

**T**he Glen Huron Methodist Church was built in 1906 on land donated by the Hamilton family, one of the prominent families in Glen Huron. When the church ceased and its congregation merged with others in the area forming the United Church, the building and land reverted to the Hamilton family. Despite many requests to buy it, it stayed with the Hamiltons until the mid-seventies when a family purchased it and turned it into a residence, used mainly as a ski chalet. This family made many improvements including a restoration of the inscription over what was the altar (it's from the 100<sup>th</sup> Psalm). In 1993 the property was discovered quite by chance and was purchased by Louise Fast and Joan Slamen. They set about a total restoration and renovation of the charming building and the landscaping while maintaining the original feel of the building. They upgraded the kitchen, bathrooms and flooring in the dining area, replaced the front doors—in the vestibule by the front doors hangs an original Sunday School poster they found listing many names of residents who still live in the community. Over the years they also toiled on establishing the gardens. They even re-did the shed which had been used by the church women for strawberry socials and other functions. The sides would open wide for serving. Two years ago Louise and Joan began the process of designing and building an addition at the back to replace the outdoor deck. 🍓

# 100 YEARS YOUNG



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There were several challenges facing the design team who set about planning the new space. Barbara Munn and Jo Goebel of Yorkville Design in Toronto worked along with Doug Abbott, owner of Village Builders in Creemore. Joan and Louise wanted a bright, open room to serve as additional living space without threatening the character of the original structure. It was necessary to maintain the roof line, and match the scale. Windows, interior trims and flooring all had to "fit" so that the addition would appear seamless and unobtrusive. One hurdle was the existence of an outside entry into the main house from beneath the new area that needed to remain functional. Timber frame construction combined with the use of Zip Structural Insulated panels for the floor support, resulted in a perfectly beautiful room, with full surround windows and doors opening to the countryside, a soaring cathedral ceiling and antique wood floors. Louise and Joan credit communication as being the key component in the success of the project. "Being able to meet with the builders on weekends was vital—they made our job a priority and were always here when they said they would be." says Louise. "We have been fortunate throughout our time in Glen Huron to find excellent local craftsmen who have enhanced the look and feel of the Church. Master carpenter Gerald Lourie (Collingwood) who specializes in custom woodworking, made our oak dining table, armoire on the sleeping floor, TV stand plus other smaller projects for us. Stained glass artist Steve Collier from Singhampton, replicated an old photograph of the Church from the "Niagara Escarpment" book and crafted an arched window above the new room's doorway into the main living area."



THE "CORNERSTONE"

When asked what made coming to the Church so special, the owners described the peace and quiet as being one important component. "Another is the great people we've met up here — mostly from Glen Huron — especially the extended Hamilton family and the Giffens who have accepted us into their community. We joined the local Anglican Church and that adds another dimension of 'belonging' which we thoroughly enjoy." 🌞

