



**Sue Quigg has bought and sold several homes in Muskoka, in the 25 years she's lived here, but this one, on Silver Lake near Port Carling, is one she says she intends to keep.**

# Muskoka Lifestyles



## It's not for sale!

Article and photographs by Heather Douglas

“**T**his home is not for sale,” says Sue Quigg with a laugh, as she rhymes off the number of homes she has bought and sold in Muskoka since moving north 25 years ago.

She started visiting Muskoka as a child with a family cottage on Tobin Island, which had been in the family for 65 years. But, since she has resided in Muskoka, she has had homes on Lake Muskoka and Lake Rosseau. Now, she and her husband Rob, are settled on Silver Lake in Port Carling.

A much smaller lake, Quigg says she enjoys it much more than the larger lakes because it is quieter and provides more of a community atmosphere. “It is a spring-fed, clean, self-contained lake,” she notes. “I got tired of the noise and the traffic on the larger

lakes; this is like going back to the basics.”

Quigg had some specific ideas in mind when the time came to design their current home, which was designed and built with the Quiggs and the Cutting Brothers. In fact, when the original property was offered for sale, the two parties were both interested in purchasing the property, which had four run-down buildings on it. When the sellers stipulated a definite closing date, the Quiggs opted out. However, after the sale, they approached the Cutting family, who indicated they were going to build a speculation home and, after hearing the initial ideas, the Quiggs were interested.

The finished 2,400 square foot home is a masterpiece and Quigg has nothing but praise for the talents of the Cutting Brothers, who went beyond the



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norm to create the home, including the hand-hewn beams and doors and trim that set off the entire house. "We sat down together for many weekends, going over plans and making changes. I knew what I wanted from all the other houses and we had to fit it into the square footage of this home."

Specifics that Quigg wanted included everything on one floor, even the laundry. They wanted the home to be in sections but, also, to have a lot of open space. "But, we needed peaceful areas, where someone could hide out," she says. All the walls, interior and exterior, are insulated, so the entire home is quiet. Rob has a music room in one of the sections, where he can spend time with his music and Sue can work in the office and not be disturbed.

"There is no basement here," she points out. "I wanted a warm and cozy, comfortable feeling. This has a sort of lodge feel; I really wanted rustic."

It is also a place where the couple's nine-month-old "goldiepool" puppy can be at home. The goldiepool is a golden retriever-poodle cross.

While Cutting Brothers created the shell, Quigg called upon Lena Patten of Hilltop Interiors in Rosseau to add the interior atmosphere. Interiors by Marcia also assisted with decorating details along the way, such as tiles, window coverings and bedroom carpets. Quigg says she has known Patten for a few years and wanted to work with someone she and Rob could be comfortable with, and whose work she admired.

The wall colors were chosen for their softness and warmth with Dunmore paint color in the living room and a vanilla in the kitchen. Patten added large couches that call to guests to sink into, to take in the view over the lake or to curl up in front of the fire.

The 11-foot rock fireplace, built by stone mason Paul Yanchus, is a focal point in the home. The wooden log mantle was built from a tree taken from the property. It was important that the fireplace be seen from the kitchen, dining room and Muskoka room, which it does with the open-concept floor plan.


The kitchen was another important room in the home as both the Quiggs enjoy good food and fine wine. However, the design of the kitchen was pretty much left up to Rob, who has a background in the hotel and restaurant industry and likes to cook.

"He picked out all the appliances," Sue Quigg says. "We wanted a country look and went with a shaker-style cupboard with simple lines and hardware."

The openness into the living room and dining room ensures that the cook does not miss out on the conversation, when company is present. An island with stools keeps guests close but out of the way.

Another feature to be incorporated was Rob's book collection, some editions which date back to the 1800s. Patten found the bookcase and matching armoire to compliment the room and the books.

For the master bedroom, Quigg wanted nothing too feminine, just warm and inviting. The choice was made to combine a floral pattern with a plaid, in tones that tie in with the rest of the home. An ensuite with a Jacuzzi tub, surrounded by windows, is the perfect place to unwind after a busy day.

Quigg's favorite room is the living room. "I spend a lot of time there, with a fire going all winter long," she says. 



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