

Accessible New Homes


It is estimated that 14% of Ontarians have some kind of physical disability.

Durham Custom Homes is responding to this challenge in two ways. First of all, they are updating their features to include, as standard items, wider doors and hallways, door levers instead of knobs, plugs and switches that are at heights easier to access, as well as backing in all bathrooms to allow the future installation of grab bars. Based on their experiences, they have also compiled a list of the most typical accessibility features.

Secondly, they continue to develop a mainstream

accessibility program, they are working one-on-one with people who have special needs. This involves familiarizing themselves with a buyer's particular situation and customizing their standard homes to suit those needs. They recently completed a number of homes that have landscaped ramps, specialized kitchens with lowered countertops, sinks and stoves as well as bathrooms with barrier free showers, vanities and toilets. Elevators allow access to all levels of the home including the garage. Pantries and cabinets are designed to allow easy access to the contents; faucets are activated by the wave of a hand. The height of the different flooring materials matches and the materials allow those using a wheelchair or

hours. From the sales and construction staff to the General Manager, the process was smooth and stress-free" said home owner Paul Hewitt. "There was a lot of re-designing but we got the house that we wanted." The Hewitts moved into their home in 2007.

Over the next couple of years all of Durham's plans will have "visibility" as their standard form of construction. Visible means that a visitor with a disability will be able to enter the home on their own and be able to make use of the main floor bathroom. Durham Custom Homes believes that their accessible homes should look and feel like their traditional homes. This includes building them to Energy Star and GreenHouse Certified standards. 

who use walkers to easily navigate throughout the home. Door bells that are connected to lights allow people with hearing disabilities know when they have visitors at the front door.

"Durham Custom Homes' staff met with us for many, many

You Can HAVE THE BEST



Reliability.

Canada's favorite in-floor ramp system, featuring a 10" lowered floor and 58" of headroom, provides an obstruction-free doorway. With standard One-Touch control, just a single touch of the remote silently deploys this reliable ramp.

Insights to Independence.

KINO Mobility Inc • London • Toronto • Barrie

1-888-495-4455

www.kinomobility.com

