



# chef ON THE water

STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Kissten and Rod Matthews' 4,200 sq. ft. timber-frame home, built by **Clancy Builders Ltd.** on Georgian Bluff's Balmy Beach, was designed to highlight their incredible waterfront and garden views. But inside, it's their chef's kitchen that inspires awe.

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Above: Rod and Kissten Matthews take a break in the shade on their backyard stone patio, which overlooks the sweeping lawns, colourful gardens and towering trees of the property. **RIGHT:** The unique aluminum DockinaBox system and a sandy beach complete the home's landscaping.



To keep the original character of the property, the stone patio and harbour, built in the 1940s, were preserved during the build of the timber-frame home.



The open concept kitchen maximizes flow between workspaces to create a chef's paradise. The stone archway over the stove and hanging pot rack infuse the space with character.

In the year since the couple moved in, their gas Wolf range and eight-appliance kitchen has plated meals as extravagant as some of Owen Sound's finest eateries. Equipped by **Macdonald's BrandSource Furniture & Appliances** in Meaford, the kitchen features a double oven, microwave, warming drawer, two dishwashers, Sub-Zero fridge and an upright freezer. Let's not forget the 100 cu. ft. walk-in cooler where Rod ages loins of beef, or the walk-through pantry stacked ceiling-high, or the oversize industrial stainless-steel sink.

One wall of the kitchen and dining area is

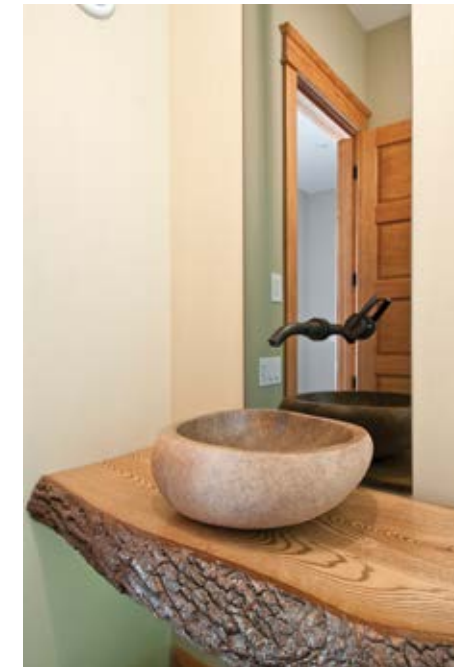
a dedicated floor-to-ceiling wine cellar. Three panel windows display dozens of wine bottles, while the cooler stores even more, kept at a steady 55-degrees F. Local craftsmen **Norm Aubin** and **Grant Nicholson** designed the solid black walnut trim surrounding the cooler and the Matthews had Markdale metalworker **Dano Harris** forge elegant iron handles.

The Matthews entertain friends and family nearly every weekend. "I wanted not only to be able to see the water from the kitchen, but to be part of the conversation with my guests while I'm preparing a meal," says Rod. They enlisted **Exquisite Wood Designs Inc.** to produce the cabinetry, all topped in quartz. The 10-foot long cantilevered dining table was sourced at **DJ's Handcrafted Solid Wood Furniture** in Hanover. Rod's passion for fine food is one way he unwinds after work – he

has owned and operated **Pete's Auto Body** in Owen Sound for the past 25 years. "I get to be creative when I cook, and, as it turns out, I'm pretty good at it and people like what I do," says Rod.

Kissten does the heavy lifting in the gardens, with nearly three acres of established perennials, shrubs, herbs and flowers. "The former property owner was a founder of the Georgian Bay Garden Club and left behind a greenhouse and bunkie stocked with pots, tools and everything but a manual," laughs Kissten.

The couple had been looking for waterfront property for a few years. "When this property came on the market, there was no question it was what we were looking for," says Rod, "A lot of water frontage, existing gardens, an existing harbour of stone walls built in the 1940s and a stone patio at the waterfront that was done in the 1940s. It was stunning."



They lived in the original house while they played with floor plans in 3-D rendering software until they had a feel for what they wanted. When the duo brought their ideas to local architectural designer **Greg Williamson**, he recommended they build a timber frame home (**Thistlewood Timber Frame Homes**). Williamson was able to guide the design to incorporate the garage at the bottom of the hill without crowding the front door. Exterior landscaping by **MacDonnell Excavating**; sod supplied by **Town & Country Garden Centre** in Rockford.

When it was time to enlist a builder the Clancys were an easy choice. "We meshed really well with Tom Clancy and his son Tim," says Kissten. "Tom had an 'I can do it' attitude. What we saw, he could envision and was able to turn that dream into reality." *Continued on page 26*



**ABOVE FAR LEFT:** A refrigerated floor-to-ceiling wine cellar adorns one wall of the kitchen. Note the intricate detailing in the wood trim and the custom iron handles. **ABOVE LEFT:** The powder room vanity is made from a slab of four-inch thick white ash, which Rod sawed in the 1980s when he ran a sawmill. The sink is chiseled out of solid river rock. **ABOVE:** The two-island kitchen maximizes eating, entertaining and work space. **LEFT:** The 10-foot long dining table is an open invitation to join the Matthews for dinner.



The Matthews worked with interior designer **Heather Smillie** of **House Rules Design Shop** on the finishing touches. She helped select the home's furniture, tiling, paint colours, provided by **Grey Bruce Paint and Decor**, and suggested flooring in engineered hickory.

The couple didn't want any small glass panes – the 32-foot high great room features windows at 11-by-nine feet and seven-by-nine feet (**Van Dolder's Home Team**). "It was important for us that when you looked out at the water from the ground floor or from the catwalk, that the beams were above or below your sight line," says Kissten. The great room fireplace and kitchen stove stonework were sourced at **Shouldice Designer Stone** and installed by **Rob Hicks Masonry**. The fireplaces came from **The Fyre Place & Patio Shop**, while the in-floor heating and forced air were installed by **Actons Plumbing and Heating**.

Smillie designed the master en suite with wood-grain ceramic flooring and polished river pebble. Eight vertical water jets and two rain-shower heads offer a complete experience in the glass-walled shower (**Fulford: Kitchenware Bathware Hardware**).

The Matthews sourced local Eramosa marble at **Owen Sound Ledgerrock Ltd.** in a variety of finishes to use throughout the house. The master bathroom features the marble in a polished fleuri cut that exposes hues in the grey range. The two guest bathroom counters are

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The timber frame and soaring windows bring the natural elements of the property inside. A second floor catwalk balcony and a zigzag pattern of hardwood and tile create transition areas while keeping the space open. **ABOVE:** Hanging from the entranceway ceiling is a 14-and-a-half-foot organic style light fixture forged by Rod in his autobody shop.

modern elegant rustic

**..and everything in between**

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The Matthews appreciation for art is visible throughout the home, including a number of statues by regional artists.

SOURCE GUIDE

- AM Roofing • Clancy Builders Ltd. • Dano Harris • DJ's Handcrafted Solid Wood Furniture • DockinaBox • Exquisite Wood Designs Inc. • Fulford: Kithenware Bathware Hardware • The Fyre Place & Patio Shop • Grant Nicholson • Greg Williamson • Grey Bruce Paint and Decor • Heather Smillie • Heritage Painting and Décor • House Rules Design Shop • Ken Acton Plumbing and Heating • LDS Electrical • Macdonald's Brandsource Home Furnishings • MacDonnell Excavating • Norm Aubin • Owen Sound Ledgerrock • Rob Hicks Masonry • Shouldice Designer Stone • Smitty's Fine Furniture • Thistlewood Timber Frame Homes • Town & Country Garden Centre • Van Dolder's Home Team • Vita Bowen • Wall Tech Drywall



The master bedroom showcases the use of over-size pocket doors throughout the home, which creates an open concept space while still providing the option of closing off rooms. A half wall in the middle of the master bedroom works as a built-in headboard.

also polished but in a warmer vein-cut variety. The main floor laundry room is done with the same fleuri cut, but hand sanded to keep the colour grey. Finally, the hearth is also fleuri cut but honed to have less shine.

The pièce de résistance is a spectacular 14-and-a-half foot solid steel chandelier hanging above the front entrance. Rod designed and fabricated it in his autobody shop, with a few elements forged by Dano Harris. Made to look like an upside-down bouquet of calla lilies with stems wrapped, the fixture is very organic. "I wanted all of the globes of light to hang within the large front pane of glass, so that the window frames the whole thing and it gives off light in all directions," Rod explains. He also fabricated four sconces on the back porch in the same style.

While the home itself is a masterpiece by Clancy Builders, the gardens and the kitchen continue to show off the masterful work of Rod and Kissten. **OH**



The custom walk-in closet features ample storage.

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