

# Say it with style

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS THWAITES

**Y**ou don't need to be a student of architecture to recognize a cottage where all the elements – everything from the design to the building materials used – are just right. Instead, all it takes is an awareness of something that Ken Patterson likes to refer to as architectural correctness, something that's particularly important when choosing windows.

“The best architects and builders understand that the wrong windows can change the entire look of a property, while the right ones will enhance it,” says Ken, the owner of Lakeland Windows and Doors, a Bala-based supplier, installer and after-sales service provider.

## Old style, new build

He points to a recent project in Port Sandfield to illustrate his point. Built as an exact replica of the family's original 1920s cottage, the client insisted from the get-go that the builder and his team pay the utmost attention to authenticity.

“It's a new build of an architecturally-correct cottage where every detail is as it would have looked at the time,” says Ken. So authentic, he says, that the first room completed was a woodworking shop where custom features could be built on demand. “It's a perfect

example of how an informed customer can make the difference between something truly spectacular and something that's just okay. All it takes is a little time and homework.”

## Historic lights

Whether you're thinking of replacing the windows in an existing home or cottage, or looking for the right product for something scratch-built, the kind of research Ken refers to isn't hard to do. Manufacturers such as Pella, for example, offer a variety of designs suited to Muskoka's cottage-influenced architecture, including those often difficult-to-match six, nine or even 12 or more light windows handcrafted many decades ago.

“Whether it's replicating the grill details, matching the existing sashes, or fenestration, it's important you find a product and supplier prepared to take the time to get it right, and better still if there's somewhere you can touch and feel and see the product first hand,” says Ken.

“And sure, while matching your cottage's original windows might require some custom sizing and site measuring, when you succeed in maintaining that architectural correctness and authenticity, it's well worthwhile.” **DS**

BY BRYAN DEARSLEY

## Windows complete the look



Ken Patterson,  
Owner of Lakeland  
Windows and Doors  
at the Gavarkovs  
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Muskoka

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