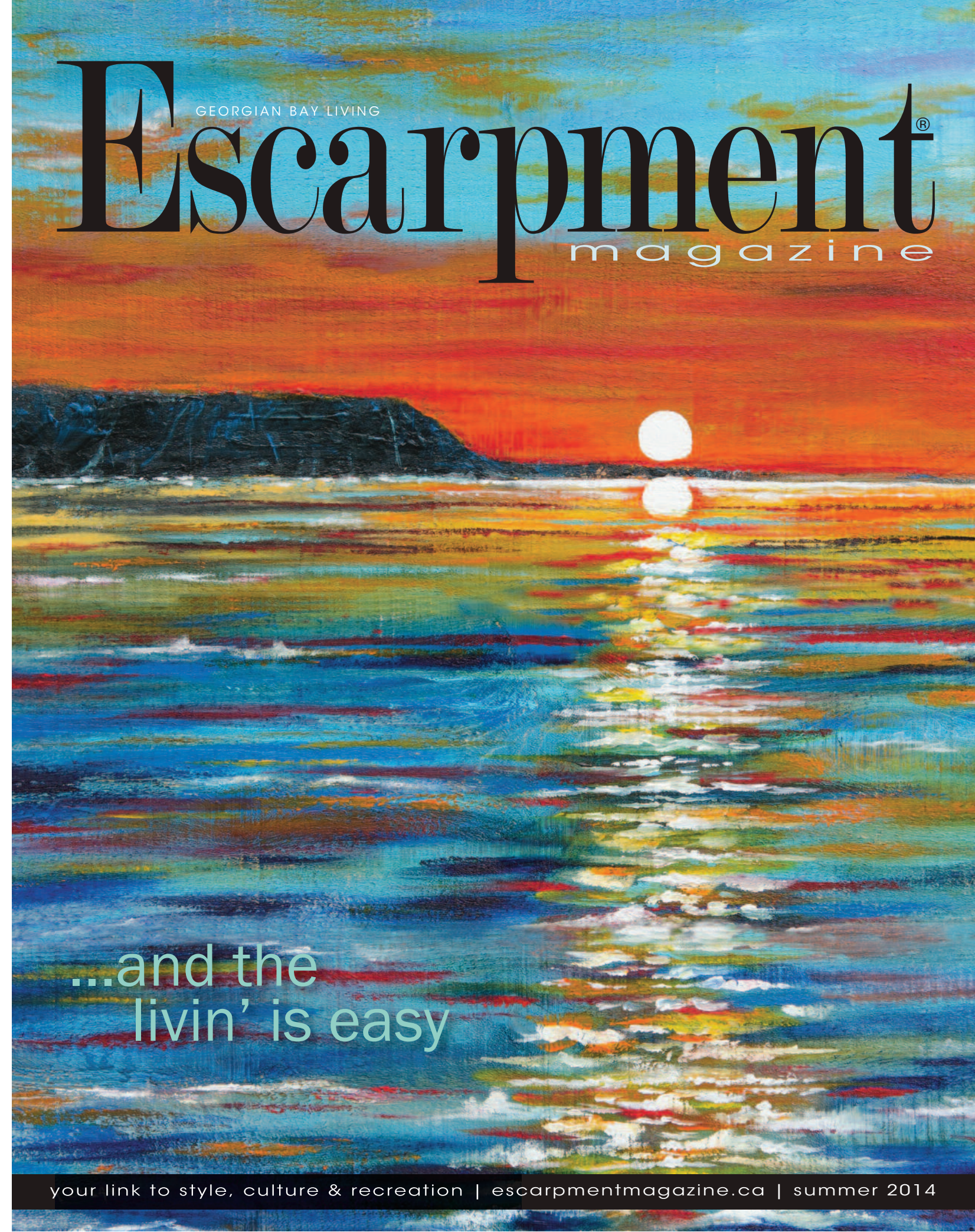


Featured Home
built by
Absolute Craftsmen
as seen in...

GEORGIAN BAY LIVING
Escarpment[®]
magazine

your link to style, culture & recreation in southern georgian bay

What a great magazine!



your link to style, culture & recreation | escarpmentmagazine.ca | summer 2014

When Jane McKay, Senior MAC Cosmetics Artist, and her husband, Dave Burt, Professional Illustrator/Art Director/Photo Editor, decided to 'cash out' of their High Park, Toronto residence, they envisioned a simpler life, free from congested, hectic metropolitan stresses. With their son Nash in full agreement, they enlisted Dave and Christine Harrington of Absolute Craftsmen Ltd, and Architect Brad Abbott to help design and create their new dream home on a waterfront lot near Craighleith, where they had owned a 'get-away' cottage for 15 years. The result is a quiet sanctuary that is naturally harmonious with the surrounding Escarpment landscape and their sought-after slower-paced lifestyle. Although the pair continues to travel extensively for work, the relaxed, simple routine of Georgian Bay living makes the extra time in the car worthwhile.

point of view

We were asking ourselves, 'What's next and why are we waiting to live the life we really want to live?' We decided to bite the bullet, sell our TO home, take the money and run and go for country living.

~Jane McKay

STORY | CARA WILLIAMS

PHOTOS | GREG FESS PHOTOGRAPHY



We must say, we do miss High Park but we really LOVE the outdoor lifestyle up here with snowboarding, mountain biking and water sports.

~Jane McKay



The home's welcoming entrance features a floating walnut staircase, and expansive water views beyond the cozy den. With their penchant for design, Jane and Dave had no need for a decorator. Interesting pieces from their collection fill the home, including a Tamara de Lempicka framed print

which hangs above a vintage desk and matching art deco lamps that were a gift from Dave to Jane, over 25 years ago. A three-sided wood burning Jotul fireplace completes the home office, offering additional warmth to the space.





Satin finish, custom walnut flooring runs throughout the home and an oversized “live edge harvest” table from Tree Green Team in Collingwood anchors the main dining room. The complimentary area rug mimics the grain of the walnut introducing vibrant colours to the space. Locally sourced Owen Sound ledge rock columns with dry stacked finish, run both inside and out adding an undeniably modern masonry element to the cozy aesthetic. Blinds from Ashton’s in Thornbury tuck away seamlessly when not needed.

The kitchen, designed and installed by Corinthian Kitchens and Bath, features a slab black walnut veneer, which has been painstakingly grain-matched for cohesiveness in the wood. The tall sections are joined at the top by a walnut valance that creates a frame for the sleek, white, slab doors. The cabinet doors are extended well below the boxes allowing a clean aesthetic with no visible hardware. The CaesarStone Organic White counters feature a ‘waterfall’ effect, framing the walnut, completing the kitchen island.



This past, cold winter I spent several hours working on my car and it proved to be a very warm and happy place.

~Dave Burt

Special attention was spent on designing the garage by Dave, a Porsche enthusiast—his ‘baby’, a 1997 Porsche 911 needed its own space. “The Tri panel Poly-Carbonate aluminum frame, overhead garage doors were custom made by a friend of mine, Sean Carragher of Winsor Doors, who helped with my vision of a bright space to work on my car,” explains Dave, “He even had a small sample door made up so we could see it with the stone. It is a three bay garage but there are sliding aluminum doors to separate the heated single bay garage/work shop. This past, cold winter I spent several hours working on my car and it proved to be a very warm and happy place.” Of course no man-cave is complete without a wireless sound system and subsequent beer fridge. Additionally there is a single garage from the original cottage, which the family held onto partially for sentimental reasons and is now used as a toy shed housing kayaks, kiteboarding and windsurfing gear. Everything in its place!

Their decision to not hire a decorator, added a lot of extra work to the couple’s already overflowing plates. “I must say it is fantastic having a husband who can draw up ideas,” explains Jane, “And keep me on a mid-century, beach and mountain inspired design track.”

Design philosophies differ between the two—Dave believes a home should be respectful of an era and Jane believes modern interior design needs to be shaken up a bit. By adding a subtle mix of both ideas and design periods, the aesthetic of their home is unmistakably, eclectic, luxurious, uncluttered and airy.

The revolutionary Art Deco movement from the roaring 20s, characterized by stylized geometric forms is subtly felt throughout the upstairs livingroom. Using calm, neutral hues as a base, pops of colour are introduced strategically with statement pieces, pillows, rugs and art.

Expansive windows flood the space with brightness bringing the outdoors in and once the sun has set, LED flood lights, flush mounted in the radiant heated, walnut floors add dramatic up-lighting, to create an evening atmosphere unparalleled in peacefulness. 🌿



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Much like its owners, this home has an easy-going persona with laid-back sophistication and not a hint of pretension.



The spacious, main floor master bedroom suite feature expansive views of the beach and bay through large glass doors, which open onto a deck. Additional bedrooms and bathrooms located on the lower level, create a private sanctuary for the couple's teenage son Nash, and for the family's frequent guests who are perhaps also seeking refuge from the bustling city life. "Our friends never want to leave!" states Jane.

Sleek and stunning in its design, this home is far from being ostentatious. It's simply correct and comfortable, inside and out. The double width waterfront lot allowed space for a stone patio that spans beyond the length of the building, making ample room for dining, gathering and conversation.

Landscaping was designed to maintain harmony within the surroundings using large carefully placed boulders interspersed with low-maintenance plantings. Rugged quarry rock steps lead onto an interesting landing created with stone and grass that flows seamlessly to the beach beyond. The result is a natural, "it's-always-been-here" feel.

Jane and Dave are ecstatic with their uncomplicated, all-season resort style living. Amenities such as the inside steam shower, outside hot tub, gas patio fireplace and wood burning beach fire pit, have sealed the deal on their new point of view. "We never want to leave home. Seriously!" |E|



Dave and Christine Harrington worked very diligently with us to achieve our vision within a relatively tight budget and we are very happy with the final build. We feel that it looks like it would have cost us much more. It was our first full home build and they helped us through the process every step of the way. We would like to thank the many people who had a hand in building it. We feel the pride of workmanship really shows.

~Jane McKay



Source Guide...

Builder: Dave Harrington, Absolute Craftsmen Ltd
Project Manager: Christine Harrington
Architect: Brad Abbott
Appliances: MacDonalds - Meaford
Garage Doors: Winsor Doors

Kitchen Cabinets: Corinthian Kitchens
Window Coverings: Ashton Blinds
Fireplace: Chantico
Masonry: Hobson Masonry
Landscaping: Parklawn Landscaping