



Xavier, Harmony & Bobby Ryan
(Left to right)

Not too big, not too small.

Ambleside triplex just right for young family

THE CINEPLEX ODEON WINDERMERE AND VIP CINEMAS WAS STILL JUST A BLUEPRINT PLANNED FOR A PATCH OF UNDEVELOPED LAND WHEN BOBBY AND HARMONY RYAN FIRST VISITED THE AMBLESIDE AREA IN LATE 2009.

With plans to soon start a family, the newly married couple was looking for a house that they could grow into and a community to call home. They had recently moved back to Edmonton – where they’d first met a few years earlier – from BC for work.

When the self-professed movie buffs heard that Ambleside would soon be home to a number of amenities, including walking trails, playgrounds, tons of stores and restaurants, and of course the large multi-screen movie theatre, they were sold immediately.



BOBBY AND HARMONY WATCH MOVIES IN THEIR HOME THEATRE WITH THEIR SON XAVIER AND CAT, FINESSE.



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“We liked that it was an up-and-coming neighbourhood, we thought that was exciting. We’re big movie fans and we liked that we could walk to the movies. It hadn’t been built yet, but the plans were there – that seduced us a little bit,” recalls Harmony.

“It was an absolute selling feature,” interjects Bobby, a film school graduate.

They viewed a Thomsen Built show home and loved the layout and floor plan, so they snapped up a house in a triplex that had just begun construction.

“We were looking for a detached home, but as soon as we walked in it was exactly what we liked, the levels, the unfinished basement,” says Harmony.

Upgrades came standard with the house, helping seal the deal.

“We felt we had walked into our style. We thought “This is us, this is something we can see ourselves in,” she says.

“The size of it was right for us,” adds Bobby. “We didn’t want to go too large, that would just mean more cleaning.”

The Ryans asked the builder to fast-track the construction; they were staying with friends and were eager to get into their own space.

Thomsen Built was able to get the house done in short order, and the couple moved in that spring. They liked the show home model so much– with its three bedrooms, upstairs laundry, a big deck for entertaining and open-concept living space – that they didn’t change many of the finishings, which helped expedite the building process even more.

Moving into the home was an exciting step, and felt positively luxurious compared to the condo they had previously owned.

“When we first moved in, it was just us and we had all of these rooms, it was really exciting. It was neat to have all of that space!” Harmony says

Fast forward four years later, Ambleside has now blossomed into a bustling community. The Ryans have welcomed their first son Xavier (now two years old), and have another baby on the way.

They’ve since traded date nights at the cinema for movie nights in their downstairs home theatre that handy friends helped them construct. (Bobby’s Blu-Ray collection would make any movie fan jealous – more than 750 titles, all sorted in alphabetical order.)

Harmony works as a public school teacher and a pre-natal yoga instructor and also operates a home-based online baby boutique from the upstairs office which shares space with Bobby’s film editing suite. He works there on side projects

when he finds a spare minute away from his busy regional sales manager job for World Health. He looks after five different health clubs in the city and finds the quick access to the Anthony Henday invaluable – it allows him to get to every corner of the city without delay.

The couple has also become unofficial ambassadors for the community, recruiting friends and possibly even Harmony’s mom to come live in the area.

“Life is pretty ideal. We’re surrounded by really good people,” Harmony says.

The two are probably most excited about the newly announced school that will be built in the next few years.

“We are just thrilled to know that our son has a school within walking distance. That’s really, really exciting. It’ll be fun to be here and have him meet friends in the neighbourhood and we’ll start connecting with families even more at that point.”

Ambleside has come a long way from the dirt, mud and empty lots that greeted the couple four years ago when they first visited. But, they both agree, it has been well worth the wait.

