



Stonecroft New Hamburg

NEWS

The Berkshire is Newest House Plan

March 2005
Volume 3 Issue 1



Stonecroft New Hamburg is delighted to unveil its newest house plan – The Berkshire, now available to prospective Stonecroft homeowners. Stonecroft Administrator Tim Bailey is excited about the benefits The Berkshire offers: “This is more house in that price range, because it is located on a slightly smaller lot.”

The Berkshire is a Stonecroft Proprietary Design, developed to maximize 46-foot lots. The front elevation features an elegant bay-front design with turret-style roof and covered porch. Like many of the popular Stonecroft house plans, The Berkshire is an open concept design; the spacious living room boasts a vaulted ceiling complete with decorative pillars and adjacent to the formal dining room.

The bright kitchen includes a breakfast area, with a patio door walking out to a covered patio – another special feature of The Berkshire.

The large master bedroom features double closets and a luxurious ensuite complete with a large custom-tiled shower, an extensive vanity with double sinks,

and a linen closet. Additional highlights include the main-floor laundry, and a roomy second bedroom/den.

The Berkshire is the only design appropriate to a 46-foot lot that includes a double car garage. The plan offers two optional roofline elevations for the garage. Bailey points out that like all Stonecroft plans, “The Berkshire can be customized to meet the specific needs of each homeowner.” He also notes that with every plan in the extensive list of Stonecroft homes, new homeowners are delighted with “our pricing, with the fact that you own your own lot and, of course, that you own your own quality built and beautifully designed home.”

Inside this issue:

***New House Plan:
The Berkshire*** 1

***Feature: Ray &
Nelda Brenneman*** 2

***Community Centre
ahead of schedule*** 3

Keeping in Touch 4

You can go home again ... 150 years later

Apparently, the adage is wrong – you can go home again, after all. At least, you can if you are Ray and Nelda Brenneman.

This long-time New Hamburg couple are among the newer members of the Stonecroft family. They have chosen a modified Dorchester plan for their home, which will be completed this spring. They cannot wait to move in.

But then, the Brennemens have an unusual emotional investment in the Stonecroft adult community. First of all, they have had a ring-side seat to the development – the Brennemens have owned and operated Stonecroft's neighbour, Expressway Ford, since 1983.

But the connection goes back a bit farther than that. Ray Brenneman explains: "Stonecroft is being built on the farm where my Dad, Chris, was born. My grandfather farmed there more than 100 years ago." Additional investigation reveals that the family connection to the land goes back much farther than that. Ray's grandfather was named Joseph; Brenneman family records show that Ray's great-grandfather was named Daniel Brenneman.

The Brennemens have a lot of roots in this community. Ray grew up in Baden and on a farm just outside New Hamburg. Nelda was raised in Milverton, but like many of her family members, moved to New Hamburg. The couple will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary this September in their new home.

Their business roots are here, too. They opened the Ford franchise in 1983, on property that, ironically, is now home to Grant Transport – 'Grant' being Nelda's brother, Grant Jutzi. Expressway moved to its present location in 1990. A second 'Expressway Ford', in the west end of Stratford, opened in February, 2001.

Today, the operating company that manages both Expressway Ford dealerships is in the hands of Ray and Nelda's three sons – Dwight, Doug and Michael. But Mom and Dad are seldom far away – Nelda works in the office two

and a half days a week, and Ray occupies the front office, although he claims, "I come and go as I like."

Their involvement leaves plenty of time for their favourite hobbies. Nelda is an avid reader and enthusiastic walker.

Ray is devoted to woodworking and music; he sings in a barbershop quartet and with the popular Twin City Harmonizers. They love travelling; they have recently returned from Hawaii. Recent cruises have taken the Brennemens to Alaska, the Caribbean, and the New England coast.

Summer months see them spending time at their cottage on Chesley Lake. The couple have lived on Riverview Ave. in New Hamburg for the past 28 years.

It was their love for their home community that led them to Stonecroft. Nelda says, "We can still be in the area, we don't want to leave the community." Ray adds, "We love this community."

They appreciate New Hamburg's access to everything from Toronto to London; "this is an excellent area to be in ... we didn't consider any other area."

So they chose Stonecroft, even before they considered their specific house plan. They ultimately opted for The Dorchester, with their own specific modifications. They like the open concept of the plan, and Nelda says one key element was that the Dorchester allows room for her treasured dining room suite. They are "downsizing a bit," and they appreciate the benefits of moving into a bungalow.

Ray smiles, and admits that he will probably spend a fair amount of time in their new home's ample basement, where he is installing a woodworking shop.

The Brennemens believe Stonecroft fits their lifestyle needs; when they travel, "we can turn the key and feel good about going ... there is a sense of security here." And, they would always add, a true sense of community.

~By Paul Knowles



Ray & Nelda Brenneman at their family run business, Expressway Ford

"we can turn the key and feel good going ... there is a sense of security here."

Community Leisure Centre ahead of Schedule

Stonecroft's Community Recreation and Leisure Centre is taking shape, through consultations with Stonecroft homeowners. And perhaps the best news is, the recreation complex is slated for construction ahead of schedule.

The original Stonecroft plan called for the Recreation and Leisure Centre to be completed at the conclusion of Phase III. However, with Phase II well underway, Stonecroft President, Mike Schout has announced that the Rec Centre project is in flight.

From the beginning, Stonecroft has been committed to providing a first-class recreation and leisure facility for its residents. However, the details were not locked in stone; Stonecroft's developers decided to ask the homeowners in Phase I and Phase II about what they would like to see in their community centre. Mike Schout says two meetings were held with homeowners, and a comprehensive survey was carried out to determine the needs, requests and wishes of the residents.

Those answers have laid the foundation for the new centre. Now, says Schout, "We have a very good idea of what is going to go into it." Stonecroft has taken those requests and proposals into meetings with design experts, who will put it all together in a plan that is efficient and cost effective. Schout explains that while Stonecroft has a great deal of in-house design experience and expertise, a project like this Community Recreation and Leisure Centre demands the involvement of specialists. "This," he says, "is a specialized building. So we are getting the necessary expertise."



The Stonecroft homeowners were very clear about what they see as necessary in the complex. For example, a full 97% say a swimming pool is essential; specifically, a 65 foot swimming pool. So, says Schout, that is what will be included.

Initial draft plans called for a multi-use room that would hold about 200 people; that is not big enough, according to the consultations, so the new plans will include a room that seats about 300, for banquets and meetings. There will, of course, be a full kitchen. Stonecroft's research indicates that this room will be well-used from the outset.

Schout says that a card room was deemed "very important," as is a state-of-the-art fitness centre and change rooms.

Residents also appreciate the idea that Stonecroft's community mailboxes will be moved indoors, into the lobby of the building.

The Centre will include smaller meetings rooms, and facilities for billiards and a library. There will be indoor shuffleboard, using innovative indoor mats.

Schout points out that residents were also clear

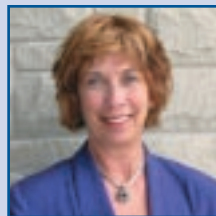
about what they don't want. There was little interest in hot tubs, or in a computer centre – probably because all Stonecroft homes can include state of the art computer connection technology.

Outdoors, the new facility will include tennis courts, horseshoe pits, garden areas, water features and a barbecue patio area. The new Recreation and Leisure Centre is a major project, with between 14,000 and 15,000 square feet on two levels. Schout hopes that plans will be prepared by this summer, allowing construction to begin at that time. The Rec Centre is in process earlier than envisioned, but Stonecroft is proving very popular, with Phase III likely to begin this fall. Schout says, "We feel it is worth our while to do the Recreation and Leisure Complex now. It will be great for our homeowners, and we feel it will also help our marketing, as our future Phases take off."

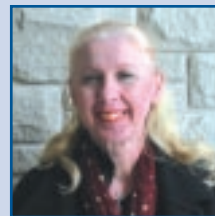
Keeping you up to date with our progress!!



Tim Bailey
Administrator



Mary Lou Ruby Jonas
Sales Representative



Rosie Bajric-Smola
Sales Representative



Peter Klinkman
Construction Manager

KEEPING IN TOUCH

By Phone:

(519) 662-6621 or (866) 278-7577

By Mail:

One Stonecroft Way, New Hamburg, ON N3A 4J1

Take a Virtual Tour on Our Website:

www.StonecroftHomes.com

