

a cape on keuka lake.

To keep the focus on the spectacular views of the Keuka Lake Bluffs, they kept their design choices classic and their color scheme soft.

BY DONNA DE PALMA | FREELANCE WRITER
PHOTOS BY JACK HALEY | MESSENGER POST MEDIA



it all began

with a bike ride. John Halstead was out for a daily ride near his cottage on Keuka Lake when he met his neighbor, Lin Hough of Hough Custom Homes.

The cottage John and wife, Kathleen, owned on the lake was the perfect summer retreat but as the couple began to contemplate retirement, thoughts of a year-round home on the lakefront property they had owned since 1999 crossed their minds.



"I was impressed with Lin. He was so genuine. People we talked to who had homes built by Lin said they had great experiences," notes John. "We brought him our plans and together with his architect, we came up with the modified three bedroom, three bath Cape Cod that stands on our property today."

The couple tore down their cottage to make way for their 2,500

square foot home, with lakefront on Keuka Lake.

To keep the focus on spectacular views of the bluffs, they kept their design choices classic and their color scheme soft. A wall of windows looks out onto the lake in the great room which features a fieldstone fireplace and built-in bookcases built by Lin Hough's father.



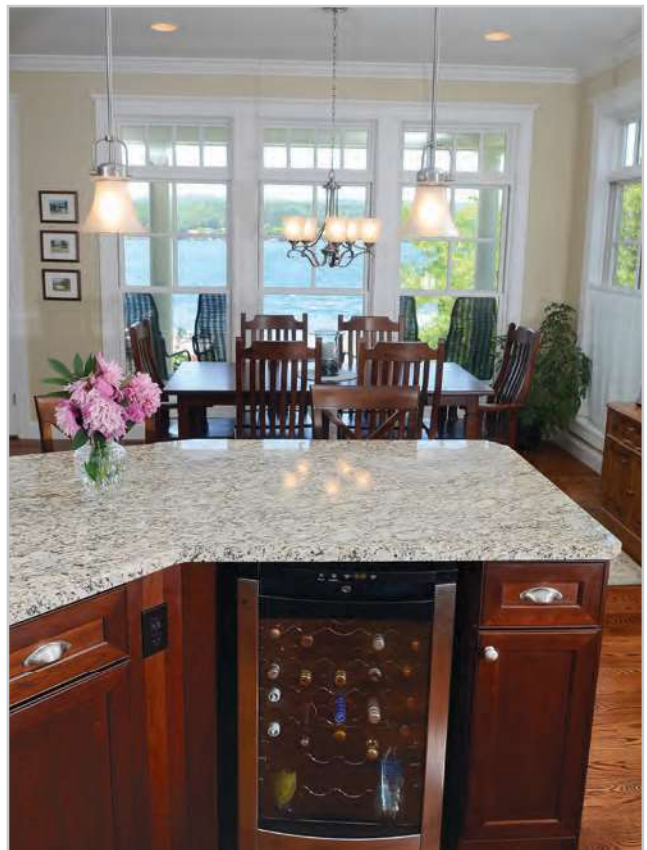


A nine-and-a-half-foot ceiling and French doors lead out to a lakeside porch to create a spacious, open feel. Red oak hardwood floors, stained brown, and a palette of beach colors: Robin's egg blue, sand and cream, round out a neutral color scheme that's a serene backdrop for dramatic sunsets over the water. Crown molding gives the room a finished, stately appeal.

In the kitchen, a cherry wood island that seats four, is front and center in this creamy white interior. Granite countertops, white cabinets and stainless steel appliances are offset by a natural stone tile backsplash with glass inserts. Three burnished nickel pendant lights, over the island, create soft floodlight for entertaining and food prep. The kitchen opens to the dining room and great room in this open floor plan.

A guest bedroom and full bath off the great room provides guests with a view of the lake. Upstairs, the master bedroom has a modified cathedral ceiling and French doors that exit to a second floor porch, taking full advantage of the lake views. A rounded half-moon window adds an organic feel to the room. The en suite with full shower is a serene retreat after a day by the water.





The Halsteads have sentimental pieces in their great room furnished with a combination of antiques and lake-style furnishings. An antique rocking chair that was in a cottage John's parents owned, when he was a child, is a prominent feature in the room. Also owned by John's parents, an antique buffet is a fond memory of them.

The couple likes to celebrate the region with artwork from artists who live and work in the Finger Lakes. Amish furniture in the dining room was constructed in Penn Yan, not far from their home.



The exterior of the two-story home is painted pale green with creamy white trim. A sloping roof with dormers adds charm to the lakeside home. A cupola atop the garage, constructed by Hough's father, is the finishing touch on this serene year-round new construction.

John Halstead, president of The College at Brockport (SUNY) for ten years, retired two years ago. A former president of Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, the couple discovered the Finger Lakes while looking for a vacation home nearly twenty years ago.



Kathleen worked in economic development and on school boards, but primarily alongside her husband supporting his duties as president of two colleges. She said she is thrilled with their new home.

“I can’t really say enough about Lin, his father, and Lin’s wife, Cindy.” When a tree had to be cut down on the property, Lin’s father carved a wooden bowl out of the black walnut for us. It is on our dining room table to remind us of the wonderful experience we had building our home.”

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