

A Golden Opportunity

After nearly three decades in the industry, one timber-home professional finds his true calling amidst the spectacular sites of British Columbia.

IT'S A SAYING WE'VE ALL HEARD time and time again: "Do what you love, and love what you do." Cliche? Perhaps. But ask Jeff Bowes, one of the lucky ones who gets to live this mantra day in and day out, and he has a better word for it: Blessed.

"Getting to do this job every day, it's hard to say what's my favorite thing about it, but it's probably working with the clients," he says with a smile. "The unique privilege of getting to know these people so closely, and two years later you're standing on the deck of their new home and they're toasting *you* with tears in their eyes — it's an incredible feeling and opportunity."

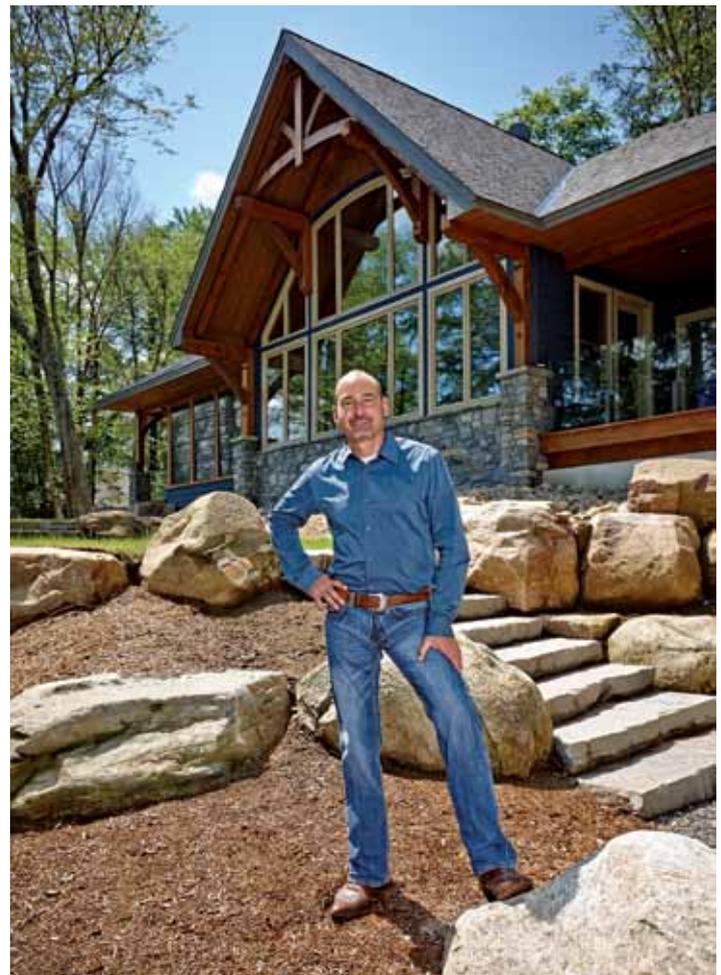
And it's a feeling Jeff knows well. After being in the industry for almost 30 years (he started as a carpenter's apprentice and frame cutter before rising through the ranks at a number of timber-frame companies), Jeff has recently settled in as president and partner at Canadian Timberframes in Golden, British Columbia — a position that's perfectly suited for his skills, not to mention his personal style.

"People, including myself, are drawn to timber homes without even being conscious of why they're so comfortable. You could build a house that's the same shape and size, but if it's made from wood, there's a different kind of feel that just lures people in," Jeff explains.

Based in Golden because of the beautiful landscape and slow-growing Douglas Fir that grows naturally there ("Our material actually grows on trees!"), Canadian Timberframes specializes in high-end timber frames with a distinctly Western aesthetic — another factor that drew Jeff to the stunning Columbia Valley nestled against the Canadian Rockies. "I've always been really impressed with the Western vernacular when it comes to home design, and that's exactly what we specialize in at Canadian Timberframes," he says.

Known for their high-end structures, the company offers design services, but Jeff admits they focus a lot on working with architects — a strategy that's led to many true timber frames, but also hybrid and contemporary homes. "We pride ourselves on architectural creativity. It's these partnerships that often lead to the very broad home style we're known for," he says.

At the end of the day, no matter where he's found himself over the years, it all comes back to this timeless construction method he first fell in love with nearly three decades ago. And



Canadian Timberframes Ltd. photos

the biggest job perk? The feeling Jeff gets from helping his clients build their dream home — their *last* home. "Most of them come to me and say, 'Jeff, this is it.' These homes are a legacy investment for them, and something they've been working toward for years and years. Working so closely with them, you get to hear the stories of their past, but also of their future. I'll say it once and I'll say it again: I'm blessed."