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3 *cottage*

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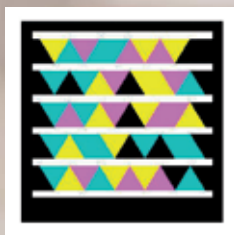
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editor's note



ENTHUSIASM CAN BE CONTAGIOUS. It was more than 60 years ago when the first cottages on Lake Manitouwabing were accessible only by flat-bottom punts. When Bruce and Amy Hillier spent a week with family friends at one of these wilderness summer homes, they were delighted. They bought a waterfront property with a sun-drenched, southwestern exposure, a spot to bask in the sunshine and watch spectacular sunsets. In the winter of 1949, they pulled the old McKellar dancehall across the frozen lake to their property, where it became the main room of their new cottage. With three small bedrooms and a kitchen, the cottage had no indoor plumbing or electricity, but it was a tiny slice of heaven on Earth.

It's little wonder that Pat and Morley Sniderman felt some of that same ardor when, by chance, they came upon this cottage property while looking for another nearby. "We loved the lot," Morley says. The Toronto couple bought the old cottage and were extraordinarily resourceful in building and furnishing a new one. They found their kitchen stove in California and discovered a Michigan wood shop to supply them with the exact log siding and other building materials they wanted for their home. They shopped at garage sales, schlepping great bargains and beautiful furniture home in a trailer. Morley, who has a Master's Degree in urban planning, and was an early expert on solar energy, thrives on the intricacies of house design, sourcing building materials and finding unique furnishings. His enthusiasm, when talking about the details of their six-bedroom lake house, is infectious. Pat and Morley's story starts on page 74.

In this issue, we also bring you the stories of homes on two other northern lakes, Little Lake Joseph and Kahshe Lake. Don and Alba Price open the doors to their new log cottage on page 30, while John and Christina Newton share their contemporary summer home on Burnt Island, starting on page 54.

We also visit The Corner Cabinet, a home décor, gift and furniture store, in an old Bracebridge blacksmith's shop and introduce some of the arborists who keep that treasured greenery alive and flourishing around local homes.

You'll find the passions of these folks inspiring.

Walter Franczyk

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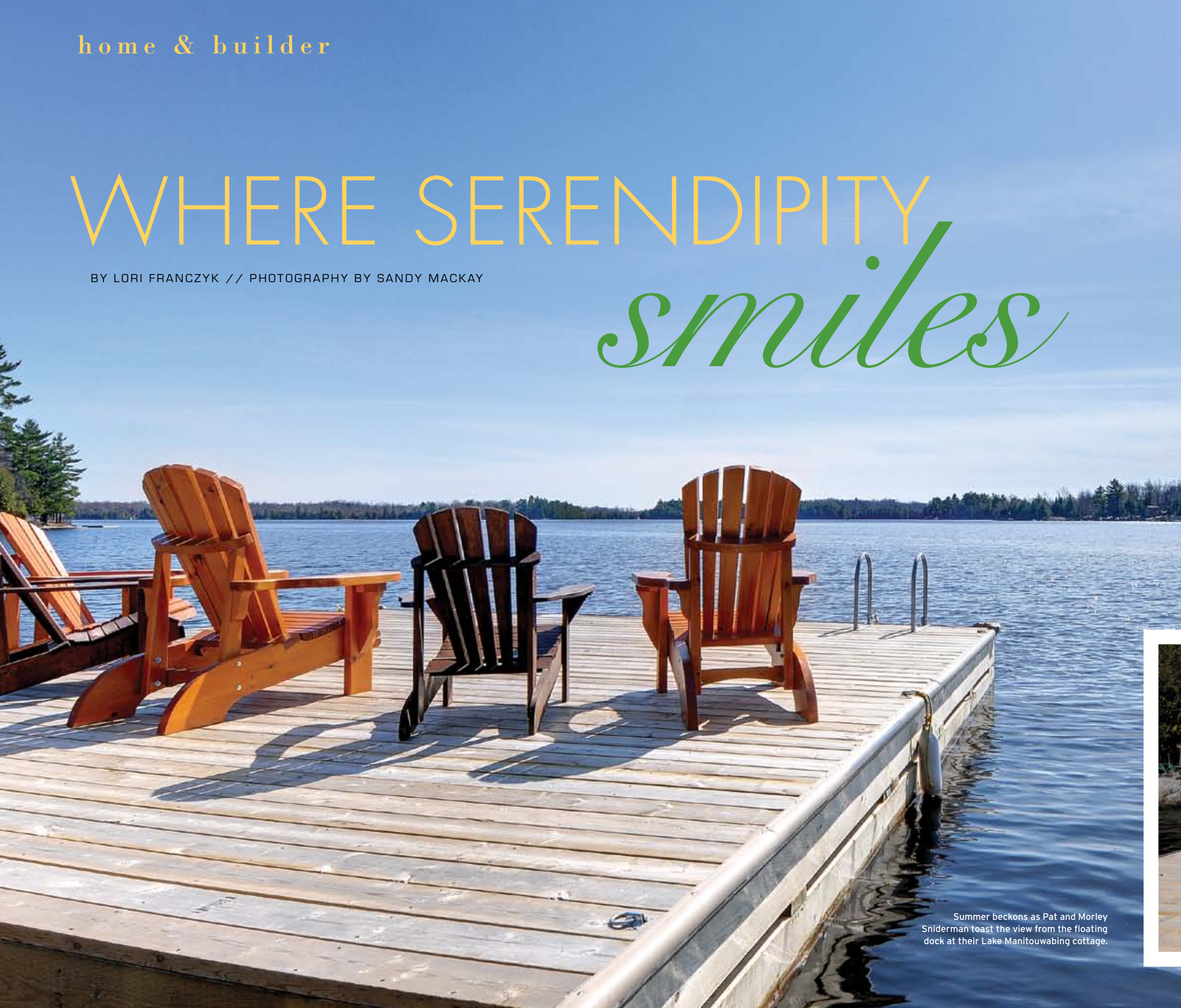
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BY LORI FRANCYK // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY



Summer beckons as Pat and Morley Sniderman toast the view from the floating dock at their Lake Manitouwabing cottage.

A loon's haunting call echoes mournfully over the expanse of Lake Manitouwabing as Pat and Morley Sniderman pause to count their blessings.

"The call of the loon puts you in awe of nature and I feel blessed when I hear it," says Pat, as she and her husband, Morley, relax in the screened-in porch of their six-bedroom, log-sided home on the lake near McKellar, northeast of Parry Sound. "I feel lucky to be alive when we're here," says Pat, a professor of human resources management and organizational behaviour at Ryerson University in Toronto. "All the petty things just fall away."

Morley's affinity with the North began years ago when he accompanied campers from the Young Men's Hebrew Association in Toronto to Algonquin Park. "I fell in love with the area," recalls Morley, a national account manager with Xerox Canada. He introduced Pat, who was born in London, England, to camping early in their relationship. They have two children, Matt, 26, who works for TD Canada Trust and Laura, 21, a McGill University student. *Continued on page 76*



home & builder

The Snidermans began their northern adventure in 1988 when they purchased their first cottage on Big Whitefish Lake, south of Parry Sound. In 2009, a twist of fate led them to their present property on Lake Manitouwabing. “On the recommendation of **Jim Marshall**, our great real estate agent, we were going to look at a cottage two lots away but ended up here by mistake,” Morley explains. They were captivated by the stunning view of the lake, filtered by tall, majestic pines and flanked by a scenic, rocky point jutting into the lake. A southwestern exposure provides plenty of sunlight. “We loved the lot,” says Morley.

A small cottage that had once been a dancehall in McKellar stood on the property. Although it wasn't for sale, serendipity smiled on the Snidermans. “Matt suggested that we leave a note in the door and it turns out the cottage belonged to an older couple who wanted to sell,” Morley recalls.

Situated on just under two acres of land, the Sniderman home encompasses 4,750 sq. ft. and features 400 feet of private waterfront. Their log escape exudes warmth, character and delightfully reflects their love of nature. “It's all about nature for us,” says Pat who, with Morley, decorated the home in an eclectic style that expresses their affection for wildlife and the outdoors.

The home's front door is made of 200-year-old Cyprus cedar and features intricate etchings of bear, moose and deer. Designed by **H.J. Nick**, it was hand-carved at the **Scottsdale Art Factory** in Arizona where Nick also designed a new desk, made of the same rare wood, for United States President Barack Obama's Oval Office. *Continued on page 78*

BELOW: Quincy, the family pet, feels right at home on his northern adventures. **BOTTOM:** Weeks Construction of Parry Sound built the cottage road, installed the septic system and handled demolition and set up for construction.



ABOVE: The cottage exterior is finished with hand-hewn, pine log siding from The Woodworkers Shoppe in Michigan. Tempered glass balusters from Liv Outdoors ring the exterior deck, providing a clear view of the lake while allowing the onshore breeze to keep the deck cool. **LEFT:** Wild creatures inhabit the large front door, carved from 200-year-old Cyprus cedar.

home & builder

The natural theme woven throughout the Snidermans' residence creates a cosy, homey atmosphere. The open-concept design of the great room is both functional and inviting while catering to different needs. A stone fireplace, crafted by **Ray White Masonry** of Parry Sound, stands sentinel over a sitting area that includes an entertainment centre housed in the bow of an old cedar rowboat. The kitchen, with rustic hickory cupboards, designed and built by **Erwin Finch of Big Sound Woodworks**, is adjacent to the sitting area. It features a gas stove and an island, overlaid with thick Italian granite. Huge windows bathe the dining area in warm sunshine and afford guests a spectacular view of Lake Manitouwabing.

The Snidermans have collected a number of pieces that add a rugged, outdoorsy feel to the great room. A faux-antler chandelier, from **Harris Furniture** of Parry Sound, illuminates the sitting area while a second chandelier, adorned with canoes, from **Living Lighting** of Parry Sound, hangs above the dining room table. Morley and Pat enjoy unearthing furniture and knickknacks at flea markets and garage sales and showcasing them in their home. "I like finding very neat and unique things," says Morley.

Continued on page 20



Marvin Windows and Doors installed the windows that reveal spectacular views of Lake Manitouwabing. LEFT: The great room contains little islands of tranquility. You can relax by the fire or watch a wide-screen TV housed in the prow of an old boat.



Cabinets in the superbly equipped kitchen are custom made of rustic hickory. Countertops are Italian granite.



Dinnerware from Cottage Country Interiors graces the dining room table. Parry Sound's Mr. Electric wired the eye-catching illumination and other fixtures throughout the home.



FAR LEFT: A fireplace keeps the three-season Muskoka room toasty on chilly evenings. **LEFT:** Tracy Ellement designed the rugged rock gardens surrounding the home. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Cedar stumps, pulled from a Michigan swamp, support the bathroom vanity topped with a single piece of carved Quebec granite. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The ground floor master bedroom, just 25 feet from the lake, has glass doors that open to the exterior deck.

The Snidermans credit **David Anderson** of **Anderson Design** with the overall plan of the house. “He was fantastic and added a lot to our original concept,” says Pat. “Dave was meticulous and good to work with. We told him some of the things we wanted to experience and he made it happen.”

Pat describes builder **Ron Smith**, of **Parkway Contracting**, as the key to the success of the project. “His quality is superb and he is honest, reliable and a good communicator and he was on top of everything,” says Pat. “They were awesome to work with,” says Smith, who describes the home as unique. “It gives you a real sense of cottage life.” The most challenging part of the project for Smith and his staff was lowering the cathedral ceilings to maintain an R50 insulation value. “The cottage is really well-insulated,” he says. He spearheaded the construction and had a hand in all aspects of its development. “My favourite part of a project is when everything comes together and you start seeing the finished product,” he explains. “You feel a lot of pride.”

The cottage’s master bedroom on the main floor features a balcony overlooking the lake, a king-size bed and a gas fireplace nestled in an alcove. It’s a magical place in the morning, says Pat. “I wake up to hear waves lapping at the shore. It’s heaven.” *Continued on page 84*





TOP: Multiple angles create an intricate pine ceiling in the second floor master bedroom.
ABOVE: The Snidermans used log siding from The Woodworkers Shoppe in Michigan to finish interior walls, giving the home that log cabin feel. **RIGHT:** A Romeo and Juliet balcony offers an intimate spot to enjoy morning coffee while looking out on the lake.



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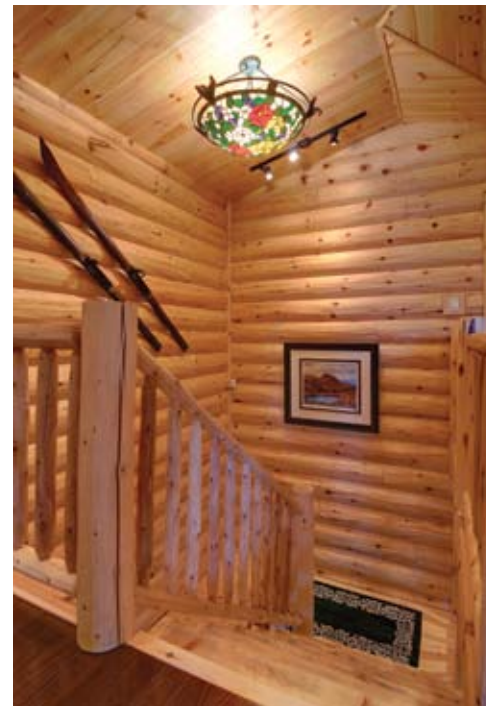
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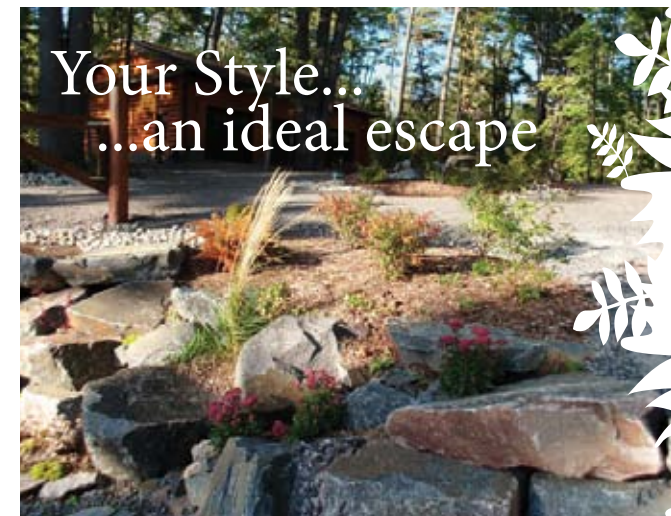


LEFT: A slanted ceiling over twin beds makes this tiny upstairs bedroom a children's favourite. **BELOW:** A stained glass lamp from Empire Auctions Toronto illuminates the log-sided stairwell. **BOTTOM:** Interior and exterior log siding, sandwiching conventional two-by-six frame walls and two inches of styrofoam insulation, gives the home maximum energy efficiency.



Beds throughout the cottage are layered with snuggly, patchwork quilts supplied by **Donna Forbes Harley** of **Cottage Country Interiors**. Although there is plenty of room for company and entertaining, Pat relishes the fact that the cottage also affords the opportunity for solitude. The landscaping is impressive. Rock gardens, designed by **Tracy Ellement** of **Ellement Services/Silverwood North**, formerly of **Adams Construction**, complement the rugged, natural theme of the property.

Pat and Morley remain in awe of their slice of heaven on Earth. "It's such a special place," says Pat. "I feel so lucky when I walk through the door." **OH**



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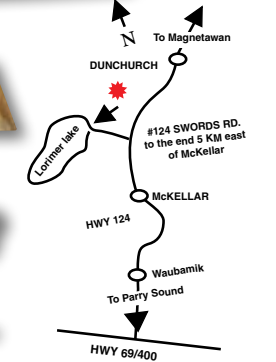
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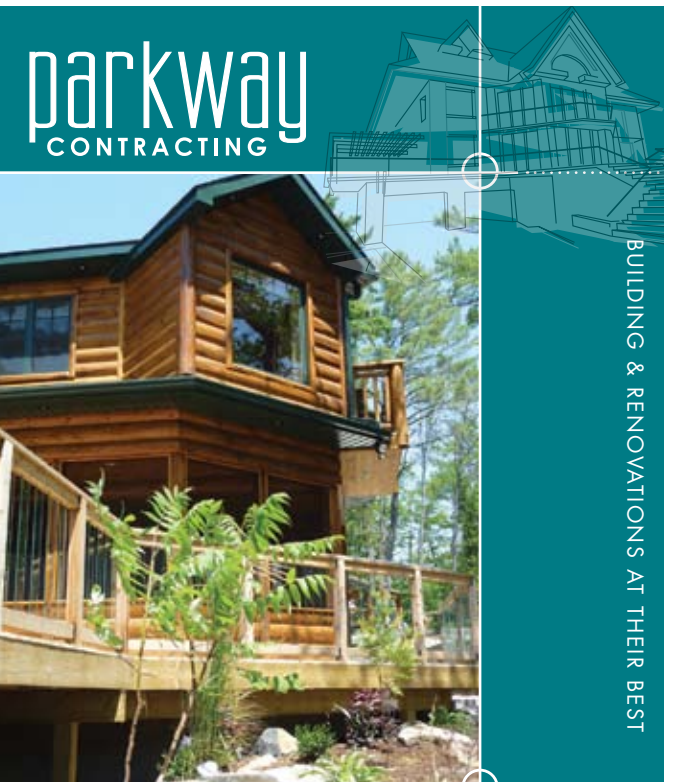
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