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STORY **LAUREN LONG**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

EAST COAST

Inspiration

WHILE LIVING IN THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES, GARY AND JOANNE SCULLION, OWNERS OF **COASTAL IMPRESSIONS**, SPENT WEEKENDS TOURING THE PICTURESQUE TOWNS OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD, NANTUCKET AND CAPE COD.

They loved each town's distinct and often historic homes. On the exterior, many were clad in variations of white, wood siding and cedar shingles and adorned with classic details, including recessed beams and pillars, black shutters, large front porches and signature cupolas and weathervanes. On the inside, the homes were cosy, calm, bright and inviting. *Continued on page 74*

RIGHT: Gary and Joanne Scullion of Coastal Impressions stand outside the 565 sq. ft. pool house. **OPPOSITE:** The dining room has french doors that open to the front porch, filling the room with light. Vintage rift-cut white-oak flooring from Darmaga Hardwood Flooring is used throughout the home. The arched doorway leads to the kitchen. Trim for the home was supplied by Brenlo Ltd. and installed by Abode Building Co.



The home highlights Coastal Impressions' signature features, which include white wood siding, a cupola and large front porch. Clover Roofing & Sheetmetal Inc. completed the roof and Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors supplied the windows and the Thermo-Tru front doors. Landscaping for the property was completed by Harrows Landscaping Inc. using hardscape material from Georgian Bay Outdoors and plants from Clearview Nurseries Ltd..

feature

During their three years in the northeast, between 2004 and 2007, the couple lived with their two (now adult) children in the quaint seaside town of Cohasset, Massachusetts, just south of Boston. The Scullions grew so fond of the architecture there that they returned to the Greater Toronto Area in 2007, intent on bringing that coastal feel with them.

“In 2009, Joanne and I worked with a local architect to come up with a plan that would capture as many of the coastal design elements we loved and then we turned to a local builder to bring that plan to life,” says Gary. “It was this experience that ignited a vision to start Coastal Impressions. Our goal was to offer design consultation and project management services to clients who had never gone through the custom home-build process.”

The transition was relatively easy. Gary was able to transfer his skills as a successful senior executive with over 30 years of corporate leadership experience in strategy, planning and organizational management to help clients manage their custom home projects. Joanne’s keen eye and natural gift for interior design enabled her to smoothly transition into her role as Coastal Impressions’ chief designer.

Coastal Impressions uses project management methods to support a client’s custom build project, from inception to completion. Tools include critical paths, updated cost estimates, bi-monthly executive summaries and a playbook that helps ensure the project delivers a final product consistent with the design renderings. *Continued on page 76*



“WHEN WE TAKE ON A PROJECT, WE DISCIPLINE OURSELVES TO CLOSELY FOLLOW THE PLAYBOOK WITH THE GOAL OF ENSURING THE RESULTS ARE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL.” ~Joanne Scullion



The curved line of the island’s pendant lighting follows the curve of the archway into the dining room. The gold interiors of the lights complement the cabinet hardware and faucet. Custom cabinetry was supplied by Braam’s Custom Cabinets. The backsplash tile is from Ciot and was installed by A&E Tile Design. Silstone counters in Eternal Statuario are from Georgian Granite Works. Thermador Professional Series Appliances are from TA Appliances. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** An arched doorway frames the hallway that leads to stairs to the lower level and a guest suite, pantry and laundry room. Stairs to the lower level are by Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The wood-burning fireplace anchors the main living space. Open shelving displays a curated selection of décor sourced at White Hill Home. Lighting for the home was sourced at Union Lighting. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The large pantry offers organized storage and open shelving, keeping the kitchen clutter free.

feature

“When we take on a project, we discipline ourselves to closely follow the playbook with the goal of ensuring the results are virtually identical,” says Joanne. “I love working with our suppliers to source the best and most cost-effective ways to match the interior renderings. My favourite part is sourcing the lighting, which I always say is like fine jewelry in a home.”

In 2019, Gary and Joanne decided to relocate their business to The Blue Mountains, confident that Coastal Impressions’ style would fit perfectly with the pristine turquoise waters of Georgian Bay.

Coastal Impressions can help with everything from drawings and permits to material selection and sourcing trades. “We have been very fortunate to attract and retain the services of the best trades in the area,” Gary points out. “It’s an achievement we are very proud of given the relatively short period of time that we’ve been here.”

With help from their trusted architectural technologist – **SH Design** – layouts were expanded to include guest rooms, entertainment areas and outdoor living spaces for clients who



LEFT: The white oak vanity in the primary en suite supplied by Braam’s Custom Cabinets is topped with Ceaserstone’s Organic White from Georgian Granite Works. Plumbing for the home was completed by Osburn Plumbing Services. Bath fixtures were sourced through TAPS. **BELOW:** The specialty door into the primary en suite is from Brenlo. The large soaker tub sits on heated tile floors and captures sunlight from the large windows. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT:** The primary bedroom is a gracious retreat for Gary and Joanne. Benjamin Moore Chantilly Lace is used throughout the home. Painting by Complete Value Painting. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Arched doorways lead to the primary suite and a large walk-in closet. Building supplies are from Moffet & Powell Rona. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The home office, conveniently located off the front foyer, has built-in storage and shelving by Braam’s Custom Cabinets. The room is painted Sherwin Williams Iron Ore.



enjoy accommodating guests in the four-season playground of Southern Georgian Bay. To make sure they capture the agricultural aspects of the region and winter activities, some of their latest plans include elements of modern farmhouse with areas to enjoy après-ski entertaining.

In 2021, Gary and Joanne decided to build their personal home in Thornbury to reflect their version of a dream home that could also be used as a model home to present to clients.

The home’s unique features, like barreled archways, inlaid rift-cut oak beams, feature walls and ceilings, generous baseboards and casings and simple ornamental crown mouldings, illustrate some of the optional details available to clients designing their own custom homes.

Gary and Joanne selected only the highest quality materials for their home. Vintage rift-cut white oak plank flooring was chosen for a relaxed yet elegant appearance. Clean white walls are painted Benjamin Moore Chantilly Lace. Sherwin Williams Iron Ore was used in the office.

Expansive windows in the main living area provide panoramic views of the garden and outdoor living spaces and flood the room with natural light. Custom-built cabinetry housing double wine towers is both a practical element and a conversation piece.

The gourmet kitchen is the heart of the entertainment space in the open living area, with a separate prep station that opens to the al fresco dining space.

Continued on page 78





ABOVE LEFT: The u-shaped sectional in the lower-level entertainment area gathers family and friends for conversation and movie nights. The room also has a built-in bar, pool table and euchre tables. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A lower-level guest bathroom has black accents and an oak vanity with flat-panel doors. **BELOW:** Built-in bunk beds with double mattresses in the lower-level guest bedroom have a nautical style with shiplap, blue accents and oak details. Heating and cooling for the home was installed by Nottawasaga Mechanical. **OPPOSITE,**

TOP LEFT & BOTTOM RIGHT: In the main-floor guest bedroom, a view of the pool greets overnight visitors as the sun rises. Shiplap detail on the vaulted ceiling and an oversize raffia pendant light add texture. Double closets share a bench. Shiplap from the ceiling extends down to become a feature wall. **TOP RIGHT:** The powder room on the main level is accented with a shiplap wall, oak vanity with open storage and gold details in the faucet and the wall sconces. Flowers by Collingwood Flowers and Home Decor

The expansive outdoor living area, complete with a cosy wood-burning fireplace, sits opposite the custom outdoor kitchen installed by the [Metal Cabinet Company](#). A reclaimed brick wall acts as a backsplash for the outdoor kitchen and creates the ambience of an old English pub.

The house has three large bedrooms on the main floor and a large guest room on the lower level, each with en suites.

Joanne and Gary's primary en suite has all the luxe essentials. Organic white Caesarstone countertops, installed by [Georgian Granite Works](#), floating custom white-oak vanities, a large soaker tub and a walk-in glass shower give the bathroom an extra touch of opulence.

The other bedrooms have bright white shiplap on the ceilings and a variety of warm and inviting lighting and tile formats in each of the bathrooms. Downstairs, the guest room houses two sets of built-in bunk beds, each with double mattresses.

The lower level also serves as the primary space for indoor entertaining. A spacious recreation room has a built-in bar, pool table and euchre tables to keep guests entertained. *Continued on page 80*





Outside, the in-ground pool is an eye-catching focal point and the centre of the action on summer days. The meticulously-maintained gardens and hardscapes surrounding the pool area are the work of [Harrows Landscaping](#). One of the most notable features of the Scullions' backyard is the separate 565 sq. ft. pool house. This in-law-style house, complete with fireplace, kitchenette and private en suite can act as separate accommodations for guests in all seasons. Gary and Joanne had the opportunity to stay in the pool house during the winter while the main house was still under construction. That experience revealed to them just how cosy and functional this type of space could be, which sparked an idea for a brand-new business venture. *Continued on page 82*



TOP: The view of the home from the pool house captures the large covered entertainment space that includes a seating area, dining table, bar and outdoor kitchen supplied by the Metal Cabinet Company. **ABOVE:** The impressive stone fireplace is flanked with neatly-stacked wood, ready for an evening fire. Mature trees from Clark's Tree Spade Services Inc. were added to the boundaries of the rear garden for privacy. **LEFT:** The pool was installed by Thornbury Clear Choice Pools & Spas. The pool house has similar design features as the main house and offers deluxe accommodation for lucky guests.

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ABOVE: The pool-house kitchen is equipped for preparing a meal or serving drinks pool side. The island does double duty as a dining spot and prep area. **TOP RIGHT:** The large pool-house bathroom repeats details used in the main house, creating continuity between the two buildings. **RIGHT:** Shiplap on the walls and ceiling adds to the cottage vibe. Curated furnishings and décor add luxe details while keeping the space light and airy.

Coastal Impressions is in the process of meeting with The Town of The Blue Mountains to discuss a proposal that could potentially address some of the issues associated with attainable housing. The concept includes building 800 to 1,200 sq. ft. two-bedroom homes, designed as smaller versions of their signature coastal-style homes that could be used as either rental units or primary residences for first-time homebuyers or retirees. Joanne and Gary are thrilled with their permanent home. Their house demonstrates the intricate and unique details offered when building a custom coastal home. **OH**





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