



ADAM GRACEY PHOTOS

A waterfall, large granite boulders, natural stone pathways, three decks and a patio have turned this Scarborough backyard into an outdoor entertainment centre, with room for more than 50 guests.

Water, boulders and Bluffs



Elaine Carey

Lessons in Landscaping

The main request by the owners of this property on the Scarborough Bluffs was to make running water a big part of their backyard experience.

Designer Adam Gracey obliged by building a waterfall that cascades from below the deck, over granite boulders, and travels down a stream that empties into a pond large and deep enough to hold goldfish and koi. Beyond the pond is a hot tub adjacent to the master bedroom.

A natural stone bridge traverses the stream, ensuring you are close to the water as you walk to the grassy backyard, a space for their two small boys to play.

The 100- by 335-foot-deep lot holds three decks and a stone patio, surrounded by lush plantings of shrubs and perennials that enhance the water feature with year-round colour, texture and seasonal flowers.

Water plants abound in the pond and bog plants grow in the areas surrounding it. Birds, butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife often visit the lush, water-filled area.

The deck was edged and cut out around the rocks for a natural look. The rocks were also carefully placed to ensure the boys could safely clamber over them, Gracey said.

The homeowners are thrilled with the outdoor space that can entertain groups of 50 or more, enjoying the sounds of water and the natural landscape. The design won a Landscape Ontario award of excellence.

Source: D.A. Gracey & Associates Ltd., 905-761-9490, www.dagracey.com

