

■ **GANANOQUE LAKE:** Home designed by their children

Lolleys find comfort in environmentally friendly home

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Overlooking a magnificent view of the wetlands off Gananoque Lake, Brenda and James Lolley have found their little piece of heaven where they built an environmentally friendly home with the help of their daughter and her husband, both architects.

The Guelph couple who enjoy the wilderness and all it has to offer said they looked for three years to find a property that they loved that was both affordable and plentiful. They even camped out on a nearby bluff to determine if the land was a good fit.

Not only have they built their eco-friendly dream home on some 125 acres of property, but they did it with the help of many, including local business professionals.

"Christine and her husband Tom Knezic gave us home-work," said Brenda. "We had to tell them what a typical day in our life would be like five years into the future. They didn't want to know how many bedrooms we wanted, but how we would be living."

The home features passive solar heating and cooling, geothermal heating, top-notch insulation and high efficiency appliances and fixtures.

Situated against a rock outcropping, the main living spaces face south, which allows solar heating in winter and takes advantage of the dramatic views.

Floor to ceiling windows are triple glazed and allow for a breathtaking view of the natural landscape at many angles.

"It's got a feel like we are outside... it's like camping in a nice tent," Brenda said.

The reinforced concrete structure was built using Durisol blocks. The floors are polished concrete and core heated to act as a thermal mass, absorbing and releasing heat to regulate temperature swings. There are no carpets, hardwood flooring or curtains in the place, stressing their minimalist approach to life. The house stays cool in the summer eliminating the need for air-conditioning.

The high level windows give a 'chimney' effect as hot air can exit and draw cooler air from the ground floor. They open windows at night and close them all day.

With the specifically designed overhang to exclude summer sun, window coatings to reflect heat on west side and ceiling fans in all the rooms, they say the house has never been warmer than the recommended AC level setting.

Three inches of polyurethane foam sprayed on the outside of the structure insulates and acts as a total air barrier. A air-exchange unit is also used to keep the air flow fresh.

The walls and roof are made from galvanized steel that reflects unwanted solar heat gain and provides a durable, low-maintenance shell. A ground source heat pump is used to drive the in-floor heating system. Domestic hot water needs are supplemented by roof-mounted solar panels — 20 in total. That's all they need to supply domestic water to their 1,800 square foot home.

"We chose this (method of building) due to its recyclability," says James. "It's very durable and we don't have to paint it every few years. It was finished in 2006 and took our family and friends about a year to do it."

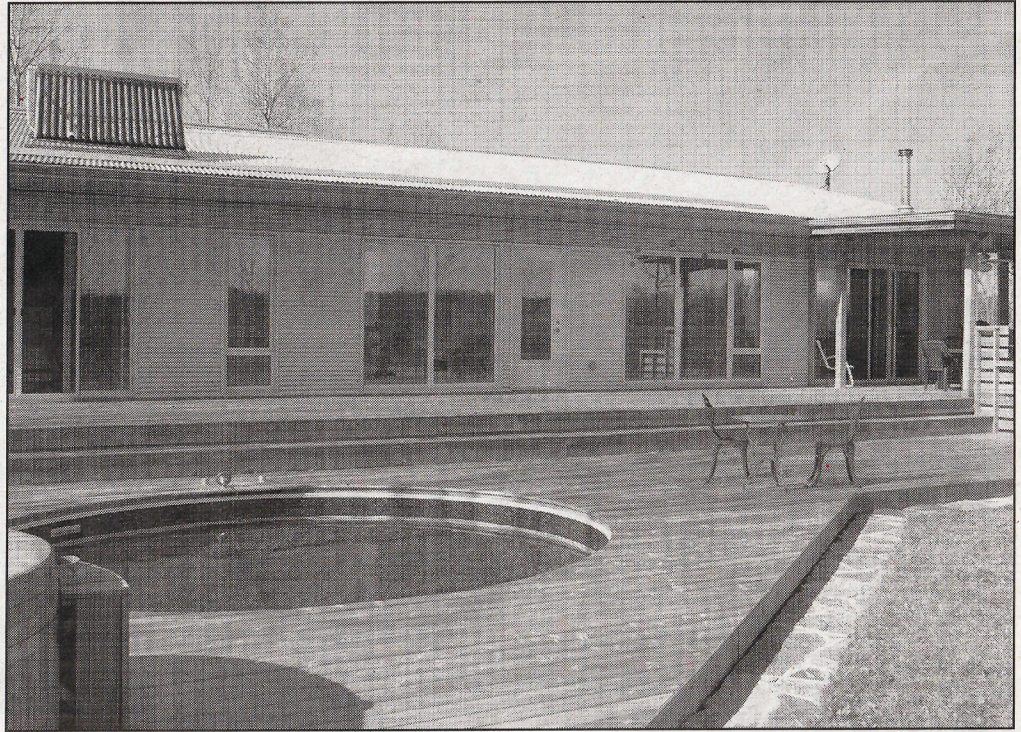
James has built a number of wooden accents inside the home: from the red oak staircase to the poplar closet doors. There are poplar bed frames in the guest rooms on the main floor and in their living quarters upstairs there are numerous wooden creations, including a wall-to-wall desk in the office. Their garage is also open to the outside with full glass double doors overlooking the drive. Inside here is the woodworking shop. All of the wood comes from the land they own.

"It's just a hobby for me," James said. He's an engineer by trade since moving to the Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands, he has become a member of many environmental groups, including the waste management committee, Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A), and economic development, to name a few.

Brenda is a retired family physician, but did some relief duties in Seeley's Bay at the medical centre and is looking forward to another stint in the Stone Mills Family Health Centre in Gananoque this spring/summer.

"The people of the area have accepted us and they have been very helpful," James says. "We couldn't have built our home here without the help of the many local business and trades people. When we completed the house, we had a huge party and invited everyone to join."

Moving to the area was mainly "because of the rock" and the natural beauty, Brenda said. Wilderness canoeing in



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James and Brenda Lolley (below) own an environmentally friendly home overlooking the wetlands of the Gananoque Lake. It's been a dream in the making, designed by their children. They say they couldn't have done it without the help of the community. In the above photo, the home is nestled in a rock cut and faces south over the wetlands. The triple glazed windows help control the temperature inside the home without the use of air conditioning. Inside, the home is furnished and trimmed with wood felled on their property, that includes red oak stairs and poplar closet doors.



Algonquin Park, near Lake Superior and Elliott Lake gave the Lolleys the experience they yearned for upon retirement.

"It was that experience, and being able to find the topogra-

phy, the affordability and the availability that brought us to Gananoque Lake," James said. "It took us two years to find it."

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