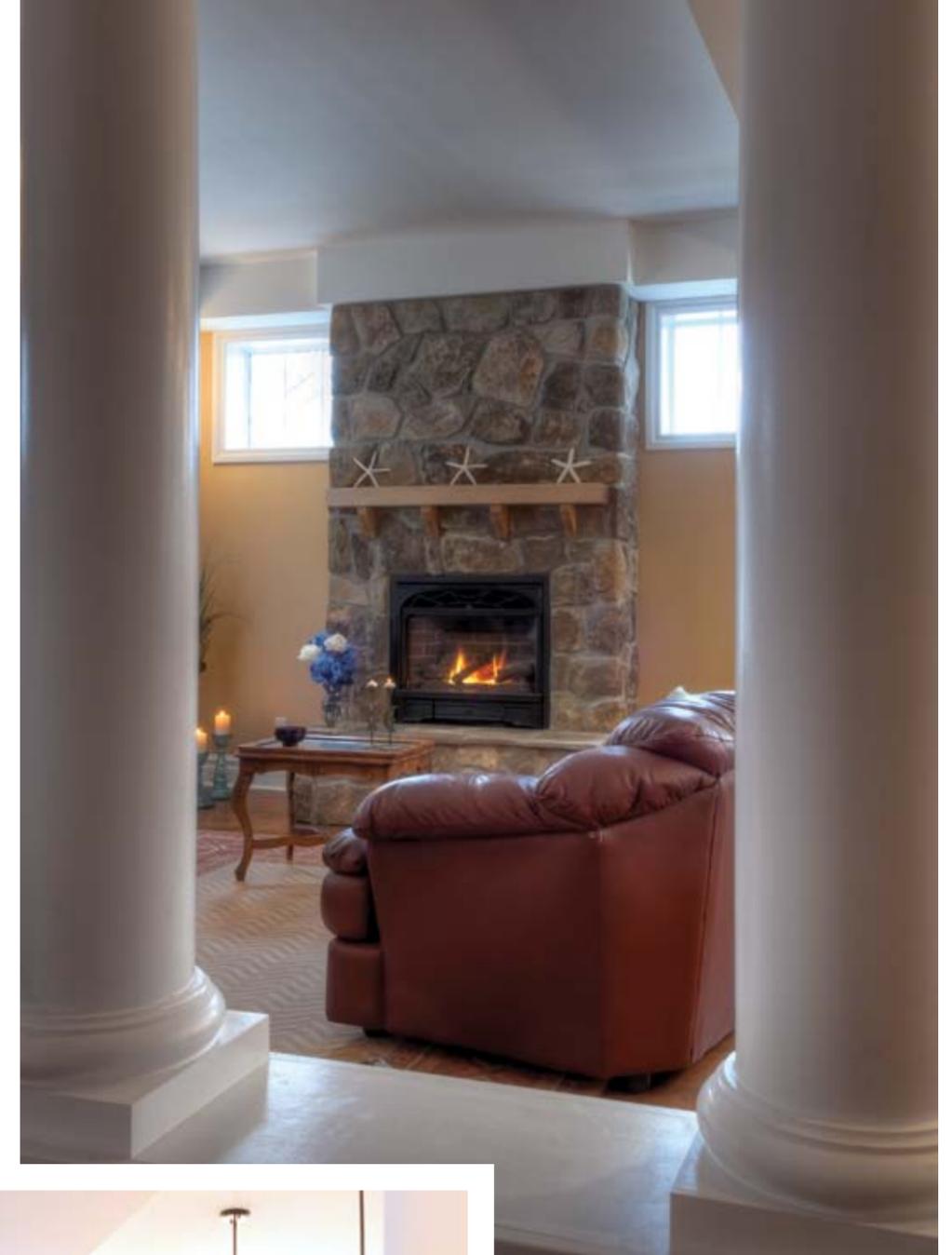


footloose AND MAINTENANCE-FREE

BY EILEEN ARGYRIS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MAGKAY



Natural light streams through windows in the kitchen, living and dining room areas in the Cobourg home designed to accommodate future retirement plans of owners Dianne and Myles Noel.



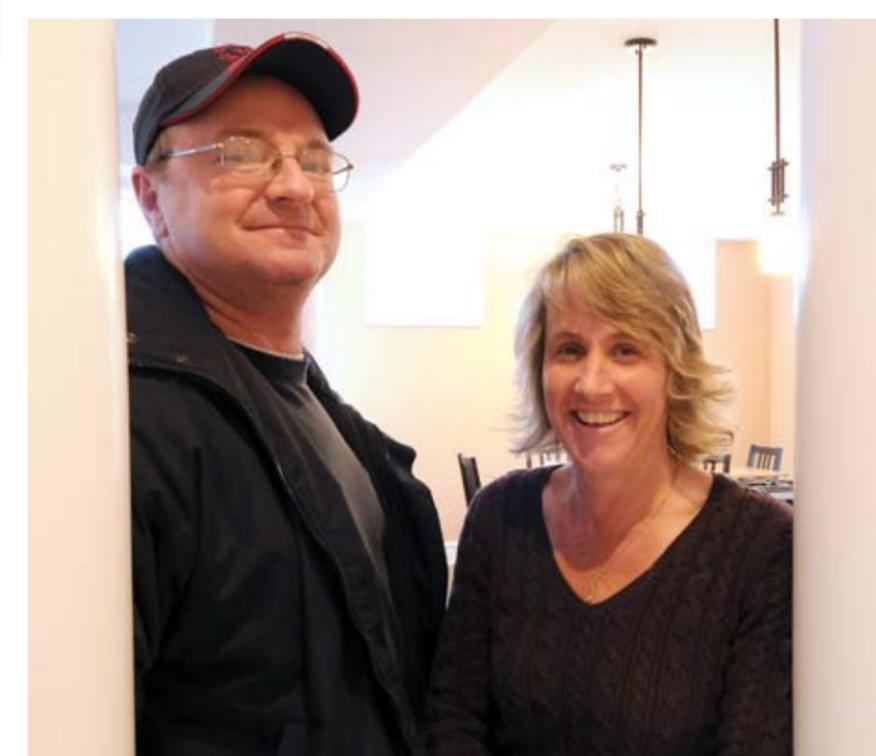
Cobourg is successfully marketing itself as a retirement destination, and with good reason. A safe, friendly town of 17,500, it boasts fine amenities including shopping, dining, a new hospital, easy access to the Greater Toronto Area and – the pièce de résistance – a Lake Ontario waterfront that includes a spectacular sand beach and marina.

But, Myles and Dianne Noel did not need to be sold on Cobourg; they grew up here. Now, having spent most of their working lives in the U.S., they will spend their retirement here.

A few years ago, the Noels purchased a tiny house that had seen better days on quiet Bay Street, just steps from the water, and demolished it. The generous-sized lot on full municipal services was an ideal spot to create their ideal retirement home, a 2,500 sq. ft., two-storey modified Craftsman-style dwelling designed with an eye to maximum comfort and minimum maintenance.

“We used to stay at The Breakers (a nearby lakeside hotel) when we visited family in Cobourg,” Myles explains. The historic hotel had been beautifully refurbished by local Architect **Bruce MacNeill** and that convinced the Noels to hire him to design their retirement home. MacNeill, in turn, recommended the 25-year-old firm of **Mike W. Voskamp Construction Ltd.** of Colborne as contractor.

Dianne, an occupational health and safety nurse for JPMorgan Chase, and Myles, chief operating officer of a regional healthcare laundry factory, were not able to be on site during the home’s construction. *Continued on page 26*



TOP LEFT: Off the dining area is a back deck for barbecuing and lounging. The home’s design ensures generous access to the kitchen and the adjoining living room to the right. **TOP RIGHT:** From the front door entry, a low wall with columns creates a spatial break to the living room beyond. **LEFT:** Contractor Mike Voskamp and wife Kathy ensured features reflecting the homeowners’ wishes were realized, despite the Noel’s current stateside residency.



Rich, oak hardwood floors connect the primary living areas of the ground floor. Architect Bruce MacNeill incorporated spatial delineations with coffered ceilings, pilasters and window treatments. **BELOW:** Warm, neutral paint colours accent the fireplace surround of light-weight cultured stone facing.

It was, Myles admits, “a huge leap of faith” to entrust Voskamp with the realization of the couple’s dreams when they were far away in Columbus, Ohio but, with a “one-page contract, a handshake and an exchange of cheques,” he and Dianne took the leap and never looked back.

“Mike made all the decisions and I can’t fault one of them,” Myles says. Visitors are welcomed into a generous foyer with a view of the high-ceilinged, open-concept living-dining-kitchen area warmed by a natural gas fireplace from **Friendly Fires**, Cobourg. It promises cosy evenings even when the lake roars. The surround is made of cultured stone, authentic in texture and appearance but light in weight. Underfoot are rich oak hardwood floors from **Sine’s Flooring** in Cobourg. Large, well-insulated, low-E North Star windows from **Vanderlaan Building Products** in Brighton make the large space airy and bright. Custom-fitted vinyl blinds, also from Sine’s, ensure privacy and light control. Garden doors lead to a 20-by-20-foot pressure-treated pine deck overlooking the backyard – perfect for summer barbecues with the Noels’ extended family.

The kitchen, from **Aya Kitchen Designs** of Peterborough, features warm maple cabinets, gleaming granite countertops and fashion-forward black taps and sinks – complete with InSinkErator food waste disposers – from **Bardon Supplies Ltd.** wholesale outlet in Cobourg.

Also on the main floor are two bedrooms, including the master, which features a large walk-in closet and spa-like, four-piece en suite. The main floor is completed by a comfy den with vaulted ceiling, large windows and sliding doors opening to the backyard deck – an ideal spot to hunker down with a good book, watch TV or just gaze into a second fireplace.

Continued on page 28



We want to wreck your kitchen! ...and replace it with one that's

absolutely FABULOUS!



Thinking of a kitchen or bathroom renovation? Visit kitchenclassics.ca for useful kitchen remodelling information you should know before you renovate.



Kitchen Classics
KITCHEN AND BATH GALLERY

Your dream kitchen, meticulously crafted and installed.

or bathroom

VISIT OUR IDEAS SHOWROOM AT 271 SPRING STREET, COBOURG • 905-372-0006

Derek McGill & Associates Inc. THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS



INTERLOCK & STONE PATIOS | RETAINING WALLS | WALKWAYS | ARMOUR STONE
STONE STEPS | LANDSCAPE DESIGN (ACCREDITED DESIGNER) | DECKS

Apsley, ON t: 1 800 301 8094 e: info@mcgillandassociates.ca w: mcgillandassociates.ca

Exceeding Your Expectations | Serving North Kawarthas & Peterborough



home & builder

The master bedroom en suite continues the lines of Craftsman design accentuated with modern fixtures for the bath and shower enclosure. **BELOW:** There's room to move and add future décor preferences in the ground floor master bedroom.



"We designed the place so that two people could live entirely on one level," Myles explains. A self-contained apartment on the upper level could one day be home to their grown son or daughter, or could comfortably house a caregiver should that ever be needed.

The apartment also has an open-concept floor plan with 10-and-a-half-foot vaulted ceilings, a family room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and, irresistibly, a second-storey, front-facing veranda with a bird's-eye view of the lake.

The basement is home to the high-efficiency natural gas furnace with HRV (heat recovery ventilation or heat pump) from **Comfort Zone Heating & Air Conditioning**, which keeps the house snug in winter and cool – even if lake breezes fail – in summer.

The basement also offers a spare bedroom and spacious 28-by-24-foot recreation room where visiting future grandchildren will no doubt delight to romp. Also on the lower level are an extra bathroom and laundry facilities.

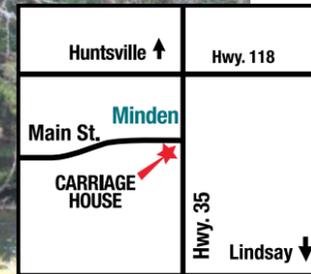
Imaginative and complementary light fixtures throughout the house were chosen by Myles and Dianne and purchased at **Lights Galore and Home Decor** of Port Hope. Doors and trim, like high, carved baseboards and panel doors that add to the architectural look, came from **Monaghan Lumber Specialties** in Peterborough.

Although the Noels live on the inside, it is the outside of the house that makes this particularly attractive as a retirement home. It's low maintenance by design. *Continued on page 30*



Western Red Cedar finely handcrafted into a screened haven. Custom made to suit your space from the best materials obtainable.

"ONE WAY" SCREENING NOW AVAILABLE ON ALL CARRIAGE HOUSE PRODUCTS



For more information please contact us:
CARRIAGE HOUSE
 CUSTOM DESIGNS CANADA LTD.
 12281 Hwy #35 & Main St., Minden
 705.286.2994 • 1.866.457.4017
 www.carriage-house.ca

We Invite You To Discover THE STALWOOD DIFFERENCE.

Stalwood offers new homes on prestigious sites throughout Northumberland. Our recently released Cedar Creek Estates extends a rare opportunity to have your custom home designed on lots exceeding one acre.

Visit our office or web site today to discover the Stalwood difference.



STALWOOD HOMES
CORPORATE OFFICE
 Monday to Friday
 9am - 5pm
 Saturday-Sunday
 12pm - 4pm
905-372-4179
 stalwoodhomes.ca

AL ROSE - PRESIDENT



CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION **905.372.4179**
www.stalwoodhomes.ca

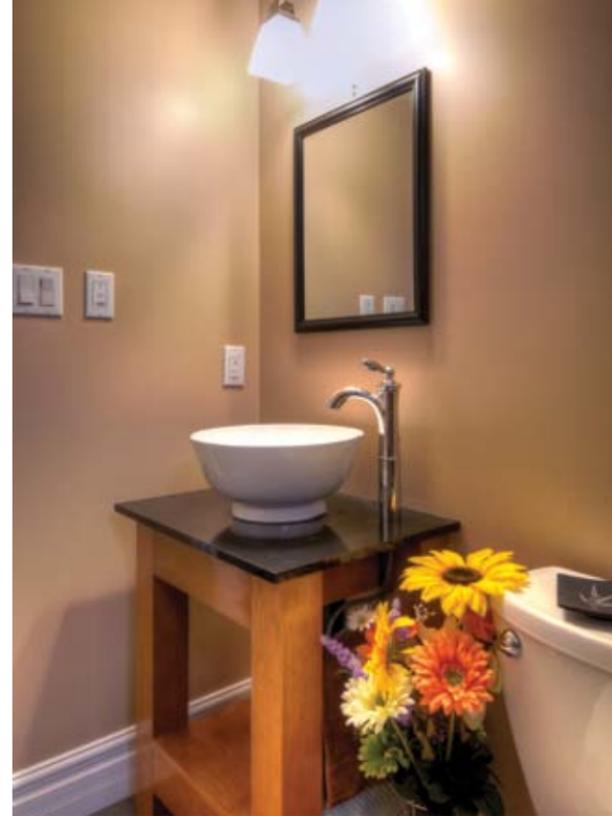
home & builder

The front entrance has the look of an antique wood panel door but in reality is stainable fibreglass that features no splitting, warping, expanding or contracting and a superior air lock compared to other materials. Maibec wood siding is prefinished and guaranteed not to need painting for at least 15 years. These retirees will have better things to do than be slaves to their house. The laminated Cambridge IKO shingles look like cedar shakes, but without the work or the worry. The extra heavy-duty insulation by Johns Manville precludes the need for updates for many years to come. Even the upper storey veranda is built of composite material that will not need staining or sanding.

"Our idea was to have it as maintenance-free as possible," says the proud owner.

Interior painting was accomplished by **JR Lakeview Painting** of Trent Hills. **LeClair Electric-Millwright Service** of Trenton did the wiring, **Peterson Plumbing & Heating** of Port Hope made sure the waterworks were working, and **Nicholson Bros. Concrete & Construction** of Campbellford installed the poured concrete foundation.

With the house complete, the next step for the Noels will be the erection of a three-car garage on their spacious lot. Then, they will sit back and enjoy carefree retirement living without the worry and expense of constant maintenance. **OH**



The cosy and comfortable den has potential to expand out-of-doors through patio doors opening onto the back yard. **ABOVE:** Because the guest bath and adjoining bedroom are located off the main floor front foyer, there's an aura of privacy.



ROLL SOME RELAXATION INTO YOUR BACK YARD!

JUST PLUG IT IN!

ROTO Spa
HOT TUBS

Try It BEFORE YOU BUY IT

Rentals Available

Toll-Free 877-ROTO SPA
(705) 652-1849

1565 County Road 18, LAKEFIELD
(Between Bridgenorth & Lakefield)

Dare to compare! www.rotospa.com



Locally Made

Onsite warehouse with 400 granite slabs to choose from!

DEL RAY
GRANITE

CUSTOM GRANITE & QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS

Backsplash Tiles Available
20% OFF
with this ad!

BACKSPLASH TILES: Travertine | Carrera Marble | Glass Mosaic | Split-Face

View the wonder of granite in person: 1577 8th Line, Lakefield

705-652-0651
www.delraygranite.net