

# A MAN'S CAVE IS HIS... Castle



When Jim Miles wants to get away, he steps out of his house into another building and another world.

It's his own "man cave", but it's so fancy it might well be called his castle.

Jim is one of many men who enjoys his own space in an environment he has created for himself. A man-cave is a refuge, a sanctuary, a place that reflects a guy's interests and identity. Sometimes it's a kind of grown-up version of a tree fort; sometimes it's downright palatial. Sometimes it's pool-hall or pub-style. Sometimes it's an elaborate media centre; sometimes it's an arcade. Always it's a good place to hang out. It's a haven. It's his own.

Jim has created a man-cave he calls The Walleye Lounge. It's his vision and great project. It's a relaxed, casual, and often busy place in the centre of family and social life.

Jim's great passion is fishing. It's his life. For 23 years he has operated the Jim Miles Guide Service. His clients often come back from a fishing excursion to The Walleye Lounge for camaraderie, conversation, and maybe some wings and beer.

The current Walleye Lounge, on his property between Almonte and Carleton Place, is his second man-cave. The first was smaller, and it was an instant hit with his kids as well as his wife, Caroline, and friends.

He and Caroline have two children, Stephen and Megan. In

earlier years, Stephen played Jr.

A hockey, and Megan was in the

bar business. The Walleye Lounge often became a place for Stephen and his fellow hockey players to get together for a party, or for Megan and her friends to hang out before they went to work. It was a safe place – comfortable, fun, welcoming. "We never had an incident," he says.

Now it primarily embraces Jim's friends and clients. Caroline uses it too, when she has a gathering of her own friends.

Jim is a salesman for Jim Tubman Motors, but he's also a



Original Walleye Lounge

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serious fisherman, licensed as a guide by Transport Canada. His circle of friends includes both camps (car customers and fishing clients) who often mingle with each other at the Walleye Lounge.

This new Walleye Lounge, still in progress but substantially underway, is a 40 X 40 feet garage with a loft that Jim wants to convert to a pool room. It has great new doors, a fireplace, antique signs, mounted fish (of course), a custom 12-ft. bar, lots of places to sit, two fridges and a freezer, a wood stove, an old fashioned hot-oil popcorn maker, a karaoke deer head called Buck who sings and gets you to sing along with him into a microphone, a couple of couches, a draught beer machine, a wrought-iron chandelier, a barbecue... to name only a few. As of April, Jim was looking forward to installing a 52-inch TV. He's going to add kitchen cupboards and counters.

"When we get groceries,"

he says, "we buy two lots: one for the house and one for the garage."

On St. Patrick's Day he hosted a party in The Walleye Lounge with at least 100 guests. He holds Halloween parties, gatherings during Senators' games, and many other smaller parties with friends. He'll do a fish-fry or serve something like perogies and salad with wild garlic (on fish plates, of course) from their own property.

On top of his skills as fisherman and salesman, Jim is also a chef. He hasn't worked in the food business for years, but his training at Georgian College is still with him. He loves to cook, and so does Caroline. Guests can almost always anticipate

something terrific to eat.

The Walleye Lounge is more than a place to hang out and entertain. It's a huge part of Jim's life. His whole fishing business is out there. He spends endless hours just tinkering with fishing rods and equipment. (Caroline likes this part, because before the Lounge, all his equipment was in the house.)

When he started building the new one, clients and friends were eager to pitch in. Ottawa Garage Makeovers, for instance, put in the impressive high-gloss floor. Breneck Technical Services installed the airtight woodstove to code. Synergy electric changed all the lights and rewired the garage. Handymen Ron Humick and Jim Charron helped with the finer details and carpentry. The Door Doctor put in Eastman Estate doors.

This is a man-cave that goes beyond a hangout or hideaway. It's practically a community of friends.

But still, it's Jim's, and that's where he finds some truly fine moments. ☺

