

FAMILY FINDS THE PERFECT FIT IN THE MEADOWS

BY JEANNIE ARMSTRONG

PHOTOS BY ELAINE MARK, D&M IMAGES

When Jody and Tori Minakakis decided it was time to get serious about raising a family, their nesting instinct really kicked in.

The couple decided to build a family-friendly home, in a neighbourhood where their child would be surrounded by other youngsters.

Jody is the sales manager for Arbutus Properties, a new home construction and land development company. Tori is a Registered Nurse with the Coronary Care Unit at Royal University Hospital.

Selecting The Meadows for their new build was an easy choice. The 420-acre multi-generational master-planned community, located within the southeast subdivision of Rosewood, is being developed by Arbutus Properties.

Jody and Tori previously lived in Stonebridge. “The amenities in Stonebridge were great, but The Meadows just feels more like a small community. There are lots of family events and community days here. That was a big draw for us. We’ve been able to really get to know our neighbours,” says



Tori.

The couple moved into The Meadows three years ago. “Since construction began on the new school, there’s been a big influx of families into The Meadows,” says Jody.

“Two years ago, when our son Parker was born, there were four other babies on our block. That’s nice. There are lots of kids his age, which is fun,” says Tori.

Jody and Tori also selected their house



Jody, Tori and Parker Minakakis are enjoying their Arbutus-built family-friendly home, located in The Meadows.



plan with family in mind. “We went with a modified version of The Greene floor plan, designed by Arbutus. Knowing three years ago that we were going to start a family, we thought it was the perfect choice for us,” says Jody.

The 1,992 square foot two-storey features a charming Craftsman-style exterior, with a signature front porch, in keeping with the architectural guidelines established by Arbutus for The Meadows.

The interior of the home has a contemporary west coast vibe, melding modern and traditional design elements. Most of the décor choices were made by Tori, says Jody.

“Some of the inspiration came from Arbutus’ show homes and what their designers have created. And of course, Pinterest is always handy,” says Tori.

Jody and Tori appreciated The Greene’s spacious open concept kitchen, dining area and living room, ideal for entertaining. Huge windows, overlooking the back yard, invite natural light into the space.

“The nice thing about The Greene floor plan is that there are lots of options for modifications. We added a bump-out facing the kitchen, to create a dining alcove,” says Jody.

“We also wanted an open den, off the front entrance. We liked that feature from one of our other floor plans, the Vienna.”

At the heart of the home’s great room is the spacious kitchen, elegantly attired in solid maple cabinets finished in a near-black shade of licorice.

“Tori really wanted white countertops. Knowing we were going to be in this house for a long time, I wanted something really durable. Stone’s Edge Granite Company is the granite supplier for Arbutus. We talked with them about durability and ended up deciding on Caesarstone.”





Tori adds, “Despite being white, you can’t see any wear and tear. The stain resistance is phenomenal.”

Having a large island was a priority for Tori. “When people come over, that’s where we gather - around the island. It was also a big must to have enough counter and cabinet space.”

Across from the kitchen is the inviting living room. A cozy conversation area has been created around the fireplace, which is trimmed in a woodgrain marble tile cut like stone.

One of the toughest decisions the couple made involved their choice of flooring. “We wanted a wide plank wood floor, with a natural finish. We wanted hardwood, but we wanted it to be as durable as laminate,” says Jody.

They called Kentwood, their flooring manufacturer, and asked for advice. “Kentwood suggested their Glace Bay brushed oak engineered floor. It’s their most scratch-resistant, shrink-resistant and durable engineered wood. They use it for a lot of commercial applications on the west coast,” says Jody.

“It really stands up to toys and pets. Our dog was here for a year before he passed away, and you can’t see any scratches,” says Tori.

On the second floor, the home’s three large bedrooms are ideal for family living, says Jody. “We wanted to make sure the master bedroom was large enough to accommodate a king-size bed and two night tables. It all fits perfectly.”

The master bedroom features an inviting five-piece ensuite as well as a large walk-in closet with custom shelving. “Arbutus has several different options for finishing closets. We always meet with



clients to see how they want their closets done,” says Jody.

Parker’s room is also very spacious, with oodles of room for all of his toys, games and play tent.

Completing the second floor is a large bonus room. “It’s another thing we really like about this floor plan. We use it as our family room; it’s a great space where Parker can play or we can watch TV together,” says Jody.

Over the winter, Jody also developed the basement of their home, adding another family room, play area for Parker and a fitness alcove. “It gives us another option for entertaining or relaxing as a family.”

The Greene is one of Arbutus’ Properties’ best-selling family floor plans. This spring, Arbutus will unveil four new floor plans in The Meadows. “The Brady is a new bi-level plan. We’ll also have three new two-storey plans: the Ford, the Clarke and the James. We’re excited about that. We’ll also have a new show home opening, featuring the James floor plan. It’s under construction right now at 610 Meadows Boulevard,” says Jody.

He is pleased that The Meadows is being



so well received in Saskatoon. “December was a bit slower, as usual, but since January, the traffic flow through The Meadows has been phenomenal. We’ve had a lot of enquiries regarding lot availabilities and

will be bringing on some new builders this season,” says Jody. To learn more about the family-friendly lifestyle at The Meadows, visit www.meadowsliving.ca. 

