

GETAWAY on the Bay



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WITH THE RIGHT ELEMENTS, A GETAWAY CAN BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

Open, comfortable, manageable and accessible were key ingredients for busy Rockwood couple Henrietta and Harry Reinders when they envisioned their retreat on Torrance Bay.

Not only are they parents of five adult children and grandparents of three, but they rub elbows regularly with some of their children in the family-run business.

“We have a full life otherwise, and we also have kids in different stages of life,” says Henrietta. “So we wanted them to feel comfortable coming on their own and for it to be manageable for them as well.”

Here, they get away from the business of river and wetland rehabilitation and construction. “They get to enjoy the water, rather than work with it,” Henrietta explains.

The modest 2,000 sq. ft., two-storey cottage replaces a tear-down, removed after they purchased the property in the fall of 2014.

Their builder, **Ed Blekkenhorst** recommended **Discovery Dream Homes**. “They’re probably the most professional company I’ve ever dealt with as far as coordinating the job and dealing with the townships, building departments and ministries for approval,” Ed explains. “These guys are by far the most professional when it comes to drawings and helping clients out with the building department, dealing with bylaws and red tape. They know what they’re doing.” *Continued on page 72*

OPPOSITE: The rooftop deck on Henrietta and Harry Reinders boathouse presents a sweeping view of Torrance Bay and its tiny islands, east of Bala. **TOP RIGHT:** Pre-engineered aluminum railings guard the sun deck perimeter as well as the sides of the ramp. **RIGHT:** A wide ramp eliminates any need to climb stairs to the boathouse sun deck.





After visiting the Discovery Dream Homes factory and viewing other homes they'd built, the Reinders liked the timber-frame style and were sold on the quality and details they saw.

Discovery Dream Homes' director of design **Shawn Hunter** met the couple on site to consider the design and layout the Reinders had in mind. "It wasn't coming together," Henrietta recalls. "Then Shawn just quietly suggested that maybe the Ravenwood model would work particularly well here." He presented web photos of a Ravenwood they'd built in Quebec, along with the floor plans. They instantly fell in love with it.

"It's not a big place, but as soon as you see the pictures inside, you can see nothing but views of the lake and I think that's what caught their attention," says Shawn. "They had a clear vision of what they wanted, and it was something that we'd already done,

LEFT: Timber frame hybrid construction lends a sturdy traditional look to the Reinders' new Muskoka cottage. **BELOW:** Woodsmiths of Muskoka created the custom kitchen cabinetry and the maple butcher-block atop the central island.



so it seemed to work out perfectly. It fit the landscape of the property great, and the contractor did really good work." Throughout the build, decisions were based on achieving an open, manageable, comfortable and accessible year-round retreat.

From the moment guests are welcomed into the spacious, oversized entry, they are part of the togetherness inspired by the open-concept living/dining/kitchen space. The airy atmosphere is enhanced by an abundance of winter-grade windows from Discovery Dream Homes.

"When you come with a fair-sized family, you want space," says Henrietta. "You have it here. It's not a big place but you have space, and it's manageable."

Adjacent to the roomy entry is a convenient powder room where a pine-clad closet houses stackable laundry appliances. Guests in wheelchairs find easy accessibility around the open-concept layout. They appreciate the minimized entry elevation and extra-wide, 36-inch doorways to the main floor master bedroom and en suite. *Continued on page 74*

ABOVE: White kitchen cabinetry has a distressed perimeter finish and glass doors. Brown's Appliances equipped the kitchen. **TOP RIGHT:** A live-edge maple table, made by Henrietta's father William Lamberink, centres the Muskoka room where in-floor heating keeps the room comfortable year-round. The large windows by Ross Windows and Doors overlooking the bay are designed to descend into the wall to create a breezy screened space.

Port Carling Woodworks supplied the family's dining set.



A woody colour scheme, pine trim, and mildly-distressed stained pine flooring integrate the interior with the environment. **Paintworks Muskoka** also created a distressed mantel beam on the fireplace and refinished the original sliding wooden door from the boathouse, for use in one of the two upstairs bedrooms. This relic from another cottaging era slides to reveal a sleeping nook, handy for families who appreciate their small children close by, yet separate. A full bath and

an adult sleeping/reading nook complete the comfy 600-square-foot upper level.

Scaling to the cathedral ceiling and set between walls of windows, the solid river stone fireplace melds into the landscape. Warm and welcoming, especially in winter, the local stone beckons nature to lead the décor.

Furniture was primarily chosen for comfort, including a bedroom set and a country kitchen/dining set from **Port Carling**

Woodworks. “I feel a part of creating comfort is about keeping it simple,” explains Henrietta. “So people can just relax, with lots of places to sit and read a book or take a snooze in the afternoon sun.”

Woodsmiths of Muskoka made and installed the European frameless-construction kitchen cabinetry with painted and distressed white perimeter finish. Special features include french frame-style glass doors, roll-outs in the pantry, a euro cargo pull-out

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LEFT: An open-tread pine staircase leads to the second-floor loft and bedrooms. **BELOW:** Ed Blekkenhorst (centre) built the Discovery Dream Homes cottage for Henrietta and Harry Reinders. **BOTTOM:** Soft Swedish-styled furniture makes comfy seating in the great room of the lake house. **OPPOSITE:** Large wood-framed windows flank the split-boulder fireplace and its antiqued mantel.





Azek composite decking, engineered to resist scratching, cracking and mildew, sheaths the spacious front deck that spans the width of the cottage.

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garbage, an appliance garage and a Cambria countertop. Casual conversation unfolds around the maple butcher-block island.

A favourite cosy huddle is the 160-square-foot Muskoka room. "It's so open," says Henrietta. "We can lower all the windows and be enveloped by the feel and the sounds of nature and the lake." Vertical sliding windows from **Ross Windows and Doors** disappear to invite a refreshing Muskoka breeze. "They're very sturdy and strong and they are winterized," notes Henrietta.

Thermo Seal Insulation Systems also helped ensure this winter-loving, snowmobiling family can use the getaway year-round in toasty comfort. Insulating well under the main floor, including the Muskoka room, supports the in-floor heating system.

Another favourite spot – especially for the sun lovers – is the upper deck of the boathouse, where the ambience and

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LEFT: Morning sunlight fills the master bedroom where double doors open to the side yard of the waterfront property. **BELOW:** Matching round mirrors hang above double sinks in the en suite, designed to be wheelchair accessible.



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- Boone Plumbing • Brown's Appliances • Discovery Dream Homes
- Duncan Brown Contracting Ltd. • The Fireplace Stop • Jennifer Stilson RE/MAX North Country Realty Inc. • Marshall Well Drilling
- Morrow Electric Ltd. • Paintworks Muskoka • Port Carling Woodworks • Ross Windows and Doors • Russel Robb • Thermo Seal Insulation Systems • Weismiller Lumber • Woodsmiths of Muskoka

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LEFT: Quiet and comfortable, the second-floor cottage bedrooms are simply furnished. **FAR LEFT:** The couple's daughter Shannon painted wooden chairs with engaging axioms for the cottage. This one says, "Be happy, like a bird with a french fry." **BELOW:** Sliding doors, salvaged from the original boathouse, were refinished and repurposed in an upstairs bedroom where they reveal a tiny space for a crib.



spectacular sunset views originally drew them to purchase this property. For ease of maintenance and durability, Azek composite decking from **Wiesmiller Lumber** was chosen for the upper surface of the boathouse, the dock and the cottage decking. With that same motivation, the couple were set on steel shingles, a product they found worked well on their Rockwood home. "We wanted something long-term, something low maintenance, that could handle the snow," explains Harry. The espresso Wakefield Bridge shingles contrast with the cedar shake gables and accent the roofline.

Since moving in to the cottage in July of 2015, the term getaway conjures new meaning for each member of the family. Boating and the Bala social life particularly appeal to the kids in their 20s. "This is a place they're very comfortable taking their friends to, and that's what we wanted," says Henrietta. "It's not just for Harry and I, but it's for the whole family to use. So sometimes we're here together and sometimes, we're here separately. It's all good!" **OH**

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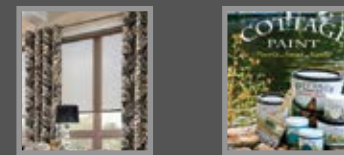
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