

MID-SUMMER 2018

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ourhomes

PETERBOROUGH KAWARTHA LAKES COBOURG DURHAM REGION PORT HOPE

WHITEVALE'S RURAL RENO

HINTERLAND
STYLING



RUB-A-DUB
TUBS

MELT-IN-YOUR-MOUTH
TREATS

INSPIRATION
on Jack Lake

feature

JACK LAKE *Original*

STORY **WALTER FRANCYK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD CLARK**



A 1905 canoe hangs above the games room of this Jack Lake cottage. Walls are finished with cedar shingles for an outdoor ambience. **RIGHT:** The new cottage blends in with its natural surroundings.



When Eric Whitmore, a woodsman, trapper and jack-of-many-trades, built a cottage for himself on Jack Lake, he knew the best spot for it. Revered for his workmanship, Eric built and sold dozens of cottages around the lake at a time when there were no lakeside roads. He steered a wooden motorboat to haul building materials to his construction sites. Many of the cottages he built still stand today.

A Toronto couple recognized Eric's excellent choice of location. On a wooded point with a beautiful shoreline, southwestern exposure and water on three sides, Eric's knotty pine cottage charmed them. They promptly bought it 23 years ago on the first weekend they began looking for a lakeside retreat. "We were very happy here," says the owner. "But it was too small for our needs." Rather than renovating, they decided to tear down the old cottage and start again.

After seeing a magazine story about the sensitive restoration of an old Georgian Bay cottage by architect **Harry Morison Lay**, the owners enlisted Harry's help in designing a new lake house. "We wanted it to fit into the landscape," says the owner. They wanted a cottage that would appeal over time. Size was important, large enough to accommodate more people but not so big that cleaning and maintenance became issues. Rather than an open concept, they favoured separate spaces for the kitchen, dining and living rooms. "I wanted it to look rustic," says the owner. "We wanted a big stone fireplace and we wanted knotty pine walls and floors. That was important to us." *Continued on page 38*



The couple had a builder in mind, their original handyman **Gord Tucker**, of **Gord Tucker Cottage Services Inc.**, who had graduated to building cottages. He served as general contractor for the project. “Gord did a magnificent job,” says the owner, who recognized that a strategic alliance between a builder and architect would produce the best results.

“The owners really wanted the replacement cottage to have the same aspects of inner tranquility and outlook as the original building,” says Harry. “What they loved most about the cottage was how the forest embraced it. It’s on a point, but completely shielded by a veil of mature birches and pines.”

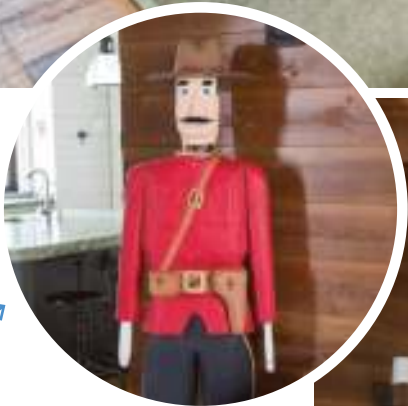
Using the original 900 sq. ft. footprint of the old cottage, the new home was extended back from the shoreline and a second floor was added, with four bedrooms and three baths. “From the lake, you would never expect that the building has changed at all,” says Harry. Builders tore down the old cottage on Labour Day and the owners moved into their new digs the following August.

The cottage was a collaboration between the owners, architect, builder and designer Christine Hains, of Environment By Design, who brought considerable elegance to the work, says Harry. “I would happily concede that much of the enjoyment of the interior spaces comes from her steady hand,” he says.

Local materials, furnishings and skills were insisted upon by the owners. Stone from three different quarries forms the main floor fireplaces, floors in the foyer and Kawartha room, as well as exterior walkways and stairs. A cedar tree felled to make way for construction was hewn into fireplace mantels. Large red and white pines from the property were milled on site and installed as beams in several parts of the cottage. *Continued on page 40*

Peter Goodwin used elm to craft the cottage’s new dinner table. **ABOVE:** The kitchen’s food preparation surfaces are green granite. Custom-built cabinetry was painted on site.





A wooden carving of a Mountie from British Columbia silently greets guests at the front door.



TOP: The living room at the front of the lake house occupies the footprint of the original cottage.
RIGHT: Masons Glen and Rob Payne built the stone fireplace in the living room.

feature



ABOVE: A private inlet provides boat access and moorage. **RIGHT:** A wood-burning fireplace warms the three-season Kawartha room. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Roman blinds shade the master bedroom. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Fossilized granite tops the vanity in the en suite. Barn board covers the upper walls.



Peter Goodwin of **Goodwin Creations** built a dinner table of local elm, a drop-leaf walnut table for the cottage entrance and the fireplace mantels. **Derek Julian** of **Wood By Design** crafted bathroom vanities, built-in cabinetry and the hemlock mantel face and shelves flanking the propane fireplace in a large upstairs bedroom.

Christine found an Ontario manufacturer of nickel gap panelling, a horizontal wall panelling, which joins, not in a v-joint, but in a square joint about the width of a nickel. “It’s a continuous shadow band between boards,” Harry says. “It gives the boards a lot of definition, a very crisp look.” **Horizon Coatings** worked with the designers over a period of months to create the customized, six-inch pine panels, in a warm, honey-

coloured stain that clad walls in the living room and main front hall. In the dining room and bedrooms, a pale painted finish coats the nickel gap walls. Coffered pine ceilings and panelling amplify height in the living and dining rooms.

An accomplished and ambitious cook, the owner designed a kitchen large enough to create wonderful meals for a large number of guests. The main criteria was the cooking space had to look out on the water and have a visual relationship with the dining room. Builders accomplished that with a large bay window and expansive view above the counter on one side of the kitchen. A pass-through connects the kitchen with the dining room. Olympic Kitchens furnished the custom cabinetry, painted on site.

The kitchen’s rear wall consists of wall ovens, built-in refrigerator and a pantry. Green, leathered granite tops the large central island and counters on three sides of the kitchen.

Engineered, wide-plank flooring, made of salvaged hemlock, runs throughout the main living spaces and bedrooms. In the three-season Kawartha room, pitted, honey-coloured limestone from **Stonescape Quarry & Fabrication** covers the floor. It matches stone in the outdoor fireplace, one of two fireplaces built by father and son masons **Glen** and **Rob Payne**. “The Paynes were terrific and they worked in the dead of winter. In minus 20 degrees, they put tarps up, heated the place and built these fireplaces,” says the owner. *Continued on page 42*





Above the Kawartha room, at treetop level, is a games room, finished with cedar shingles to give it the outdoor look of a country porch. A cedar strip canoe from Stoney Lake, built in 1905, hangs just below the ceiling. "It's too beautiful to paddle, so we put it up on the wall," says the owner. Down the hall, the owners have hung a collection of paddles made by Walter Walker, a storied boat-builder and renowned canoe maker. Harry convinced the owners to put a steel roof on the cottage. Vicwest Building Products installed metal roofing to match the exterior siding. "It will never require maintenance and looks good," says the owner.

Trent Security Systems furnished security alarms and monitoring equipment while **Chandos Plumbing** installed the waterworks for the three bathrooms and kitchen.

The owners enjoy the lake with their collection of wooden motorboats and several canoes.

Entertaining is what they enjoy most about their country home. "We both have lots of friends and relatives and the place is full every weekend and during the week all summer long," the owner says. To accommodate guests, they have a bunkie and an opulently furnished, Quebec prospector's tent. They also bought the property next door, a cottage previously owned by sports columnist and novelist Scott Young, who wrote some of his work there. **Gray Landscape Construction** groomed terrain around the new cottage with stone walkways, stairs and steps to the lake.

Evenings, around sunset, are the owner's favourite time of day. "You sit out there and watch the sun go down over the islands. It's fantastic," he smiles. **OH**



TOP: Like a second master bedroom, this upstairs bedroom has a commanding view of the lake. **ABOVE:** A window bed makes an inviting sleeping spot for youngsters.

SOURCE GUIDE

- Amberwood Doors Inc. • Chandos Plumbing Inc. • Environment By Design • Goodwin Creations • Gord Tucker Cottage Services Inc. • Glen & Rob Payne • Gray Landscape Construction • Harry Morison Lay, Architect • Horizon Coatings • Jeff Parnell Contracting Ltd. • Kawartha Stair & Rail Ltd. • Mad-Cat Electric Co. • Northern Wide Plank Flooring • Olympic Kitchens • Stonescape Quarry and Fabrication • Studio Lamp Cage • Switzer Sales & Service • Trent Security Systems • Windows First • Wood By Design • Vicwest Building Products