As they teed up on the third hole, they spotted a for-sale sign on a sprawling ranch bungalow occupying a double lot right across the street from Beach Grove Golf Course.

The Dorions knew at once that this property was a rare find and was the ideal location to build their retirement home. Guy immediately enlisted the aid of Rob Agnew (Manor Windsor Realty Ltd.) to see about buying one of the lots. His initial inquiries were not promising. The seller was looking for a single buyer. The lucky breaks, however, just kept on falling into line. Agnew and the seller turned out to be high school acquaintances, and Agnew was able to put together a deal with the Dorions and David Kolody of Kolody Custom Homes. Kolody developed one lot and custom-built the Dorions’ home on the other. You’d think that might be enough good fortune for one story. You would be wrong.

Having just decided to sell their two-storey Colonial in St. Clair Beach, the Dorions had received an inquiry from a neighbour who had always admired the home and wondered if they had any plans to downsize and voilà – their home sold before it was listed. With such a speedy sale, the Dorions needed a place to stay while their new retirement home was being built, and again, luck was on their side.

You might say the stars were aligned when, on a warm spring day in 2012, Guy and Maureen Dorion set out for a round of golf.
that the bulk of the home’s footprint runs deep into the property. Even the garage is deeper than usual to accommodate garden machinery, sports equipment and patio furniture. “There is no shed,” points out Guy, “so we wanted the garage to provide as much storage as possible.”

The first floor is a charming, contemporary, open-concept layout. With a warm, yet neutral colour scheme of white, cream and taupe, the home’s serene palette is the ideal backdrop for carefully chosen window treatments (Jill Straky of HouseWears, art and accessories).

Flooring throughout the home is from Palazzi Bros. The extra-wide, hand-scraped, hickory hardwood in the foyer, living room and dining room is stained a dark, warm brown and gives the main floor a sophisticated richness. Kolody incorporated a wealth of custom details into the design – from the vaulted ceiling in the living room and trey ceilings in the kitchen and dining room, to the floor-to-ceiling windows and the extra-wide hallways. “Dave’s experience in helping us make the right design choices was invaluable,” says Guy. “Just walking through the house, he knows how things should be done. We rearranged the location of windows and doors both upstairs and down based on Dave’s recommendations.”

The kitchen, which is at the back of the home, is a cook’s playground. Equipped with top-of-the-line stainless-steel appliances, a generous quartz-topped island (Cambria) and fresh white cabinetry (Windmill Cabinet Shop Ltd.), it is a perfect place to sit and chat after a busy day. Sliding glass doors open onto a covered patio, outfitted with remote-control screens (Seaton Sunrooms). “It’s like having an extra room three seasons of the year,” comments Guy.

The home has five bedrooms, three on the...
main floor and two in the basement recreation area. One of the two smaller bedrooms on the main floor currently functions as an ideal home office while the other is a charming guest room. The master bedroom is beautifully situated overlooking the back garden and comprises an electric fireplace, a dressing room and a sleek en suite with oversize shower (Bayview Glass and Mirror Ltd.), double vanities and a soaker tub.

Downstairs, the family has a virtual home away from home for

A soaker tub and oversize walk-in shower complete the suite. TOP: Details like this tray ceiling in the master bedroom add to the home’s architectural interest. LEFT: Bright green accents give the master en suite a touch of colour.

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visiting children and grandchildren. In addition to an entertainment wall, there are two guest bedrooms and a full bathroom.

“I have no complaints,” laughs Guy when asked about the building process. “Dave encouraged us to get other quotes, but I said to him you are building our home, no question. Maureen and I have every confidence in you.”

Confidence, trust and a good measure of luck have given the Dorions exactly what they were looking for – “a perfect retirement home directly across from the golf course.”

The home office is decorated with mementos from Guy’s days in municipal politics. He served as the mayor of the Village of St. Clair Beach from 1989-1999.

BELOW: The spacious basement playroom is perfect for visiting grandchildren.

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Charity Golf Tournament
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2135 County Rd. 12, Essex, ON
Registration: 11:30 am
Shot Gun start: 1 pm
Deli Lunch | Chicken & Rib Dinner
$25,000 hole in one prize,
2016 Sutton Creek Membership hole in one prize,
...and much more!

Foursome Package: $525
Individual Golfer Package: $140
Sponsorship packages are available.
Email Sandy at ssc@364squadron.ca
or 519-999-8286 to purchase tickets,
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364 Lancaster Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron is a registered charity.
364 Lancaster Squadron, based out of the Windsor International Airport, has approximately 130 cadets (ages 12-18) making us one of the largest squadrons in Ontario. The Air Cadet program is funded in part by the Department of National Defense and in part by the civilian Air Cadet League of Canada. Each squadron has a local Sponsoring Committee that fundraises, handles financial matters for the squadron and provide additional resources that are otherwise not provided at the national level. Financial support is used to benefit our Air Cadet program in many ways to assist and benefit our young cadets.

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