



Emerald Park Homes

Building their own neighbourhood

BY TRILBY HENDERSON

When Emerald Park Homes builds a custom home for a client in White City, they are welcoming them to their neighbourhood.

Though the company builds anywhere within an hour of Regina, most of its custom houses are constructed on its hometown turf of White City and Emerald Park. Here, clients and their families can experience a wholesome quality of life, relishing their close proximity to nature and surrounded by the breathtaking scenery of the prairies.

Just 10 minutes from Regina, White City and Emerald Park boast all the comforts of small-town living without sacrificing

any of the convenience of city life. An abundance of parks and trails, including paved and lighted pathways, provide numerous opportunities for residents to enjoy the communities' wide-open spaces and fresh air. Golfing, cross-country skiing, hiking, hockey, and skating can all be enjoyed at the various recreational facilities, including multiple ball diamonds, outdoor tennis courts and skating rinks, and an 18-hole golf course. Combine all this with safe neighbourhoods and streets, excellent schools, and a close-knit community spirit, and it's no surprise that Emerald Park and White City have built reputations as safe, secure and enjoyable places to live and raise a family.

With nearly 20 years of experience working in their community, Emerald Park Homes can help clients find the perfect location for their dream home, whether it includes extra room for a shop or RV, a golf-course view, or a west-facing backyard where they can sit and watch the sunset.

Prospective homeowners will find a choice of lot types available in the new Bower West subdivision, including both walkout and bay lots. Each lot in the subdivision has an eight-foot side yard, leaving a comfortable 16 feet of space between houses. A new school has been proposed for the area, making Bower West an ideal location for young families.

JESSE COVERT-RUTTENBERG, COVERT OPZ PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN



One couple's experience

Clarence and Darlene Woloshyn were well aware of the benefits of living in Bower West when they purchased a lot in the subdivision. The couple has a long history in the community, where they have lived, worked and raised their three boys. Clarence also served as White City's mayor for nine years, and Darlene worked as a town administrator.

With their boys now grown and living on their own, Clarence and Darlene decided to downsize from their large family home to a two-bedroom bungalow with plenty of main-floor living space. Although neither Clarence nor Darlene are ready for retirement, they wanted to make sure their new home and yard would serve their needs in the future.

The Woloshyns selected an east-facing lot with plenty of green space off the backyard. Darlene says they enjoyed the open space their large former yard offered, but wanted the easy maintenance of a smaller yard. Their location in Bower West enables them to have both. When it came time to choose a home-

builder, the decision was easy. Darlene knew Emerald Park Homes had a solid reputation in the community after hearing many positive stories about the company while working for the town. The Woloshyns contacted Garry Sawchyn, owner of Emerald Park Homes, and took the first step toward building their new dream house.

A strong team of professionals

Emerald Park Homes works with a strong team of professionals consisting of highly skilled individuals who also operate well as a group. Many of their tradespeople have worked with the company for years, and even though the job site is always busy, they still take the time to meet their customers and answers questions about their part in the homebuilding process.

Both Clarence and Darlene greatly appreciated the access they were given to their developing home, and to the Emerald Park Homes staff, throughout the construction process. In fact, Darlene says they spoke with Garry on an almost daily basis as their home was built.

"Garry's a very hands-on guy. He was always on site," she said. "We never, ever felt like we couldn't call him."

Darlene says they had a good idea of what they wanted in their home before they began—including an open-concept floor plan, main-floor laundry, and a marble sit-down shower in the ensuite bathroom—but being able to access their home as it was constructed enabled them to adjust their original plan, at times, to better suit their needs. For example, Darlene says they opened up the hallway by removing a wall near the basement stairwell and incorporated niches at key locations throughout the house where they now display framed art and treasured objects.

The Woloshyns also decided to add decorative interest to their ceiling by painting a border around its perimeter to match the colour of the walls. The effect gives the perception of a higher ceiling, and has been frequently complimented by visitors to the home. "We're really happy we did it," said Darlene. "It's just something different."

Of course, there were some aspects of their new home's design that the couple



was set on from the very start, including a built-in china cabinet in the dining area and a spacious corner pantry in the kitchen. The addition of a glass-tile back-splash gives the kitchen a modern twist without interrupting the visual flow of the space.

Clarence and Darlene wanted plenty of windows on the west side of the house to take advantage of the natural light coming in from their backyard. The home's windows feature wide frames and deep inner ledges reminiscent of those found in Victorian-era houses. Several windows in the home have panes, which further add to their traditional feel, and transom windows placed above the main entrance and the patio doors allow in additional light without sacrificing privacy.

"I've always dreamed of a veranda on the front of the house," said Darlene, adding that they opted to build two decks: a covered deck on the front of the house and another at the rear. This is where Darlene looks forward to relaxing after she retires, and where she and Clarence can enjoy the outdoors and spend time with their grandchildren.

Less maintenance, more enjoyment

Emerald Park Homes encourages customers to choose maintenance-free and energy-efficient features for their new homes to enable them to spend their free time and money enjoying their house instead of worrying about maintaining or repairing it. The Woloshyns' new bungalow features 40-year shingles, triple-glazed low-e windows, spray-foam insulation around the joists, a no-maintenance exterior, and no-maintenance decks. For Clarence and Darlene, these features mean they have more time to spend with their family, especially the grandkids.

With spring fast approaching, now is the time for prospective homeowners to start planning and preparing. Although Emerald Park Homes builds year-round, spring is always a busy time of year for construction to begin, as most homeowners want to be in their new homes by Christmas.

To make this possible, Garry of Emerald Park Homes says he is ready and waiting to help new homeowners start the planning process, with only a small refund-

able deposit needed to hold a lot. From there, he will walk clients through the process step-by-step, working within their budget to create a quality home that meets all of their specific needs and expectations.

Each time Clarence and Darlene welcome guests into their new home and see their pleased reactions to the bungalow's distinctive, yet harmonious, features, it reinforces their certainty that they made the right decision when they chose to work with Emerald Park Homes. The company's motto states "Our Quality Shows," and the Woloshyns know their new home is no exception. **flr**



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