

YOUR TV GUIDE FOR: JUNE 7 TO 13

TV Week

T.C.'S ENTERTAINMENT & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE



THE DAILY WITH
**MARK &
LAURA-LYNN**



FITNESS FACTS

The Truth Behind
4 Exercise
Myths

MAKE A SPLASH

A Quick & Easy
Way To Jazz Up
Your Kitchen
Or Bathroom

**EXCLUSIVE
PHOTOS!**

BILL GOOD & Wife GEORGIE

Kick Back At
Their *BEAUTIFUL*
Sunshine Coast
Retreat

TVWEEKONLINE.CA

June 7 to 13, 2008 • \$2.99





CTV news anchor **BILL GOOD** invites TV Week on a tour of his Sunshine Coast home away from home

BY JEFF KELLER PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER HOLST

GOING COASTAL

This is the story of **Bill Good's** house. • “No, it’s not. At least I hope it’s not.” • There’s no mistaking that well-known *basso profundo*. It’s Bill Good, on the other side of the table, looking momentarily pugilistic. “I’m hoping this story will put paid to the notion that I’m a workaholic.”

• **Correction:** This then, is the story of Bill Good’s *recreational property*, insofar as it demonstrates that despite his various high-profile positions (six o’clock news anchor, CTV; morning talk-show host, CKNW), his long working hours, and the fact that he very rarely takes a sick day (“I seem to have the constitution of a bull,” he roars), he is not, in fact, a workaholic. At the end of every workweek he boards the *Queen of Surrey*, rides to Langdale, and then winds along the highways and byways to home: a wife he obviously adores, family, friends and a dog named Bonnie.



“I’ve always dreamed of owning a recreational property, and this was the spot. It was magical.”



The Goods' 2,800-square-foot house is nestled on the serene shores of the Sunshine Coast. (Top) Longtime friend and former building inspector Harry Morris-Reade gave the Goods a miniature replica of their home as a housewarming gift.



Good admits to spending plenty of time near the fireplace, the clear focal point of the living room.

When not being social, Good reads books, watches birds, worries about his grandchildren and enjoys his morning coffee. I don't know about you, gentle reader, but that sounds like a balanced life to me.

Chronologically and geographically, the story of Good's house begins in the vicinity of Qualicum Beach. For 17 years, he and his wife **Georgie** took their vacations on the leeward coast of Vancouver Island, a sleepy, relaxed part of the world where nature still takes up more room than the people who live there. "We'd often stop for a local real estate sheet," says Good, "but the time wasn't right, and when it was, we wanted to be closer to town."

One year, however, Bill and Georgie ventured up the Sunshine Coast. The water was beautiful, the sun was warm and the propinquity was appealing. "That made us think: the Sunshine Coast is only 35 minutes on the ferry, only two hours door-to-door."

"In 2001," says Good, "Georgie and I walked onto the property for the first time. It was only the second property we'd been to, and it had never had a house on it. I turned to Georgie and winked [making sure that the realtor

didn't see]. I've always dreamed of owning a recreational property, and this was the spot. It was magical."

For a time the land lay houseless, its owners busy with their lives. "Then one day an old friend dropped dead, very suddenly," says Good. "I was shocked. I called Georgie and said: 'We're building the house.' We've never looked back. We hired a very good architect named **Matthew Hansen**, and a very good builder, named **Doug Spani**. We used local labour, and we built a home.

"It's not a showpiece," says Good, much too modestly. "It's not opulent. But it's beautiful, and we love it."

While not enormous, the house is a comfortable 2,800 square feet, sitting on half an acre of land with walk-on waterfront. There's also a cute little coachhouse — a one-bedroom cottage for family and friends. "We hardly ever entertain in town anymore," says Good. As part of their lifestyle adjustment, the Goods sold their large house in North Vancouver and took an apartment closer to the CTV studio in downtown Vancouver.



Most of the furniture came second-hand from Grand Auctions in Vancouver, reveals Good, who calls it "not old, but not modern."

As for the home's appointments and furnishings, there's no question that Good had a positive role to play in their procurement. "I said, 'Yes, dear,' a good deal," he admits with evident pleasure. "Georgie takes almost full credit for what I think is a beautiful house. Fortunately we agreed to decide on mutually was the art on the walls." (A few minutes later, he can't recall the style the house was built in. CTV health expert **Dr. Rhonda Low** joins us in the station's boardroom as we play a guessing game: Beaux-arts? No. Spanish-Colonial? Definitely not. Neo-



The open and inviting kitchen, loaded with "skookum appliances."

Gothic? Now you're being silly. Finally the appropriate neurons fire in the opposite direction: "Craftsman!" shouts Good. "It's a Craftsman-style house!" And that, says Wikipedia, means: "... originality, simplicity of form, local natural materials, and the visibility of handcraft..."

In keeping with Craftsman style (the American version of Arts and Crafts) the Goods' house is made of wood, wood and more wood. "I have a very good friend, **John Allan**, who helped me access the cedar shakes. He told me in the planning stage that he'd find the best wood available on the coast, and he did. The roofer said he hadn't seen shakes like that in 20 years. We wanted a house that would fit into the neighbourhood, that wouldn't look like someone from the big city had moved in."

Something that might surprise devotees of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* is that not everything in the Good house is brand-spanking new. For instance, the kitchen came recycled from a planning blunder in Kitsilano. "Some lady built a kitchen, then took one look and decided she wanted something different. It's a great kitchen, and it came with all skookum appliances." In addition, nearly all the new furniture is actually second-hand, purchased from Grand Auctions in North Vancouver. "It's very nice furniture," says Good, "not old, but not modern. It made the place look well lived in. We wanted the house to feel like a home the minute we walked in the front door — which it did."

The house design included a good deal of forethought. A little ahead of its time in terms of energy technology, the house uses geothermal energy for heat and air conditioning. That accounts, says Good, for a dramatic reduction in costs. As a hedge against old age, the walls and

floors of the main-floor pantry and the upstairs linen closet were designed to someday make way for an elevator.

Old age is yet a distant rumour. Still, in much of what Good mentions there's a background note of *preparation*. One doesn't like to ask, but... "The 'R' word? Retirement?" He can feel the question coming before I muster the courage to ask it. "I hope I've still got many years left. And to answer your next question, I have no idea if I'm planning to retire on the Sunshine Coast. Mind you, when I do retire, I'll have to take up golfing or fishing, or Georgie will go crazy."

So the question remains — what does Bill Good do over there? "I have a routine. To start with, I rarely get out of bed before 10:30 a.m. Then I head to the drive-through Starbucks: one cup of black coffee for myself, and a no-fat latte with Splenda for Georgie. They know me there now. I went there in the afternoon not long ago and ordered a cup of black coffee. A voice came back at me over the drive-through order machine: "What — no no-fat latte with Splenda?"

Good, whose voice and face are part of the fabric of urban Vancouver, seems more than content to go rural on the weekends. "I spend a lot more time than I thought I ever would watching bird life. At night we can see the cruise ships going by. One morning I saw a bobcat on the beach, which is a bit unnerving when you've got a two-and-



The cozy and elegant dining space where the couple frequently entertains.

a-half-year-old granddaughter. I also read a great deal. I just finished **Diane Francis's** *Who Owns Canada?* and **Mel Hurtig's** *The Truth About Canada*. I also spend a lot of time by our big fireplace, that opens up into the living room and the kitchen. Upstairs we have a big-screen television, but it doesn't get much action."

Asked what his favourite part of the house is, Good smiles in a slightly uncharacteristic manner. There's almost a trace of guilt, or maybe it's mischief in his eyes. "The windows," he tells me. "I love looking outside, watching the beauty. It's the culmination of a life-long dream." ■

CTV NEWS AT SIX airs weekdays at 6 p.m. on CTV.



Bill and wife Georgie stroll the quiet beach near their home.