



“Looking around the cottage gives us a sense of almost being in the outdoors.”

helped us through it all,” she says. “The way they went above and beyond throughout the process tells you how much they love constructing timber frame buildings.”

A first-time build can be a bit overwhelming with a million decisions to be made about design, colour, and style, but Normerica’s step-by-step process made all the difference. The Normerica team steered the build for the couple, prioritizing their list of wanted features.

“We have a blended family — four young adults — and we have guests up a lot, so we needed at least six bedrooms,” she says. At the same time, being the only inhabitants of the lakeside property for most of the season, the couple didn’t want to feel overpowered by the immense open-concept space on the main floor.

“The Normerica designers were able to adjust it to all our requirements beautifully.” The cottage is built on different levels, with most of the bedrooms and bathrooms downstairs in the basement, which has full windows overlooking the lake.

Being able to peruse Normerica’s database of completed projects was a huge help in the couple’s decision-making process. “They kept guiding us all along, but when you can see the actual homes, it’s helpful.”

Solution-focused approach

The couple also had a deadline in mind. “We desperately wanted to be at the cottage for this summer. But there was a bit of a delay with some water issues in the basement.” And as expected, Normerica was on top of it, not only identifying the problem but also presenting a solution.

“They made it work,” says the cottage owner, adding that with the all-in package, the two didn’t have to worry about securing building permits and other aspects of construction; it was all looked after by the experts at Normerica. “If they have control of the entire project, they make it all come together with ease. Or if you want control of it, they can manage it for you.”

Preserving history

Their summer getaway sits on property that used to be YMCA campgrounds, which their neighbours remember from their own childhoods. She says the neighbours are grateful that the couple opted for a timber frame design, which has blended in perfectly with the surroundings, keeping the view intact.

“It’s the ideal investment in creating a beautiful family space that brings the outdoors in, where our family can gather, play games, and connect with each other,” says the property owner.

CLOSE TO NATURE

Bring the great outdoors inside with post and beam

A cottage isn’t just an escape from city life. For many couples, it’s also a chance to reconnect with nature in a whole new way, as was the case for one couple who recently built their dream timber home cottage in Muskoka.

“Our desire was to capture the incredible feeling of being with nature through a post and beam design,” says one of the cottage

owners. “Looking around the cottage gives us a sense of almost being in the outdoors.”

The beauty of using timbers is their ability to support massive structures and create awe-inspiring cathedral ceilings. Add grand, sprawling windows to the structure and it almost feels like you’re one with nature. No matter the weather, you feel a wonderful protection from the

massive post and beam structure, yet you’re still connected to nature.

Dream home

The couple had always wanted to build a post and beam cottage but weren’t sure how to go about it. With no previous building experience, the process seemed a bit daunting and intimidating — until they shook hands with Normerica. “They