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COME HOME TO DURHAM: SITE STORY

All-access homes

As a mid-size builder, Durham Custom Homes brings its tradition of custom home building to multi-family neighbourhoods. For 60 years this family-owned and -operated company has created communities of distinction across the GTA and surrounding communities. With no two homes alike, Durham Custom Homes is an unconventional subdivision builder that invests extra time and care in designing the perfect dream home for each of its purchasers.

“Our custom home division actually grew out of the work that we were doing in subdivisions, which is the opposite from most builders,” says Victor Fiume, general manager for Durham Custom Homes. “Giving people exactly the home that they want has always been a priority. The only difference be-

tween our custom homes and subdivision homes is that plans are pre-designed for larger projects. We are happy, however, to tweak those plans to give homebuyers the floor plans and custom features that suit their needs.”

Durham Custom Homes routinely accommodates homebuyers’ requests, such as shifting locations of walls, turning a four-bedroom home into a two-bedroom or enlarging a master ensuite to accommodate an oversized shower. In-house design staff can quickly make changes to plans, and professional interior designers at the builder’s decor centre are happy to help homebuyers with their selection of finishes.

In addition to providing custom building services, Durham Custom Homes also offers GreenHouse and Accessible GreenHouse homes at its celebrated Kingsway Forest in Oshawa. The award-winning builder is the first to construct such homes in Canada — homes that exceed Energy Star for New Homes standards and reduce energy costs by up to 40%.

At Kingsway Forest, purchasers can choose from a great selection of GreenHouse bungalow and two-storey homes that are available on 30-, 35- and 40- and 45-foot lots. Homes range in size from 1,125 to 2,940 square feet, with prices starting at \$249,900.

Finishes include oak pickets and railings, as well as upgraded trim, light fixtures and kitchen cabinetry. A four-foot clearance to lot lines on each side of homes exceeds code. The greater space between houses means that designs can incorporate windows on the sides of homes.

Accessible GreenHouse homes



In the 2,661-square-foot Windermere model, the kitchen opens onto the family room.



Most models, including the Sandringham, come with standard gas fireplace, mantel, marble insert and fan kit.

FAST FACTS

LOCATION: Oshawa

BUILDER: Durham Custom Homes

PRICES: Starting from \$249,900

FEATURES: All homes are built to GreenHouse standards, for greater efficiency and improved indoor air quality.

TO SEE FOR YOURSELF: Take the 401 east to Harmony Rd., go north to Adelaide, then east to Townline. Head north on Townline to Kettering and follow the signs. Open Mon.-Fri. 1-7 p.m.; weekends and holidays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Call (905) 576-6771 or visit www.kingswayforest.ca.

can also be customized to include a garage elevator that transports homeowners to the main floor or basement. Instead of wheelchair-accessible ramps to front entrances, homes feature a gentle, sloping path of interlocking stone, which is flanked by beautiful landscaping.

“When you look at the exteriors and interiors of these homes, you can’t tell that they have accessible features,” Fiume says. “All of our

homes, in fact, are aesthetically beautiful. We’ve managed to integrate energy-efficient features with great home designs and quality finishes.”

Off-site custom homes are built to the Energy Star for New Homes Standard and include some GreenHouse features, such as water management and conservation. In both its custom and multi-family homes divisions, Durham Custom Homes

has several repeat and referral buyers.

“We’ve had homebuyers who have purchased their second and third homes with us, and we’re also seeing the next generation choose a Durham home,” Fiume says. “It’s about building not just houses but entire communities in locations where people want to live.”

— Courtesy of Durham Custom Homes