

CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW: (1) This Carandale bungalow is highlighted by a beautiful stone walkway and colourful gardens, all created by Savannah Landscaping and Construction Ltd. **(2)** A small antique desk in the living room offers a nice accent to the light-coloured walls and furnishings. **(3)** Another antique is adorned with a lovely serving collection. **(4)** The living room is bright and airy, and opens to the kitchen, sunroom and dining room. **(5)** The front entranceway sets the soft, elegant tone for the rest of the home.



welcome TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

BY LAUREL FORTIN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Southern Georgian Bay is home to many unique and beautiful homes, but new residents get so much more when they move to this incredible region – they gain a new community and sense of belonging.

This is particularly true in some of the new neighbourhoods near the base of Blue Mountain, where an active lifestyle draws so many people our way and takes centre stage – attracting buyers with similar interests and hobbies.

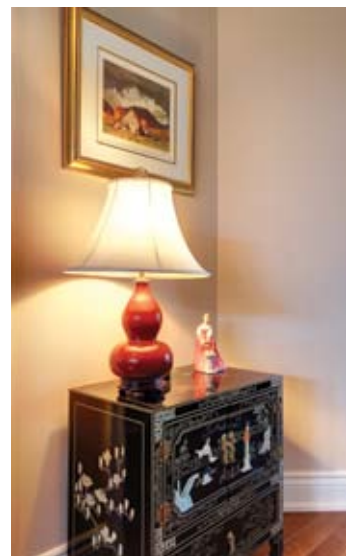
This community spirit is especially contagious in Falcon Chase – an enclave nestled midway between the town of Collingwood and the Village at Blue Mountain.

The owners of one of the most beautifully landscaped homes in the development, a 2,054 sq. ft. bungalow, couldn't agree more. "We were here five minutes when the neighbour across the street came over and said, 'It's my 65th birthday party next week and you have to come. And by the way, on July 1 we have a big Canada Day party with all the houses.' We got to know everybody in the neighbourhood within about two weeks," say the homeowners.

Jennifer Wootton, sales representative at Falcon Chase, notes that the development has attracted many people who are downsizing but who still want a big yard for the privacy it offers, for gardening or because they like to entertain outdoors. "For new builds in Collingwood, we offer the only large lots. Our minimum lots are 70 by 130 feet, with the largest lots 80 by 165 feet. Most of the other Collingwood lots are 45 or 50 feet wide," says Wootton.

Continued on page 80





The formal dining room is where the homeowners often entertain neighbourhood friends and family. The dark, rich wood distinguishes the space.



While more than half of the residents are retirees, a mix of young families also enjoy the proximity to great schools and outdoor activities. There's a balance of year-round residents and weekenders, many of whom plan to eventually retire in their Falcon Chase homes built by **Carandale Homes Ltd.**

A happy, relaxed retirement is just what this couple has in mind and they chose a layout to best suit their current and future needs.

Stepping into the house through the covered porch, you enter the foyer,

which opens into the great room, complete with gas fireplace and large, sunny windows. To the right, a formal dining room has a sense of intimacy, yet its second doorway leads to the beautiful country kitchen. Ceramic-tile flooring and tile backsplash are standard in Falcon Chase homes. The homeowners opted to include gorgeous granite countertops. With dark maple custom cabinetry and appliances sourced at **Macdonald's BrandSource Furniture & Appliances**, the kitchen is functional and inspiring. A centre island creates a casual eating area. *Continued on page 82*



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The kitchen is warmed by dark cabinetry and features a centre island that offers additional counter space and breakfast bar. **BELOW:** The homeowners had the sunroom added to the floor plan and couldn't be happier with their decision, as it's a beautiful spot to view the backyard gardens and enjoy a good book.



Beyond the kitchen is the homeowners' favourite room: the sunroom. They are delighted to have added the space onto the home's basic plan, as the bright, open room has windows on three sides and offers a casual sitting space in which to visit with friends and catch up with each other at the end of the day.

The spacious master bedroom features an en suite loaded with double vanity, soaker tub and a shower tiled up to the ceiling. A powder room and home office round out the main floor.

After waiting a year for their foundation to settle, the homeowners enlisted the help of **Swingin Hammers** in Wasaga Beach to finish their basement this spring. They couldn't be more pleased with the results. They designed their own layout, including two bedrooms, a crafts room, storage room, recreation room, exercise room and sauna, all connected by a large, central hallway. "The workmanship was excellent with Swingin Hammers," they say. "They brought top grade materials – lumber that was bright white and so straight it looked like it was cut with a die and kiln dried." *Continued on page 84*

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The three brothers who run Carandale Homes, Carlo, Michael and Marco Caravaggio are all engineers who have worked in the family construction business started by their father decades ago. The three are hands-on on site, supervising all aspects of the building. They often complete projects weeks in advance of their closing dates. The development is the only residential site that Carandale Homes is developing right now, so owners get the full attention and customer service of the Caravaggio brothers.

“We were very fortunate with Carandale,” say the homeowners. “We had a lot of apprehension because we had never had a home built before, but it was very easy to deal with everyone there.” The homeowners say the entire building process was exceptionally organized. “When we had to select all our finishes and details, Carandale did it well because they let you choose your finishes in three different stages. It made it much easier because it can be overwhelming to choose flooring and tiles and trim and upgrades at the same time.” Impressed with the quality of workmanship and material in the model home at the time, the homeowners selected many of the model’s features. *Continued on page 86*



TOP LEFT: A home office at the front of the house boasts tall ceilings and plenty of natural light. **ABOVE:** Located on the other side of the living room, the master bedroom is elegant and serene in neutrals. **LEFT:** When in need of some relaxation, the homeowners enjoy their luxurious en suite.



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The beautifully designed outdoor living space makes summer a much-anticipated season for the homeowners. A series of berms planted with favourite perennials offers privacy, while a stone patio and comfortable furniture provides a great spot to take in nature with guests.

Outside the home, **Cam Davidson** of **Savannah Landscaping and Construction Ltd.** created a yard that looks as though it was established over many years. “Cam did a great job; he’s a real designer,” say the homeowners. “We had a loose plan, and he kept coming back with more trees, a carving, a bench that he put together, and a few leftover stones to make a second small patio. It looks fantastic.” The series of berms in the back provide privacy, a large stone patio houses the barbecue and outdoor entertaining area and a

vegetable patch at the side of the house supplies the kitchen with tomatoes and herbs throughout the summer.

There will be no shortage of occasions for the homeowners to entertain in their handsome home and yard this summer. “If you’re active like we are, this is a friendly, involved and active community,” say the homeowners. Between the cookbook club, book club and golf club that neighbours have organized, not to mention birthdays and long weekend barbecues, their social calendar is full. **OH**



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