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Lakeside



Legacy

A Wisconsin family honors the past with their new waterfront cabin.

BY DEBRA GRAHL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER WADE STUDIO
STYLING BY DEBRA GRAHL



A legacy is defined as "something handed down from an ancestor or a predecessor, or from the past." This phrase certainly fits the bill in describing the northern Wisconsin lakeside home of Rick and Nancy Morris and their kin. Six generations of family members have enjoyed the retreat, named "Pinewoods," for nearly 100 years.

"This property has been in our family since 1922," says Rick. "My great-grandfather, who lived in the Chicago area, bought 100 acres along the lake with the intention of using the property during the summer months for fishing and vacationing, and during the fall for hunting." Rick says the area, near the town of Tomahawk, has changed significantly since 1922, with more cabins, resorts, fishermen, hunters, snowmobilers, and ATVs enjoying the great North Woods experience. "This was like northern Canada when my great-grandfather Fred and grandfather Mac bought the property from a recreation camp and spent the next summer building the old cabin by hand with some of the locals."

The original cabin was rustic, with no indoor plumbing, but over the years an addition was made to the house, providing four additional bedrooms and one indoor bathroom. "The addition was a great improvement to the cabin," says Rick's wife, Nancy, "but six bedrooms slept a lot of people, and having only one bathroom was, needless to say, a challenge!"

When Rick's father passed away nearly 10 years ago, the Morris siblings decided to keep the property they had inherited, but to improve the lodging situation by replacing the original log cabin with a new one. "We struggled emotionally with that decision, having so many great memories of the old cabin," explains Rick, "but ultimately felt that in order to be more comfortable during family gatherings a new cabin made more sense than trying to renovate the old one yet again."

Green Tip

TOMAHAWK'S HALF-LOG WALL SYSTEM USED HALF THE NUMBER OF TREES THAT A FULL LOG HOME WOULD HAVE REQUIRED. IN ADDITION, MANY OF THE LOGS FROM THE ORIGINAL LOG CABIN WERE RECLAIMED FOR THE NEW HOME.

Fortunately for the Morris family, Tomahawk Log and Country Homes is located very near their lake property, and the company's product and service was a perfect match for Rick and Nancy's vision of the new Pinewoods cabin. "We wanted good insulation in the home, so we could use it year-round rather than only in the warm weather months," says Rick. Tomahawk's Energy-Log insulated wall system offered them insula-

tion values of a two-by-six-inch wall plus the extra insulation of a half log on the exterior of the home, for a total R-value of 38. The trussed roof system has an R-value of 42. Nancy, who did most of the decorating, was also pleased to be able to choose among the various options Tomahawk offered for the interior walls, some of which are log and some sheet rock.

Tomahawk offered them turnkey construction of their log package. Construction of the new cabin, including the dismantling of the original cabin, took approximately eight months.

Rick and Nancy worked with Tomahawk's vice president, Ron Volz, to design the 4,300-square-foot home. They modified one of the company's stock floorplans to better suit their large-family lifestyle, including two master suites and three full bathrooms.

"We started with a standard plan and modified it quite extensively to fit their wants," says Volz. The Morrises provided a lot of input during the design process, which took about two months. The couple chose Tomahawk's hand-hewn, kiln-dried pine logs with a 12-inch Saddle-lok corner system.

The Morrises also wanted to incorporate some of the elements from the original log cabin into the new home. There is a memory wall in the front entry, built from the original cabin logs that were signed by every guest and family member, generation after generation. A vertical log from the old cabin was also used in the entry, with height markings of kids growing





ABOVE: FIRESIDE MEALS TAKE PLACE IN THE DINING AREA WHICH HAS VIEWS OF THE LAKE THROUGH THE SLIDING GLASS DOORS IN THE ADJACENT GREAT ROOM. A PINE CUPBOARD FLANKS THE FIREPLACE AND IS TEEMING WITH MEMORABILIA FROM THE ORIGINAL PINEWOODS CABIN, THE SUBJECT OF THE OIL PAINTING ON THE FIREPLACE MANTLE.

TOP LEFT: THE LARGE KITCHEN FEATURES CREAMY TRAVERTINE BACKSPASH TILES, GRANITE COUNTERTOPS, AND STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES. OLD HICKORY STOOLS SURROUND THE L-SHAPED ISLAND WHERE BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND CASUAL DINNERS ARE ENJOYED BY THE MORRIS FAMILY. SHAKER-STYLE HICKORY CABINETS WERE CUSTOM MADE BY SCHRACK CABINETS.

LEFT: THE MAIN-LEVEL DECK, WITH ITS ELEVATED VIEW OF THE LAKE, IS PUNCTUATED WITH BRIGHT RED ADIRONDACK CHAIRS AND TERRA COTTA POTS OF RED GERANIUMS. RICK AND NANCY MORRIS WERE THRILLED WITH TOMAHAWK'S 12-INCH SADDLE-LOK CORNERS AND THE HAND-HEWN LOGS.

RIGHT: AN UPPER-LEVEL GUEST BEDROOM IS COMFORTABLY FURNISHED WITH A PAIR OF DOUBLE BEDS. LODGE DECOR IS PROMINENT IN THE MORRIS HOME, IN KEEPING WITH THE CLASSIC NORTH WOODS STYLE. OLD TOOLS USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL LOG CABIN ARE MOUNTED TO THE KNOTTY PINE BEDROOM WALL.

BELOW: THE MAIN LEVEL MASTER BEDROOM IS LARGE AND AIRY, WITH A SLIDING GLASS DOOR TO THE DECK AND VIEWS OF THE LAKE AND OUTDOOR FIREPLACE AREA. NANCY CHOSE GRAPHIC BLACK, WHITE, AND TAN FABRIC FOR BED COVERINGS AS WELL AS DRAPES AND WINDOW SEAT PILLOWS. TEXTURED, CREAMY WHITE WOOL CARPETING BY KARASTAN COVERS THE FLOOR.

FAR RIGHT: THE OPEN GREAT ROOM, DINING, AND KITCHEN AREAS ENABLE THE MORRIS FAMILY TO GATHER COMFORTABLY IN ONE LARGE SPACE. THIS IS WHERE RICK AND NANCY SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME, WHETHER THEY ARE ALONE OR WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY. RANDOM-WIDTH ASH HARDWOOD FLOORING WAS USED IN THE EXPANSIVE AREA; THE FIREPLACE IS CULTURED STONE.



Design Tip

FOLLOWING TOMAHAWK'S ADVICE, THE MORRISSES ADDED LIVING SPACE ABOVE THE GARAGE. "THEY CHOSE TO MAKE IT A BUNK ROOM," SAYS RON VOLZ, "BUT THERE ARE MANY GREAT WAYS TO USE THAT EXTRA SPACE—AS A HOME OFFICE OR EXERCISE ROOM."



up at the cabin through the years. "We are still marking our grand kids' heights on that log, and new guests and family members are still signing the memory wall," Rick says, smiling broadly.

The old cabin remained standing during most of the construction process. "It was great to be able to continue to enjoy the lake while the new cabin was being built," says Rick, "and we had the opportunity to be on site quite a bit of the time, overseeing the project and making a couple of modifications along the way."


When the original cabin was finally dismantled, one stellar component remained: a massive granite fireplace and chimney that now serve as an outdoor gathering place for the family, where they spend many evenings recalling old stories. Preserving the integrity of the fireplace while the old cabin was being torn down around it was the biggest challenge Tomahawk faced during the construction process.

Both retired, Rick and Nancy spend about four months each summer at Pinewoods, and divide the rest of the year between homes in Illinois and Florida. A big family gathering takes place at the lake every July 4. "I think the record for the most people over the years was 22 in the old cabin," recalls Rick. "So far the most we have had in the new cabin is 13 but the house can sleep 15, with the cribs included."

The new lake home is five years old now, and there is very little that the Morris family would change. They love the new cabin and are using many of the old furnishings and knickknacks from the original log cabin that had been accumulated by family members over the decades, helping to bring back the wonderful memories of times past. Just recently the Morrises acquired an additional four acres with 150 feet of lake frontage, a pretty good indicator that Pinewoods is in the hands of a family that is committed to ensuring enjoyment for many generations to come. ❁

Green Tip

THE GABLE GLASS ABOVE THE SLIDING DOORS IN THE GREAT ROOM IS AN ENERGY SAVER, USING PASSIVE SOLAR GAIN TO WARM THE HOME IN THE WINTER MONTHS. THE GLASS IS GLAZED TO REFLECT SOME OF THE SUN'S RAYS IN THE SUMMER, WHICH HELPS TO KEEP THE HOME COMFORTABLY COOL.

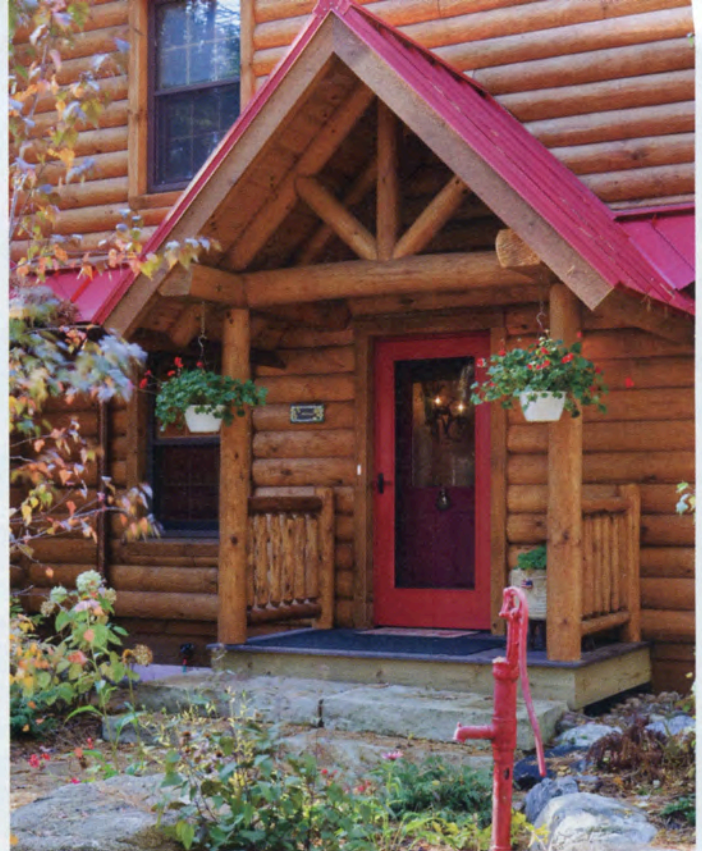


SOFT JEWEL TONES FORM THE COLOR PALETTE OF THE HOME. NANCY FOUND MOST OF THE NEW FURNITURE AT EXPRESSIONS, A HOME FURNISHING AND ACCESSORIES STORE IN THE NEARBY TOWN OF MINOCQUA.

Cabin Reborn

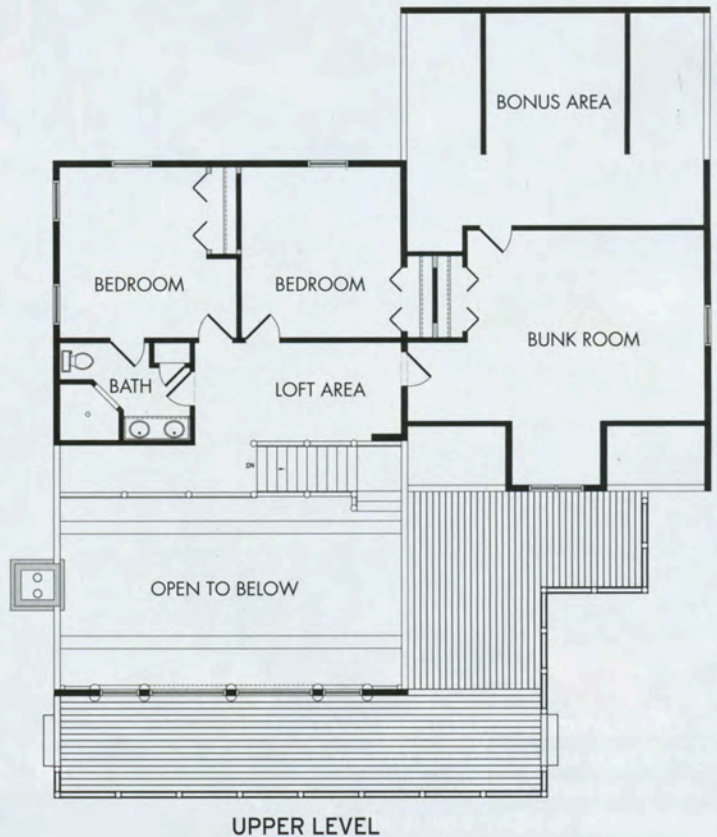
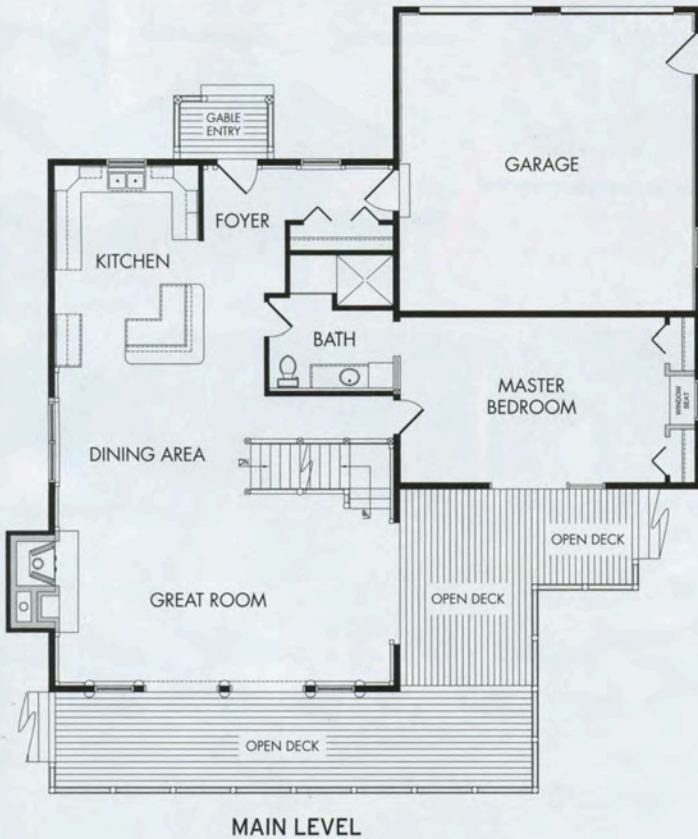
Rick and Nancy Morris decided to preserve their family's legacy by building a new log home on the property once occupied by the original family cabin. Over the years the family had added on to the original cabin but eventually it didn't meet the needs of a modern family. Now they have a home that will withstand the elements and still be a source of pride and enjoyment for many generations to come. Following advice from Tomahawk, the Morrises added living space over the garage and finished off the basement level, making sure there is room for the entire family. They kept their home's footprint compact while maximizing space.

THE KITCHEN IS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE FRONT ENTRY FOYER, WHICH IS ALSO ACCESSED THROUGH THE GARAGE. THIS MAKES FOR QUICK AND EASY GROCERY UNLOADING.



Log Home Producer: Tomahawk Log and Country Homes, Tomahawk, Wisconsin

Two-story home
 Square Footage: 4,300 🌲 Bedrooms: 5 Baths: 3



THE MORE THAN 550 SQUARE FEET OF DECK SPACE CAN BE ACCESSED EASILY THROUGH SLIDING GLASS DOORS OFF THE GREAT ROOM AND MAIN-LEVEL MASTER BEDROOM SUITE. THE SLIDERS INVITE LAKE SHORE BREEZES INTO THE HOME.

THE MAIN-LEVEL MASTER BATHROOM DOUBLES AS A POWDER ROOM FOR GUESTS, AS IT IS SANDWICHED BETWEEN THE MASTER BEDROOM AND ENTRY HALLWAY THAT LEADS INTO THE GREAT ROOM.