooring and nine-foot ceilings on the main floor, an oak staircase with custom stain and thousands of dollars in free kitchen upgrades.

Your chalet style home can be built with all brick, maintenance-free Maibec wood siding or a combination of both. Each home features rounded drywall corners, upgraded baseboards and California ceilings

for a cleaner look. Like this designer-decorated model home, every design boasts high-end finishes, which can all be chosen from the home's full design centre located in the expansive, finished basement.

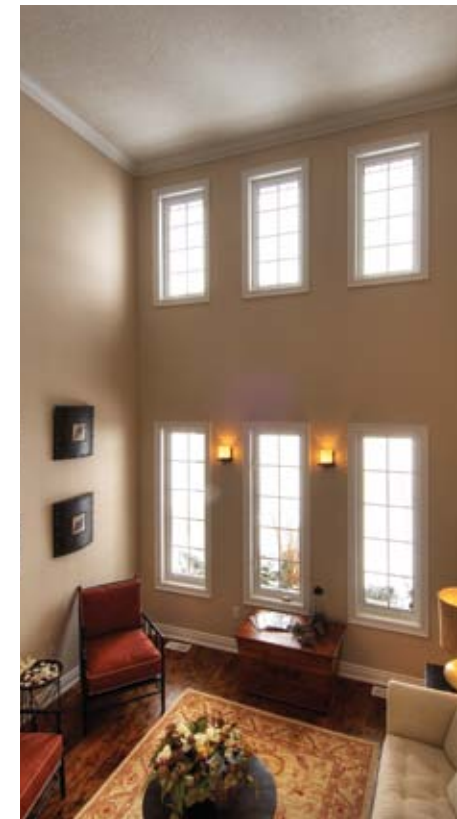
The designer decorated model home features gas fireplaces to warm both the family room and the master bedroom, which features double door entry, a large ensuite and sprawling walk-in closet. Grandview has also built this five bedroom model into a three bedroom by creating a relaxing retreat room off the master and having vaulted ceilings above the living room rather than a bedroom, allowing for more natural light and open space.

The second of six phases in Mountaincrocft has just been released with approximately 65 per cent of the first phase sold. With lots still available that back onto a large pond at the back of the development and others available overlooking a future park, now is a great time to invest in this growing community surrounded by trails and all the beauty Collingwood has to offer. **OH**

Contact Deborah LaLande

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## MOUNTAIN VIEWS

**Falcon Chase – The Estate Homes of Mair Mills** offers the best of Collingwood living: situated perfectly between the town, the mountain, the bay and adjacent to an 18-hole golf course.

A new model home has just been opened at 12 Frances Dr. – just south of Mountain Road – that beautifully illustrates the quality of craftsmanship that Carandale Homes offers.

This home is set on a large lot, which is what makes this particular development unique – the standard lot size at Falcon Chase is 70 feet, compared to half that at most other new communities. This gives the neighbourhood a more balanced look with more space between homes and larger backyards to enjoy through all seasons.

That's a backyard that could back onto the ninth hole at the Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club or out to the mountain where skiing is just five minutes away.

Approximately half of the 73, fully-serviced lots at Falcon Chase are left to choose from with some as wide as 80 feet and as deep as 240 feet. There are 28 incredible, ENERGY STAR-approved home designs that range from 1,550 to 3,400 sq. ft. to suit every family size.

Each design boasts a two-car garage with direct entry to a main floor laundry room, a gas fireplace, soaring nine-foot ceilings on the main floor, full basement and the choice of clay brick, wood siding, and architectural stone for the exterior. *Continued on page 80*



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Many of the kitchens feature gorgeous islands that help shape an open concept living design and extended height kitchen cabinets for extra storage space. An abundance of natural light fills the homes through numerous high-quality, energy efficient windows that stretch toward cathedral ceilings as tall as 20 feet.

In the model home, a cosy loft area – which would serve wonderfully as a media room – overlooks the expansive living room and kitchen with a phenomenal view of the mountain through the windows surrounding the fireplace. There are also two large-sized bedrooms on the upper level in addition to the two main floor bedrooms, including a huge master with stunning ensuite and roomy walk-in closets. The model is beautifully decorated and features photography by **Andrea Hamlin** of **Sportography**.

You choose all your finishes from flooring and countertops to faucets and staircases right inside the model home's very own design centre.


With a park and tennis courts on site with hiking, biking, snowshoeing and snowmobile trails all within walking distance on the Collingwood Trails Network, the Falcon Chase community has something to offer every age and lifestyle. **OH**


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*Sweeping views of Georgian Bay*

and the valley below await you from the multi-tiered deck that surrounds this stunning home located on Coffin Ridge. The custom built home by Berner Construction is perfectly situated on the 28 acre property to maximize views and sunsets. With over 3500 sq. ft. of finished living space, this home features the 'must haves' of today, including a stunning great room, main floor master suite, and custom salt water heated in-ground pool. Whether you are looking for a year round home or a weekend getaway, this home is within easy reach of the waters of Georgian Bay and the ski hills of Blue Mountain. \$939,000

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## BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS

It's a wonderful time to buy at **Pretty River Estates** Collingwood because you can have just about any lot you like. Located in a very picturesque neighbourhood on Poplar Sideroad, **Delpark Homes** has designed a unique community development set to start building this March.

This development is very well suited to those looking to downsize or retire in an active four-season community. More than 70 per cent of the models are bungalows with optional lofts and the "bungalofts" are already a big hit. If you decide you don't need a loft, your home will still have a nice high pitched roof and be filled with natural light.

The design of Pretty River Estates was inspired by the Village at Blue Mountain with a meandering creek running behind the community, and many lots backing onto the Collingwood Trail System, where residents can freely go walking, hiking or cross country skiing. Sitting just on the edge of town, this development combines the benefits of town and country life together in a very attractive package. Currently, you can visit three model homes to compare styles and finishes to see what works best for you. Some standard features offered include: kitchen islands, two-car garages, coloured vinyl casement windows, five-and-a-quarter-inch baseboards, smooth California ceilings, rounded bevelled corners and nine-foot ceilings on the main floor. The builder is also offering \$15,000 in free upgrades to be selected in the on-site Design Centre for the first 20 buyers, along with complementary Rogers Internet and cable for one year. Purchasers can also enjoy a \$2,500 gift voucher from **Foley's Furniture** for a new Plasma TV, bedroom set or whatever is needed to complement your new home. *Continued on page 84*



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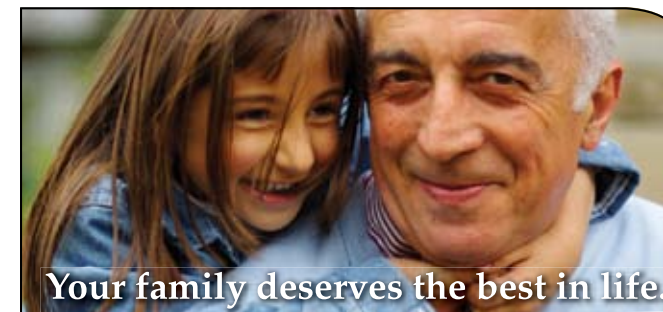


With over 30 designs and elevations to choose from, you need not worry about your home looking exactly like your neighbour's. At Pretty River you can choose from three high quality building materials or combine them for a more unique appearance. Every home is detached with the exception of two semi models offered that will line the lots along Poplar and sport a one-and-a-half car garage.

The models range from 1,292 to 3,011 sq. ft and sit on 30, 45 and 50-foot lots starting from \$297,990. The site is prepped for 260 homes to be built over the course of two phases with the second phase scheduled for 2012.

Within close walking distance to the downtown core and both an elementary school and high school, Pretty River is a great location for families, retirees and weekenders to build a home and enjoy the great outdoors. **OH**

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