



Julie drew a basic plan for a new house. They shopped around, searching for a builder to construct a well-insulated home. “We love to use the cottage in the winter,” says Doug, a self-employed businessman. “We plan, at some point, to spend 75 to 80 per cent of our time here – sell the house in the city and maybe get a condo,” he says. “We want to spend a lot of the winter time here. We wanted a strong R-value house.”

Algonquin Projects, a division of **R. Vaughan Services Inc.**, had a floor plan similar to Julie’s. Builder **Bob Vaughan** showed them some of his finished projects. “We fell in love with two of the cottages he built,” says Doug. “That really sold the deal. It was the kind of look we wanted.” Julie agrees. “We just felt that he understood what we were asking for,” she says.

Once construction began, the couple were at the building site every couple of weeks, staying in the bunkie over their garage. “We took a very hands-on approach,” Julie says. To avoid bottlenecks, they made sure materials they supplied, such as tiles and doors, were there waiting for the builders when needed.

The owners wanted as much of their living space as possible on the main floor. “As we’re getting older, we didn’t want to have to do stairs,” says Doug. The main floor holds the open-concept kitchen, dining area and great room, as well as a large master bedroom at one end of the house and an all-season sunroom on the other. “We can live upstairs without having to go downstairs,” Doug says. *Continued on page 56*

TOP: Harvest and sofa tables, crafted by brother-in-law Steve Morgans, complement the reclaimed heartwood pine flooring in the main living space. **RIGHT:** Vintage leaded glass windows hang above the dining room credenza, built with a live-edge wooden top by Steve Morgans. **OPPOSITE:** Designed by Hickory Lane Kitchens, the cottage’s central gathering spot features shaker cabinets, Caesarstone countertops and a distinctive porcelain tile backsplash. Painted poplar sheathes the ceiling.

