



These Condo Owners Have It All!

When friends tell friends they are selling the family home and moving to a condo, on occasion they get sympathy. How are you going to manage with so much less space? What are you going to do with your large antique cupboard?

“When friends hear we are moving into a condo they commiserate about downsizing and I have to chuckle because actually we will be moving into a bigger home,”

Victoria Corbett says. She and spouse Fred Birket have bought a Triple T condo, under construction on Carnegie Avenue in the city’s north end. They currently live in a three-bedroom house on the river in the Peterborough’s south end.

W.G. (Bill Jr.) Turner, from Triple T Holdings Ltd., says: “Every unit is designed from scratch. We work with people to create a design that accommodates their needs and

their furniture - right down to a piece of art that may need to hang on a certain wall.”

Victoria says: “We chose Triple T because we admired the quality of their finished homes. We checked into their post-sales reputation, which is excellent, by the way. We loved the location and, most importantly, we are having a custom-made home. This was important to us because, like other people, we’ve collected things



over the years that we didn't want to part with.

“We chose the size that suited us and an open plan. With some careful design work we were able to use our large antiques. We chose cathedral ceilings so we can have some feature walls to showcase our art. Custom millwork and a dedicated library will help us with our books. We designed the foyer to accommodate a large pine armoire and the centerpiece of our new kitchen will be a six-foot-long store counter circa 1875 from the Goderich area. Large pieces will help anchor the open space. I'm also ‘repurposing’ some other furniture. A jam cupboard is going into the bedroom to store clothes!”

Home buyers who look at a development that has only a few standard floor plans often wonder how they will fit in all of their things, Bill says. There will have to be a compromise.

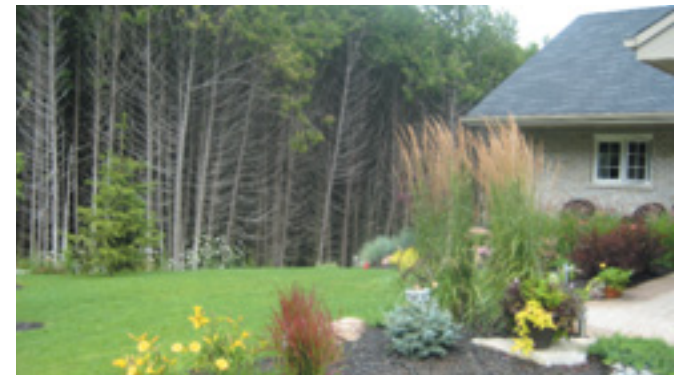
At Triple T, “because each home is

unique, we only build about 20 units each year. We think of it as being akin to small batch whisky – it is more precise and more complex, but the end result is a premium product. We build them one at a time.”

But condo living really shines when it comes to lifestyle. Whether a homeowner has always shoveled his own snow or mowed her own lawn, at a certain point, they may not want to spend any more time on those chores. And if they have hired them out, they may be tired of dealing with coordinating hiring and scheduling, particularly if they travel. “The stress of coordination, management and payment is drastically simplified when you write one cheque and everything is taken care of. People who travel in winter or go to the cottage in summer get an immediate reward. People who have always done their own maintenance will get some additional free time.”

Triple T's latest development, Ferghana, an adult lifestyle community, is located on a 50-acre parcel of land which has been laid out to include water features and backs onto a deciduous forest.

The name of the community, Ferghana, came from a book about an ancient country in Asia known for its fine, strong



horses, particularly useful in battle. The early Romans and ancient Chinese sent convoys to buy the biggest horses, 16 hands high, which would give them a strategic benefit in battle. Bill said using the horse as a logo also made sense, since the property had previously been a farm. The property retains some of its country feel, Bill says, and deer have been spotted nearby.

Attention has been paid to the exterior of the development as well. Custom design is featured in patios, porches, gardens and landscaping. The slightly narrower, winding interior road, off Carnegie Avenue, with a boulevard effect from trees on each front yard, offers a sense of charm and private community, Bill says. The effect is reinforced with special streetlights that avoid the “industrial” feel of the larger city street.

The location is also significant in its closeness to Riverview Park and Zoo and the Otonabee River. Homeowners can walk along the river with their grandchildren.

The first phase of 20 units is now under construction, and three models (still available for sale) will be ready for late fall occupancy. An additional 19 units will be built in Phase Two (in the spring), and Triple

T is taking reservations on those now.

The most “cost effective” home costs \$275,000, but “the sky is the limit after that, based on what people want.”

Triple T Holdings is a premier condo builder in the area. Over the past 25 years, the company has built more than 450 suites, in the east of the river along Armour Road, at Whitaker Mills, Paddock Wood and Erlesgate and on Parkhill Road west, at The Cedars Edge and Ravenwood Hills.

The Triple T website is www.californiacondos.ca. A model home is at 1020 Parkhill Road West, Unit 70, “The Cedars Edge” (setting up an appointment by calling (705)742-3338 is always advised).

After renovating three homes, Victoria loves “the idea of something brand new and built for us.” Last winter they parked their cars outdoors, as there was no garage with their older home. Not only will the garage keep the cars warm, and snow-free, the couple has also incorporated a recycling centre in it.

Victoria says: “After the last winter we had, we are really looking forward to our new garage and recycling center. It may not be romantic, but it is the feature I am really going to appreciate!”