

BUILDER OF THE WEEK – CASTLEBROOK HOMES – DEER RIDGE

Beautiful bungalow showcases builder's commitment to quality, style

By DAINA FEICK, SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

When asked about what homebuyers can expect from Castlebrook Homes, Jay Rickard's answer is as decisive as his homes are beautiful. "Our designs are unique," says the designer/builder whose company has crafted single-family homes in Kitchener-Waterloo for almost 25 years.

"I sit down with every customer ... and we collaborate on the design and construction, from start to finish. The interaction is such that each home is distinct ... and reflects the needs and desires of each homebuyer."

And while it may limit the number of residences he builds to approximately 18 to 20 a year, this level of service results in homes that are both breathtaking and well-built—including his newest model in Kitchener's Deer Ridge.

"We have 14 lots here," confirms Rickard of the enclave distinguished by its proximity to Pioneer Tower and the area's extensive walking/biking trails, Deer Ridge Golf Club and the 401. "Our smallest lot is 60 x 100 and the largest is about 63 x 120-feet."

Located on the corner of Joseph Schoerg Crescent and Jacob Gingrich Drive (off Terrace Wood Drive), the model is a 2,400 square foot bungalow with 2,000 additional square feet in the finished basement.

"We refer to this as our design centre," says Rickard, regarding the bungalow. "You can come here, see what we offer and incorporate these and other ideas into your home. We have another 12 to 15 bungalow plans designed with this neighbourhood in mind ... allowing for a different home on every lot."

Outside, highlights of the model include its brick exterior, covered porch and a magnificent fiberglass front door in a wood-stain finish with elliptical transom and two sidelights. The double-car garage offers a side entry, a design that promotes the home's gables, large windows and other fine details.

Interior highlights begin with the Brazilian cherrywood flooring in the foyer and throughout much of the main floor, further enhanced by the nine-foot ceilings, extensive woodwork, stunning décor and the gracious maple/iron stairway that descends to the basement.

To the right, the foyer leads to what Rickard describes as a 'utility corridor' (providing access to the laundry room and garage) and the 'privacy corridor' to the main floor bathroom and bedrooms.

The main bath features a practical tub/shower combination, a linen closet, rich earth-tone ceramics and a custom-fit mirror over the generous vanity.

Next door to the main bath is the first of the main floor's two bedrooms. Beside it, double doors open to a marvelous master that includes a large walk-in closet, a built-in sound system and a garden door to a future deck.

The ensuite – nothing short of luxurious – features heated ceramic tile, a glass-case shower stall with multiple spray system, a double vanity, a soaker tub and water closet.

The privacy corridor loops back to the foyer where, to the left, an office/den is accessed by a beveled-glass French



(Above) The dining room blends a unique tray-style ceiling with wainscoting defined by a chair rail and a large window for natural light and a lovely view. (Below) The master bedroom is spacious and features a large walk-in closet, a built-in sound system, a luxurious ensuite and a garden door to a future deck.



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