

Rebuilding Eastlawn

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This year the home of Joe, Peter, Audrey and Kathy on Eastlawn received a face lift. After a lot of planning, getting quotes, and finding the right contractor we were ready to get a few things done around the house—a few **major** things.

1. The frost heaves from the extreme winter two years ago left the front walk cracked and uneven. This was causing a safety hazard, especially for Peter who is blind.
2. As a result of a large evergreen tree growing at the front of the house, the front retaining wall had a large crack in it and was coming apart. The tree had been removed the year before but the retaining wall needed to be replaced.
3. Peter's vanity in his washroom was old and was beginning to deteriorate at the bottom where it came into contact with the floor. It needed to be replaced with a new vanity that had legs to keep it off the floor.
4. The kitchen needed new cabinets. The old cabinets had been around since the sixties and were not holding up to standards including doors that were constantly falling off.

So who is going to come to our rescue—enter Zeljko and the guys from Solid Wood Home Services Inc.

After searching for just the right crew, Barb called Zeljko

and his guys got right to the problems at hand, but little did they know that there was more to the job than was meeting the eye. Zeljko advised that the changing of the cabinets would be a three day job at best and that we would be without a kitchen for only a short time. But, when the crew started taking the old cabinets out of the kitchen they noticed the

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floor had major water damage from a leak that happened under the sink a couple of years back—so out came the floor!

Taking out the floor meant that the baseboard needed to be replaced, which meant that the walls needed to be repainted. What started out as a simple cabinet replacement turned out to be a full kitchen renovation. Instead of taking three days it took three weeks, but hey, the folks liked going to the restaurants and the staff loved the fact that they didn't have to cook—so all was good.

With the new cabinets came some new innovations. A few of the cupboards were turned into drawers and with the installation of a new ergonomic pots and pans drawer there was no longer

the need to get on your hands and knees to reach for the items at the back.

The next challenge Zeljko's crew had, was when they removed the retaining wall. In behind the retaining wall was the root system of the tree that had done the damage, the roots had grown so dense that they had formed a solid piece of wood at least five feet high, deep and wide that had to be removed. They removed this by cutting away at it with a chainsaw—it was very hard work.

Much to everyone's relief, the front walkway and Peter's vanity were completed without a hitch.

Good thing too as I was beginning to think we might scare them off if there were any more surprises. It was starting to feel like a reality TV show in the making for the guys at Solid Wood Home Services Inc., but in the end they did an amazing job.

Peter, Joe, Audrey and Kathy along with their staff would like to thank the guys at Solid Wood Home Services Inc. for all the hard work they did rebuilding Eastlawn, and thank the CLS for finding a way to make this all possible.

So what's next?