



OPPOSITE: Retirement gave Janet Young time to pursue her dream of a log home large enough to host family get-togethers. The front porch makes a charming first impression on guests. **BELOW:** Dormer windows flank the center gable on Janet's waterfront home, adding interest to the roofline.

Making the Grade

1867 Confederation Log and Timber Frame helps build a teacher's dream.

Retired school teacher Janet Young knew for a long time that she wanted to own a log home, but she had no idea that she would be involved in the actual construction.

On her site in a popular tourist region north of Toronto, Janet built a year-round vacation residence for family gatherings. While not actually wielding a hammer, she acted as the general contractor for the project.

As might be expected from an educator, homework was essential. After researching several log-home companies, Janet chose 1867 Confederation Log and Timber Frame as the manufacturer and selected one of its models for her basic plan. "Then I made changes so that it suited me perfectly," Janet says. "That was one of the reasons I chose Confederation; I liked the flexibility they offered for the design."

"We do that for all our customers," says 1867 Confederation owner Rick Kinsman. "Even though we have a catalog of models, every home we build is customized for the owner. We have an in-house design team that consults with the client and

each home is cut to order in our shop."

As her project progressed, Janet realized she wanted to do more than just write checks. "I hired the 1867 construction crew to do the initial build, and then acted as the general contractor to complete the building," she says. "It was a challenge; there are so many details involved in building that I hadn't realized the amount of time it would take. I had terrific support from the staff at Confederation; they were really patient with all my questions."

With no previous experience in construction, general contracting was a massive undertaking for Janet, but she tackled

it enthusiastically. Months of research, meetings with subcontractors and scouring building supply stores culminated with construction beginning in summer 2008. By Christmas 2009, she hosted her first family gathering in her new home.

The layout of the two-story home works perfectly for family get-togethers. The large U-shaped kitchen with a center island provides plenty of space for a cook



Home by 1867 Confederation Log and Timber Frame • Photography by Roger Wade • Styling by Debra Grahl



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: A massive stone fireplace takes center stage in the great room and warms a comfortable seating area. An open floor plan allows guests to easily interact. A vintage hutch displays Janet's pottery and adds charm to the dining area. Glass patio doors open to the deck. Janet designed her kitchen to accommodate multiple cooks and added double ovens to feed a crowd.



with many helpers. Double ovens help feed hungry guests and granite counters provide easy cleanup. A combination of light and dark cabinet finishes provide a contrast to the logs' natural finish.

"I'm so happy with the design," Janet says. "The ambience of the logs and the fireplace creates a cozy atmosphere, and having the great room close to the kitchen means that everyone is included in the conversations, even while preparing meals or cleaning up. And if I want to get away from all the noise, my sitting area in the master suite is very private."

And the key to building her successful dream home? "Research," Janet replies. "Ask as many questions of as many people as you can. Compare the options different log companies offer, and continue asking questions for every aspect of your home. You need to be fully informed so you can make the decisions that are right for you."



877-462-5647

www.ConfederationLogHomes.com
email: info@ConfederationLogHomes.com

Reprinted with permission from
Dream Home Showcase Fall/Winter 2010.
©2010 Home Buyer Publications,
Chantilly, Virginia, 800-826-3893.