

home & designer

# family AND SUNSETS



**ABOVE:** Cedar mulch from Hayes Timber Ltd. keeps weeds under control in the flower beds out front. Stone for the fireplace chimney and the front entrance was supplied by Owen Sound Ledgerock. Horton's Concrete Finishing installed the concrete driveway and walkway. **RIGHT:** A personalized sign welcomes guests at the steps to the beach.

STORY **NICOLE EGAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

When **Dave** and **Sandy Ryder** decided to sell their Sauble Beach cottage in 2016 they knew the task of finding the perfect new space for their family would take time. Five years later they're enjoying an incredible new build that ticks all the boxes.

While the world looks different than they'd expected in this pandemic universe, they've built a family oasis in Port Elgin, overlooking the stunning Lake Huron sunsets the area is so famous for.

At first glance, the cottage looks like an impressive modern structure, and it is, but it's so much more than that. Inside, it's clear that thought and attention went into the design to make it work for the family. With the help of **Heather Smillie of House Rules Design Shop**, the couple have witnessed the transformation of their thoughts into a functional and beautiful interior space that not only meets their needs, but also provides places to nourish their grown children's passions as well. *Continued on page 81*



Dave Ryder and Lucy the Springer Spaniel greet Heather Smillie of House Rules Design Shop at the front door.





Dave's kids gifted a game of poker dice for his birthday. It's the family's favourite game. Comfortable seating, sourced at House Rules Design Shop, surrounds the coffee table. **RIGHT:** The wood burning fireplace was sourced at The Fyre Place & Patio Shop. Ken Acton Plumbing & Heating Inc. completed all electrical, heating and cooling.

From the home gym designed with their family in mind, to the storage to support a fishing passion, each member of the family has a stamp on the new build, executed by **Tim and Tom Clancy** of **Clancy Builders**.

Decisions didn't come easily, but with architectural designer **John Peirson's** revisions and the craftsmanship that brought those plans to life, the family is ecstatic about the final result. Both Dave and Sandy were clear on a number of their needs up front. The couple were keen to future-proof their space by placing their primary bedroom on the main floor, complete with a walk-in shower for ease of accessibility, not to mention simple bathing of Lucy, the family's springer spaniel. With a love of entertaining, Dave and Sandy were also keen to include a wet bar on the main floor near the kitchen, to ensure plenty of space for cocktails on arrival. "The space provides the perfect layout for plenty of family and friends - who we hope to be able to entertain soon once again," says Dave. *Continued on page 83*







Stainless steel and glass railings on the stairs offer an unobstructed view of the bar area and allow sunlight to travel down to the main level of the home.

The placement of the wet bar allows for gathering space as cocktails are prepared for friends and family. The refrigerated drawers below the wine fridge hold beer and soft drinks. House Rules Design Shop specified leathered granite, sourced at The Old Barn.



**ABOVE:** A sign above the keg fridge shows the number of moves the family has made over the years. **BELOW:** The main-level powder room has a soapstone vessel sink and three-dimensional flooring mimicked in the art hanging on the wall. All tile and flooring was sourced through House Rules Design Shop.

Situated in an ideal location, the wet bar tucks in underneath the modern stainless steel and glass staircase to the second floor. Accented with leathered granite counters from **The Old Barn** (purchased through House Rules Design Shop) and boasting a wine fridge, the space provides function with flair. The glass-and-steel staircase maintains the feeling of wide-open spaces.

A cohesive feel continues throughout the home, with cabinetry, vanities and built-ins in the kitchen, washrooms and laundry space – all from **Chervin Inc.** – providing additional continuity from room to room. Clean lines come together with modern fixtures and fittings from **Ken Acton Plumbing & Heating Inc.** and are complemented by soft shades of PPG paints from **Grey Bruce Paint & Décor**. From Bay of Fundy in the primary suite and en suite to Silent Smoke throughout the main floor and Paraffin in the lower level, the look and feel is airy and open with stunning views. It all works together seamlessly and it's clear details have been included with individual priorities in mind – a balance the couple attributes to Heather's design work. *Continued on page 85*



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Cork flooring is a comfortable choice in the kitchen. The window over the sink offers a view of the lake. The design was Sandy's vision and perfectly executed by Jon Staken, designer at Chervin Kitchen & Bath Inc., who also built the custom cabinets.



For Sandy, the kitchen was key. Chervin Designer **Jon Staken** executed her vision perfectly, with cabinets incorporating smart design with intuitive accordion storage solutions. Quartz counters add to the bright, beautiful kitchen space with a view over the lake. Complete with a six-burner stove and side-by-side refrigerator/freezer, Sandy and Dave have more than enough space to prepare feasts while maintaining warmth and cosiness.

Dave takes credit for the warmth, having convinced Sandy that a wood-burning fireplace was an absolute necessity. Central to the home's design, the two consider the Valcourt living room fireplace insert from **The Fyre Place & Patio Shop** as the piece that brings the main floor together, "adding instant warmth." *Continued on page 88*

**ABOVE:** Gerbera daisies and snapdragons sit on the kitchen island. **RIGHT:** A summer charcuterie board of ripe and juicy cherry tomatoes, a rustic loaf of bread and local goat's cheese is ready to accompany cocktails. Lights in the home were sourced through House Rules Design Shop.

“The space provides the perfect layout for plenty of family and friends – who we hope to be able to entertain soon once again.”



Smart accordion storage solutions are key in the kitchen.

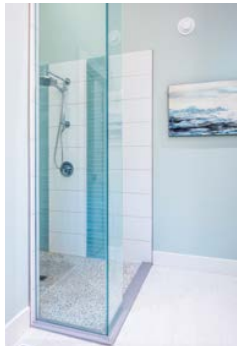




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**ABOVE:** On the main level, the primary bedroom's king size bed is layered with lightweight quilts that coordinate with the Bay Of Fundy paint colour on the walls. Engineered hand-scraped white oak flooring continues from the living room. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The primary closet sits between the bedroom and en suite. Cabinetry was completed by Chevin Kitchen & Bath Inc. **RIGHT:** A high window over the en suite vessel tub has a shutter covering, with the louvers running vertically instead of horizontally. **BELOW LEFT:** The en suite's curbless, walk-in shower tile combines glass and porcelain into an interesting and colourful design. **BELOW RIGHT:** A corner of the primary bedroom is surrounded by windows that frame the Lake Huron view. There is also a door to the back deck for enjoying morning coffees.



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