

CARVING A NICHE BUILDS SUCCESS



Marlin and Pauline Weninger have also explored their other passion, golf. Developing the Black Mountain Golf Community and designing and building the Shannon Lake Golf Course Clubhouse.

A passion for skiing and golf leads Okanagan developer to a unique market and specialized skill set

KELOWNA - Weninger Construction & Design Ltd. is at the top of its game with three Gold Tommie wins: Best Renovation over \$400,000, Best Kitchen renovation over \$100,000 and Best Master Bedroom over \$20,000. Bearfoot Chalet located at Big White Ski Resort was outdated but had stunning views and great bones. The custom renovation with high end finishes showcases the Weninger's design build concept and created a unique, outstanding home for the owners. According to Pauline Weninger, owner and interior designer for Weninger, every aspect of the renovation had an exciting feature, from the six-foot elk antler chandelier to the massive Log structures at the entry way. "One of our standout project design elements is to capitalize on the views we get in the Okanagan," she said. "For this project we took out 15 panels of window separated by framing and replaced them with four large

open pieces of solid glass. Now the view is the main feature." With a large budget and the homeowner's clear vision and input for the final product, the design parameters allowed for the unique and the standout. A wine cellar was added under the stairs to complete the wine bar, an unused garage became a games room, Weninger's custom built and signature bunk beds were added to the youngest child's room complete with a real fireman's pole, the master ensuite was redesigned to include a steam shower with flagstone and a mosaic river of pebbles running through it. "A huge 1000-pound solid piece of rock was put on top of the fireplace downstairs to hold a copper hood," said Weninger. "It was a challenging job getting the rock into place. There was also an ocean pearl rock slab cut in a curve to fit the games room bar that K2 Stoneworks specially made for the project." "Robinson Lighting, who supplied the lighting fixtures and lighting package tracked the pieces down that were found online, they did a great job in making the vision of lighting come together, from the stone onyx lamp shades to the garnet

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Three massive logs from Pioneer Log Homes in Williams Lake fit into the base of the roofline adding support and a framework for the impressive home

CREDIT: MATT SZYMKOW



Bearfoot Chalet has stunning views and great bones, so home owners focused on renovating.

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The Weninger team and family provide design, build and project management services

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In the City of Kelowna, Weninger has done many special features including design and consulting for developers and property owners, assisting them to maximize the use of their land

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gemstone fixtures.”

“It’s a warm and inviting centerpiece and gives a real chalet feel.”

The award-winning kitchen is a study in modern convenience, but with the warm wood accents and stunning lines framing a view of neighbouring chalets, it retains its rustic appeal.

The backsplash is made of natural grey tone rock tile and, behind the stove, copper medallion tile was used, fired and made specifically for this home, blending well with the copper rangehood and large copper sink. The room was part of the vision to tie the natural concepts and features together and create a flow throughout the home.

But by far the largest design feature are the three large logs

carefully placed at the front of the home. Supplied by **Pioneer Log Homes** in Williams Lake, (the company seen on HGTV as the **Timber Kings**), they were built into the structure of the entryway providing support and an eye-arresting first impression.

Marlin Weninger, Pauline’s husband, business partner, designer and founder of the company, had a specific look in mind for the structure.

“I knew what I wanted,” he said. “I had a vision of a curved log that would fit into the base of the roofline encompassing the three doors at the front. We waited six months before Pioneer found the perfect log. Now there is a real flow right from the entry to the rest of the home.”

A longstanding Kelowna construction company, the Weninger name has deep roots in the

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A carved out solid piece of rock was used as a bathroom sink to continue the chalet's natural design flow

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The winning kitchen at Bearfoot Chalet included copper tile, sink and range hood and rustic wood cabinets and flooring

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community. Originally owned and operated by Marlin and his father **Ron**, it was founded in 1989.

"I started early in the 70's learning how to build, doing some framing and helping dad

on jobs," said Weninger. "By 1989 I had had a lot of construction experience. But the drafting I learned in high school was where my strongest interest was."

He explained that his drafting education got a real boost when a local draftsman that his dad knew took him on and taught him more in-depth drafting.

Pauline and Marlin met while attending college, at the ski club. Both have a passion for the sport, which would go on to play a significant role in their work lives. The first house they built together was their own, but it was in 1991 when they, a friend

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The large copper range hood is an eye-catching centerpiece in the kitchen

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Weninger custom builds timber frame bunk beds to perfectly fit client's space

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and their parents were one of the first to build on a lot in Snowpine Estates at Big White, that they began carving out a niche for themselves in building chalets and unique and challenging buildings.

"We built a duplex, learning a lot about the terrain and weather conditions. We had to be aware of ice wicking from roofs, of steep slopes, and of the specific needs of homeowners living from ski slope to home."

The next few years at Big White saw the company designing and building eight more two, three and four plex homes in Snowpine Estates, a 22 live-in unit condo called Grizzly Lodge, four more three to four plex homes in Snowpine and a large majority of the homes in Featherstop Estates.



Weninger Construction accepts three Gold Tommies for the impressive Bearfoot Chalet

CREDIT: WENINGER CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN LTD

budget that makes sense to the client, focusing on what their priorities are and where they want to spend their money. It's a way of maximizing our client's dollar."

The business is still a strongly family owned company. Although Ron Weninger retired 10 years ago, Marlin and Pauline's two daughters, **Shauna Wizinsky**, project manager and designer and **Robyn MacDonald**, administration and HR, as well as Pauline's sister, **Josette Genest**, business administrator, are very much involved.

"There is a lot of dreaming and discussions over our supper table," said Pauline. "We love our projects and are constantly exchanging ideas. **Jenny Giesbrecht**, our project coordinator and purchaser keeps us grounded and **Ethan Whittle**, on site project manager, helps keep the projects moving on time and budget!"

The couple emphasized that they see their business as a relationship, not so much about money as about doing what they like to do.

"We don't need to make a killing on our projects. We want to do a good job, make a decent living and at the end of the day be proud of our relationship with clients and the projects we built for them."

Over the years, Weninger has amassed an impressive resume of projects, not just on the ski slope but in town and have done many special features such as commercial kitchens, cigar humidors, built-in fish tanks, unique

in-home bars, accessible pools, home theatres, wine storage, and larger multifamily commercial mix buildings.

Recently Weninger Construction grew, not only with their third grandbaby, but working farther afield, designing and project managing an apartment complex, **Kenneth Park**, on Vancouver Island, and also growing into a new and larger place of business.

"We wanted a shop for our guys to store tools and to do finishing work. Having the business and shop together makes it easier to keep track of inventory and get our prep work done more efficiently," Weninger said. "We also needed a good space to prep and build our custom bunk beds or some of the 26 foot long logs we

finish."

Since building their first set of custom beds in 1997, demand has continued to grow, especially for ski chalets wanting to capitalize on space.

"We custom design any style with timber frame that are perfectly sized to the client's space. They can also have added features like steps with drawers or a fireman's pole."

A total of four Gold Tommies now proudly sit in Weninger's new offices, maybe even with a grandbaby or two playing with them and dreaming of their turn to take up the hammer or drafting pencil.

Weninger Construction is at #102B-Dougall Rd., North in Kelowna

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