

Guests welcome

SYMPHONY TOUR EXPLORES FIVE HOMES AND GARDENS

A SHORT TRIP out of the city is always a pleasure in the spring, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Volunteer Committee gives you added incentive on June 11.

This year's House and Garden Tour of Note invites guests into homes in Conestogo and St. Agatha as well as Waterloo — five stylish homes in all. Three of the homes are very large and also have extensive gardens to explore so take your time.

What follows is a brief overview of the homes on this year's tour.

1 A pond, a red barn and rolling hills form a picturesque backdrop to a St. Agatha home. Small wonder that the home, built in 2002, includes abundant windows to soak up the view.

Guests enter into a large hall that opens onto the great room with a Krug dining table and sideboard plus a sitting area. Beyond a double-sided wood fireplace is another sitting area plus an enclosed sun porch.

The lower level features a recreation room, library, kitchenette and dining area. Upstairs, the master suite overlooks the pond, and the den showcases royal souvenirs collected over decades by the family monarchist. Fine art and furniture catch the eye everywhere, including a circular stained-glass window created by one of the owners.

Outside, guests will be serenaded by birds as they explore the gardens, which include native and exotic trees and flowering shrubs.



TOUR OF NOTE

The Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Volunteer Committee will present its 13th annual House and Garden Tour of Note on Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Musicians from the symphony and the youth orchestra will perform at one or two homes plus there will be a sealed-bid auction.

Tickets are \$25. For more information: www.kwsymphony.ca/housetour or 519-745-4711, ext. 285.



2 At a second property in St. Agatha, an 1850s Mennonite farmhouse is the nucleus of a rambling family home. The main structure, added in 1976, features a hall leading to living and dining rooms, a cherry wood kitchen and a family room. An upstairs landing opens to four bedrooms and a master suite. ▶

▶ A second addition, 20 years after the first, includes a bright “window room” with skylights, a fireplace and a kitchen nook.

Set on 18 acres of German Block land, a magnificent “ash lane” leads up to the home, passing close to the old barn, now in fragile condition. Visitors can stroll through adjacent colonial-style gardens, complete with a pond stocked with koi.

3 A formal courtyard garden featuring a pond, bridge, gazebo and paths just might remind visitors to this Waterloo home of a Monet painting.

Inside, floor-to-ceiling windows and majestic columns set off the great room and dining room. The Italianate mahogany and walnut dining table and hutch, inset with decorative garlands on the sides, are replicas of pieces found in a Newport mansion.

The kitchen wing includes a family room and an informal dining area overlooking

the pond. The main floor also includes a master suite and a guest suite.

Downstairs is an entertainment area and an adjoining space large enough to seat 30 or more for dinner.

Beyond, is an in-law suite with a separate entrance.

4 A 45-year-old home in Waterloo is an American Dutch Colonial treasure.

Features include several Dutch half-doors, heavy fir beams on the main floor ceiling, and a 12-foot mantel, evidence of the width of the original fireplace.

Wedgwood blue updates the original cabinetry and walls of the kitchen, and is also featured in the adjoining great room, more properly referred to as the “Quaker room.” A baby grand piano dominates a



music room beside the front hall.

A glass table sets off a 100-year-old Persian rug in the dining table. Upstairs, bedrooms and a master suite open up from the hall, which ends at “his and her” exercise rooms over the garage.

A main floor sunroom features floor-to-ceiling windows on three sides for a restful view of a perennial garden, deck and mature evergreens.

5 From the whippet statues guarding the entrance to the beautiful backyard, a Conestogo home has lots to offer.

The 1991 bungalow features floor-to-ceiling windows across the back that afford a restful view of perennial gardens, a reflecting pond and fountain.

Inside, a great room forms the core of the house with a dining nook and office beyond.



Exotic artifacts punctuate the decor along with paintings and treasured furniture. Lemon high-backed chairs add drama to the dining room.

A sea-grass carpet leads to the bedroom wing where the master suite includes a sitting area and a cosy bed for the resident whippet. **6**

