



A once vintage chalet received an addition and a total face-lift, inside and out. In this room, the fireplace was redone and all the windows were replaced. Owner Chris Morgis loved the location and decided a makeover was the way to go. **TOP RIGHT:** The kitchen is warm and inviting and wired for sound.



before



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

# A RENOVATION *well worth it*



Sometimes it just makes sense to renovate.

Vintage chalets in prime locations dot the area around – many in need of a makeover.

The vacation home Chris Morgis and his family enjoy today is a perfect example of what can be done to a chalet built long ago.

Morgis bought the much-loved pre-fabricated home back in the early 90s, when Blue Mountain wasn't quite as popular as it is today.

“At the time, it was five years old and built for weekend use only,” the Toronto developer says. “There was no garage, no storage, no basement and just enough room for our young family, but the location was to die for and the view even better.” *Continued on page 109*





This fabulous recreation room was added to the back of the original chalet. LEFT: Brad Abbott's design included a new loft overlooking the rec room. BOTTOM LEFT: The games room includes a two-storey stone fireplace and lots of comfortable seating. BOTTOM RIGHT: The bunkie is upstairs in the loft and gives the kids a place to entertain their friends.



At the time of purchase, his daughter was three and his son just a year old. It was just a matter of time before they outgrew the chalet. That time came in 2008. Morgis decided it was time to renovate and hired **Brad Abbott** of **W.B. Abbott Design**, whose passion is designing quality single-family homes.

"Our place was always the drop-in centre," Morgis says happily. So I sat down with Brad to map out how to make it better, bigger and with two of everything so as to keep the boys from bothering the girls.

Abbott's design incorporated a new garage, mudroom and storage, which included a sub-basement with a utility room, plus an entertainment space for the whole family. He also designed a facelift for the exterior.

"We added 2,100 sq. ft., almost doubling the space," says Abbott.

The "playroom" is the real showpiece. It was added over the master bedroom and is one large open space, which includes a home theatre and a new stone fireplace. It has a pool table and an elaborate built-in bar. The home is fully automated – lighting, shades and audio video – thanks to **Red Brick Property Solutions**.

"During the design, we suggested that he add a loft on top of the roof of

the original house that would have an overview of this new game room," Abbott says. "It's very unique and works with the roof lines."

The home now has a place for the boys and a place for the girls.

All the ceilings were redone with false beam work and pine, which is the predominant interior finish. The old windows, which were triangular and trapezoid, were replaced with square Loewen Windows with unique copper cladding on the outside. A post-and-beam portico over the entrance and stone steps finish off the true mountain-chalet architecture.

"Brad was perfect because he understood the Alpine style and trends of that marketplace," Morgis says. "He also has an eye for real post-and-beam fir work."

**Wilson Project Management Inc.** (WPMI) was the contractor.

"I hired only the best people," says Morgis. "From Richard Wilson to Brad Abbott and all the best trades."

"In the end," he says, "we could have built cheaper on lots we own in Alta, but I loved this property and stayed with it. It is my favourite place to go, still to this day." 04