



A crowd of friends and family gather on the dock to watch the kids jump off the sunny, yellow boathouse (above). The living room is decorated to be an inviting area with lots of room for entertaining the many guests at the cottage (below).

Muskoka Lifestyles





Dave and Andrea McIntyre's Lake Joseph cottage is always open to friends and family. The cottage can easily accommodate a group like this and since they purchased it in 2009, it has been a popular spot for the McIntyres to entertain each summer.

A space for friends

Article and photographs by Heather Douglas

It took Dave McIntyre three years to find the perfect cottage location and convince his wife Andrea that buying a cottage was a good thing to do.

"I was against it," Andrea said when her husband first broached the subject of purchasing a cottage. "I love my home, we have a pool and lots of friends," she says of their full-time Kitchener residence.

However, Dave persisted and would travel to different vacation locations throughout Ontario, including Lake Huron, the Kawarthas and Georgian Bay looking for a cottage property. When he finally managed to convince Andrea to join him in the search, and the couple looked at Muskoka, she was sold on the idea.

"As soon as we went to Muskoka, no other place had the same feel," she says.

"We decided to concentrate on looking on one of the lakes in Muskoka and we would go up every weekend and I fell in love with the area," she says. "It is just beautiful, the rocks, the land-

scape the clear, clean water."

And with four children, the McIntyres wanted to be able to utilize the waterfront for swimming and wakeboarding. All four kids, Andrew, 11, Emily, 14, Matthew, 16, and Jordan, 18, have easily taken to the cottage life.

"Matthew spends the entire summer with just a bathing suit on," says Andrea.

In 2009 the couple purchased their Lake Joseph cottage. "The cottage was already built," explains Andrea adding there were a few things they finished, such as living space above the garage and the attic area.

The cottage was built by Robert Borne Construction out of Port Carling with a lot of input from interior decorator Lena Patten of Hilltop Interiors in Rosseau.

It took a couple of years to build the cottage, which is full of the great details one would expect to find in an olde Muskoka cottage.

This type of architecture is something with which Robert is very familiar with and comfort-



A lit candle adds to the relaxed décor of the screened porch at the cottage.

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The attic space has four beds plus room for the McIntyre kids to hang out.

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A fireplace on the enclosed veranda helps take the chill out of cool nights.

ably builds with his crew. Architect Kevin Crozier is also no stranger to this style, specializing in single family cottages.

The whole building is made of wood – inside and outside. Special elements such as porches, Muskoka rooms, and old fashioned bathrooms have all been incorporated to create that olde Muskoka feel.

Even the colour is reminiscent of one of the oldest buildings in the village of Rosseau.

The cottage is nestled in a forest of pine with sloping granite leading to the lake. The veranda, overlooking Lake Joseph, is the ideal location to relax and visit.

“I was involved from day one of the construction helping to decide interior finishes, colours, furniture layouts, the kitchen layout, vanity designs, etc.” says Patten.

She continued to work with the McIntyre family after they purchased the cottage, helping them to add special touches to make it their own.

That included increasing the amount of seatings and designing a special attic space for the youngest son Andrew.

The attic area was not originally



Andrea and Dave McIntyre spend as much time as they can at their Lake Joseph cottage.

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The McIntyre cottage sits atop sloping granite but is also discreetly tucked into the trees on their Lake Joseph property.

utilized but Patten says it is now, one of her favourite spaces. With the angled roof lines, four built-in beds, wall sconces and a television; it is a perfect spot for Andrew and his friends to hang out.

"I liked the cottage because it is cottagey," says Andrea explaining what attracted her to it initially.

That was the intention from the beginning according to Patten. Even the painted wall treatments were made to look old, she explains. After several coats of paint were applied the walls were rubbed and scrubbed to get the antiqued look.

When it came to choosing the paint colours, Patten said she went with light summery colours, focusing on tones of yellow that are reminiscent of the yellow colour of the cottage exterior.

The McIntyres find the cottage is large with lots of space and a very

comfortable feel. It is big enough to easily hold a lot of company without feeling cramped.

"I have a big family and lots of friends so I need the room," says Andrea. "And I want the kids to want to come and visit when they grow up and have space for themselves."

Patten understands how the spaciousness of the cottage works for Andrea. "There is lots of open space, but the rooms are compartmentalized so you can have groups here and there. People can be together, but not in each other space."

With multiple bedrooms in the main cottage, the property can also accommodate people in living quarters above both the garage and boathouse.

Having 29 people staying in the cottage is just an average weekend

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for the McIntyre family.

“When we come up north we don’t do a lot of anything but entertain,” says Andrea. “There is only a handful of times it has only been family.”

In fact, Andrea said it was just this summer that the adults only went out for supper without the kids for the first time.

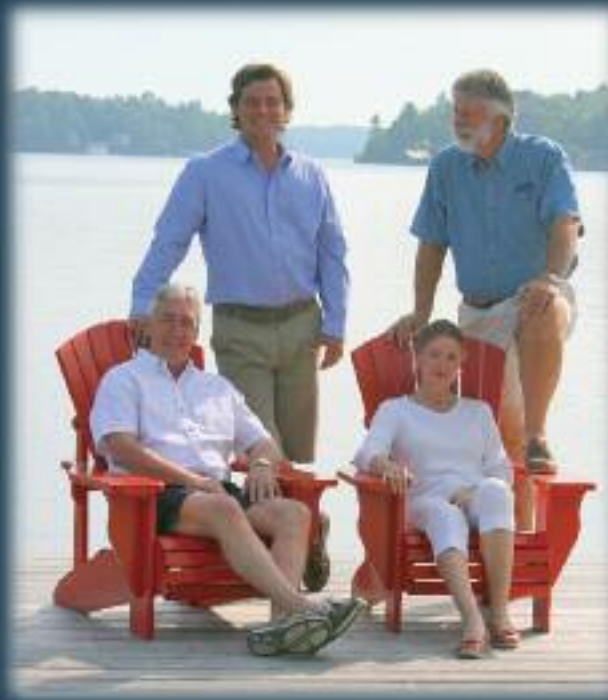
“When I am in the city, I am constantly running the kids everywhere,” she said. With four kids in hockey, Andrea estimates they went to 18 tournaments last winter.

“At the cottage, I don’t have to do all that running around. When I am here, I can relax, tour the lake, cook, bake, wakeboard and just entertain,” says Andrea. “I just love to hang out at the cottage with my family and friends.” 



The enclosed veranda is a perfect spot to relax and spend some time on rainy afternoons.

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