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# A reno revisited

## Bold direction – beautiful results

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY **DUALITY PHOTOGRAPHIC**

**DAN AND SHELAGH HAD TACKLED A KITCHEN RENOVATION** a number of years ago, but felt the time was right to get more ambitious with the rest of their house.

Their 1000-square-foot house in Riverbend had served them well over the last 30 years. “But we just got to the point where we wanted some additional space,” says Dan. “In prior years, we invested our time and energies in our cottage. Now it was time to expand the house, so we decided to go with a family room addition and move around some walls to give us the extra living space we were after.”

“We came up with the design ourselves and that’s when we started talking with Trikor Builders.” Dan explains that he knew of Trikor co-owner, Brian Arnold, through his Dad at work. “We contacted him about the job, decided it was a good fit and started the project.”

Removing walls became a key element in carving out the new floor plan. “Our previous living room was converted into a new dining room area.” Brian and his crew took out the wall between the kitchen and the older living room to come up with the new space for dining and entertaining.

“The vaulted ceiling was part of the original house design and we decided we wanted to have that same feature in the new family room area as well,” says Dan. “With the addition, the house expanded to a roomy 1340 square feet.”

Besides adding the family room, tearing down the wall between the kitchen and the original living room produced a stunning change to the layout. The couple chose to keep their existing kitchen cabinetry from their recent kitchen renovation and added an island in contrasting espresso stain to the spice stain cabinetry and to add definition to what was, by now, an open-concept space. A raised breakfast bar, sink, and dishwasher rounds out this multi-use centre and serves as the natural entertainment hub when friends and family come to call.

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The kitchen cabinets were augmented with new additions in the same style and stain and provide nearly 30 per cent more storage for food and utensils within the new configuration.

Dan and Shelagh decided to give up their third bedroom and remove another wall to fashion an entertainment area complete with electric fireplace and bar adjacent to the newly created dining room. This modification also allowed for more space in another bedroom which was another positive outcome.

The couple chose to have the family room a bit more separate from the rest of the house, but with good sightlines from the rest of the area, it works well for group functions so that everyone is still able to connect within the space.

A major way of unifying the open concept was with the newly installed red oak hardwood flooring. Victor Giesbrecht, one of the principals of Trikor Builders, remembers that there were a few challenges involved in making sure that the hardwood would lay flat. "Due to some heaving in the basement, the entire main floor was pushed up along the center of the home. To correct this we had to spend a lot of time cutting down basement walls in order to lower the floor above. In order to reduce drywall cracking on the main floor we spent 2 weeks slowly dropping the beam. This resulted in a level floor and the hardwoods were installed with no problems."

Shelagh and Dan sought refuge at their cottage during the most intense part of the renovation when the walls and additions were being done. But when they returned, they were very pleased with the progress and especially with Trikor's positive and upbeat attitude that smoothed over the last legs of the project.

"Some people say that renovations are horrible, but we kind of enjoyed the process," says Dan. "Trikor kept us informed all the way along." 

**Trikor Builders is located at 65101 Pine Ridge Road and can be reached at 663.3818.**



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