



Muskoka Lifestyles



The cottage, though large, is designed to be unassuming from the lake (top). The guest quarters above the boathouse offer an incredible view (left). While Bobby Genovese spends most of his time outside, often with his feet up, his hands are likely to be busy working his phone (above).

Genovese cottage property features 50-foot high waterfall

Article by Dale Peacock / Photographs by Kelly Holinshead

Bobby Genovese's magnificent Lake Rosseau cottage complements his gregarious personality. Indeed, it is one of the crown jewels of his BG Signature Properties collection.

Genovese credits his beloved mother for his love of Muskoka and for much of his success. He so valued his mother's opinion that he hardly made a decision in the early days without running it by her.

"Our mom had the rare gift of common sense," he says. "All the boys were multi-millionaires in our 20s and we all called on her for advice. She just had a way of making sense out of chaos." He adds sadly, "She died at just 63 and I miss her every day."

This unlikely mama's boy beams and asks rhetorically, "Don't you think that mothers are just amazing?" He adds, "I am truly in awe of the job that mothers do."

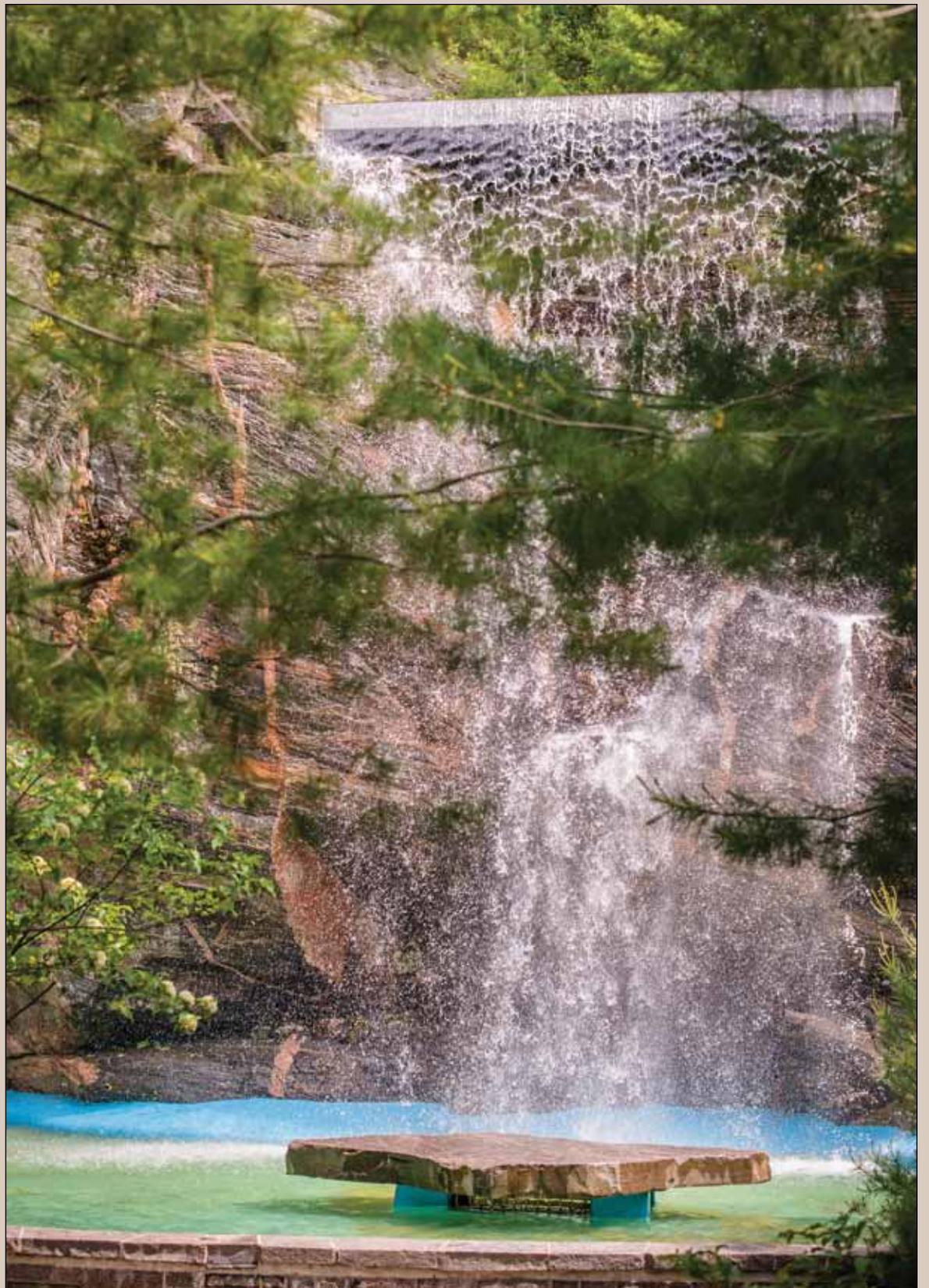
Genovese has more than 25 years of experience in mergers and acquisitions and operates BG Capital Group and BG Capital Management Corporation, both of which are based in Barbados with associate management offices in Nassau, Fort Lauderdale, Boca Raton, Los Angeles, Toronto and Vancouver.

In 2012, he developed and launched BG Signature Properties, a portfolio of 12 exclusive luxury retreats in the US, Canada, Europe, South America and Bahamas, including its flagship property, BG Equestrian Resort in Ocala, Florida.

The cottage belonging to his stepfather that he and his siblings visited as children was a far cry from the magnificent mile of Lake Rosseau lakefront property that he and his two brothers now own.

Genovese even credits his mom with that fortuitous circumstance, explaining, "My mother would stand at the end of the dock with me and look over at the neighbour's place. She'd say, 'Bobby, make sure you buy that.'"

He laughs and continues. "So every year I'd swim over and ask Mr. Fullerton if he was interested in selling his place. For years he told me it just wasn't time, but I never gave up." He gives a booming laugh. "All of those excursions turned out to be invaluable because they helped me to become a very good swimmer." The persistence paid off; one summer day in 1999 Fullerton was ready to sell and Genovese was more than ready



The grand waterfall greets guests when they walk up to the cottage.

Bobby Genovese's bright white kitchen has commercial grade preparation surfaces.



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to buy.

The incredible Lake Rosseau cottage offers panoramic views from every room thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows and features the finest in amenities and furnishings. A two-storey boathouse/studio apartment that houses a collection of pleasure craft and restored antique speedboats is just one of the many unique features of the property.

Adding to the wow factor is a 55-foot-high rock climbing wall complete with a cascading 50-foot-high waterfall and a 200-foot-long water slide.

“When we built the cottage I looked at the big rock face for a while and thought, “What are you going to do with that?” He adds, “Then I thought, ‘I know! Let’s do a waterfall.’ It’s what Mother Nature herself might have done!”

It wasn’t easy, but one gets the idea that for Genovese, doing the impossible is exactly the kind of challenge he loves to take on. He enlisted the team at Tamarack North, of which he is now part-owner, to take on the project.

Genovese explains how they brilliantly turned an obstacle into an exceptional outdoor feature. He explains with a grin, “It was part of a – let’s call it a financially substantial – enhancement that smoothly blended natural landscaping with safe play spaces for kids and a variety of sitting areas that link the four-bay boathouse with the 4,000 sq. ft. waterfront cottage via a remarkable 140-foot stone walkway.”

Thanks to a clever steel leg support system



The boathouse offers guests a secluded area to lounge in the sun. The living quarters above have a wonderful view of the lake.

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and underwater lighting, the lake-edge rock wall seems to float at night. The surrounding deck is crafted from Brazilian Ipe, a wood that is so dense that it often needs to be pre-drilled before pieces are connected. Some compare its strength to that of steel. An added bonus is that it is eco-friendly.

When the aesthetics of the exposed polyethylene pipe circulating the water were an issue, Genovese remembered a man-made rock climbing wall in Nassau. A faux granite facing was installed that covered the pipe and blended with the native stone. The climbing hand-holds let climbers cool off in the waterfall's spray. And the entire thing just turns off when not in use. Genovese pledged to the township that it wouldn't look like a theme park and it doesn't.

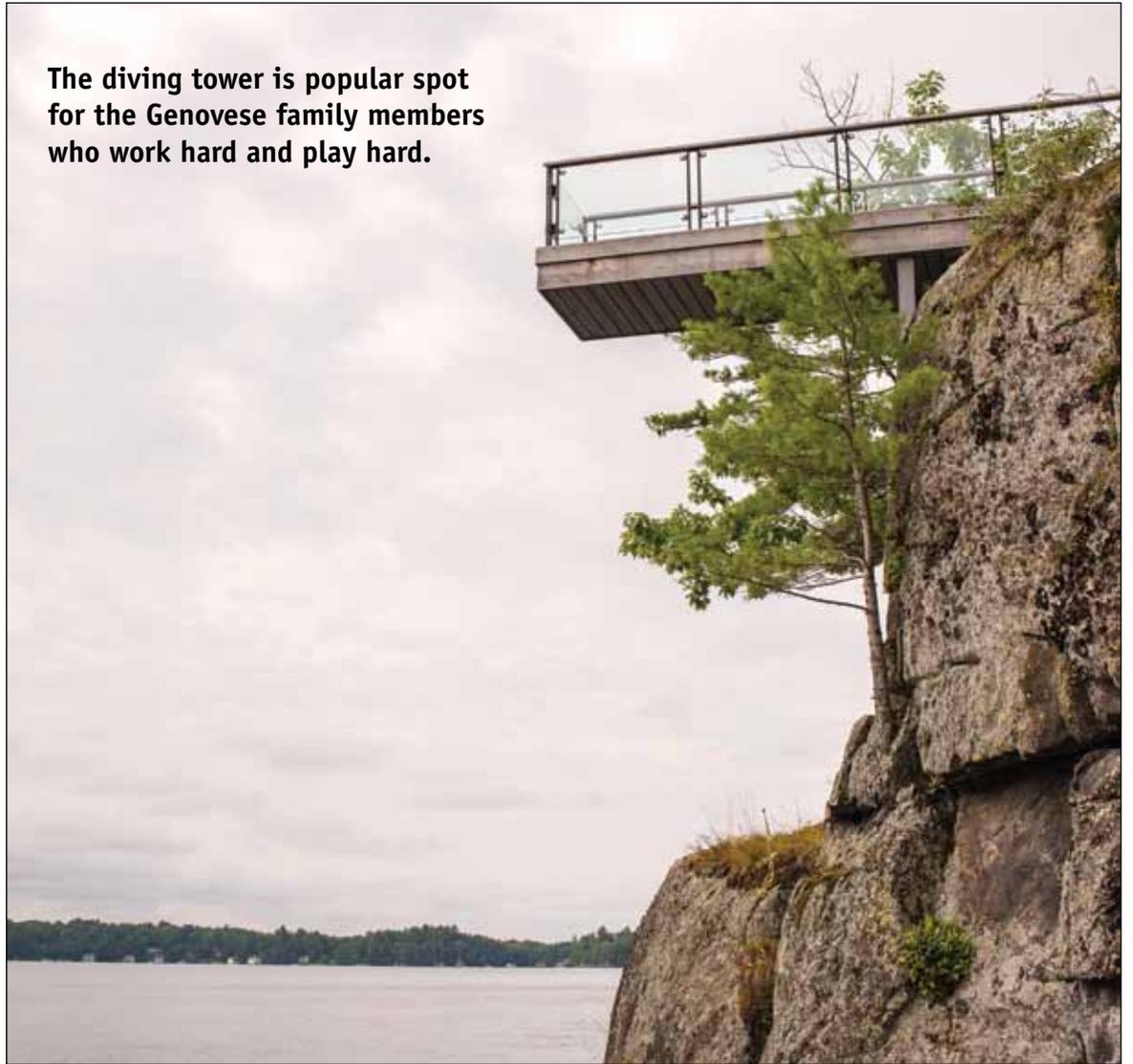
Working hard and playing hard are cherished traditions in the Genovese family, as is generosity. Slouched casually on a deck chair, Genovese waves to a neighbour who pulls up in a small skiff. The visitor starts to say, "My sister's kids are visiting..." when Genovese interrupts him with, "Absolutely, bring the whole family over to use the waterfall slide!"

The neighbour assures him they won't take too much time, but Genovese waves it off with a sincere invitation to spend the day.

After the skiff leaves he says, "What's the point in having this stuff if you don't share it?" He expounds, "I don't think you can explain Muskoka. You have to experience it. What I really love is giving people that experience."

That extends to Muskoka's iconic traditions,

The diving tower is popular spot for the Genovese family members who work hard and play hard.







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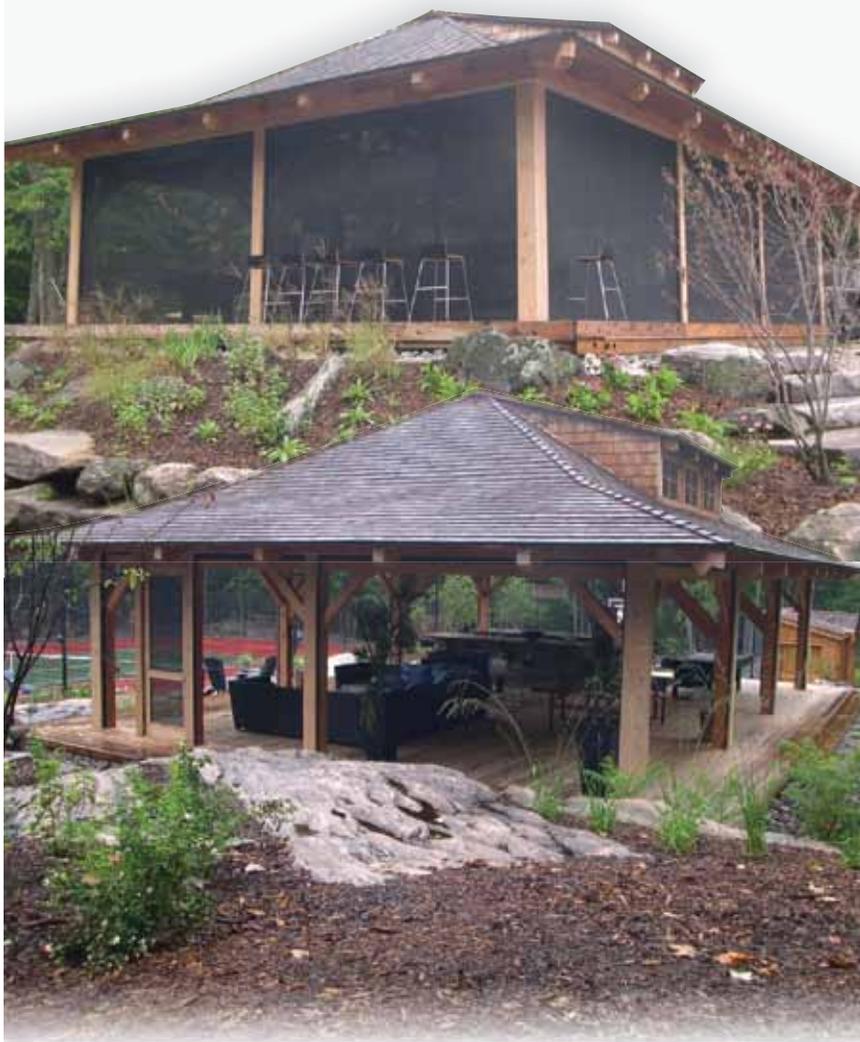


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too. “As a kid, I marvelled over the old wooden boats. I recognized all the pride and care that went into them as valuable pieces of Muskoka’s history,” he says. “I’m sure it’s why I began purchasing and restoring some of Muskoka’s famous race boats, including the *Miss Canada III* and *Miss Canada IV* – which we unveiled in the summer of 2013.”

She was on display at the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre this past

summer, across the bay from the Greavette Boat Works, where she was originally launched in 1949. Genovese took her out for a spin so he could show her to a visiting yacht maker from England. He recalls, “This is a guy who crafts some of the world’s finest boats and he had tears in his eyes!”

“The world is a big place and *Miss Canada* won a world record. That’s huge!” he says. “The older genera-

tion knows that and I want to do my part so that the younger generation has an appreciation for that accomplishment, too.”

A car accident when Bobby Genovese was eight years old put him in Sick Kids hospital for over three months. It had an indelible effect on him. “I love kids and want them to be healthy and happy,” he says.

As a polo player and team owner he launched Chukkers for Children’s Charities supporting various South Florida kids’ health initiatives. He’s also a major supporter of Vancouver-based Face the World Foundation and he’s equally committed to Toronto’s Hospital for Sick Children, chairing its inaugural 2013 Boat Rally for Kids with Cancer Scavenger Cup and raising more than \$650,000 for the hospital.

Genovese is grateful for the health of his two kids and proud of their accomplishments.

“Bobby Junior is an accomplished tennis player and his younger sister Gigi is an equally good equestrian,” he explains. “The kids know how hard I work and they truly get it. They know what it takes to be successful.”

As if on cue, Genovese’s cell phone rings. It’s an interesting ‘fly on the wall’ experience as he kindly but firmly tells his son that he has to go to his sister’s dance recital.

He smiles and says patiently, “I know that you don’t want to interrupt your tennis training, but this means a lot to your sister. It’s a few hours out of your life. Okay?” He doesn’t end the call until he has an agreement from Bobby Junior that he’s happy to show his support. He finishes with a smile and the comment, “Good man! Your sister will love you! And I love you!” Only then does he add, “I’ll send the plane for you and call the driver to pick you up.”

Asked if he could ever have imagined this life, Genovese says, “Never in my wildest dreams. I feel like I am the luckiest man in the world.”

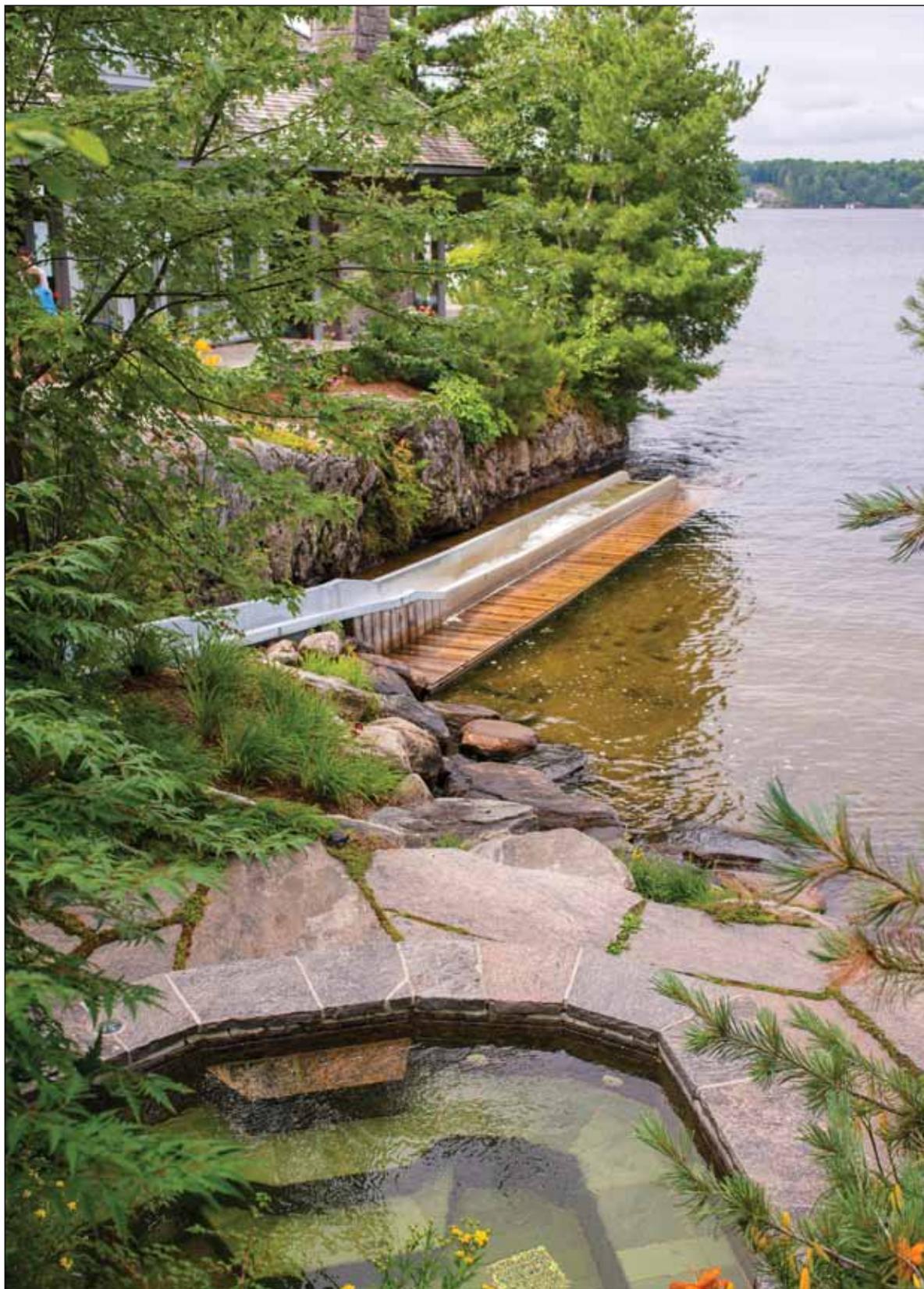
He asks, “You know that saying, ‘If you do what you love, you’ll never work a day in your life.’ Well, that’s me. I feel blessed each and every day.”

He adds pensively, “Maybe I didn’t expect this, but my mother did. She seemed to know that I would be this kind of successful. She encouraged us 1,000 per cent.”

Genovese says that he’s the biggest kid of all. He loves to use all of the waterfront toys and he’s first down the slide. His lifestyle is very active and he aspires to create the very best lifestyle he can for his kids. “I introduced them to sports and activities early so it gets in their blood.”

Genovese sees himself as the guy who gets people to do things they either wouldn’t do or wouldn’t be able to do. “What I love to do is give people lasting memories. It means the world to me.”

Every half hour or so, Genovese smiles an enormous grin, waves his hands expansively and exclaims, “Are we not the luckiest people on earth right now?” He truly radiates gratitude for the sunny day and the natural beauty that surrounds us. He seems to want to ensure that no



The slide ends in Lake Rosseau. A nearby hot tub is a great spot to watch the action.

An advertisement for Old Europe Duvet Co. The left side shows a young child with blonde hair smiling from inside a white duvet. The text "OLD EUROPE DUVET CO." is printed in a curved path above the child. Below the child is a simple line drawing of a hot tub. The right side of the ad has a dark blue background with white text. It reads: "Known Worldwide for our Fabulously Puffy Down Duvets and Pillows", followed by three dots, "Hutterite and Hungarian Down Custom Duvets Available", followed by three dots, the website "www.oldeurope-duvet.com", and the phone number "Nicole Horn 905.878.5782". At the bottom right are icons for Twitter and Facebook. At the bottom left, it says "Handcrafted in Canada by Old Europe Duvet for over 25 years".



Bobby Genovese loves his boats and has several in his boathouse. *Miss Canada III* is in the foreground and *Pistoff* is behind.

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The Genovese cottage master bedroom offers a generous view of Lake Rosseau. Bobby Genovese likes to make most of the beautiful surroundings in Muskoka (left). Genovese still has the paddle he made while attending camp in Algonquin Park as a boy (above).

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one misses it. He certainly doesn't.

Bobby Genovese looks like an athlete and exudes an easy charm and complete confidence. It is impossible not to like him.

It is no surprise that he was approached about doing the popular American cable reality television show Bobby G: Adventure Capitalist, which premiered in January

2008 and gave a rare behind-the-scenes look at the high-stakes world of corporate turnaround.

Asked if he'd do it again, he says, "I'm approached regularly about another show but I've never been as busy as I am right now. It was a blast and we laughed for two years but I think I have to take a pass right now."

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The living room has floor to ceiling windows. Some slide fully open to allow the outside in. A commissioned painting above fireplace features Bobby Genovese in one of his classics.



Genovese's competitive character is well demonstrated in his decision to take up polo. He came to the sport relatively late in life, but with an equestrian background from his early days mucking out the stables of the rich, his boundless enthusiasm and an aptitude for anything athletic, he soon became an accomplished player.

Shortly afterward he began building one of North America's top-ranked teams with the creation of Vancouver International Polo. He and the team went on to enjoy an unprecedented winning streak for a start-up team.

And out on the field he is not just an indulged rich guy – pro players admire how well he plays and how hard he worked to get there.

Genovese wears many hats. He's a venture capitalist, a reality television personality, a philanthropist, a devoted father, a well-rounded athlete and a passionate equestrian. He is also a dedicated cheerleader for all things Muskoka.

Reflecting on how much Muskoka has changed since he was a boy, Genovese mourns the loss of large family estates that have been subdivided over the years while acknowledging that change is just a part of life.

In his typically upbeat way he offers, "I'm excited to see what happens here in the next few decades." He smiles and shrugs. "All I know is that I'm working hard to preserve my vision of Muskoka for my kids and their kids, too."

He looks out over the lake again and repeats, "Am I a lucky guy or what?" 



Bobby Genovese says his mother was the one who convinced him to purchase the property where his cottage sits today. He credits her for much of his success and still misses her every day.



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