

Custom Design, Superior Craftsmanship

Charleston Homes is still just a small-town builder

If you ever take a drive west of the GTA, around the communities of Halton Hills, Rockwood, Guelph and Kitchener, what you are bound to notice is the motto "Custom Design, Superior Craftsmanship" attached to the many site signs and company vehicles operated by Charleston Homes, one of the area's leading builders of custom homes and planned communities.

Both Charlie Kuiken, company President and partner/vice president Jeff White started off on the trades side of the building business. They began building on their own in the Guelph-Rockwood area in 1991, and have expanded their reach into charming communities like Kitchener, Cambridge, Georgetown, Acton and Erin. Unlike those competitors bent on mass production, they restrict themselves to doing just 130 to 140 homes a year – with the promise of superior design, and craftsmanship.

When it comes to personalizing houses Charleston

corners the market by having its' own in-house designer work with buyers to bring their own self-expression into the process.

"I DON'T HAVE TO CROSS THE STREET"

"Our motto really does sum up what Charleston Homes is all about" says Charlie Kuiken, Charleston's President. "We really help people personalize their homes, so they reflect their personalities and lifestyles. We deal with many move-up buyers and customize our plans extensively. We rarely build the same home twice.

"We started out as a custom home builder, and I think that really helps. Our planned communities have a lot of the flair, and construction of our custom houses."

Charleston Homes recently celebrated the grand opening of its' new model home for the "Classics of Deer Ridge Estates" project in Kitchener. This new model offers a 3,500-square-foot layout - with a master bedroom on the main floor, and three bedrooms upstairs. There's a 14'x17' dining room, a main floor study, an 8'x9' shower in the ensuite bathroom, and a trendy "family studio" – a multi-purpose flex space, which sits off the kitchen, has access to the garage, and is laundry compatible.

Starting at \$309,990, these custom homes come in two-storey and, bungalow designs, set on expansive 60-foot and 70-foot frontages. These homes adjoin both the Deer Ridge Golf & Country Club, and the scenic Grand River Valley. And each carries its' own unique front elevation.

Meanwhile, the Mill Run project – set in the rolling hills of Rockwood, just north of Milton - is comprised of 160 bungalow, and two-storey homes with 50-foot frontages, and back yards at least 115 feet deep, starting at \$280,000. Mill Run is a planned community that offers small town living with the convenience of urban amenities in surrounding communities such as Guelph, Milton and Georgetown.

Raised in Wellington County himself, Kuiken takes pride in referring to Charleston Homes as being, "more like a small-town builder". He actively supports charities including Friends of the Orphans Canada, which builds orphanages in third world countries with a current orphanage being built in Chimaltenango, Guatemala; as well as assisting in Habitat for Humanity projects like the recent build in Acton, Ontario.

"I always get a lot of satisfaction when we build a home for people, and we're about to turn it over. To me, it's a great honour. Our clients are entrusting us with a lot of their equity," he says.

"A lot of my customers I will see at the grocery store, or the restaurant. It's very important to me, that I don't have to cross the street."

To find out more about Charleston Homes' One of A Kind custom home services, or either of the communities described above, call 519-856-4389, or visit www.charlestonhomes.ca.

