

# SUMMER IDYLL

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With the beach at their doorstep and endless blue sky filling every window, a couple's seasonal P.E.I. home is both a tranquil escape and an enticing destination.



Produced by Harriet Austin

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IN

**LATE SPRING**, not long after the magnolia trees have burst into bloom, Kevin and Bernadette decamp from their house in Toronto and head to a summer home on Prince Edward Island. They arrive around the same time bobolink songbirds are also

migrating back to the couple's seven-and-a-half-hectare South Shore plot overlooking the Northumberland Strait. As the small birds make *their* summer home in the meadow, one of Bernadette's favourite daily pursuits is counting them. She might spot as many as 10 per day, which she'll dutifully report to the local Island Nature Trust. It's a peaceful pastime indicative of the couple's life on the Island. In the evenings, Kevin usually gravitates to the living room with a book while Bernadette knits in one of the roll armchairs. When it's just the two of them, sometimes the only sounds are the turning of pages and the comfortable clacking of wooden knitting needles. Even laundry is a pleasure here. "There's nothing more relaxing than taking it outside and hanging it up to dry," says Kevin.

Bernadette, a retired medical professional, and Kevin, who runs a global analytics group, built their waterfront retreat in 2012 after falling in love with P.E.I. on family trips with their three now-grown children. "We wanted something that we owned and enjoyed but that didn't own us," says Kevin. To that end, they kept things simple. Drawing from Kevin's New England roots, the 3,100-square-foot home has a distinctly Cape Cod feel, from its tidy one-and-a-half-storey layout to its weathered cedar shake



In the living room, slipcovered furniture sets a casual tone. The fireplace is Wallace sandstone, which is also used for the home's front stoop. **Sofa, throw pillows, throw (on ottoman), roll armchairs, metal floor lamp, Cottage Industry; vintage sewing table (between roll armchairs) by Severin Hansen Jr., Haslev Møbelsnedkeri; artwork by Henk Gringhuis; Stilt floor lamp, Blu Dot; flowers, Island Meadow Farms; wing chair, sisal rug, wall colour, Mediterranean White, RH.**

**OPPOSITE, CENTRE:** A vintage egg-poaching dish holds shells and sea glass collected from the beach.

*Kevin and Bernadette's ideal summer day*

**6 A.M.** There's no drapery to close off the view, so the day starts as soon as the sun shines into our bedroom.

**7 A.M.** Breakfast is coffee and omelettes with fresh herbs, enjoyed on the porch where, if we're not careful, the day can get away from us.

**8 A.M.** Time for a morning walk in the meadow with our two Bernese mountain dogs, Wolfgang and Bruno.

**9 A.M.** It's never too early for a quick trip to #5 café, which has excellent coffee and the best molasses cookies.

**10 A.M.** If it's sunny and the wind is right, we head into Charlottetown to take Perseverance, our 1932 18-foot cedar catboat out for a sail.

**1:30 P.M.** Lunch almost always features a salad fresh from the garden.

**3 P.M.** Lazy afternoons usually involve curling up under a throw for a quick nap, or shelling peas for dinner on the porch.

**4 P.M.** Thinking about dinner, we head out to forage for food at the farm stands that line the nearby roads.

**5 P.M.** Late afternoon walks on the beach are a daily occurrence.

**7 P.M.** Dinner involves seafood. Lobster bisque is one of our specialties.

**9 P.M.** We spread blankets on the lawn for a little stargazing before bed.



**ABOVE:** Food is a big part of the couple's P.E.I. routine. When guests are in town, Kevin sets up an omelette station on the kitchen island. In the evenings, guests sip wine while he shucks oysters. Bernadette's fondness for sea glass inspired the frosted-glass backsplash while the smooth Carrara marble countertops are perfect for making pie crusts. **Stools, Roots; Bestlite pendants, Hollace Cluny; appliances, General Electric; rug, Dash & Albert; cabinet colour, Sharkey Grey (MSL240-01F) by Martha Stewart Living, The Home Depot.**  
**LEFT:** There are always fresh herbs on the kitchen counter, ready to perk up a salad or seafood dish. **Tray, Cottage Industry.**  
**OPPOSITE:** The dining area feels like an extension of the outdoors. **Dining table, Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture; rug, Dash & Albert; flowers, Island Meadow Farms; window sash and French door trim colour, Pitch Black (256), Farrow & Ball.**

**LEFT:** Hans J. Wegner's mid-century modern lounge chair for Carl Hansen & Søn is one of Kevin's favourite spots to enjoy a cup of coffee. **Chair, floor lamp, Hollace Cluny; Eames stool, Nirvana Home Collection; mirror, Serena & Lily; rug, throw, Dash & Albert.**

exterior. "Throughout its history, P.E.I.'s architecture has been greatly influenced by that of New England," says David Lopes, the Charlottetown architect Kevin and Bernadette enlisted to design the home. "The house reflects New England values with the regular rhythm of the windows and doors, and the simple furnishings," he adds. Nothing is overly elaborate or ornate, giving the space a noticeably relaxed quality.

Equally important is the view of the sea from every vantage point, with windows that stretch nearly from floor to ceiling. David chose black specifically for the interior window casings to better frame the views. "Similar to the frame on a painting," he says. The clean, coastal vibe is finished with a crisp blue and white palette coupled with modern furnishings that create a fresh yet timeless look.

Set about 75 feet from the water's edge, the house is peaceful and private, but this is also the kind of place where you get to know your neighbours. Kevin and Bernadette buy their eggs from a woman down the road who keeps sheep, chickens and a ram named Angus. And when lobsters are in season, Bernadette heads over to one of the nearby fishermen and returns with a bucket brimming with the freshest catch of the day. "You couldn't ask for better neighbours," says Kevin. "That's one of the things we love best about being here." **H&H**

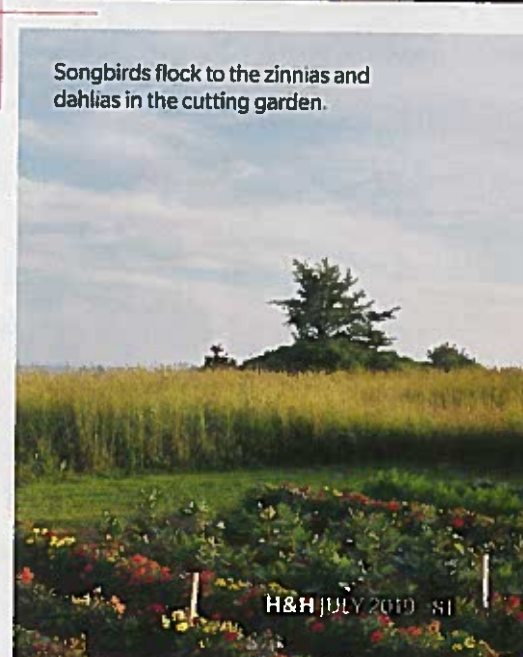
Architect David Lopes designed the deck off the principal bedroom to be a sunny, sheltered retreat from the active main floor. "It gives you the feeling of being in your own private crow's nest," he says. **Bed, desk, desk chair, table lamp (on bedside table), Hollace Cluny; linens, bench, Nirvana Home Collection; flowers, Island Meadow Farms; wall colour, Silver Sage, RH.**



P.E.I.'s provincial flag



**TOP LEFT:** Accent pillows have line drawings of plovers, birds commonly seen on the nearby beach. **Bed, rug, RH; accent pillows, table, Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture; table lamp, linens, Nirvana Home Collection. TOP RIGHT:** The glass and hemp chandelier in the front entrance picks up the home's cool blue accents. **Table, RH; chandelier, blue table lamps, Serena & Lily; rug, Dash & Albert. CENTRE RIGHT:** Vintage-look metal beds have classic cottage appeal. **Beds, dresser, RH; linens, Pottery Barn Kids; table lamp, Pottery Barn. BOTTOM CENTRE:** A vintage model clipper ship takes pride of place on a dresser. **Dresser, RH; rug, Dash & Albert. BOTTOM LEFT:** Two wing chairs take in the waterfront view. **Table, Sharon O'Dowd Custom Furniture; throw pillows, Judy Ross Textiles; pitcher, dish, Vintage Fine Objects; flowers, Island Meadow Farms; trim colour, The Right White, RH. CENTRE LEFT:** An open vanity gives the principal bathroom a relaxed look. **Vanity, sconces, medicine cabinet, baskets, RH.**



Songbirds flock to the zinnias and dahlias in the cutting garden.