

SPECIAL REPORT: RETIREMENT LIVING

# Ready to downsize? Try an adult lifestyle community

Retirement communities offer activities, camaraderie in carefree environment

**MICHELLE WILLIAMS**  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Ed and Catherine Cotton were living in a large bungalow on a big lot in Aurora, Ont.

“Our two sons moved away and I retired, so I no longer needed my home office,” says Ed. “We had too much space and our property was too onerous for us to maintain — especially while our friends were out golfing.”

They moved to Briar Hill, an adult lifestyle community on the outskirts of Alliston, Ont.

“It met our needs in so many ways,” says Catherine. “The homes were beautiful, well built with lots of choice. Being on the golf course was a big plus for us. There’s an amazing camaraderie among the residents. And there is just about every activity you can imagine.”

Empty nesters and those newly or recently retired are increasingly looking to Ontario’s adult lifestyle communities as a place to resettle.

“We’re not talking about traditional retirement homes that offer assisted living,” says Angela Greenway, vice-president of real-estate marketing for [adulthoodlifestylecommunities.ca](http://adulthoodlifestylecommunities.ca). “These communities are vibrant social hubs for 50+ adults, humming with activity and options to suit just about any taste or lifestyle.”

When Terry and Karen Bergin were ready to leave their 3,000-square-foot home, they originally considered building a new property north of the city.

“But we happened upon Rosedale Village,” says Terry, “and it was just what we were looking for.”

They purchased a bungalow on a premium lot and fell in love with the Brampton development. “It has great fitness facilities, walking trails, a nice pool, a golf course and lots of other amenities. It’s also the style of home we wanted within a gated community. The snow is shovelled, the gardens are tended and the neighbours are very friendly.”

Laurie Scott chose Bluewater



Terry and Karen Bergin purchased a bungalow in Rosedale Village in Brampton. They fell in love with their premium lot and the facilities it offers.

Country, a development on the outskirts of Sarnia, Ont.

She left behind a big home with an in-ground pool to enjoy the maintenance-free living that the community affords.

“With my busy lifestyle, the amenities at Bluewater were attractive. The clubhouse has an indoor pool, fitness facility, great hall where dinner and dances are held on a regular basis, which attracts many community residents. All this is available right at my doorstep.”

The communities’ developers understand what their buyers are looking for.

“The ability to live a carefree lifestyle is what prompts older adults to make the move,” says Domenic Zita, executive vice-president of the VANDYK group of companies, developer and builder of the Craftsman Condominium Residences in Clarkson Village in Mississauga.

The homes are built with the residents’ needs in mind: full of multi-purpose spaces.

“Having amenities within walking distance is important for this demographic,” Zita says. “They’re also looking for a wide range of activities specially selected to promote social engagement and encourage vibrant, active lifestyles.”

Carolyn Blair and Tom Kirisit chose Dover Coast in Port Dover on Lake Erie. With loads of fitness and social amenities, there’s always plenty to keep them engaged. But they were sold on the lakefront location.

“We love it here,” says Blair. “I paint watercolours and it’s a beautiful backdrop. We can swim from our community dock and there’s a beach close by.”

The convenience was equally important to them.

“We knew we didn’t want to deal with the upkeep of a big house anymore,” she says, “especially since we’re in Florida for five months of the year. We never have to worry about just walking away and leaving behind the garden maintenance and snow shovelling.”

## > LEAVE THE BAGGAGE BEHIND

Perhaps the most challenging part of downsizing to a smaller home is letting go of years of accumulated stuff.

Domenic Zita of VANDYK recommends looking for a home with “spacious and functional floor plans that can accommodate your existing full-size furniture and family heirlooms.”

However, most people who have made the move recommend that you purge your belongings before you pack up.

“Be prepared to let go and do some serious downsizing,” says Terry Bergin, a resident with his wife, Karen, at Brampton’s Rosedale Village. “Half the stuff you have will likely be irrelevant for this new stage of your life.”

Bergin believes that bringing along all that baggage only weighs you down. “Remember, your life is changing — it’s about to get a whole lot better.”



Carolyn Blair and Tom Kirisit were enticed by the lakefront location of Dover Coast in Port Dover on Lake Erie.

# GREAT PLACES TO LIVE



## INVERLYN LAKE ESTATES

On the shores of Lake Huron in Kincardine, our freehold community has a clubhouse, dock, saltwater pool, woodworking shop, private 90-acres of woodland trails. From \$287,900.



## BRIAR HILL

Amenity-rich community offering resort-style living with golf, fitness, nature trails & more. Detached, semi-detached bungalows, townhomes from upper \$300's. 45 minutes north of Toronto.



## HUNTERS POINTE THE RESIDENCES

Choose a luxurious, yet affordable, bungalow home in the premier adult lifestyle golf club community of Hunters Pointe, located in the heart of the picturesque Region of Niagara.



## Cherry Hill

Situated in the heart of the Niagara Wine Region, enjoy your active lifestyle and local amenities with homes starting in the \$240's.



## Stonecroft

Featuring a recreation centre, kilometers of trails, and impeccable designer finishes, Stonecroft is a community designed with your lifestyle in mind. Stunning bungalow designs from the mid \$400's.



## BALDWIN PLACE

In a quiet corner of friendly Tillsonburg and a short walk to downtown is Baldwin Place, with easy access to the cities of London and Kitchener/Waterloo and the shores of Lake Erie.



## Parkbridge

The surprisingly affordable and comfortable homes in Parkbridge Lifestyle Communities' 15 Ontario land lease locations provide you with a host of financial and lifestyle benefits.



## Wellington on the Lake

Our golf course community located in scenic Prince Edward County offers quality built bungalows and villas. Excellent value - living amid wineries, beaches - a unique lifestyle!



## Park Place

Live in Wasaga Beach starting in the mid \$180's. Enjoy this Parkbridge Lifestyle Community with 12,000 sq. ft. rec centre with indoor saltwater pool, dry sauna, library, fitness area and much more.



## Dover Coast

Enjoy a free three year golf membership, pickle ball, walking trails, stunning waterfront decks. Choose from townhomes or detached cape-cod style bungalows from only \$279,900.



## THE CRAFTSMAN

A boutique, four-storey condominium in South Mississauga. Suites range from 605-1,750 sq. ft. and feature stunning finishes. Now under construction.



## ROSEDALE VILLAGE

Featuring condominium bungalows, townhomes and mid-rise suites, this gated GTA community includes parkettes, promenades, clubhouse, and a golf course — something for everyone!

# AdultLifestyleCommunities.ca

E.&O.E. Prices & Specifications are subject to change without notice.