

RECLAIMED LORA BAY GEM

STORY **JULIE SIMMONDS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
STAGING **SARA MARTIN**



Barb and **Roland Schipprack** of **Triberg Construction Inc.**, started renovating homes in Quebec nearly 35 years ago and then moved their home and business to the Southern Georgian Bay area 25 years ago. Their two sons, **Pepe** and **Karl**, ended up joining the family business. Pepe helps build homes, while Karl, an architectural technologist (**Dream Home Design & Construction**), designs them.

But Pepe had another idea. Seeing the potential and popularity of using reclaimed wood from old barns in home construction and renovation, he convinced his father to launch a second business – **PR Antique Products**, a company focused on salvaging wood from century barns and turning it into usable wood flooring, ceiling planks, countertops, trusses, fixtures, stairs, trim, and even furniture.

“Eco-friendly is very important now,” says Barb. “Barns were routinely burned, but now the wood is being recycled. Pepe and Roland immediately recognized the beauty of the wood. They definitely prefer working with the old wood.”

According to Pepe, old wood is harder than young (newer) wood because of the natural aging process, making it better to work with and more desirable. In addition, some woods, like elm, aren’t readily available in today’s marketplace and offer a beautiful grain many customers like.

The process of reclaiming wood is extensive. First, Pepe and Roland find old barns people want torn down. “We source the barns through word of mouth and some advertising,” Roland explains. “It usually takes about two weeks to deconstruct the barns. When the wood arrives at the yard, it’s stacked.” *Continued on page 100*

Striking reclaimed hand-hewn hemlock trusses tower across a cathedral ceiling, planked with local reclaimed hemlock, in this rustic Lora Bay home, steps from the water’s edge. The beauty of aged wood, surrounding a two-storey stone fireplace, sets the scene and invites you into a warm home, built by a family dedicated to their craft.

Tamarack garage doors and soffits, as well as exterior stone detailing give this 4,600 sq. ft., six-bedroom home major curb appeal. **ABOVE:** Pictured here are Pepe, Roland and Karl Schipprack with family collie Orca. **RIGHT:** A stately, yet simple solid pine front door, custom-made by PR Antique Products, welcomes visitors to the home.



home & builder

The barns are usually local to the area and the wood ranges from hemlock and pine to elm, ash, beech, maple and tamarack. All boards come in random widths and lengths, up to 24-inch-wide planks that are difficult to find.

Next, the company has to prepare the wood for installation, which takes about three to four weeks from start to finish. For example, once an order is received for flooring, the team de-nails the siding and floorboards and kiln dries the wood for about a week.

“The wood needs to be kiln dried because all wood takes on moisture, whether from the air or rain,” explains Barb, “which makes the wood expand. So we dry it to take the moisture out before we make the flooring, trim, etc.”

After drying, the weathered-grey colour is removed, and each board is levelled before edging and sorting it into sizes. Next, the wood is put through a sticker machine, which flattens and smoothes the top, installs the tongue and grooves, and readies the wood for installation.



“The aged hemlock and pine siding and floorboards have an amazing patina and lots of character from the nail holes and marks in the wood,” says Roland. “The hardwoods (elm, beech and maple) have worm holes and spalting that gives the floors and countertops character not found in new wood.”

Evidence of the family’s hard work and dedication to their wood craft is seen throughout their stunning show home in Lora Bay. A primitive-style pine door, alongside tamarack garage doors and soffits, surrounded by stone are all striking features that give this home both personality and curb appeal.

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FAR LEFT: Whimsical owl coat hooks and a variety of flag holders on natural reclaimed elm boards keep things neat and tidy by the front foyer. **LEFT:** Homeowner and business owner Barb loves her open-concept farmhouse kitchen, designed by son Karl. It features a solid, three-inch spalting maple island and stained custom elm cabinets. **ABOVE:** The two-tiered kitchen island showcases a beautiful hammered copper sink and brushed nickel faucet from Van Dolder’s Kitchen & Bath.



“The stone for the fireplace and exterior was hand-picked from a local quarry and the landscaping stones were brought from our farm,” says Barb, who was also involved in both the home and landscaping design process. Execution of the landscape design was by **D.W. Knott Ventures**, while **Ormsby’s Garden Centre and Landscaping** provided trees.

After entering the home’s large foyer and just off the great room, a beautiful vintage, farmhouse-style kitchen awaits an eager cook. “My favourite feature of the home is the open-concept kitchen and maple countertop on the island,” says Barb, which is three inches thick and features a live edge, a trendy design trait today’s homeowners love. The island’s block and custom elm cabinets were created and installed by the family’s company, PR Antique Products. *Continued on page 106*

A variety of reclaimed wood adds character to the warm and rustic interior. Light fixtures were sourced at Georgian Design Centre. **OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT:** The open-concept main floor living area features a lofty 30-foot cathedral ceiling and stunning reclaimed hemlock beams. **TOP LEFT:** Floral arrangements by Paperwhite Flowers add a touch of style to this elegant, yet relaxed table setting. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A simple wood vanity, made from a slab of three-inch pine, showcases a round hammered copper sink and a pine mirror made by PR Antique Products.

The talented Schipprack men: Karl, Roland and Pepe. Karl's company, Dream Home Design & Construction, does all the architectural drawings for Triberg Construction Inc., while the family's second company, PR Antique Products, focuses on interior and exterior finishing details.

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In the en suite, stunning reclaimed cherry-wood cabinets and a three-inch pine counter show off geometric vessel sinks (**Van Dolder's Kitchen & Bath**), and offer a touch of modern design in the rustic home. An oversize, all-glass shower (**Shore To Shore Glass & Mirror**) meets new homeowners' expectations in contemporary bathrooms.

The hardwood flooring, stairs and interior doors, including a sliding barn door in the basement, are all reclaimed elm, milled from beams taken from local barns. The trim is a mix of elm and beech and in-floor heated tile keeps toes toasty all year long.

The Schippracks work as a team to take homeowners' ideas from concept to full-scale build, including all trim and final details. As Barb says, "We like to say Triberg Construction builds the home and PR Antiques finishes it."

Together, this family raised and finished a home in the lovely Lora Bay community that demonstrates a love and talent for working with wood. The home is for sale through **Steve Simon** at **Royal LePage Locations North Brokerage. OH**



ABOVE: A slight front-to-back curve in the 48-inch-wide elm stairs leading to the second-floor loft makes stepping that much more comfortable says Roland. **RIGHT:** The master en suite features a 3-inch reclaimed pine countertop, reclaimed cherry drawers, a soaker tub and glass shower and a tongue and v-groove elm ceiling.



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