

PEEK AT PERFECTION

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PHOTOGRAPHY GORDON KING

What do you get when you take two people who work from home, add a beautiful timber frame house into the mix and combine it with a million dollar view? For **Paul Papousek** and his wife Cathy, that turned out to be home, sweet home.

Their move last year from Aurora made sense for several reasons. With Paul's roots in the Renfrew area and Cathy originally from Blackburn Hamlet, it was somewhat of a homecoming for the couple, especially since they still have family in the area. But as **Normerica Timber Homes & Cottages'** Eastern Ontario sales representative, Paul wanted to showcase his company's construction by building his own home, in the ideal setting. Calabogie became the destination of choice. Paul says with the price of property in the Muskokas exorbitantly high, "if you could even find any," Normerica recognized the potential appeal the Calabogie area held for people in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) looking for vacation properties. Once Calabogie was determined as the location, there was no other place to build but Barrett Chute.

Located on 120 acres along a secluded stretch on the Madawaska River, **Barrett Chute Inc.** is a real estate development promising to

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ABOVE: Exterior timbers hint at the dramatic great room to be found within the Papousek home. Door wreath and white pumpkins from Marie Antoinette & Co. Fine Furnishings. **BELOW:** An expansive deck allows Paul and Cathy to enjoy their view of Calabogie Lake through the changing seasons. **OPPOSITE:** While the wall of windows may be the focal point of the great room, the soaring fireplace draws attention to the impressive beams and posts.



be an unparalleled, rural lifestyle residential community in the near future. A total of 53 lots, ranging from 1.4 to nine acres, offer either direct water access or through designated water access areas to 20 kilometres of flat-water boating and recreation to residents.

And with about 60 per cent of the lots currently sold – Barrett Chute President **Leo Hall** says about half of the purchasers are from the Ottawa area, one-quarter from the GTA and one-quarter from the Belleville-Kingston area – Normerica’s assessment of the project seems on point.

The development is a partnership between two families long established in the area: the Murphys, owners and operators of neighbouring Calabogie Peaks Resort for 40 years, and the Halls, who, with more than 50 years of regional forest and land management operations and expertise, have been managing the Barrett Chute property for the past 30 years.

As development in the area proceeds, making it a highly-sought, four-season vacation destination, Leo says the enthusiastic response to the project is due in part to the rich range of activity, as well as the quality of the infrastructure, which includes a hot mix asphalt road winding through the gently sloping development to maximize the views, underground power lines along the river and Bell fibre optics for high-speed telecom.

A custom home builder since 1979, Normerica has specialized in creating authentic timber frame structures for customers across Canada, the United States and around the world from their home base in Ontario. Timber frame construction is easily identifiable by the timbers forming a structurally supportive framework that is exposed on the inside of the house, the result being a structure that’s highly efficient from an operating cost, with no thermal bridging or air leaks because of its tight building envelope.

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Part of the appeal of timber frame construction lies in the beauty of the massive posts and beams, impressive in their length and size, that support the structure.

The inner beauty of timber frame construction is revealed in the bold elegance of exposed posts supporting massive horizontal beams, framing the view of Calabogie Lake.





ABOVE: An exposed post in one corner of the main floor powder room raises it a notch. **TOP RIGHT:** From her office in the loft, Cathy can enjoy the beauty of the changing seasons of the Calabogie landscape, framed by the wall of windows in the great room below. **RIGHT:** Adjacent to the kitchen, the Papouseks' dining room offers a head turning view, thanks to the wall of windows spanning from the great room, through the dining room and into the screened-in porch.



The kitchen, with pendant lights by Living Lighting (who also supplied the exterior lights, entrance lights, fans and track lighting), features an island with microwave drawer. The side entry is off to one side, with access to the garage, a walk-in coat closet, laundry room and walk-in pantry with sliding barn door.

The modified Cape, built by Normerica with **Jody Kelly** of **Kelly Homes Inc.**, was customized from the company's own design to take into account the Papouseks' lifestyle and personal tastes.

"That is what is so great about Normerica: the exterior shell of the house is supplied and the design contract allows people to change the layout of their home to suit themselves," says Paul. He explains that one of the benefits of timber frame construction is the timbers framing the house support the entire structure. This results in a layout that is completely fluid and which can be easily customized. As well, the layout can be changed at any time: interior walls can either be erected or torn down to suit, since they are not required to support the structure.

For Cathy, who has been working from home as an independent human resources consultant for the past five years, it was important to have a work space that provides privacy without feeling closed off from the rest of the house. After modifying the plan by removing two bedrooms originally designed

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for the second floor, the resulting loft became Cathy's space.

The main floor contains 1,800 square feet and is the Papouseks' main living space as well as being the showpiece of their home.

"The first thing that people always say when they get here is wow, what a gorgeous home," Cathy says. "But there's nothing like walking into this house... and then, as soon as you step into the foyer, your eyes are drawn across the great room to the soaring cathedral ceiling and that wall of windows... and you take in that million-dollar view. That is the focus of this house, that is the real centre of our home."

Here, the inner beauty of timber frame construction is revealed in the bold elegance of exposed posts supporting massive horizontal beams, framing the view of Calabogie Lake,

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ABOVE: At the heart of the lower-level walkout is Paul's domain, containing a built-in bar, "toys for boys" as he puts it and enough room for his work as Eastern Ontario sales representative for Normerica Timber Homes & Cottages. **RIGHT:** A screened-in porch allows Paul and Cathy to enjoy their home no matter the weather.



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which is part of the Madawaska River system. To emphasize the height of the room, a stone fireplace constructed by **Spitznagel Masonry** draws the eye to the peak of the cathedral ceiling and houses a Napoleon fireplace by **Carleton Refrigeration Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd.**

The master bedroom wing is located on one side of the great room, offering a picture postcard view of the lake, and contains a walk-in closet designed by **Deslaurier Custom Cabinets Inc.** The en suite with a vessel tub and step-in shower from **Mondeau Bathroom & Kitchen** is sunny yet serene at the same time.

On the other side of the great room, a spacious kitchen flows into a dining room that takes in more of that view. From this

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LEFT: The home contains three bedrooms on the lower level, used for guests or when the couple's children come to visit, as well as a cold storage, future wine cellar, extra-large bathroom and a games room. **BELOW:** The main floor master bedroom has windows on two walls and features a coffered ceiling.



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area, a sliding door opens to the screened-in porch, with cathedral ceilings, offering access to the deck outside.

Downstairs, in-floor radiant heating runs through the lower level walk-out basement, which is essentially Paul's domain for work and play. A generous-sized family room/games room features a large built-in bar that does double duty as a work space and ample room for his "toys for boys."

Flanked on either side are three secondary bedrooms, an oversize bathroom, cold storage and a future sauna. From her office in the loft, Cathy can toil away while enjoying the magnificent view from the upper level.

While Cathy says she appreciates the design of the house, it is the beauty of the construction of her home she's come to admire.

"The more time I spend in it, the more impressed I am." **OH**

ABOVE: A large bathroom on the lower level was designed for use by guests and visiting family. **LEFT:** A vessel tub by Mondeau holds centre court in the main floor en suite. A double sink vanity, toilet and large step-in shower complete the picture.

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