RECLAIMED STORY JULIE SIMMONDS PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY STAGING SARA MARTIN





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.

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



98 | ourhomes FALL 2014 | 99

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.

Continued on page 102

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 spalted 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.

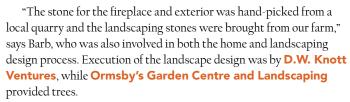
ourhomes FALL 2014 | 101

home & builder









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













home & builder

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

City Stone, Dream Home Design & Construction, Paul Church of Church Brothers Masonry, D.W. Knott Ventures, Georgian Design Centre, Home Hardware Sauble Beach, Knights' Home Building Centre, Macdonald's Brandsource Furniture & Appliances, Ormsby Electric, Ormsby's Garden Centre and Landscaping, PR Antique Products, Shore to Shore Glass & Mirror, Steve Simon of Royal LePage Locations North Brokerage, Triberg Construction Inc., Van Dolder's Kitchen & Bath



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.

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





Get your Fall cleaning in before the Winter fun begins.







Say "I saw your ad in OUR HOMES Southern Georgian Bay!" and receive a 15% discount off Fall/Holiday cleaning service.*

* Offer expires December 20th, 2014.



Environmentally Friendly Products | Fully Insured, Honest and Reliable Rachelle Gauvreau thecaretakers@rogers.com 705.443.7790 c a r e t a k e r s h o u s e k e e p i n g . c a