



**FAR LEFT:** A print of the Tom Thomson painting, *The Canoe*, hangs on an entrance wall finished with pine reclaimed from Julie Bramm and Doug Nicol's original cottage. **LEFT:** Julie and her sisters-in-law Cathie Nicol and Jenny Morgans decorated the new lake house. **BELOW:** A low deck spans the upland breadth of the cottage. **OPPOSITE, RIGHT:** Originally from a sister's cottage, a chaise lounge, reupholstered in green and blue, furnishes one end of the deck overlooking Little Kennisis Lake.



*On their driveway sign, a toad in a yellow vest toasts arrivals with a raised glass of wine.*



Julie's penchant for blending fond memories and family keepsakes with eclectic styling and custom-built furniture makes their new five-bedroom cottage a nostalgic and welcoming retreat for their family. "I like mixing things," says Julie, a newly-retired school teacher.

She and Doug enjoy the rugged topography of the Haliburton Highlands. As mountain bikers, they've cycled many wooded trails in Haliburton forest. In winter, Doug explores long, snowy forest trails on a snowmobile. In her younger years, as a canoe trip leader at a girls' camp, Julie took three-day canoe trips with young paddlers on Redstone, Kennisis and Red Pine lakes. "I've always wanted to be up in this area," she says.

They often used their cottage in the winter and after a few years, decided they wanted a better-insulated lake house. Supported by piers and consisting of several additions, the old cottage proved too difficult and costly to raise. "It was going to be massively expensive to lift it," says Doug. "We decided, let's just tear it down and start over."

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