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feature

bigwin island golf club



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# to Play

## BEAUTIFUL BIGWIN ISLAND TEES UP FORTY LUXURY CLUB CABINS ON ITS CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE

*Club Cabins at Bigwin Island, Lake of Bays, Muskoka*

Picture this: You wake up to the sun shining in your bedroom window on a summer morning. The birds are singing and the deer are browsing in view on the fresh forest foliage. You can hear waves gently lapping the shore by the dock. After your morning coffee you head out for a stroll along a beautiful 7-kilometre trail, and just as you return, your guests are arriving at your cottage via a dock-to-dock shuttle. You and your guests then head off to play Canada's most picturesque and top-rated golf course. Designed by Doug Carrick, it boasts wide open fairways that are both challenging for the avid golfer and fun for those that are new to the game. As the sun begins to dip in the sky, you end your day with a cold drink at the Club's Dockside lounge and then make your way to the historic Marine Dining Room. Paradise Island, right?

That this vision can be realized in beautiful Muskoka may not be surprising. After all, we are used to seeing idyllic images from this pristine region—Ontario's own version of the English Lake District. That it can be served up with many conveniences not familiar to cottage owners—such as access to host resort-style concierge services just a phone call away—is the unexpected, and most welcome, detail. It is happening on Lake of Bays, on Bigwin Island, where the luxury experience is served with a new twist that just might peak your interest.

**LEFT:** The unique design of the vaulted ceiling allows for the open-concept Great Room to flood with natural light, while dark walls ground the space. The black-framed, full-height windows elegantly encompass stunning views over the golf course and the water. Clean, horizontal lines in the minimalist kitchen contribute a sleek, modern aesthetic, while a spacious island and the free flow of space to the Great Room ensure it's easy for friends and family to mingle, even during meal prep.



## MOTHER NATURE'S DESIGN

“We felt the Club Cabins really deserved great architecture,” explains Dave Smith, President of Eagle Landing, developer of Bigwin Island and the Waterfront Community. He is talking about Bigwin’s 40 luxurious Club Cabins: 1,250 to 1,350 square-foot Resort Condominium Units situated carefully along the fairways, with spectacular golf course and water views.

“Our priority was, we did not want to change the landscape. Our goal was to not grade the land and to minimize tree removal. When people see the Club Cabins, we want it to appear as if they were placed there from the sky.”

This kind of attention to detail and respect for the 520-acre island’s natural integrity began well before a shovel hit the ground, when Eagle Landing began a nationwide search for an architectural firm that would share their vision for the project and provide the know-how to pull it off sustainably. The end result of that exhaustive search is three stunning Club Cabin models, each built to net-zero standards using environmentally sensitive construction and local materials. The architect behind the Club Cabin designs is Brian MacKay-Lyons, from MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects, one of Canada’s most celebrated architectural firms.

“We thought, what’s the ultimate Muskoka architecture?” recalls Brian. “A big, sheltering roof in the woods. The roofs are just floating and creating a sense of refuge. They’re what holds each design all together.”

The roof’s centrality in the design of each model is carried through to the interior, where a cathedral ceiling soars up to a skylight in each of the Great Rooms. It’s all about natural light, and removing unnecessary barriers between ourselves and nature. “We think of the Great Room as a pavilion,” says Brian. “It’s a glass pavilion in the woods, really.”



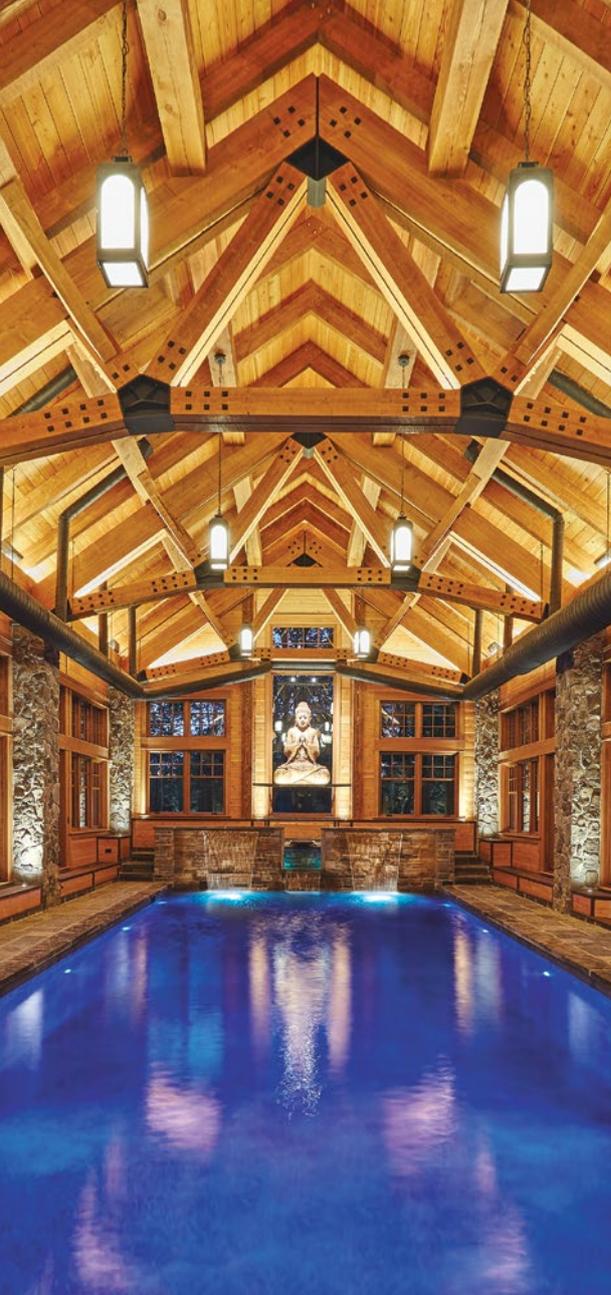


**TOP:** The skylight in the Great Room illuminates the craftsmanship at play in the cathedral ceiling, while a sleek fireplace ensures a comforting atmosphere on chilly nights.

**ABOVE:** A covered deck with clear railings offers an alternative spot to enjoy the sights, the island breezes, and Bigwin's wonderful lack of blackflies! (An island secret.)

**LEFT:** Each of the island's forty Club Cabins features spectacular porch views.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Each of the three models of Club Cabin conscientiously incorporates in its design elements reflecting the magnificence of the island's landscape. Here, cedar soffit and stone harmonize with the surrounding trees and wild grasses, while the Cabin's extensive windows ensure that Mother Nature herself takes centre stage.



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Between the 1920s and the 1940s, a luxurious summer resort, the Bigwin Inn, attracted high-profile partygoers to the island from all over the world—including royalty and Hollywood starlets—and became a popular venue for the big bands of the day, including Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians. Today's Bigwin Island golf course, dining facilities, and recreational offerings recapture the magic of those glorious times.

A 9-hole golf course designed by the legendary Stanley Thompson in 1922 has given way to a stunning par-72, world-class championship course, designed by celebrated golf course architect, Doug Carrick.





## LUXURY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Bigwin's island locale presented creative challenges for Dave and his team when it came to sorting out issues of accessibility and amenities, but they soon realized that being on an island gives the residents an advantage no other waterfront community in Muskoka can claim. "We've taken what possibly started out as a barrier, being on an island, and turned it into the only true gated golf course community in the area," says Dave. In addition to the golf course and fine dining, residents on the island have access to myriad services, from housekeeping and cottage maintenance to concierge services and boutique, resort-style amenities. And when owners pack up and head home, they will have the same "peace of mind" they would have leaving their vacation or winter home in Florida or Whistler, because there is similar infrastructure in place to care for their property.

Granted, with two bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms, a Club Cabin won't have an east wing to retreat to. But here's the thing: That's kind of what's so great about it. The Club Cabins are not meant to be a substitute for a traditional cottage; rather, they are geared toward the avid golfer and active lifestyle seeker who is looking for assets that provide unique experiences. Along with a private equity membership in the Bigwin Golf Club, this unique Resort Condominium ownership opportunity provides owners with the flexibility of being able to use their Club Cabin at times that suit their needs and garner income from a professionally managed rental program at other times. Return from rental opportunities along with return on use and enjoyment? Now that's a "win-win". **■**

**RIGHT:** Clean lines in the modern bathroom please the eye while doing nothing to compete with the view.



“When people see the Club Cabins we want it to appear as if they were placed there from the sky.”

*- Dave Smith*  
PRESIDENT, EAGLE LANDING





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