



BUILDING A LEGACY

STORY **LORI DAVIS**
PHOTOGRAPHY
SANDY MACKAY

THE RUGGED BEAUTY OF LAKE MUSKOKA

is a breathtaking backdrop for this custom built, five-bedroom family cottage on Lake Muskoka, a precious legacy that will be filled with memories for decades to come. “It’s a quiet, peaceful place where family and friends can gather. We are so happy to be able to share it with them,” says the homeowner. “We camped here as teenagers and fell in love with Muskoka.”

The couple owned a cottage on Stephens Bay for eight years before they decided to build a spacious new lake house for their retirement. They found the ideal property across the lake in a lush woodland setting with 400 feet of pristine lake frontage.

The homeowners entrusted the building design to **Corbin Patten**, of **Corbin Patten Designs**. He incorporated the couple’s must-haves, including lots of natural light, great views of the lake and single-floor living. “Our goal was to have everything they need on the main floor,” says Corbin. “This design has minimal steps and is cohesive with the exterior patios.” Corbin integrated large cupolas in the boathouse and great room to maximize natural light, creating an expansive, airy vibe. The clever placement of clerestory windows above the kitchen cabinets and stairwell illuminate the cooking space and upstairs corridor. “This allows us to take advantage of southern light even though the cottage faces north,” Corbin explains.

Matthew Conklin, of **Conklin’s Construction Inc.**, built this magnificent 5,500 sq. ft. house. The homeowners were impressed by Matthew’s dedication and professionalism. “He was transparent, got things done on time and was very cognizant of budget numbers. His crew was fantastic. They kept the site clean and did extras if we asked,” says the homeowner. Matthew expertly integrated Corbin’s plans. “We built a cupola-style roof in the great room with 360-degree windows so there is always sun cast on a wall in that room,” Matthew explains. *Continued on page 72*



An overmantel of chevrons in white oak clads the three-sided fireplace, in the great room of this new Lake Muskoka cottage, designed by Corbin Patten Designs and built by Conklin’s Construction Inc. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** In the front yard, stone steps curve through woods on a path to the dock. Precision Roofing Inc. sheathed the cottage’s multi-level roofs. **BOTTOM:** Two tiers of large windows by Great North Window & Doors provide a grand view from the great room where Veranda supplied armchairs and two matching teak chunk coffee tables.



LEFT: Hosting large dinners with friends and family required a substantial dining room table, custom built by Pride Cabinetry Inc. owner Adam Brown. The leather-backed bar separates the dining space from the kitchen. **BELOW:** Chervin Kitchen & Bath furnished the stone-topped kitchen island and well-equipped cabinetry. **OPPOSITE:** Veranda provided the cushioned nailhead-trimmed stools for the kitchen's dining bar.



The couple furnished their home primarily from **Veranda**, owned by **Elise Boyer**, and relied on the expertise of her decorator, **Laura Ranft**. “Laura was great. She listened to us and was very helpful in getting the look and feel I was after,” says the homeowner. Laura works hard to translate her clients’ vision into reality. “I love creating,” she says. “Every space is interesting and has character whether it’s luxurious or rustic.”

With 20 years of design experience, Laura specializes in layouts, furniture placement and colour palettes. She tailors her approach to target clients’ specific needs. For example, the homeowners enjoy entertaining so long-lasting, durable fabrics were a priority. Laura chose performance fabrics that are stain resistant and slipcovers to protect sofas in the

Muskoka room and in the upstairs adjoining apartment. “Veranda’s priority is accommodating our clients’ lifestyle,” she says. Natural materials like stone, wood and metal create a warm, organic feel. “The homeowners love the trees and natural landscape in Muskoka so they wanted a modern, yet simple and soothing design,” Laura says.

The homeowner enjoys cooking so a large modern kitchen was essential. “We have many friends and family join us, so lots of space is a must,” she says. An elongated island, topped with marble from **Quartz Co**, serves as the ideal meeting place. Sleek oak cabinets and an adjoining pantry provide plenty of storage. Terrazzo counters, a gas cooktop, built-in Miele coffee maker and dual dishwashers add convenience and a modern flair. *Continued on page 75*



Designer
Laura Ranft

Shiplap walls in **Benjamin Moore Rainier** are beautifully offset by a Gunmetal Grey bar that separates and defines the kitchen and dining space. Simple shelving, flanked by cabinets inlaid with rain-glass panels displays accents and wine.

Adam Brown of **Pride Cabinetry Inc.** custom built the long oak dining-room table to accommodate large groups. Two dishwashers ensure easy clean-up while an extra fridge and freezer in the pantry allow plenty of room for extras.

The four-season Muskoka room is a cosy haven to curl up in with a book and bask in sunlight streaming through wraparound windows by **Great North Windows & Doors**. “It’s my favourite room because I can look out at the lake and trees,” says the homeowner. A wood-burning granite fireplace, from **Fireplace & Leisure Centre**, is flanked by complementary stone benches. Light-coloured floral chairs, a jute rug and a rustic octagonal table, all from Veranda, add a vintage feel to the space. The homeowner collaborated with Great North to design exterior doors, custom-built with diamond-shaped glass panels.

Huge double-tier windows anchor the great room with an incredible view of sky and lake. A Rumford wood-and-gas burning fireplace, clad in chevron-patterned white oak, adds a rosy glow, especially during frosty winter evenings. Cognac leather sofas, teak tables and engineered oak flooring supplied by **Ultra Carpet & Flooring** add an elegant touch. *Continued on page 76*



ABOVE: White oak, furnished by Ultra Carpet & Flooring, covers the hallway connecting the main living areas with the bedroom wing and stairway. **LEFT:** Deluxe Stair & Railing Ltd. used poplar, white oak and iron balusters to build the stairs connecting the cottage’s three levels. **OPPOSITE:** The homeowner designed the scissor trusses that support the high ceiling in the Muskoka room, where plenty of windows look out onto the surrounding forest and lake. Mac Masonry owner Mark Caruso built the stately floor-to-ceiling fireplace with cut and chiseled Indian granite from Northern Rock.



Built by Pride Cabinetry Inc., fluted wooden vanities with marble counters mirror the ribbed soaker tub in the en suite.



An exquisite floor-to-ceiling shale fireplace, painstakingly built by **Mac Masonry Ltd.** is the highlight of the primary bedroom. A panoramic lakeside view and simple but textured bedding steep this room in cosy, inviting overtones. The en suite is equipped with marble counters, a sumptuous soaker bathtub and a roomy walk-in frameless shower with dual heads. Gold-plated fixtures complement the earthy colour palette. **Integrity Plumbing Services** handled the installation while Adam Brown supplied the unique vanities, inspired by the homeowner's design. "He did a great job, just stunning," she says.

Deluxe Stair & Railing Ltd. provided poplar stringers and white oak stair treads that connect the main and upper level. This floor provides the ultimate in space and privacy with three guest bedrooms and a small self-contained apartment. "We prioritized comfort, durability and functionality so guests could have their own space," says the homeowner. *Continued on page 78*

BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT: In the primary bedroom, a fireplace was built with hundreds of tiny pieces of shale. Double glass doors in a wall of windows open from the primary bedroom to the garden, front yard and lake. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE:** This main-floor guest bedroom has its own bathroom, lake view and a walkout to the front yard. Porcelain tiles were carefully matched to create a stunning blue backdrop for the tub in this second-floor bathroom. Twin beds await young dreamers in this upper-floor bedroom. In the sitting room of the self-contained guest suite, an octagonal window overlooks the boathouse and lake.





Broad View Building Co. built the two-storey boathouse with plenty of space for dockside seating, lounging and entertaining. The main floor shelters the family's watercraft while glass panels on the upper deck offer an unobstructed view of Lake Muskoka.

Smart Elements Heating & Cooling installed energy-saving climate control throughout the home while **Cottage Country Audio Video** ensured simplified operation of the high-tech entertainment system that enhances the sights and sounds of cottage life. **Precision**

Roofing Inc. ensured the entire cottage, on every level, is protected from Muskoka's rains, wind and heavy winter snows. **Steel on Wheels Roofing Inc.** covered the boathouse and cottage bunkie with sturdy steel roofing. *Continued on page 80*



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Blue hues in the boathouse lounge mimic the lake. Two luxurious bedrooms, a primary bedroom as well as one with twin beds await overnight guests who enjoy dreams on the water.



As they settle into their cottage, the homeowners are looking forward to enjoying family visits and the pristine wilderness of Muskoka for many years. OH



SOURCE GUIDE

- Alarm Pro Muskoka Ltd. • Broad View Building Company • Chervin Kitchen & Bath • Conklin's Construction Inc. • Corbin Patten Designs • Cottage Country Audio Video • Deluxe Stair & Railing Inc. • Doorland • Fireplace & Leisure Centre • Great North Windows & Doors • Integrity Plumbing Services • Kenozha Bay Company • Mac Masonry Ltd. • Mackay Electric • Masonside Blinds & Drapery • Northern Rock • Precision Roofin Inc. • Pride Cabinetry Inc. • Quartzco • Slabtown Tile & Stone Inc. • Smart Elements Heating & Cooling • South Parry Lumber • Steel on Wheels Roofin • Ultra Carpet & Flooring - Engineered Oak Flooring • Veranda - Interior Furniture & Decorating



VERANDA



Elise Boyer, Owner/Operator

Always Beautiful ALWAYS AFFORDABLE

As a Muskokan and cottager on Browning Island, I enjoy the intimate atmosphere of nature and infinite inspiration an island provides. Expansive water views and tall pines swaying in the cross breezes are among the joys of my water-access retreat. In downtown Bracebridge, my four curated showrooms are filled with a vast inventory of timeless items that you will love for both your home and cottage. Take advantage of our complimentary design services with Laura. My large warehouse can provide unlimited free customer storage for all of your purchases. My website lists our entire collection of in-stock products. With over 20 years as owner/operator, I'm proud that superior customer service and competitive pricing has become a VERANDA hallmark.

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