

family ties

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ARRANGEMENTS **STREET'S FLOWERS**

Gorgeous hydrangeas from Street's Flowers line the elegant, covered front porch of this beautiful custom home by WeatherGuard Construction. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The eyebrow window above the entrance is mirrored at the back, bringing an abundance of sunlight into the home. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The stone from the exterior is used to surround the fireplace in the living room.

Leaving a home filled with 32-years of family history would be a test for most dry eyes, but it's the new hilltop haven Donna Basic moved into last year with husband Mike that now makes her teary with sentimentality.

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LEFT: The kitchen pairs solid light maple cabinets by Bateman Custom Furniture & Cabinetry along the walls with a dark L-shaped island topped with granite from Di Pietra Design. Note the large TV screen above the range. **RIGHT:** The handy coffee station is always ready for guests. **BELOW:** In the summer months, the outside dining area is the ideal place to entertain and gaze upon the spectacular views.



That's because the 7,600 sq. ft. custom house was created by their son Myles, a carpenter, third-generation builder, and owner of [WeatherGuard Construction Ltd.](#)

"When I'm sitting in the kitchen and see something we spoke about – like the tile detail behind the stove, it's a memory, this house is constant memories," Donna smiles, also pointing out the paintings of one daughter (professional artist Michelle Basic Hendry) and the bedroom (with sunset views) reserved for visits from the other. "I couldn't have a more beautiful home."

The two-year project was also special for Myles, who strove to satisfy each personal

preference for his mother (including a mudroom dog shower for the pup she's dreaming of), and to meet the professional standards of his father's commercial-building expertise. Already known for his attention to detail, the younger Basic was on full alert, as exemplified by the meticulously match-booked panels of herringbone firebricks lining the box of his parents' great room fireplace. [Custom Cadd](#) completed the home's drawings.

"This structure is unique in a residential application," Myles explains. "It's a very heavy foundation to support the full in-floor radiant heating system ([by Yanch Heating](#)

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OPPOSITE: The dining room is opposite the kitchen at the front of the home. The raw-wood dining table from Restoration Hardware is paired with studded, linen-wrapped chairs. The large lanterns add French flair.

& Air Conditioning) built into a suspended concrete slab floor. All balconies are also suspended slab. When we were building it, everyone called it the fortress.”

Even the garage has heated flooring with trench drains for run-off.

To create separate his-and-her spaces, twin master suites anchor the north end of this expansive bungalow, above a full walk-out basement with a second kitchen, three bedrooms and two baths. All plumbing by **Plumbtech Plumbing Inc.**

Mike’s retreat showcases Restoration Hardware furniture and engineered Northern Wide Plank Flooring installed by **D&T Contracting** made from reclaimed boards. His en suite features Hansgrohe fixtures and a richly patterned limestone countertop.

Across the hall, Donna’s sparkly sanctuary contains a mirrored bedside table and a white quartz whirlpool bath surround that shimmers as it reflects the flames of a wall-mounted gas fireplace from **Napoleon Home Comfort**. Overhead, a chrome and crystal chandelier dances its beams across the Rubinet fixtures, a bright Corian countertop and white marble flooring from **The Design Loft** at **Simcoe Building Centre**.

KL Interior Design created the colour palette throughout, including in the great room where Myles says the Benjamin Moore Weimaraner wall colour is an exact match for his dog Molly. There, flanking the floor-to-ceiling tumbled limestone Rumford fireplace by **C. Kenney Masonry** (with a barn beam mantel reclaimed from a Springwater farm), are a pair of matching eyebrow windows deeply set into barrel-roll ceilings. One sits 18 feet above the home’s main entrance and is mirrored above wall-to-wall windows overlooking the back garden. *Continued on page 34*




TOP: Donna Basic and her artist daughter, Michelle Hendry, visit on the covered porch opposite the living room. **ABOVE & LEFT:** Two of Michelle’s paintings hang prominently in her parent’s home.



The hers master suite is ultra feminine and elegant. KL Interior Design helped Donna select the soft colour palette. The Napoleon fireplace installed in the bath nook is a treat while the walk-in closet and dressing area is a luxurious must.






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“They look simple, but the drywall (**Mark Beattie** of **Marjo & Company**) has to be perfect because every flaw shows,” says Myles, of his biggest project challenge. “And the angles of each layer have to match exactly. It’s more like building furniture.”

As a result, the room is flooded with light, providing a seamless gateway to the natural beauty beyond. A similar effect is reached downstairs where transoms (from Marvin Windows and Doors) line the top of full-scale windows across the basement’s back wall. All soffits, fascia and metal work by **Ken Bruce** of **Bruce Home Improvements**.

“Seasonally, there’s always something to look at,” sighs Donna, turning from a view of Mount St. Louis Ski Resort to gaze down over flagstone landscaping (by **Drysdale’s**) to the environmentally protected bush that hides the headwaters of the Coldwater River and comprises nearly half of the property. “I love looking at the deer and birds as the sun comes up.”

Her husband Mike, also a private pilot, enjoys walking into the back field to look up at his new home, with its strong beams and balconies perched above 106 acres of multi-use land. An additional 40 per cent of the estate continues to grow hay and other field crops, as it has for more than a century. All excavating was completed by **K.J Excavating**.

Although the house is massive in scale, the oversize proportions of each element keep the home’s West Coast-style cosy: ceiling heights are typically 10 feet, doors are eight and hallways are a wide five or

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ABOVE & TOP: His suite is masculine with dark wood and a gentleman’s en suite with a vessel sink and river rock in the shower.
LEFT: Mike’s office is down the hall from the master suites and has a walk-out to the covered patio.



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The mudroom and laundry rooms are practical yet beautiful. The laundry room also serves as a wrapping room with a quartz table opposite the washer and dryer. The mudroom has two exits, one to the back and one to the garage. It's located down around the corner from the kitchen and has a handy dog shower.



six feet across. Tall baseboards at floor level, crown moulding at the ceiling and huge light fixtures in between provide warmth along with the wealth of space. Two large fixtures in the living room were custom made by **Northern Iron**.

"I thought it was going to be too small," laughs Donna about the first time she saw the foundation. "But he knew what he was doing. It's perfect and I'm very proud of him."

Myles knows the definition of perfection changes with each homeowner he works with. Although craftsman/contemporary styling seems to be trending now, his approach changes with the needs of each project. What doesn't change is his penchant for quality, durable finishes and materials that minimize maintenance while maximizing budgets.

Spec builds, like two current projects in Moonstone, also allow him the freedom to mix materials and follow his own creative drum.

Ultimately, however, he knows all houses are about the people – and says the kitchen is the new living room, where everyone comes together.

In his Mom's new kitchen, where Appliance Canada products are built in to solid maple cabinets by **Bateman Custom Furniture & Cabinetry**, he watches her boost his young son up to the platter of cheese and crackers on the **Di Pietra Design** granite countertop, and smiles at today's shared moments destined to be tomorrow's memories. **OH**

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