



Maintenance-free, two-level deck offers views of Sturgeon Valley

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A two-storey deck makes entertaining a breeze at this Sturgeon County estate home.

In warm months, you could comfortably live on Mike Begert and Tara Bochke's deck. At 112-square-metres on two levels, it's bigger than many apartments. There are two fireplaces

to keep you warm and couches for hosting fireside chats. The barbecue area feels like a full kitchen, with a food prep area and granite countertops. A seating bar is raised slightly above the grill, so visitors can sip wine and visit with the cook. A towering cedarbeamed pergola provides a bit of shade.

"People are taken by the size and the features," says Bochke. "There's a real wow factor and lighting that complements the design."

When the Sturgeon County couple decided to redo their deck, they tapped interior designer Troy Dashney of Bold Design for help.

The result is a stunning mix of cultured stone, stainless steel, cedar beams and Trex wood composite material, which keeps the space virtually maintenance free.

Since the property experiences strong winds from the west, Dashney

suggested a wall of floor-to-ceiling tempered glass on the deck's walkout level.

"It's created the open feeling, but we're very protected from the winds to the west," Begert says.

In addition to the upper level's eating/cooking space, three steps up there's a seating zone. The extra elevation provides an uninterrupted view of the Sturgeon Valley, which the couple admits they might have taken for granted before the re-design.

With Begert in the lighting business, the whole space is beautifully lit with individual controls, including subtle lights projected upwards on the lower level's columns to highlight their stone texture.

"It doesn't have to be overwhelmingly lit," Begert says. "We can create ambience by (providing) different layers of light."