

# Twynstras'

## Country Home

BY CATHY HUNT

**N**estled in Ailsa Craig is the Twynstras' country home. Situated on twenty two rolling acres overlooking the Ausable River, it is a beautiful example of a quality built custom home. From the entrance way to the sunroom in the kitchen — not a detail was overlooked.

The Twynstras designed their home and worked closely with Gord Harris of Donkers Harris Ltd. to ensure it was feasible and exact. This insulated concrete home is more sound resistant than a home made with conventional wood-framed walls. Mrs. Twynstra says, "We can't hear anything from the outside. This is wonderful as we live on a busy highway with many trucks on it."

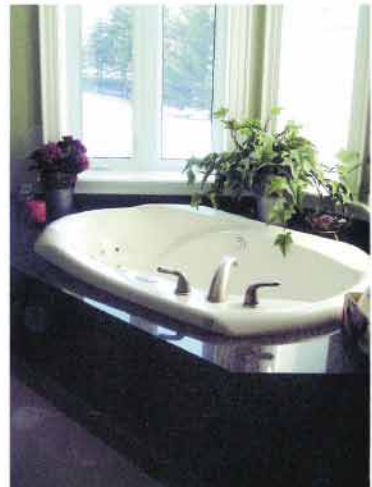
The kitchen overlooks the magnificent 22 acre property with the focus of the room being warm hospitality. The attached sunroom provides a spacious area for entertaining and preparing meals. All of the countertops are made of granite and the rich wood cabinets have stunning carved wood detailing. The choices of colours through the entire house are light and refreshing, with neutrals carrying the light. Plants and flowers bring the outdoors in to the living space.

The dining room is an architectural masterpiece. Custom designed columns add an element of elegance to the room. The picture window brings in large amounts of light with the blinds only providing a small filter. Heavy furniture makes this room warm and inviting. Entertaining large crowds can easily be accommodated.

The ensuite bath has a breathtaking view of the outdoors. Luxury is the feel of a warm towel from the towel warmer attached to the radiant floor heating. The shower stall is well equipped and the custom vanity boasts a one of a kind granite countertop.

The recreation room showcases an impressive floor to ceiling stone wall with a built in entertainment centre. This is the perfect place to relax and entertain with a custom designed bar with stools that are conversation pieces. Peter Twynstra's hobby of restoring tractors is brought into the home and reflected in the custom designed bar stools that are made with antique tractor seats.

This home was designed to flow from one room to the next. The colours were picked to accent the exquisite countryside into which it was built. This is a perfect example of how a custom designed home can be built in a setting where it will blend with the surroundings rather than take over the space.



The property first started out as a retreat with Donkers Harris Ltd. building a small but well appointed Caledon log cabin at the back of the property. This cabin is a special retreat that has a unique history.

Peter Twynstra remembers when the Ambassador to Holland and his charming wife visited at the cabin. They joined the family for a steak barbeque before the main house was built and of course before indoor plumbing existed on the property. Peter has fond memories of taking his grandchildren there for quality time with Grandpa.

This cabin was a wonderful start to an amazing property. We congratulate Donkers Harris Ltd. on this beautiful design, from the cabin that started it, to the magnificent custom home that completes this property.

Donkers Harris Ltd. was formed in 1983 to service the Listowel, Ontario and outlying area custom home market. Since that time they have built numerous custom homes, offering the finest materials. The partners pride themselves in working closely with each client to create a custom built home that reflects their individual needs, desires and budget.

Donkers Harris Ltd. is proud to be working closely with Caledon Log Homes. As its first



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For more information Jim Donkers or Gord Harris may be contacted at 519-291-4881, toll free at 1-888-875-6299, or visit the Donkers Harris Ltd. website. ■

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dealer in 1986, and now with vested interest in Caledon Log Homes, they can provide a wealth of experience, in custom log home design, and can build to suit any lifestyle.

The crews from Donkers Harris Ltd. can be found anywhere in the world and have built enclosed shells and turnkey homes in Canada, the United States, Germany, France, Japan, New Zealand, Iceland and Israel.

Over time they have developed strong alliances with prime manufacturers, suppliers and trades people within the custom building industry. Donkers Harris Ltd. is strategically positioned to help make your dream home a reality and believes that once you have investigated the marketplace you will agree that their level of service, building material and skilled craftsmanship is second to none.

There is a natural beauty to their custom built homes and the standard design specifications they use are of the kind found only in the finest custom homes. The design features are combined with quality materials and components to ensure a home of enduring excellence.

Maxx Wall Systems, a division of Donkers Harris Ltd., began installing insulated concrete form products (ICFs) in 1996, and has since become one of the largest installers in southwestern Ontario. Maxx Wall Systems primarily uses Nudura insulated concrete forms and several other of its associated technologies. These ICF products interlock as a form for creating an insulated wall, air/vapor barrier and studding all in one. A wide variety of block forms allow for more flexibility in design without custom cutting blocks to fit. This system is fast, cost efficient and easy to construct from the footings to the roof.

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Donkers Harris Ltd. and its insulated concrete homes division, Maxx Wall Systems, uses Nudura insulated concrete forms (ICFs) and the new-generation integrated building technology that is vastly superior to traditional wood framing methods. Building technology has seen rapid advances in recent years, with home owners looking for newer, more efficient ways to build homes that are stronger, more comfortable and energy efficient, while allowing for flexibility of design and lower future maintenance costs.

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