



# HOLE IN ONE

STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**  
STAGING **SARA MARTIN**

**P**at and Bill MacWilliam built a weekend house in Thornbury and liked it so much they considered buying the neighbouring lot. Instead, they had a slight change of game and bought a nearby golf course.

Responsive strategic decisions are what made Bill's 50-year ongoing career as a professional golfer. Every golfer has a game plan, but those who adjust patiently to terrain and wind and, perhaps more importantly, handle a miss with ease, see their game improve. While the Aurora couple's decision to buy **OslerBrook Golf & Country Club** with their partners was quick, it wasn't impulsive.

"We put up our chalet in 2012 right in the town of Thornbury to use in the winter when we ski, but with the idea that we would retire here some day," says Pat. It wasn't until early 2014 that they were approached as potential investors in OslerBrook, a club nestled into the Escarpment, a few minutes southwest of Collingwood and the Town of the Blue Mountains. The couple operate two other golf courses, one in Aurora and another in Stouffville. "We took one look at OslerBrook – it has stunning views over the Bay and a beautiful clubhouse," says Bill. "I knew it would be a great fit for us." And just like that, the approachable couple put down a few more roots in Southern Georgian Bay.

"We're spending more time in the chalet than we expected to when we first built it, and we've come to love and appreciate it more," says Bill, "**Don Hewgill** did an impeccable job." The couple were thinking about building and had been introduced to Hewgill (who operates **DH Contracting**), six years prior because he knows the area so well. "Friends recommended we get Hewgill's opinion on a few properties

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**OPPOSITE TOP LEFT:** The front entrance to this charming chalet in Thornbury has rustic post and beam trim construction that continues inside. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** Bill MacWilliam sits atop his BMW motorcycle. **ABOVE:** Pat and Bill MacWilliam, with Roxi, toast their new home and their partnership in OslerBrook Golf & Country Club.





we were looking at and Hewgill's family is pretty well a straight line to the founders of Thornbury – there's a Hewgill on every part of the mountain," teases Bill. Hewgill could advise on the terrain and all the communities in the area.

When Bill spotted a for-sale-by-owner sign on a lot on a quiet street in Thornbury, it seemed like a great location for the couple, backing onto the Georgian Trail and within walking distance of downtown. They called Hewgill, who suggested they thumb through some floor plans at [Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre](#). The Beaver Homes & Cottages Design Book revealed a two-storey chalet that could be built on a slope with an attached garage and walkout from the master bedroom. And just like that, the "everyman" home (as Bill calls it), was erected.

Home Hardware furnished the plan details and blueprints and the couple and Hewgill worked with the Beaver team to modify the original plans. They enlarged the front deck and made a few rooms bigger, shifted the laundry room downstairs and put a pantry in the kitchen. Pat and Bill kept the home a modest 3,200 sq. ft. "As it turns out, we do almost all of our entertaining at the clubhouse. When we come home, our retreat is simple and comfortable," says Bill. *Continued on page 103*



The home measures a modest 3,200 sq. ft. with large rooms and an open-concept main floor. The finished look, with wood-planked ceilings and post-and-beam elements create a comfortable, cosy atmosphere. **LEFT:** Don Hewgill of DH Contracting and Bill MacWilliam stand on the covered balcony above the three-car garage.





Finishing touches inside feature furniture from the **Meaford Factory Outlet** and **The Rusty Star**, with two showcase pieces from Clarksburg metal artist **Michael Pocock**, who styled a mountain and skier that soar above the great room, as well as a hall mirror frame. Hewgill's daughter Brittany served not only as a finish carpenter on the job, she also painted the interior (paint from **Birch and Benjamin**), and supplied dried floral arrangements.

"The build went off without a glitch," says Pat. Hewgill finished the house on the day he said he would.

"I'm a particular guy for scheduling," says Hewgill. "Once Bill and Pat make a decision, it's final, and I love that. They had everything

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Tracey Whiteside of Thornbury's Home Hardware helped the MacWilliams design their kitchen. The design includes light cabinets on the perimeter and a dark, granite-topped island installed on an angle, which separates the kitchen from the rest of the great room.





Roxi relaxes in the master bedroom, which has a fabulous en suite.



picked out before we started, so it was easy to build to fit exactly what they needed.” From flooring and fixtures to kitchen cabinets, windows and doors, the couple found what they wanted at Thornbury Home Hardware.

Two custom features they desired were the oversize, covered front deck (roofing by **Edward McNabb Roofing**) and three-car garage. The couple both remark on the cosiness and quietness of their home. “You can heat it with a candle,” says Hewgill. “We insulated to above R-50 with 20-inches of blown insulation in the roof.” Heated floors under all the tiling in the bathrooms, kitchen and front entry (plumbing, heating and gas fireplaces by **Warren MacDonald Plumbing and Heating**), plus spray foam around the foundation and Roxul in the

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walls (insulation by Great Northern Insulation, with soffit venting by **Advanced Aluminum**) equal an air-tight, quiet, warm home.

“It paid to have a builder who had local knowledge, and not just about how to build the house,” says Bill. “Don’s family knew that this lot was once an apple orchard. He knew there wouldn’t be any water problems because every 50 feet there was drainage tiling – we just had to find out where the farmers laid it and tie into it.” Hewgill had permits issued through the Town of Blue Mountains within days. “We needed a drainage plan by a surveyor,” Hewgill explains, so they planned for two dry wells at the front of the property that tied into the orchard tiles, and incorporated them into the landscaping (by **Bay-Mount Service** and DH Contracting).

Bill and Pat have consulted Hewgill for some wood refinishing in the clubhouse at OslerBrook. If their collaboration turns out to be as successful as their everyman home in Thornbury, the results will, no doubt, be another hole in one. **OH**

**ABOVE:** The office is tucked away in a small alcove off the great room. **RIGHT:** The home features metal art from Michael Pocock, including this skier and mountain.

### LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

Advanced Aluminum • Dan Harrison of Bay-Mount Service • Birch & Benjamin • Donald & Brittany Hewgill of DH Contracting • Edward McNabb Roofing • Great Northern Insulation • Michael Pocock of Ironworks Canada • Warren MacDonald Plumbing & Heating • Meaford Factory Outlet • Paperwhite Flowers • The Rusty Star • Tracey Whiteside at Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre • Thornbury Steel Fabricators • Tony Salvatore Electrical



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