

DOVETAILING

BY LAUREL FORTIN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY
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The anticipation that builds after seeing your home's log walls stacked one upon the next and the ends dovetailed neatly together in the yard at **Legendary Logcrafters Ltd.** is a little like picking up your ski pass before the snow flies: you know what's around the corner and you can hardly wait.

The owners of a 3,600 sq. ft., handcrafted log home at the base of the mountain at Craigleith Ski Club felt just that in 2010 while their home was being constructed. Taking less than a year from start to finish, the log structure popped up on their lot in a single day, once the handcrafting process had finalized the precise placement of each log. The main floor was quickly topped off with a Hybrid Building System second storey and roof, finished with Synergy insulated panels – both prefabricated in the Legendary Logcrafters' workshop. Installation of the entire structure took less than a week.

"We've been skiing up here for close to 20 years and when we were ready to build a chalet, we were drawn to the style of a log home," say the homeowners, a professional couple from Toronto. "We had had some initial contact with Legendary 10 years ago when we first started thinking about building. We were impressed with how hands-on the owner, **Milan Smeh** was and how involved in the process he was, start to finish. So when we were finally ready to go about building, the decision was easy – we knew that they were local and built with quality." *Continued on page 100*



The living room is bright and colourful with lots of natural light, red accents and a stunning painting from the Loft Gallery in Thornbury. All flower arrangements were supplied by Paperwhite Flowers. **OPPOSITE:** Once the handcrafting and prefabrication processes were completed, the installation of this custom log home took less than a week! The second storey features Legendary Logcrafters' Hybrid Building System.

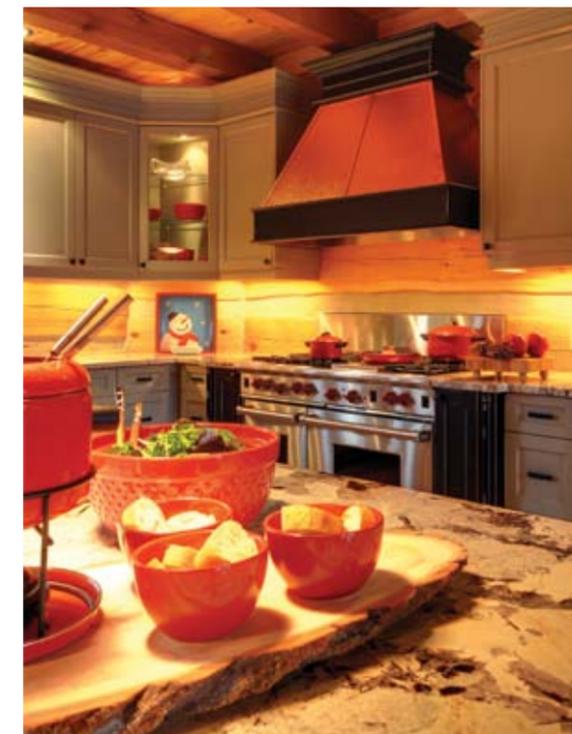
feature

The homeowners opted to build with Legendary's premier dovetail log profile that uses sustainably forested, eastern white pine logs that are 10 inches thick and up to 40 feet long. Dovetail log homes are very traditional with logs flattened on two sides – an aesthetic that appealed to the homeowners. The edges of each log are shaped by hand with a drawknife. The logs are then stacked and fitted together at the corners with a secure dovetail joint. The space between each log course is filled with a long-lasting, contemporary latex-based chinking that expands and contracts as the logs settle – giving the log home its traditional look.

“The exterior of the log walls are adzed by hand, as are some interior details such as the fireplace mantel, leaving a textured surface,” says **Sandra Smart**, office manager at Legendary Logcrafters. Throughout its homes, Legendary also offers a choice of handcrafted timber accents, such as king post trusses to enhance a cathedral ceiling or exterior roof

peak, porch or deck. Insulated roof panels are prefabricated with factory finished tongue-and-groove pine on the interior surface. They work with Legendary's heavy timber roof system. “Once they are installed, you have a finished interior cathedral ceiling.”

“We have three grown children, and we wanted three separate spaces in the house so we could eventually host several different families here and offer them privacy,” says the homeowner. In consultation with Legendary, the owners drew their own floor plan and had drawings drafted by **Jasper Design**. In addition to the main three-bedroom house, which includes the great room and kitchen, they designed a one-bedroom private suite over the garage and three bedrooms in the basement that can be accessed by the basement door. “It's nice for guests to have a fridge and the ability to make their own coffee and tea in the morning. Then you can get together when you want.” *Continued on page 102*



LEFT: A huge gourmet kitchen with oversized island, high-end appliances and wet bar, makes entertaining a breeze. **ABOVE:** The cabinetry colour was matched to the chinking that fills the space between the logs – tying the kitchen in with the rest of the open living area. **RIGHT:** Entertaining essentials – a cheeseboard from Dags & Willow and a fondue set – continue the theme of red accents.



The owners hired general contractor [Ralph Spadafora](#), recommended by Legendary, to finish the home. For balance, a combination of stone and iron was used with the wood. “We used black window frames and banisters in metal and wood,” says the owner. Stone tiles line the foyer and side entries. The deck entry features stone leading from the door to around the fireplace in the great room (Masonal Stone, installed by [Rossco Stone Design](#)).

The kitchen offers a striking contrast to the rest of the main living area. The homeowners knew the cabinet style they wanted and matched the warm grey chinking colour to the cabinets, tying the open space together. The massive island is topped with a single piece of granite, approximately 15 by 10 feet, with a corresponding slab on the counters around the perimeter of the room.

“We found a great sectional sofa for the recreation room at [Terase](#) in Thornbury,” says the homeowner. “I told the saleswoman that I was looking for a metal bed for our master bedroom and she said we really needed to see [Skot Lawrence](#) of [Desiron Custom Metal](#) in Clarksburg. We met him at his workshop and, as it turned out, we commissioned him to create not only our bed but a huge coffee table and dining room table and chairs. He works very collaboratively with people – he’s an artist and good with proportions and suggestions. We’re now working with him on a design for an entertainment cabinet for the great room.” *Continued on page 104*

OPPOSITE TOP: The kitchen opens to a dining space and living room, where a king post truss mirrors the huge wall-to-wall window and accents the cathedral ceiling. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** A heavy, bright red door with black trim provides a striking contrast to the wood logs at the front entranceway. **ABOVE:** The master bedroom features a cosy sitting area with gas fireplace (Chantico Fireplace Gallery) and mountain views. **TOP RIGHT:** A large glassed-in shower provides contemporary convenience while a claw-foot tub offers traditional comfort in the master en suite. **RIGHT:** Skot Lawrence of Desiron Custom Metal designed the homeowners’ bed frame, and several other furniture pieces throughout the home.





The basement rec room is fun for all ages, encompassing a wet bar, wine cellar, games table and big screen TV with a comfy viewing area. **BELOW LEFT:** A mudroom was a must for this active family. **BELOW RIGHT:** Guests are offered the ultimate luxury with a SaunaRay sauna and steam shower.



The master bedroom suite features a walkout to the yard and a gas fireplace (**Chantico Fireplace Gallery**). The en suite offers an invigorating walk-in steam shower and a double vanity. Opposite the en suite is a large closet with built-in cedar shelving by **McMillan Millwork & Joinery**.

On the upper level, the plank flooring in the hall and bedrooms doubles as the ceiling of the kitchen below. The main house includes two lovely bedrooms, a small TV room and a large bathroom with beautiful graphic mosaic tile floors and a glass shower. A crossover leads to a suite with a kitchenette above the garage, offering a private space for family and guests.

On the lower level, a separate entrance allows guests to filter downstairs to three bedrooms, two of which feature double sets of log bunk beds. A recreation room with a bar and wine cellar provides opportunities to entertain and relax. Down the wide hall is an exercise room complete with ski training machine and **SaunaRay** sauna. *Continued on page 106*



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See a sample of our listings on page 59 of this publication.

feature



With over 20 years of experience in log home building, Milan Smeh's Legendary Logcrafters has provided handcrafted quality to homes across Southern Georgian Bay, Canada, the United States and Asia. The combination of handcrafted log walls, Hybrid Building System wall panels and Synergy insulated roof panels have made the log-home lifestyle a true alternative for building. The homeowner fondly remembers "watching the huge crane lifting the logs into place and Milan with his big wooden mallet standing on top as they go up, pounding all the joints. There's nothing quite like it." **OH**

SOURCE GUIDE

Air Star Mechanical, At Home Interiors, Baymount Plumbing Ltd., Bill Brown Woodworking & Building Supplies Ltd., Brights Gallery, Burt's Roofing, C.C. Tatham & Associates Ltd., Chantico Fireplace Gallery, Clearlite Electric, Clearview Nursery Ltd., CRS Collingwood, Dags & Willow Fine Cheese and Gourmet Shop, Desiron Custom Metal, Farrow AV Design Inc., Foley's Furniture, G. Lawrence Enterprises, Georgian Audio Video, Gorilla Gutters, Hamilton Bros. Building & Farm Supplies Ltd., Huronia Alarms, Jasper Designs, John Martin, Legendary Logcrafters Ltd., Loft Gallery, M&K Painting, McMillan Millwork & Joinery, Paperwhite Flowers, Ralph Spadafora General Contracting, Robinson's Paint & Wallpaper, Rona Cashway Collingwood, Rossco Stone Design, Salnek's Custom Window Treatments, Terase, Van Allan Design Centre, Van Dolder's Home Team, Inc.



The home's upper level houses two warm, welcoming spare bedrooms, each with rocking chairs and vintage Craigeleith ski posters from At Home Interiors in Collingwood. The trio of metal art above the bed is from Van Allan Design Centre in Craigeleith.



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