



With many people switching to remote work throughout the pandemic, it's now feasible to live almost anywhere we choose. The goal of living full-time at the cottage is more attainable than ever – especially when prime developments like **Lakeside** by **Luxart Homes** is offering cottage-inspired living in a gorgeous setting. Continued on page 34



# LAKE SIDE

## *living*

STORY **JODY SCULLY**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **GORDON KING**

**ABOVE:** A stone fireplace from Merkley Supply Ltd. infuses the family room with an upcountry feel. **TOP RIGHT:** One of the highlights of the development is the lakefront park, right down the street. **RIGHT:** The Brook model home buzzes with curb appeal, thanks to plants and flowers by The Garden Gal.

# home & builder

Nestled on the shores of Mississippi Lake, just minutes from the growing town of Carleton Place in Beckwith Township, Lakeside really does offer the best of both worlds. With a beautiful waterfront park and access to nature trails, Luxart Homes co-owner Amanda Wagorn says it is very similar to having a cottage. “It’s the cottage without all the additional maintenance of owning a second home because this is your primary home.”

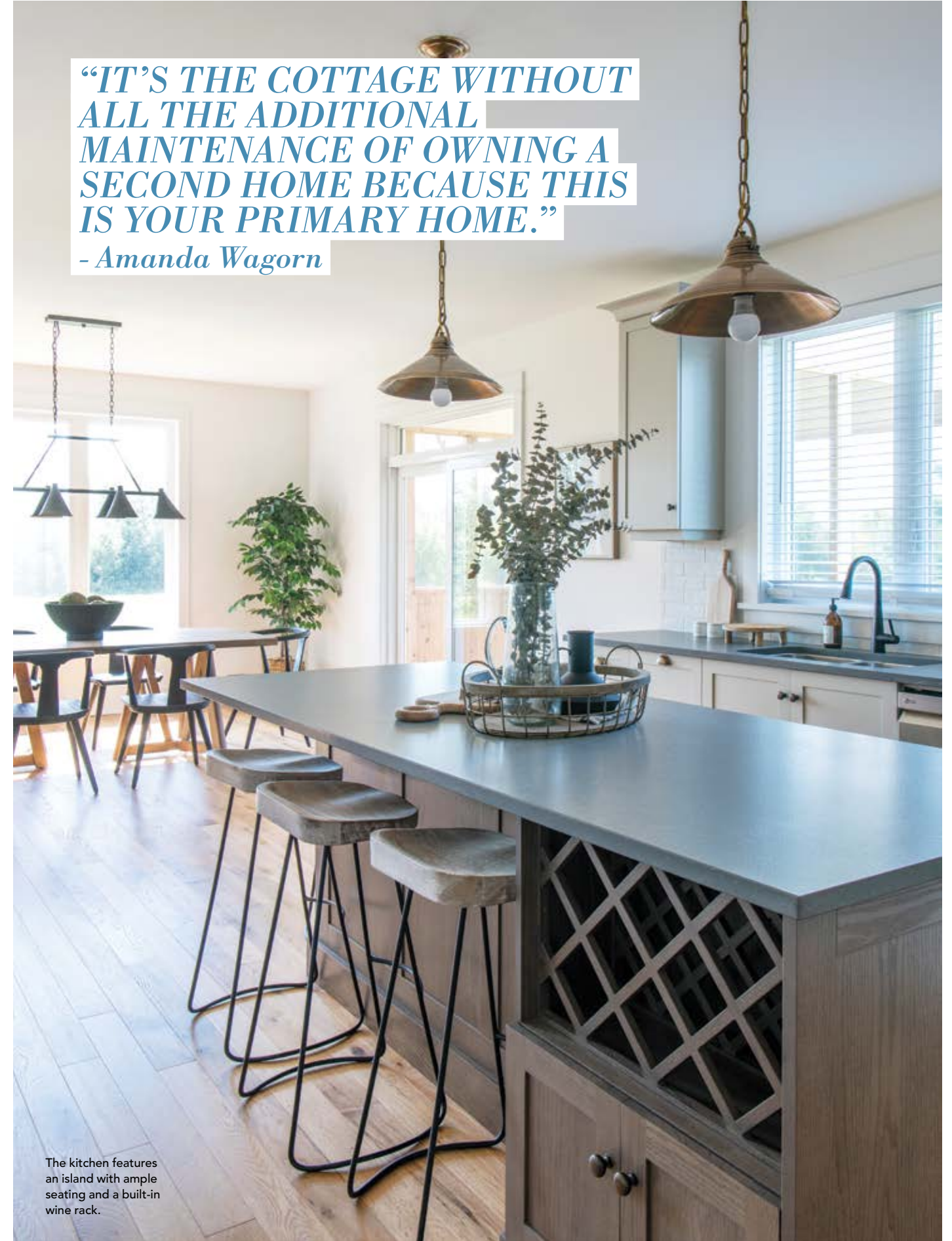
The first release of the Lakeside community includes 24 homes on large one- to two-acre lots. There is a waterfront park and a second wooded park in the neighbourhood. Future releases are to come, with a total community size of 74 homes.

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*- Amanda Wagorn*



The kitchen features an island with ample seating and a built-in wine rack.

Natural materials like stone and wood add cottage style. ABOVE: Subtle details make this home warm and inviting, like the contrast on the staircase and the wood floors.





Buyers have their choice of 10 different home plans for inspiration, with the ability to customize their home to meet their needs. "It's a truly personalized process," says Amanda. "Anything is possible."

All the models Luxart offers, Amanda says, "focus on big front porches, big back porches and big community gathering. The houses are a little bit closer to the road to encourage that walkable feeling and all trails lead to the lake. It's about the lifestyle that this neighbourhood offers."

The waterfront park is a highlight of the neighbourhood. The park includes a small craft launch, seating area, picnic tables, barbecues and a firepit. "I imagine families going down there and gathering to share a meal," Amanda says. "Bikes are piled at the end of the laneway and the kids are down at the beach playing."

To round out the Lakeside lifestyle is a forested park with maintained trails for jogging, dog-walking and family outings. "One of Beckwith Township's goals is to have trails through all neighbourhoods and communities that are easily accessed by everybody to enjoy nature and the beauty that Beckwith has to offer," explains Amanda. "These trails within the Lakeside community connect to that and they also connect to the Trans-Canada trail which can take you anywhere." *Continued on page 38*



**LEFT:** City meets country with a live-edge dining table underneath contemporary light fixtures. **ABOVE LEFT:** This kitchen is highly functional, with lots of room for prep and a large walk-in pantry tucked in the corner. **ABOVE:** Quartz countertops have a leathered look, adding texture and dimension to the kitchen. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** A smart mudroom at the rear of the home proves that functional space can also be beautiful. **BOTTOM:** The second-floor loft is an amazing flexi-space perfect for work-at-home.

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The primary bedroom is bright and inviting with windows all around. **BELOW:** The primary en suite is styled in a neutral palette and features an oversize shower and deep soaker tub.

The interior of the model home, aptly named **The Brook**, evokes a cottage-like feel with natural wood and stone finishes that reinforce the indoor-outdoor connection. Beautiful white oak hardwood floors from **Gaylord Hardwood Flooring** run throughout the main living areas and large windows flood the space with natural light.

The Brook features a large, open entryway at the front of the house as well as a convenient mudroom off the garage. In the living room, a large stone fireplace by **Merkley Supply Ltd.** provides a stunning focal point for the cosy room. A pair of windows and custom built-ins flank the fireplace, providing attractive storage.

With two walls of custom cabinetry by **Deslaurier Custom Cabinets** and three large worksurfaces, the spacious kitchen is as functional as it is beautiful. Gorgeous quartz countertops are made even more striking when paired with a textured subway tile backsplash. A large corner pantry and thoughtful touches like a built-in wine rack and island seating add functionality to the already user-friendly kitchen. Custom lighting brings a touch of drama without taking away from the open and airy aesthetic.

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**“FOCUS ON BIG FRONT PORCHES, BIG BACK PORCHES AND BIG COMMUNITY GATHERING.”**

Upstairs you'll find what Amanda says is one of her favourite features – an open loft on the second floor. It can serve as a playroom or close it off to create a fourth bedroom. “When it's left open like this, the work-from-home atmosphere is really easy to achieve. It's bright, it's sunny, it's accessible. You can hear the kids, but you're still in your own space,” she says.

The upper level also has two generous bedrooms and a large primary suite. Beautiful views and a walk-in closet in each bedroom

ensure the home can accommodate families with young children as well as those who embrace multi-generational living. An expansive laundry room comes as a pleasant surprise and highlights Luxart's function-first approach to space planning. “The good parts are all huge,” explains Amanda. “The parts you use – the storage, the porches, the entryways.”

But when all is said and done, the big rear porch is the real star of the show. “That's where the sun is setting each day,

so you get a beautiful view. The only better view in the neighbourhood is from the beach,” says Amanda.

When asked what makes Lakeside stand out, Amanda reiterates how the development fosters a community feeling and the highly sought after waterfront is a draw as well. “This neighbourhood is a lifestyle unto itself. Activity, community, beauty and that cottage feeling. It's all centred around the gorgeous Mississippi Lake in Beckwith.” **OH**



**ABOVE:** A rear screened porch really makes this home feel like a cottage, perfect for relaxing on a summer evening. **LEFT:** This home has great outdoor space, including a generous yard and covered terrace by The Ultimate Backyard.