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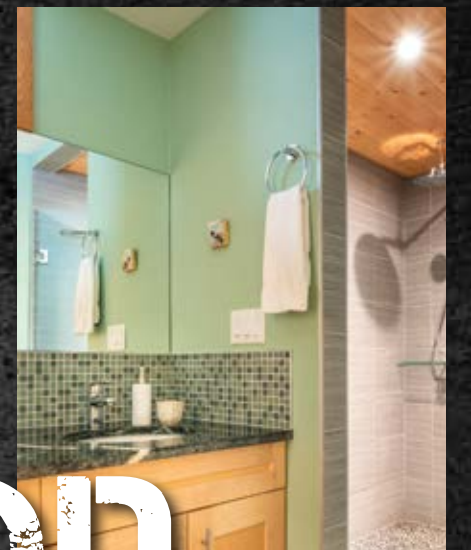
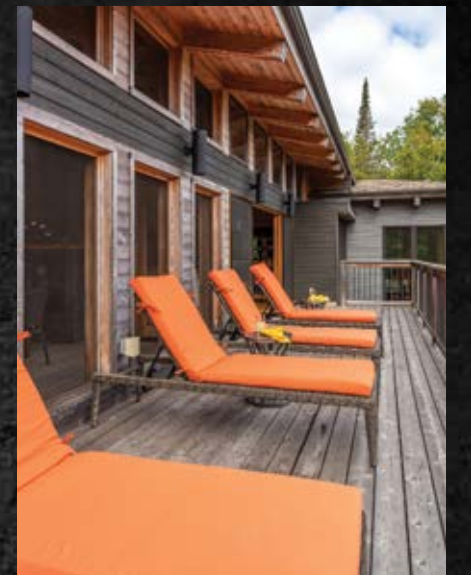
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editor's note



WHEN I ARRIVED at Shouldice Designer Stone to take a photo for the People feature on page 72, I was intrigued by the outdoor village-style display, exposing their stone products to the elements and offering their true colour under natural light. Parked in front of this impressive building was a replica of Fred Flintstone's stone car. As you can see in the photo, I was very happy to drive it!

What a childhood memory. Growing up, *The Flintstones* were on every day at noon. My siblings and I lived close enough to school to walk home for lunch, which, if we were lucky, was Campbell's Tomato Soup made with milk along with grilled cheese sandwiches. We would eat quickly so we could watch the show before heading back to school.

I was so interested in the stone furniture in their stone house and how happy Wilma, Fred and Pebbles were. I loved when Fred barbecued a massive steak and Dino would get the bone, which was almost as big as he was. I was intrigued with the design of the family car, especially the bones that held the wheels in place.

For many of us, the holidays are another instigator of memories for families, especially children. In this issue we bring you a Christmas tour of two homes on page 58. You'll read and see how the parents create special memories that will last forever.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season. It will certainly be one to remember. And please continue to wear your mask.

Sara Martin

Sara Martin, Managing Editor
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ON THE COVER

The table is set for the Lamont family to gather for fun-filled holiday celebrations. Story, page 58. Photography by Sandy MacKay.



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HOME BUILDING & RENOVATION

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE IT COUNTS

Every renovation or new build conversation includes the phrases return on investment (ROI) and resale value. When you design to live well and beautifully, ROI and resale value are a given.

Here are our top tips to help you put your money where it counts:

WHERE TO SAVE

You can find major savings in areas and on products that can give you ROI or that wow factor. Consider these:

TILE AND FLOORING

Technological advancements provide many beautiful and economical options that will transform any tiled wall or floor into eye candy. Porcelain tiles that look like stone are indistinguishable from the real thing – and are easier to clean and maintain.

Wood floors come in many grades and price points to maintain an overall look. Many rooms will be covered with area rugs, so oftentimes an expensive floor isn't necessary.

GENERAL LIGHTING

Light fixtures such as pot lights or surface-mounted lights can be modestly priced and distributed throughout the house.

WHERE TO SPLURGE

Now that you've saved some money – where can you splurge and have some fun?

PROFESSIONALS ARE WORTH THEIR FEE

Hire legitimate and registered professionals. They are experts at

planning to make life simpler, relieve stress and maneuver through the endless amounts of information, building code requirements and choices. Professionals can help you avoid costly mistakes, which could pay their fees ten times over. Designers and architects add value to your home and to your lifestyle.

QUARTZ COUNTERS

A quartz counter is antimicrobial, available in a wide range of styles and cleans up easily for your health and peace of mind.

CUSTOM CABINETS

Quality custom cabinets that look like furniture at the entry, kitchen and bathroom add a touch of luxury. Smart storage design will buy you time as you grab and go throughout your day. Remember to add beautiful hardware – the jewelry of any cabinet.



STATEMENT LIGHTING

Whether you eat at a kitchen island or dining room table, the fixtures featured in each area should make a statement. After all, they serve as a focal point that coordinates with the other. They're the focal point where togetherness happens.

In the bathroom, good lighting is essential to make you look good. Consider wet-rated LED chandeliers, pendants and wall sconces.

DIMMERS

Adding a dimmer in every room of the house helps create a signature mood in each space.

FAUCETS AND SHOWERHEADS

Faucets and showerheads see high use throughout the day, and cheap fixtures tend to leak or loosen with finishes often flaking off over time. Splurge and buy the best you can afford.



LUXURY SHOWERS

The trend is to eliminate the tub and invest in a roomy walk-in shower. You can put your budget toward a frameless glass shower that cleans up easily, including a non-white grout.

WINDOWS IN KEY SIGHTLINES

Windows can be the soul of your home, so dress up those you see first when entering. Window treatments can soften and enhance, adding that luxurious whisper to your space.

Living well and living beautifully will not only enhance your home's resale value, it will enhance your soul. And that's worth all the money in the world. **OH**



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1



2



3



4



5



6



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STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

*VINING PLANTS ARE
PRETTY REMARKABLE
— THEY DO AN AMAZING
JOB OF EDITING OUT
THE GARDEN UGLY. HAVE
A DREADFUL SHED,
FOUL FENCE OR NEED
SOME SCREENING FROM
NEIGHBOURS' UNSIGHTLY
GARBAGE PILE? THERE'S
A VINE TO FIX THAT!*

Every garden could be better with the addition of a vine, as vines do what other plants cannot. For example, sometimes you need a tall green textural backdrop but don't have the width to accommodate a tree. This is where vines can shine. Vines can also become a beautiful focal point when trained on an arbour or around a doorway. To walk through an arbour concealed by green climbers feels like walking into an alternate realm. It's a truly magical experience. But all that gorgeous magic aside, it's their vining, twining, climbing (and even strangling) nature that can make vines scary for some. That's where choosing the right vine for the right place is vital.

BOSTON IVY (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*)

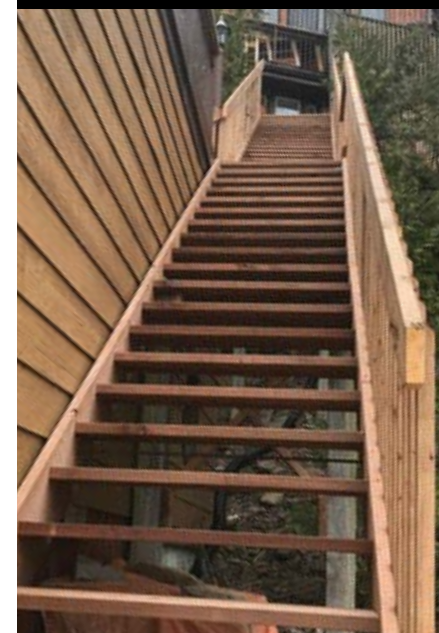
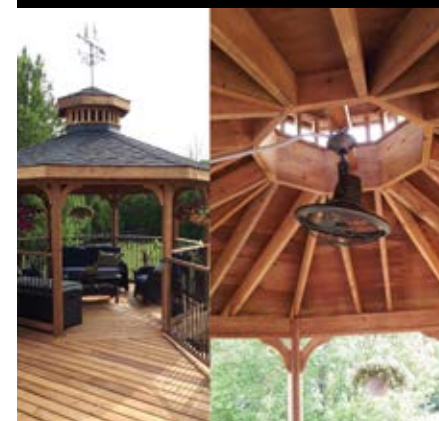
You're probably already familiar with this vine from imagery of buildings at American Ivy League universities covered in Boston ivy; it's where the nickname Ivy League came from. This ivy has a nice tight-and-tidy habit with leaves that open reddish, turn green in summer then revert back to red in fall. It attaches to vertical walls easily and forms a dense screen. Contrary to popular belief, Boston ivy doesn't degrade brickwork but actually protects it from the elements, assuming your brickwork is intact and in good shape to begin with. Yes, you eventually will have to cut it out yearly from around your windows and soffits but beauty almost always takes some effort, doesn't it?

Continued on page 30



PHOTO: MELANIE REKOLA

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Trumpet Vine
in bloom

TRUMPET VINE
(*Campsis radicans*)

The trumpet vine is extremely long-blooming with gorgeous orange trumpet-shaped blossoms adored by bees and hummingbirds alike. It has lovely lacy leaves and a strong twining habit that requires a sturdy support. This beauty is extremely vigorous and will strangle any tree or shrub if planted too close. It often suckers, too, so it's best to plant in a contained area. It can take time to really get growing and takes some years before blooms appear but it's so rewarding for those who are patient.

CLIMBING HYDRANGEA
(*Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*)

Everyone loves hydrangea, and it even comes in a vine form. This striking beauty clings to vertical walls with ease but prefers a shady spot. It's slow to grow and bloom, but once it does you'll be graced with huge white blossoms sure to attract many neighbourhood gawkers.



CLEMATIS

Delicate clematis boasts blossoms in all kinds of shapes and colours – there really is one for every taste. Its moderate coiling habit requires a slim support and some help and training to get this gentle beauty off to the right start. Various varieties require different pruning and care, so read those labels carefully when choosing.



DUTCHMAN'S PIPE
(*Aristolochia macrophylla*)

Generally grown for its huge heart-shaped leaves, this vigorous, fast-growing twiner requires a robust support to grow and look its best.



If planting permanent vines is just too scary to consider, there are quite a few lovely annual vines that require no commitment. All that's needed is a lightweight trellis, some inexpensive seeds and some watering care in the initial stages. A few of my favorites to sow directly in the garden after danger of frost are: scarlet runner bean, morning glory, moon flower, sweet pea and nasturtium. Go get your vine on. **OH**

Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.



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Meant to Be

STORY **KRISTIN SCHNELTEN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



The dock is a launching spot for cruising the lake and the perfect spot to sit at the end of the day and watch the sunset.



ON A QUIET, SECLUDED LAKE AT THE BASE OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA, A LONE LOON CALLS AS THE LAST BEAMS OF AN AUTUMN SUNSET STREAM GOLDEN THROUGH MAPLES AND CATTAILS. NESTLED IN HER NEW HOME ALONG THE LAKE SHORE, MARG GURNEY IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SIGHTS AND THE SOUNDS – AND THE HOME THAT ALMOST WASN'T.

"It was a fluke, really, that I found this place," Marg remembers. Searching for vacant waterfront property near her decades-long Paris, Ontario, home, her Google results erroneously included this large, idyllic lot, three hours outside of her search query. Impressed with the photos and vaguely familiar with the area from a visit long ago, Marg and a friend ventured north to view the lot in person. "A week later, I put in an offer."

When her farm sold more quickly than anticipated, Marg found herself in need of a builder sooner than later. Her new neighbour recommended **Ben Freeburn** of **Alair Homes Grey Bruce**, a company already at the top of her well-researched list. Much like her choice of property, Marg's decision to go with Alair was an easy one: "I was so impressed with their concept, their personalities and their approach. I left that first meeting knowing I had found my builder."

Continued on page 35

TOP: Glass panels on the railings of the covered deck keep the view to the lake unobstructed. Stone steps to the gardens out back were designed and installed by Outdoor Environments Landscape & Design.

RIGHT: Timber frame details, repeated in the peak of the roof and at the rear of the home, frame the front door from VanDolder's Custom Exteriors.





The large island, topped with Cambria quartz in Brittanica, has a handy wine fridge at one end and an integrated wine rack for extra bottles.

Marg was beginning a new chapter of her life in a new location, without the comfort of established connections. Having Ben, Project Manager **Carson Blodgett** and the rest of the Alair team as her trusted local advisors made all the difference in the success of this project.

“We work as a bridge between the client and the trades,” says Carson. “Marg chose the subcontractors, based on the quotes we brought to her and our recommendations. Most of the design was all hers, too. Marg is really amazing. She built this house; we just guided her along the way.”

The trades may have swung the hammers and run the wires, but Marg was involved in every decision – from timber design to mill visits, layout decisions to fixture choices. Marg laughs, “I basically selected everything in the house besides the two-by-fours.” *Continued on page 36*

The large front foyer has comfortable, shearling-covered seating from FAD Inc. Electrical was completed by G & M Electrical-Mechanical. Stair and railing by Wood & Wallworks. **RIGHT:** The kitchen cabinets with Shaker doors are by Exquisite Wood Designs Inc. John Bridge Plumbing and Heating took care of the plumbing in the home. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** An organized and convenient coffee bar is stocked with everything needed for a hot drink. Glassware is on display in the upper cabinets.





The formal dining room's table and chairs were sourced from C&G Solid Wood Furniture. All window treatments were ordered from Inside Ideas. **RIGHT:** Digital art in the living room is a screen saver for the Samsung television. Marg used Stoney Creek Furniture as her one-stop shop for much of the home's furnishings.



Marg has a cup of coffee with friends and builders Ben and Dylan Freeburn of Alair Homes Grey Bruce.

While the Alair team assisted and guided Marg through the construction process, designer **Melissa Simpson of Salt and Pepper Kitchens and Appliances** was there to support with décor recommendations. Says Marg, “If it weren’t for Melissa, the house wouldn’t look the way it does. She really let me go outside of the box.”

In the early stages of colour and furniture selection, Marg stumbled upon her “aha” moment when she found a small throw pillow at **C&G Solid Wood Furniture** in Thornbury. “I loved the colours in that cushion. So I bought the cushion, drove down to

Melissa’s, threw it on her desk, and said, ‘This is the colour theme for the house!’” The two women spent the next many months scouring southern Ontario, choosing flooring, paints, chairs, accents – all based on that single pillow, always in-hand.

That Melissa and Marg became good friends during the design process is no surprise, as friendships blossomed throughout the build. Marg comments the Alair team “became like family to me” as they navigated the process – visiting one another’s homes, taking shopping trips with Carson’s wife Megan, and even sharing a Christmas evening with their young families. *Continued on page 39*



“THE TRADES MAY HAVE SWUNG THE HAMMERS AND RUN THE WIRES, BUT MARG WAS INVOLVED IN EVERY DECISION.”

The two-sided fireplace can also be viewed in the front foyer. The stone work on the fireplace and the exterior of the home was completed by Bloodworth Masonry Inc. The wildlife photo on the mantel, by photographer Leo Bantle, is from his All in the Wild Gallery. A pillow used for colour inspiration sits on the sofa. Its colour palette has created a warm and welcoming haven.

AFTER A YEAR IN HER NEW SPACE SURROUNDED BY NEW THINGS, SHE DECLARES, “IT JUST FEELS LIKE HOME NOW.”

Luxurious bedding covers the master bed. French doors lead to the upper level of the rear deck.



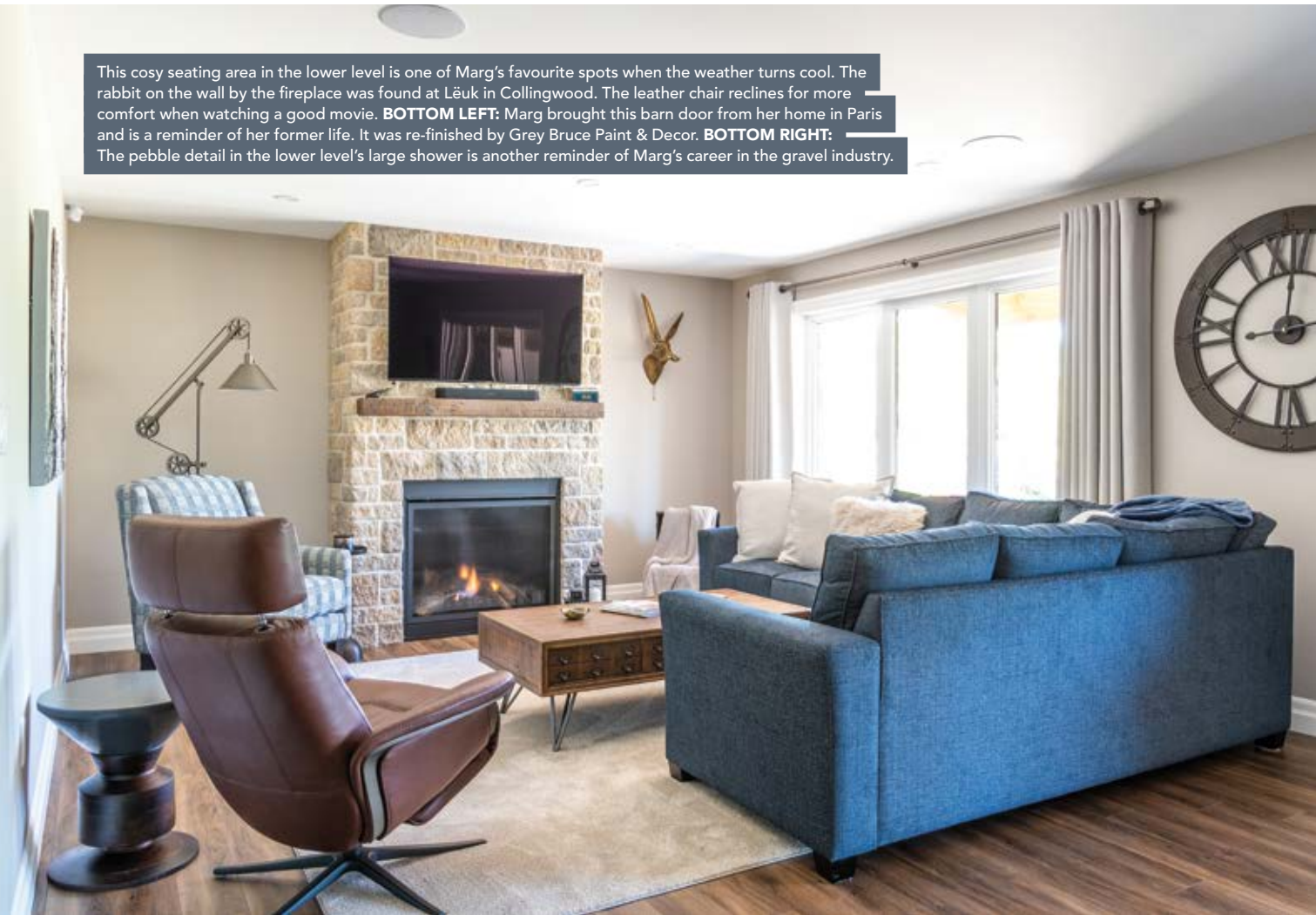
The tile in the master en suite, sourced from McNabb Flooring Solutions, continues into the shower and up the wall. Soft pink towels match the sheets on the master bed, adding a feminine touch to this space. **TOP LEFT:** Double doors open to the master bedroom. The photos on the wall are of Marg and her mother and father. **LEFT:** A fur-covered stool sits at the makeup area of the master vanity, designed and constructed by Exquisite Wood Designs Inc.



Alair has long-standing relationships with many of their trades, and familiar names appear at this timbered home. **Wood & Wallworks** was responsible for the custom trim and mouldings and **Exquisite Wood Designs** created custom cabinetry throughout, including Pinterest-worthy finishing touches in the kitchen. “**Ariel Vamplew** was just amazing to work with,” says Carson, “She’s the glue that holds the cabinetry side of things together in the house.” **Bloodworth Masonry** constructed the strong stone pillars on the lake side of the home as well as installing all other stonework, including carrying the lines and construction of the exterior facade through to the chimney work in the centre of the house. **PineRidge Timberframe** worked with Marg to select beams and assist with timber design details, and **Keith Butchart** and his team at **Outdoor Environments Landscape and Design** completed her oasis, connecting the home seamlessly with the lake beyond.

Continued on page 40

This cosy seating area in the lower level is one of Marg's favourite spots when the weather turns cool. The rabbit on the wall by the fireplace was found at Lëuk in Collingwood. The leather chair reclines for more comfort when watching a good movie. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Marg brought this barn door from her home in Paris and is a reminder of her former life. It was re-finished by Grey Bruce Paint & Decor. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The pebble detail in the lower level's large shower is another reminder of Marg's career in the gravel industry.



In the lower-level washroom, Marg had a vision of lining the floor, walls and ceiling with identical tile, leaving one accent section filled with pebbles, installed by Butch McNabb of McNabb Flooring Solutions. That vertical stream of pebbles serves as a reminder of her career in the gravel industry, of her former home and of her father, with whom she worked.

Flickers of memories fill her new space in themed rooms, including an equestrian-inspired guest room (recollecting her daughters' time at horse competitions) and another bedroom featuring a photograph of sheep shrouded in fog, a reminder of her grandfather, a sheep breeder.

Continued on page 42



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Each guest bedroom in the home has a theme. This one is in memory of her grandfather, a breeder of Shropshire sheep. **RIGHT:** This artwork hangs on the wall opposite the end of the bed in the sheep bedroom. Its subject matter will have guests actually counting sheep! **MIDDLE:** The guest powder room is wallpapered in a pattern that reminded Marg of snowflakes. The vanity is from Exquisite Wood Designs Inc. **BOTTOM:** Marg enjoys having visitors and takes joy in assigning them a themed bedroom, in this case the “cow” bedroom.



Of her big move, Marg says, “I only brought my toothbrush.” And this notion only strays a centimetre from the truth. Packing merely her personal effects – clothing and a few momentos – she truly made a fresh start. But after a year in her new space, surrounded by new things, she declares, “It just feels like home now.”

Close enough to her family and friends to encourage visits and far enough from the hustle and bustle of city life to ensure relaxation, Marg is blissful in her new space. Carson

remembers, “I have a picture of her close to move-in day, when we turned on the surround sound. She came up the stairs with this huge, beaming smile.” He adds, “This is why we build houses. Our goal is to have the client fall in love with their house and their investment.”

Friends and neighbours have often questioned Marg about the trials of homebuilding. But she has nothing but accolades for her team: “It was a breeze. If I had the same builder, I’d do it again in a heartbeat.” **OH**



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How COVID-19 is

IMPACTING HOME DESIGN

STORY **CONNIE JESKE CRANE**

When COVID-19 hit, our homes, essentially overnight, were asked to function in ways they'd never had to before. On a purely practical level, for homeowners, all those hours we've spent at home – in Zoom meetings, coaxing sourdough starter, agonizing over math homework, gathering for family movie nights – have given us an unprecedented chance to take stock. What works well here? What room drives me crazy? What's tired or just not working?

After speaking with Ontario homeowners, it's clear many of us have moved beyond the "thinking about it" stage to making it happen. "I have never been this busy!" says Rob Abbott of Great Lakes Custom Homes. Based in Craileith, Abbott says he's seeing brisk demand and a flurry of pandemic-inspired requests from homeowners for quotes on renovations and builds.

In the Ottawa area, Ryan Blackwell of Blackwell Renovations has experienced a similar rush. "It's kind of crazy. This year the amount of estimates that I'm doing has spiked."

From a real estate perspective, whether you plan to buy or sell in the near future, or simply want to enjoy your home while building equity, it's important to understand how much homeowner priorities have shifted during the pandemic.

With that thought in mind, we asked Rob Abbott (whose client projects are rural) and Blackwell (whose work is more urban-focused) how this great period of global unease is impacting home design. Here are several trends they noted:



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

ENHANCED HOME OFFICES

Not surprisingly, with many workers today still mandated to work from home, builders see big and likely lasting impact here. Ryan Blackwell says he's had multiple quote requests recently for home offices in and around Ottawa, adding, "That's not usually a focal point."

In Craileith, Rob Abbott is also fielding quotes for home offices. He says the all-important twist today is that clients want such spaces designed for much more dedicated use. "People now don't just want just a flex space for their office, they want somewhere where, when they shut the door, they don't hear anybody."



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

GENERAL UPDATING

Offices aside, Ryan Blackwell says the pandemic isn't fuelling one particular type of job request. What he sees instead is an overall reprioritization. "I think the common trend is that people are living in it and they realize now that they're sick of it. They see their space all the time. Their kitchen is drab and they've been wanting to do it for a while. It's just they're taking the opportunity now." *Continued on page 46*



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OUTDOOR
STRUCTURES

Beyond their so-familiar four walls, Rob Abbott also sees clients casting a critical gaze to their outdoor spaces. From screened-in porches and sunrooms, to decks, pavilions, cabanas and gazebos, he says clients are keen to expand their outdoor entertainment areas, nudge their kids away from screens and encourage fresh-air family fun. “People are building outdoors like crazy.”



PHOTO: TOJA GRID

SEPARATE
LIVING QUARTERS

In his urban setting, Ryan Blackwell says he’s also seen more homeowners make sizable investments to carve out apartments either in their home’s basement or attic space, generally to provide a source of supplementary income. “Our market has stayed pretty strong, and people have noticed that, so they’re not as scared to pull the equity or reinvest,” he says.



PHOTO: ONICAP



PHOTO: ONICAP

UTILIZING BASEMENT OR ATTIC
SPACES TO CREATE APARTMENTS
CAN PROVIDE A SOURCE OF
SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME.



PHOTO: ONICAP

UPGRADING
RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

By contrast, in the country, Rob Abbott says since the pandemic he’s noticed far more city dwellers on the hunt for rural properties. As for those who already own recreational properties outside the city, he says many are renovating big time. “Some are now at the precipice of deciding, ‘Do I ever go back to the office or do I just stay at my 4,000 square-foot chalet and never go back to Toronto?’” With families hunkering down in their chalets and cottages, Rob Abbott says he’s gotten requests for everything from enclosing kids’ loft spaces and redoing bedrooms and basements to adding bathrooms and building pricey multi-storey additions. “People are spending so much time up here, they’re now wanting to update or finish spaces in the home that they never bothered to do before.” **OH**

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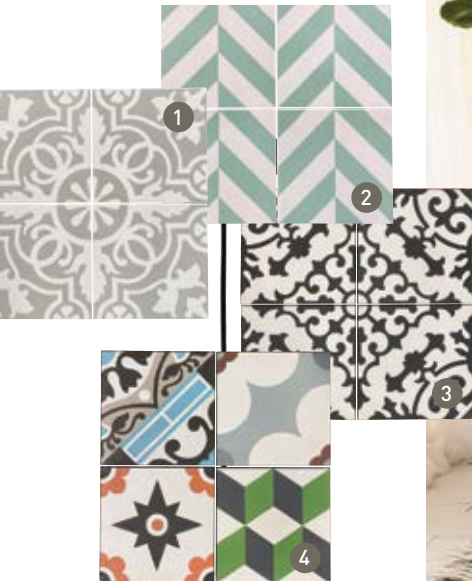


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MADE GOODS: Desmond in Light Grey



UTTERMOST: Table Lamp with Concrete Base and Linen Shade



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LIME LACE: Life In Progress Clock



UTTERMOST: Luka Hurricane Candleholder



NATIVE TRAILS: Portola Mirror in Slate



REVELATION: Cale Moss Centrepiece



SUNPAN: Remy Coffee Table in Antique Brass and Ivory

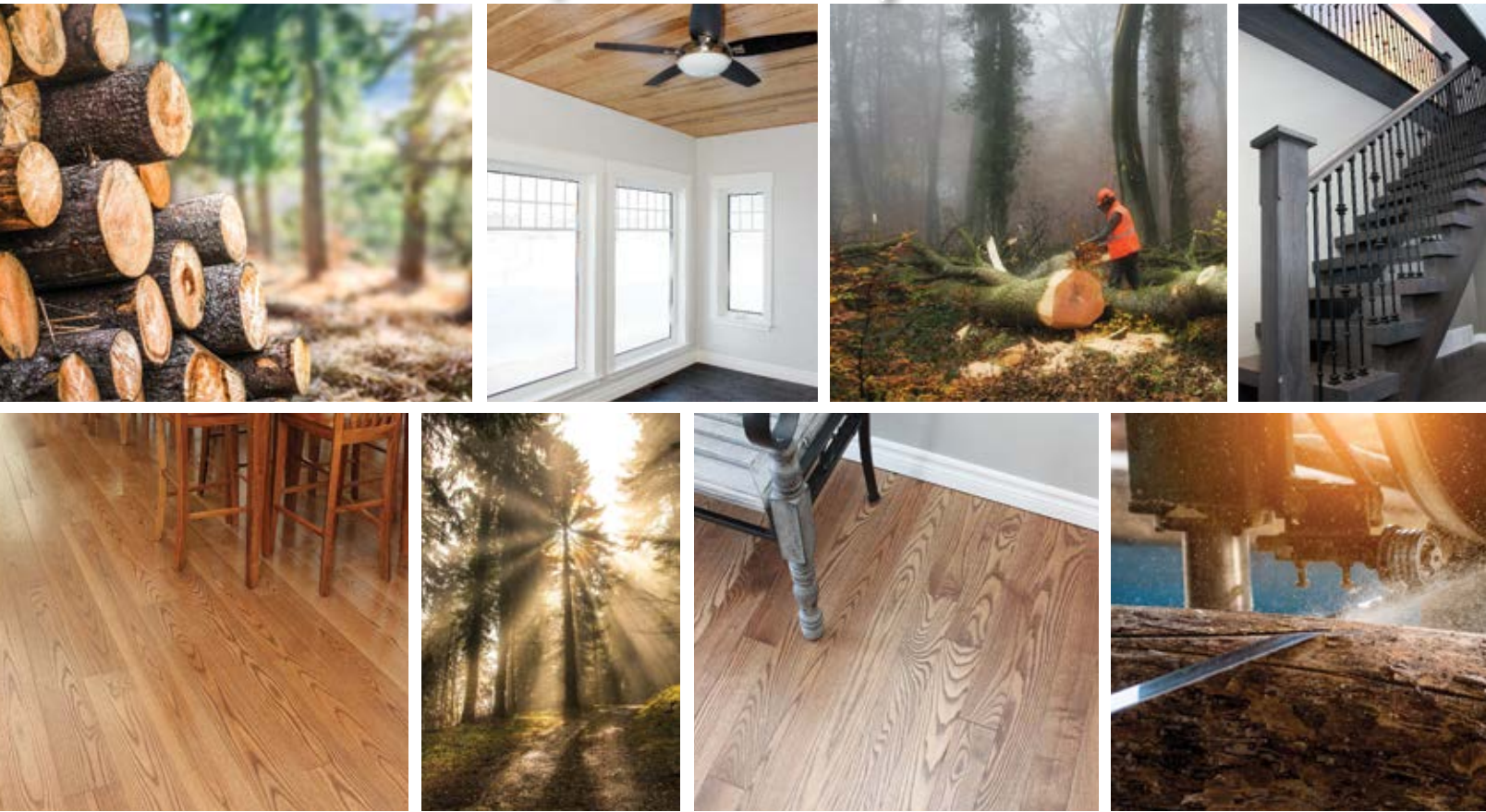


MADE GOODS: Wesley Shelves



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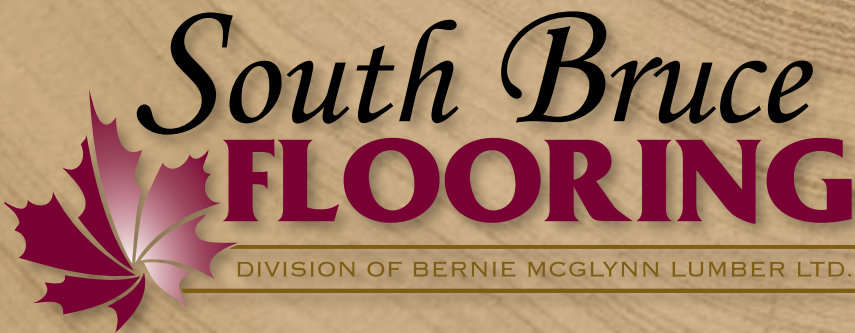


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YOUR HOME, YOUR CASTLE

HOW TO BRING YOURSELF INTO YOUR INTERIORS



STORY **EUGENIA TRIANDOS** AND **KORINA KHAMIS**
PHOTOGRAPHY **DREW HADLEY**

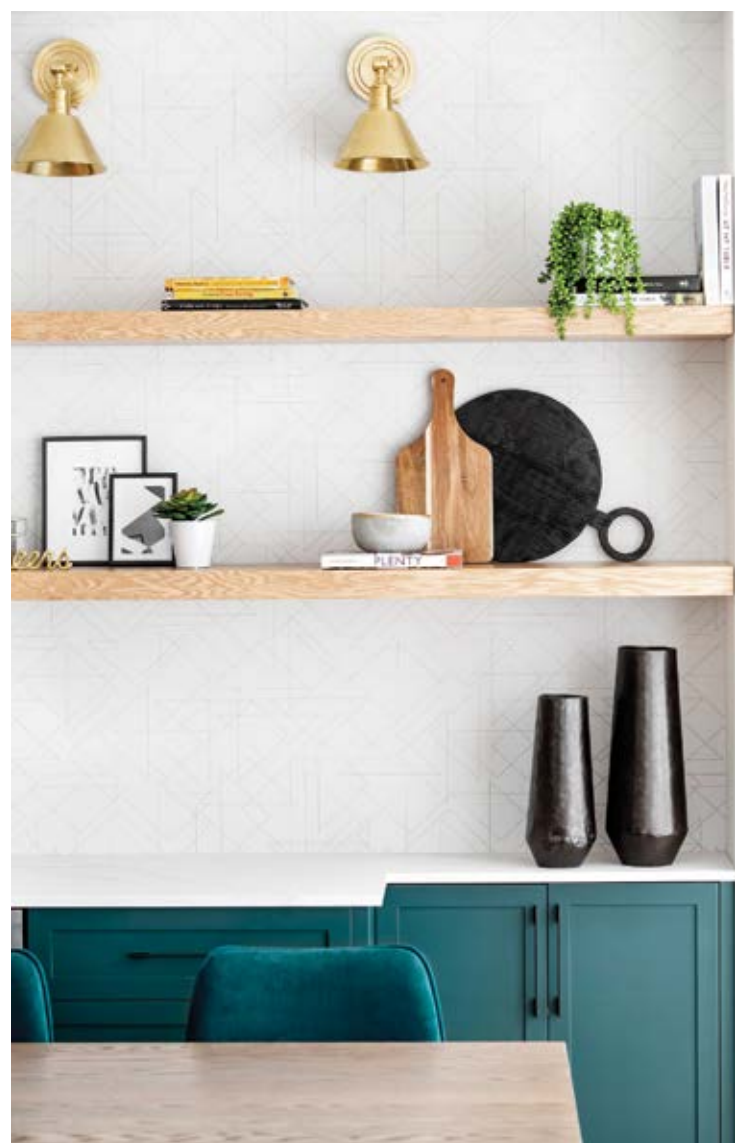
What makes a house feel like home? Every great interior begins with its inhabitant. We believe the personality needs to live within the home's overall design and aesthetic. Make your house feel like home, inspired by you!

THE BIG PURGE

If you feel like your home doesn't represent you, it's time to purge. Discard everything that does not bring you happiness. It's so easy to hold onto items you don't like, simply because you're used to having them around. This act alone will eliminate everything in your home that does not represent you. Once you've removed all the hollow stuff you can start to fill your home with meaningful mementos and things that inspire you.

SHOW YOURSELF

You have likely accumulated a highly personal collection or two that says a lot about what brings you happiness. Putting these items on display will not only make your home feel more like you, but will provide comfort and exude your personality into the space. Added bonus: These are great conversation-starters.



PRO TIP: Avoid clutter by only displaying selections from your collections, instead of the entire set. Display books on shelves as you would showcase art. Books fill gaps nicely, and their artistic covers can be featured in place of artwork. *Continued on page 52*



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design ideas

CREATE COMFORT

Home is about achieving a heightened level of efficiency, comfort and pleasure. These days, we are experiencing our homes in a new way – as a refuge from the world. Regardless of what’s happening outside, our interiors should always be the greatest escape of all, filled with things we love and tailored to the way we live. This may mean investing in that really beautiful but equally expensive sofa if you enjoy lounging in front of the television every evening, or finally getting around to setting up that dedicated home office that inspires you, instead of working from the kitchen table.

Comfort can be created with some simple considerations like lighting and ambience. Adding candles, fresh florals and throws draped over the sofa and chairs are some of the easiest and most impactful ways to boost your home’s comfort level.




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BE ADAPTIVE

The world is changing, and our homes have to keep up. Adaptation starts with being open to change and may take place as a slow build (think technology through the decades) or suddenly. We grow, and as our circumstances change, our personal style, collectables and lifestyles follow suit. Your home may have represented your past self, but it’s possible and very normal to change over time. When you feel like your current

décor has run its course, it’s time to restart the decorating process and find new ways to bring the new you into your home.

There’s a good reason that custom continues to be the biggest interior trend, year in and year out. Cookie-cutter fads come and go. Look within for inspiration that stands the test of time. An open mind and a good design team can make your home truly yours – and isn’t that what great design is all about? **OH**



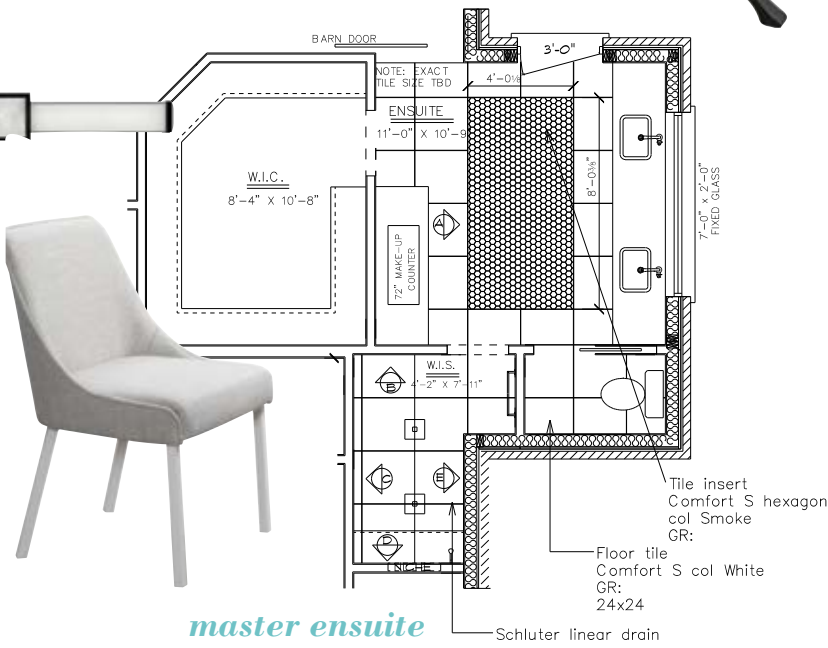


Designer Heather Smillie and Kiera Spielmacher, design consultant.

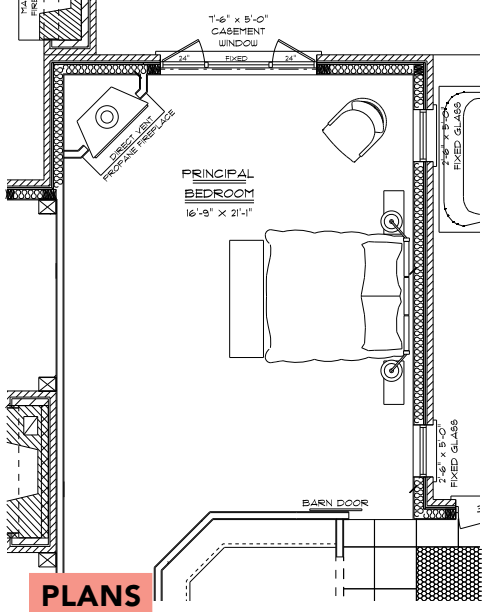
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master ensuite



PLANS

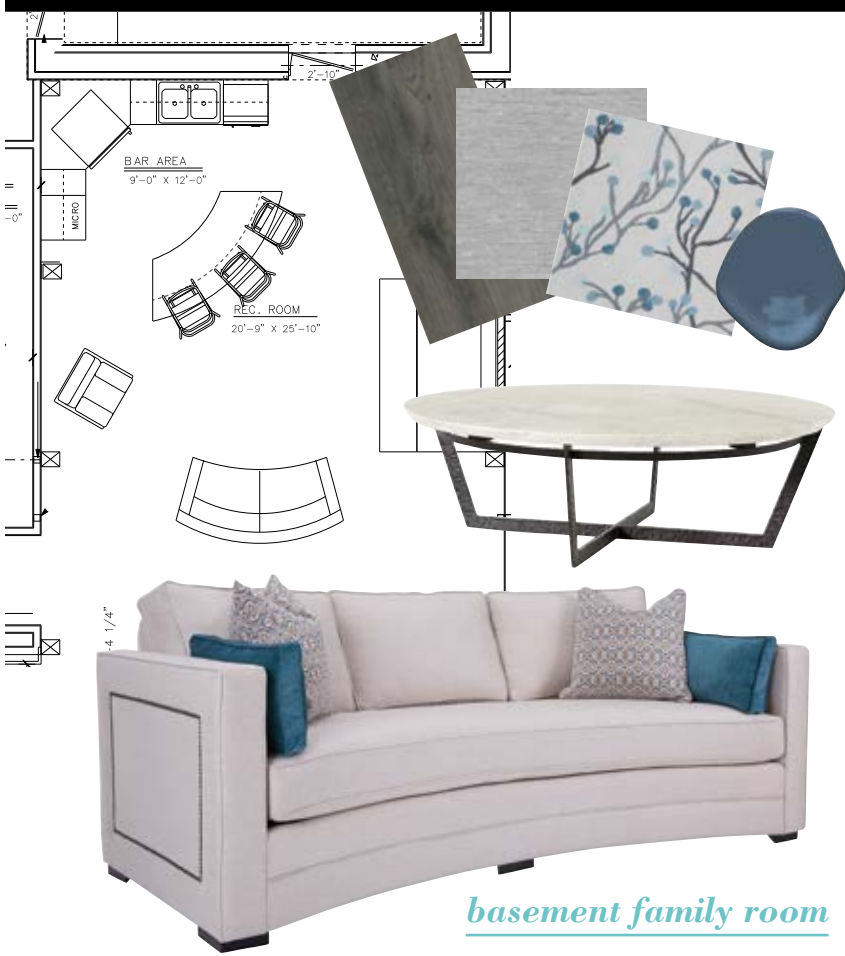
Working with builders or architects, the team offers from-the-ground-up design on new builds, renovations or a refresh of an existing space to fit all budgets. 3D drawings, rendered plans and story boards help solidify ideas developed during consultations. Through the process of elimination, the design team helps clients discover elements that fit their lifestyle and suit their home.

principal bedroom



NICE EXTRAS

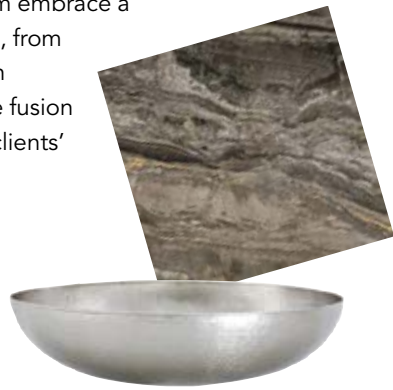
Décor accessories sourced by Connie Detzler are displayed throughout the large showroom and offer another design element for inspiration and that finishing touch for every room.



basement family room

PHILOSOPHY

Heather and her team embrace a range of home styles, from traditional to modern design, as well as the fusion of styles for all their clients' needs. Respect and communication lead the way towards narrowing choices for that perfect personal space.



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It takes a
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STORIES **RACHAEL HAVENS** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



TRADITION IS BIG IN THIS HOUSEHOLD, ESPECIALLY DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. FROM BUILDING SNOWMEN AFTER THE FIRST SNOWFALL OF THE YEAR TO AN ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST, THE SPITZIG FAMILY IS CREATING LIFELONG HOLIDAY MEMORIES TOGETHER.

Continued on page 60

The whole family curls on the sofas around the fireplace to open their stockings on Christmas morning. The open shelves are decorated with greenery, a variety of Christmas trees and a nativity scene. **OPPOSITE:** This Christmas scene includes candy, gnomes, pom poms and snowmen.



Garland on the window sill intertwined with lights, a wreath hanging in the window and five small evergreen trees on the island add holiday spirit to the kitchen. **TOP RIGHT:** Three gnomes bring a smile. The vignette reinforces the natural simplicity of the décor in the home. **RIGHT:** A quiet moment for Ryan and Jessie before the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.



JESSIE AND RYAN SPITZIG ARE BUSY. They live and work in Walkerton, where Jessie owns The Guest House, a plant shop, and LaDel's, a coffee shop, while Ryan runs Spitzig Framing. They also have five children: Leah, Lilly, Evan, Dez and Ally (LaDel's is an anagram of the first letters of the children's names).

They love living in a small town, and Jessie believes the best part is "the comfort of knowing you can count on your neighbours." This became even more apparent when the couple had children and realized volunteers make the community go 'round. As the saying goes, it takes a village.

Now, Jessie and Ryan use the holiday season as an opportunity to teach their children about giving back to their community. Each December, they celebrate with the "25 Days of Kindness Advent Calendar." Each day brings a new act of kindness, from delivering donuts to the local firefighters to leaving a candy cane on all cars at

Continued on page 62



The dining room table is set with candy and gingerbread for the Gingerbread House Contest. Un-adorned wreaths hang on the wall and in the window. **BELOW LEFT:** Natural textures and colours work together in this vignette in the living room. The flocked tree is simply decorated with lights. **BELOW RIGHT:** The children's tree sits in the dining room and is decorated with ornaments made by the children. It is normally decorated as tall as the oldest child can reach, but for the tour, with some help from adults, the decorations reach the top.





ABOVE: This message hangs in the dining room where the Gingerbread House Contest takes place. **LEFT:** The addition of lush evergreen wreaths in each of the mudroom cubbies still leaves room for coats. Seasonal cushions add another layer to the holiday décor. **BELOW LEFT:** A collection of Christmas trees sits on a shelf with two reindeer. **BELOW RIGHT:** The majestic living room tree almost touches the ceiling and is loaded with decorations and lights.



the arena during a hockey tournament. This sweet tradition is a wonderful way for the five children to think about, and thank, the people in their town with a small gesture that brightens their day.

Back at home, the family has a cosy place to relax together, surrounded by festive decorations and greenery. Jessie's favourite ornaments are those made by the kids. Every year, the tree is only decorated as tall as the children can reach, though when the home was on the Walkerton Holiday Home Tour in 2019, the tree was temporarily decorated in full by their grandmothers.

Of course, Christmas Day itself comes with traditions of its own. Each child unwraps "something you want, something you need, something to wear, and something to read." Dinner is the one element that could be considered untraditional. Jessie asks "What would everybody like?" and creates a buffet from the children's answers.

Options tend to include pizza, spaghetti and mashed potatoes.

Come Christmas Eve, seven stockings hang from the mantel. Next to the fireplace is a framed saying, "Make Today Happy." The family takes this sentiment to heart, making the holiday season a happy one for all they encounter by spreading kindness, gratitude and joy, one act of kindness at a time.

Continued on page 65



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Holiday Cheer

The spectacular 12-foot tree is the focal point in the living room. Logs crackle in the fireplace and above on the television. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The chairs on the front porch sit by the propane firepit. Warm blankets add holiday cheer and comfort for cold legs while sipping hot chocolate and enjoying the flames. **RIGHT:** A snowball-style urn holds a mixture of evergreens and Christmas balls. The red ribbon injects a classic Christmas colour into the arrangement. **FAR RIGHT:** Two styles of snowmen stand by large windows above the rear garden.

As a self-professed Christmas buff, Jennifer Lamont considered putting her Christmas tree up in August. After a year that’s been so unusual, she speculated that some holiday cheer might be just what her family needs. “I bring Christmas into my house as early as I can,” she says with a laugh. *Continued on page 66*



Jennifer, alongside her husband Rob, built their home in Port Elgin two years ago with the help of **Snyder Development**. Snyder also built their first home 12 years ago, so the couple trusted the builder with their forever home. Jennifer had only one caveat: She wanted to create her own layout, one that would suit the family for years to come.

With two little boys, ages nine and 11, the

house had to be family-friendly. But Jennifer and Rob also plan to retire here, so it couldn't be too big for just two people. That being said, there will always be plenty of room to host. The dining room seats 12, and the living room features a big sectional where the family loves to relax.

The holiday season is particularly special for the Lamonts. 2020 notwithstanding, the

"Let It Snow" is a perfect mantra for a family that loves a white Christmas.

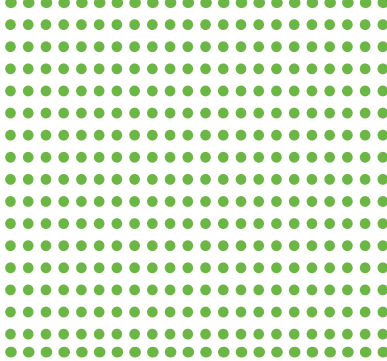


"I REALLY BELIEVE IN KINDNESS, AND CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT KINDNESS."

Christmas tree always goes up on November 1. It's 12 feet tall and placed right in front of the big bay window. This creates a magical atmosphere inside the home and out, where passersby can see the twinkling lights.

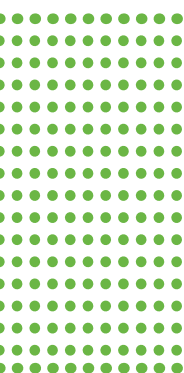
The wood-burning fireplace is another key element of Christmas for the family. Jennifer grew up with one in her childhood home, and fondly remembers waking up on Christmas morning to a house smelling of burning logs. Now she is creating the same memories for her boys.

The Lamont home appeared on the Chantry Island Cham-bettes 2019 Christmas Tour of Homes. The majority of the decorations belong to Jennifer, and she did most of the decorating herself, infusing the home with Christmas spirit in shades of blue and silver, with just a hint of classic red. She had assistance from **Rhonda Kirk** of **Home Décor & More** and **Accents**. The additional trees came from **Martin's Home Hardware**. *Continued on page 68*



LEFT: In the kitchen, double doors open to reveal a huge walk-in pantry. Festive décor is displayed on the granite counters. **BELOW:** A feather boa lines the bannister to the lower level in the front foyer. Four stockings hang for each member of the Lamont family. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** The custom 12-foot farmhouse table is resplendent with its holiday table setting. A flocked Christmas tree continues the blue and silver colour scheme. Sliding barn doors lead to the office. **BOTTOM:** Jennifer Lamont and Daisy enjoy some quiet time.





ABOVE: On the master bed, chocolate, wine and candles are ready for Christmas Eve. **TOP RIGHT:** Christmas balls, mimicking bubbles, float in the vessel tub in the master en suite. **RIGHT:** Black-and-red checked ribbon wraps a door that leads to a cosy bedroom. Warm flannel bedding, a lantern and folk art trees encourage dreams about Santa. **FAR RIGHT:** The family room on the lower level might not have a wood burning fireplace, but the big screen version is a good substitution. The tree topper is Frosty The Snowman's hat.

The Lamonts describe their hometown as cosy and beautiful, and never is this more true than during the holidays. Jennifer also praises the incredible community that makes it such a wonderful place to raise a family. She and Rob have a tradition of hosting their local friends on Boxing Day to celebrate the season.

What Jennifer loves most about Christmas is actually what she loves most about living in Grey Bruce – the kindness that abounds. “You can walk down the street and everyone says ‘hello’ or ‘Merry Christmas,’ Jennifer says, “I really believe in kindness, and Christmas is all about kindness.” **OH**





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TARA CHATTELL

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TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Dry Pinecones
- Long Rubber Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Old Clothing
- Bleach
- Water
- Bucket
- Large Plate (no longer used for food)
- Scissors
- Jute Twine

BLEACH PINECONES

1 In a well-ventilated space, preferably outside, don your old clothing, rubber gloves and safety glasses.

2 Add dry pinecones to a bucket. Fill the bucket, one third from the top, with one part water and two parts bleach.



3 Carefully place a plate over the pinecones, pushing down gently, to keep them submerged in the solution. Put the bucket in a safe place, out of reach of children and pets, for 24-72 hours. Check your pinecones every 24 hours and leave longer if needed, up to 72 hours. Pinecones will appear lighter in colour when they are ready to remove from the bleach solution.



4 Carefully remove the pinecones from the bleach solution and place them outdoors to dry, on a surface that won't be damaged by the bleach. The pinecones will close while sitting in the bleach solution; once they have fully dried and reopened, they're ready to use for crafting.



ASSEMBLE GARLAND

5 Cut a long piece of jute twine, a few inches longer than you'd like your final garland to be.

6 Begin by tying a loop at one end of your twine.



7 A few inches down from the loop, attach the first pinecone by wrapping the twine around the top of the pinecone and knotting.



8 Continue attaching pinecones, evenly spaced along the twine, until you near the other end.

9 Finish the end by tying another loop. The loops can be used for hanging your finished garland.

Use your finished garland to decorate your tree, mantel, buffet or stair railing. Happy holidays! OH

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ON THE JOB

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PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA



AT WORK

Important Tool: This trailer, which is vital to the delivery of custom-cut timbers and dimensional wood from the band mill to our customers' job sites.

ROB BEIRNES
PRESIDENT

Moggie Valley Timber

A typical day at Moggie Valley Timber starts in the office, answering emails and phone messages, setting up bush visits and looking after bush tenders. Then I do site inspections and meet with landowners.

AT HOME

Quality You Admire In People: Our great group of hard-working employees. **Last Extravagance:** A trip to Las Vegas with my uncle and cousins. **Can't Be Without:** My family and friends.



AT WORK

Important Tool: The Multi-Tool is in constant use. It gets into areas that other tools can't and does a neater job. **Interesting Project:** Updating a family back garden space with a multi-level deck across the back of their home and a privacy fence, to enjoy the weather and a staycation.

AT HOME

Quality You Admire In People: Rod: Reliability. Troy: Honesty. Marc: Hard-working. **Last Extravagance:** More tools. **Can't Be Without:** Sirius Radio!

TROY EMMERSON
TEAM MEMBER

ROD GILKINSON
OWNER

MARC PRESCOTT
TEAM MEMBER

Georgian Bay Home Works

At Georgian Bay Home Works, the day starts with a Tim Hortons coffee at 6:30 a.m., then hitting the road to reach the job site. We set up our work area and grab any needed materials and tools for the day. We get at it and don't waste any time getting the job done. *Continued on page 74*



BOB MANZER
LICENSED TECHNICIAN
PATTY SMITH
OWNER
SIMON SMITH
OWNER
Smith Water Systems

Our days at Smith Water Systems are filled with service calls to install, supply, maintain and repair pumps, wells and treatment equipment.

AT HOME

What Is The Quality You Admire In Other People: **Simon:** Honesty **Patty:** Kindness. **Bob:** Patience. **Your Latest Extravagance:** **Simon:** New to me pickup truck. **Patty:** Home improvement project. **Bob:** Tools. **Can't Be Without:** **Simon:** My family. **Patty:** Family, friends and health. **Bob:** Money.

AT WORK

Important Tools: Items that are used to retrieve and service submersible pumps in wells. **Projects:** We help homeowners with upgrades to bored or drilled wells.

Continued on page 76

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AT HOME

Quality You Admire
In Others: Integrity. **Last**
Extravagance: A family trip
to Punta Cana. **Can't Be**
Without: Weekends spent
not working!

LAURENCE
OLIVIER
OWNER

Olivier Construction Ltd.

To get the day going: Three cups
of coffee, then head to the site
and get the crew organized for
the day. Meet with the client
to discuss the project and any
changes. Helping the crew when
and if needed, and before you
know it the day is over.

AT WORK

Important Tool: When
working on renovations and
additions, nothing is perfect. This saw
comes into use every day when tying old
with new. **New product:** The ZIP system is
amazing. We just used it on a 50-year-old
two-by-four addition to get maximum
R-value using the slick, single
application for foam board,
sheeting and air barrier.



Continued on page 78

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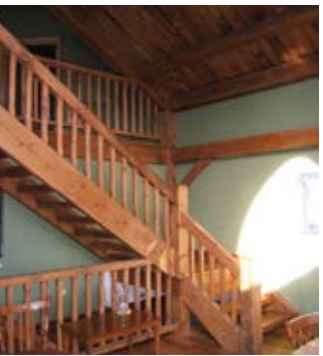
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people



AT HOME
Quality You Admire In
People: Honesty, because it lets me know where I stand. **Last Extravagance:** Taking our teenage daughters on a cruise to The Bahamas. **Can't Be Without:** My family. They keep me grounded and drive me crazy all at the same time!

GREG ELINES

YARD LEADER

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AT WORK
Important Machines: The aggregate truck brings in multiple loads of locally sourced aggregate daily, supplying our plants with the raw materials needed to keep production running. The double forklift efficiently moves inventory around the yard and loads finished product onto customer trucks. **New Products:** Information from our customers influences product development and the needs of the future market. Our flexible and responsive business model is able provide custom solutions to any customer request.

Continued on page 80

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OWNER

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My day starts early and involves coordinating visits to job sites that could include: Forming foundation walls, pouring concrete sidewalks or driveways, or prepping an area for a concrete floor. We work with commercial, residential and agricultural customers who are very satisfied with the quality, affordability and accuracy of our projects.

AT WORK

Important Machine: Being able to quickly load and unload forms is important to the speed and success of each foundation we construct. The truck and boom keep the day moving efficiently. **New Product:** We use the most advanced forming system in the industry, which gives our customers the best start to their new build.

AT HOME

Quality You Admire In Others: Patience. **Last Extravagance:** It was a big one – a new home. **Can't Be Without:** My family, who are very important to me.

Continued on page 82

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AT HOME

Quality You Admire

In Others: Creativity – the ability to solve a problem with what is readily available.

Last Extravagance: Our new home. **Can't Be Without:** My family.

AT WORK

Important Tool: Hidden in my pocket is my cell phone, which is my most important tool. It's immediate contact with others and gives me the ability to send pictures, which leads to a successful workday. **Interesting Product:** The drain-water heat-recovery pipe. Most municipalities require them in new builds, but there is still some skepticism about it.

JIM SLOAN
OWNER

Pratt Plumbing and Heating

A typical workday starts at the shop at 7 a.m. to review the previous day and best plan moving forward. Normally there are 20 to 30 projects on the go at one time, so scheduling and compromises are important to ensure each one meets its closing date.

Continued on page 84



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DAN JOHNSON
OWNER

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Each workday is spent installing screw piles for foundations on a wide range of projects, including decks, sunrooms, additions, garages and houses throughout Grey, Bruce and Dufferin counties. **OH**

AT WORK
Important Machine: The mini excavator provides the power to install the screw piles into the ground. Its smaller size allows us to access even hard-to-reach projects. **Interesting Project:** We had to winch the excavator down a heavily treed embankment to install screw piles on the side of the Sauble River for a waterside deck.

AT HOME
Quality You Admire In Others: Respect. **Last Extravagance:** Mountain biking trip with my son. **Can't Be Without:** My family.

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Snowy Owl

STORY AND PHOTOS MARK WIERCINSKI

WINTER *Birding*

I have been watching and feeding birds for as long as I can remember. My mother introduced me to this past-time, and my curiosity has kept me going. Tuned into the bird world for decades, I have watched the seasonal changes, making note of what’s around at all times.

Fall is a particularly busy time with migration in full swing. Birds are on journeys and nature is changing on a daily basis. Winter offers a peek at survival skills and the resiliency of nature.

PLANTING FOR BIRDS

It really doesn’t take much to attract birds to your yard. It can start by hanging one feeder and maybe planting a shrub or two that provides a place to land and forage. Any shrub that bears fruit is a good idea. Almost every garden centre has a section on what to plant for birds and other wildlife, and if you ask you will likely find a fellow bird enthusiast to share some knowledge. If you are a self-motivated sort of person, do some internet searches on what to plant and help attract birds. If all else fails, sunflowers are a sure thing.



Goldfinch



Downy woodpecker

FEEDERS

Bird feeders and what to feed birds is debatable, but I believe more is better. There are so many different feeders and feeds to pick from, it’s hard to go wrong. I will say this, though: Buy or make feeders that are easy to fill, maintain and clean. A fancy one with ornate designs and attachments may look interesting, but ask yourself: How easy is it to clean and fill? Birds will figure out how to get the food out of the feeder no matter what it looks like – they are clever that way. Wise choices for seeds include: black oil sunflower seeds, nyger seed and a bit of mixed seed for ground scatter. Suet, almost any kind available, is a good add-on. Keep it fresh. Clean all the feeders regularly (about once a month) and rake under the feeders to remove build-up.

Look for ways to keep birds safe. Don’t put everything out in the open. Set feeders beside trees and shrubs and away from places where predators can lurk. Give the birds a chance to see an imminent threat. Keep your cats inside.



Female purple finch and red-breasted nuthatch

WATER FEATURES

Add a water feature and you have a complete bird haven. To get their attention, add something that creates a fountain or a current and keep the water fresh. Clean these features all the time. Many options are available (including winter-proof water dispensers or baths) at bird stores, garden centres or online.

Once you have shrubs, food and water in place, settle back and wait. You can expect chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, goldfinches, grosbeaks, purple finch, house finch, cardinals, blue jays, doves and a variety of sparrows. There will always be starlings, house sparrows and maybe even pigeons around any town. Rare but exciting visits from hawks and falcons can add

a bit of natural drama to the yard and maybe some insight to the natural cycle of life.

If you don’t get enough birds in your backyard, take a drive, ski or hike to see what you can find – a hawk on a post, a snowy owl on a fence row or a flock of snow buntings imitating perpetual motion as they forage for weed seeds. Autumn and winter are great times to watch birds. They are everywhere and often too preoccupied with travel or finding food to worry about a curious human with a pair of binoculars.

Go ahead, get obsessed! Get your geek on. Birds won’t care. Being a bird nerd might even be cool these days! **OH**

Mark is a biologist with the Department of National Defence.



Northern cardinal



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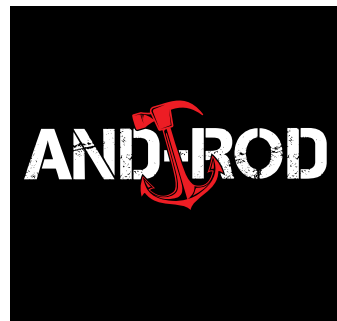
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Our team works with you to create beautifully designed, tailored homes from the pre-construction planning phases to excavation and finishing touches. We have had many clients inquire about gardening and landscaping to have their concept fully completed. We are pleased to announce that we will be launching a Landscaping and Garden Care division of the company in the spring of 2021. We are excited to offer this new service and believe that all the services we offer will see client's unique projects come to life.

Our professional and experienced team are equipped to assist our customers beginning with the initial consultation and ending with the final pieces of construction including landscaping and garden care. We strive to provide a hassle-free experience for all your construction needs.

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We offer a variety of services that are sure to meet your needs starting with in-home or online design consults. We offer space planning to complete 3D renderings to give you a visual representation of what your space will look like upon completion. We also focus on the details such as electrical plans, custom millwork, furniture layouts and finishes/fixtures sourcing.

We pride ourselves on providing excellent communication as we work with you every step of the way. We'll eliminate your stress and put in the work to make the planning process enjoyable so you can spend your valuable time elsewhere.

Cottage Country Designs has the expertise to create your dream home or space tailored specifically for you and your family to enjoy for years to come. We take pride in being able to set trends, not follow them.

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Our licensed designers have trained extensively for this purpose and our certified cabinetmakers ensure your design and fit will be exactly how you envisioned it. It all begins with an initial meeting to establish all your wants and desires. From there, our designers develop a room that will amaze the harshest critics.

Once a design is complete and ready for production all the components will be manufactured right here on site. Our skilled woodworkers, with state-of-the-art CNC machines, will bring the project to life. Working with the finest woods, hardware and finishing material, they build it to last.

Ask for a tour of the Exquisite Wood Designs factory and you can watch your design ideas transform into reality right in front of you.

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(Please see ad on pg 41)



LOCKWOOD PAINTING

A perfect painting job can make any newly constructed home stand out from the rest of the crowd. A beautiful paint job makes for an unforgettable first impression and can inspire complete confidence in the overall building quality and value of a new home. **Jeff Lockwood Painting Services** has over a decade of experience with new home building projects. Jeff and his staff currently are providing priming, painting and staining services for upwards of forty newly constructed homes and renovation projects each and every year.

From spraying on the first coat of primer to applying the finish coat to the baseboards, Lockwood Painting can quickly finish a newly constructed home to completed perfection – always on schedule and always on budget. Their seasoned team of professional painters can completely finish upwards of over 1,000 square feet per day. They stand behind their workmanship and quality with a full satisfaction guarantee. They are available "on call" and at a "moment's notice" for those important touch-ups for any warranty service calls. They have a large staff available to always provide a quick, high standard of service for all of their Home Builders and Renovator clients.

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(Please see ad on pg 85)



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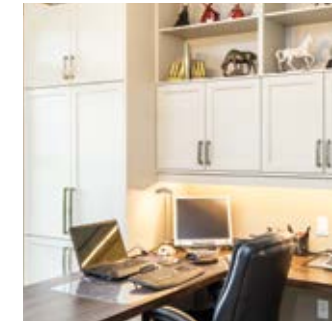
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(Please see ad on pg 43)



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This year marked 30 years in business for **Candue Homes**. A company that has truly been a labour of love for Don and Susan Tremble, combining business and family over the last three decades. This milestone was marked by a prestigious nod by Tarion. Candue Homes was awarded as a finalist in the Medium Volume Category for the Homeowners Choice Awards 2020.

This acknowledgement is truly special because it comes from our customers. It speaks volumes about what we, as a company, want to accomplish – provide a home that our customers can take pride in for years to come. We want to create lasting relationships, and over the years have found ourselves building again for these customers. We want to especially thank our employees and sub-trades. Your dedication and support over the years has added tremendously to our growth and success. We share this with all of you. Thank you again to our many customers over the years, it has been a privilege allowing us to bring your dreams to life.

We look forward to what the future will bring in terms of new projects and collaborations in the coming year. Cheers!

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(Please see ad on pg 4&5)

VALLEY VIEWS



STORY **SOPHIA LEMON**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Melissa (Meli) Dennison and Wayne Bumstead built their ski country home with a very specific goal in mind. After 34 years as a lawyer in Kitchener/Waterloo, where the couple met, Wayne, along with Meli, decided to build this home as their retirement retreat. However, they planned to do anything but sit still.

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The large kitchen is the gathering spot in the open-concept main floor. The granite counters in Cinderella are from The Old Barn. The hard-wearing vinyl plank flooring was sourced at Deans Carpet One Floor & Home. The blue bowl holding the oranges is from Rockrose Pottery. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** Wayne made the sliding barn door with reclaimed pallets. The colours and design make it a focal point in the foyer. **FAR LEFT:** The quilt by Carol Anne Tolton features birds in the centre, a reference to *The Bird House* – the nickname the Bumsteads have given the home.



MELI AND WAYNE’S FAVOURITE TIME TO ENJOY THEIR GREAT ROOM IS ON A COOL EVENING WITH THE FIRE GOING AND MUSIC PLAYING.



Wayne and Meli were drawn to this artwork by Lisa Rotenberg, titled Flight Path.



The active couple loves to bike, hike, golf and play pickleball. They wanted to enjoy everything the area has to offer through the warm months and travel the world in the winter. With its proximity to Beaver Valley Ski Club, the ultimate goal was to rent their home to skiers during the winter months. That meant combining everything they needed in a home with convenience that seasonal renters appreciate.

“Location was critical,” says Wayne, who knew the area well, having grown up in nearby Flesherton and Markdale.

With the help of **Dan and Jen Johnson** of **Valley Home Improvements**, Wayne and Meli found their perfect mix of open space, clean lines and eclectic furnishings to suit their needs.

“Dan and Jen are fabulous,” says Wayne. He says they contributed directly to the build, sourcing interior finishes, like the tiles and floors from **Deans Carpet One Floor & Home**. “They worked with us to fit everything in and make sure it worked.” Wayne also helped out, building the front hall closet door out of reclaimed pallets.

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TOP RIGHT: Dan and Jen Johnson of Valley Home Improvements with Meli and Wayne Bumstead. **FAR RIGHT:** The kitchen cabinets were sourced at Home Hardware Orangeville and feature a convenient pull-out that makes finding an item easy. **OPPOSITE:** A stainless-steel backsplash behind the stove injects a professional look. The wave texture of the tiled backsplash has similar curves to the vein in the granite counters.





“We’ve been blessed with some amazing clients, but Wayne and Meli really top the list,” says Jen. “Wayne and Meli had a vision for their home. The focus was on the view out back and being able to rent the property during the winter while they travelled. Features like the walkout basement, the deck and the extra living space downstairs were priorities.”

“We mostly wanted something practical,” says Meli. “We didn’t want a big master bedroom. So we used all the space we could for the open-concept living space.” And they got exactly what they wanted from Valley Home Improvements with a large great room on the main floor and vaulted ceiling. This is their favourite space. With their fireplace from **Chantico Fireplace Gallery**, Meli and Wayne’s favourite time to enjoy their great room is on a cool evening with the fire going and music playing.

Just off the great room, the kitchen features two-tone cabinets in off-white and black fox, topped with granite counters from **The Old Barn**. “We have a huge island, which I enjoy because there is so much storage,” says Meli. The kitchen is finished with granite countertops, custom pendulum lights and a wave-like porcelain backsplash.

The snowbirds’ home was nicknamed *The Bird House* and has many details to suit

Continued on page 98

This wooden block sums up the couple's happiness with the home's location.



ABOVE: The main bathroom’s encaustic tiles make a pretty base for the vessel tub. The pendant light was found at Lamps Plus. **TOP LEFT:** The double vanity is from Stonewood Bath Cabinetry, which plants one tree for every vanity sold. Plumbing was completed by Cook’s. **LEFT:** The large curbless shower has a contrasting floor tile to delineate the space. Soft grey subway tiles are arranged in a stacked pattern. **OPPOSITE:** The peaceful master bedroom has access to a deck through the sliding doors from Centre Grey Builders & Supplies.

that theme – a quilt by Wayne’s sister in the kitchen, a birdhouse made of old skis, gifted to the couple by their realtor and a birdhouse painting hanging in the great room by local artist Lisa Rotenberg.

Altogether, the home features three bedrooms and two baths on two floors, with a total of 1,320 square feet per floor. “I didn’t want to clean multiple bathrooms,” says Meli. “That’s why there is no powder room and no

en suite. There’s just a full bath on the main floor and a full bath on the lower floor.” The main floor bathroom features double sinks and a large soaker tub. “Valley Home Improvements did a nice walk-in shower for us,” says Wayne. “They were thinking ahead for us. They knew we were getting older so they gave us extra-wide doors and no thresholds that we couldn’t get a wheelchair over.” *Continued on page 100*



TOP: The laundry room, located just off the garage, serves double duty as a mudroom. A live-edge bench is handy for removing winter boots. Cubbies above the coat hooks keep smaller items organized. ABOVE: Another vanity from Stonewood Bath Cabinetry is featured in a darker finish on the lower level and offers great storage. LEFT: A welcoming guest bedroom on the lower level is painted in Offshore Mist by Behr.

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ABOVE: The exterior of the home is finished with vinyl board-and-batten in Gunmetal. The landscaping has a naturalistic look, with escarpment boulders creating a berm by Al Thompson Excavating. The timber detail at the front entrance adds texture and contrast. **BELOW LEFT:** Light from the front door floods the stairway to the lower level. The stairway has vinyl plank treads and custom railings. **BELOW RIGHT:** The hot tub from Arctic Spas is ready for an early evening soak. Wayne and Meli completed the landscaping around the tub and sourced the supplies at Maxwell Stone.



The lower level features one bedroom with twin beds and one queen bedroom. Both have extra-large closets, so renters feel more at home with their own space to hang clothes, rather than living out of a suitcase. The family room walks out onto a flagstone pathway leading to their hot tub where Meli and Wayne can relax, listen to the crickets and look out over their backyard. “We did the landscaping around the hot tub ourselves,” says Wayne. “We wanted it to be kind of natural, so I tried to create a meadow instead of a lawn that I would have to mow.”

Finally, the exterior of the home features vinyl board-and-batten siding in Gunmetal, white windows and dark doors from **Centre Grey Building Supplies**. The log columns give the exterior a rich look, framed by their new gardens filled with pots and plants from **Maxwell Garden Center** and **Riverside Greenhouses**. And at the end of the day, their front porch features a pair of comfortable chairs where the couple can enjoy retirement and take in the evening sun. **OH**





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BARN QUILT trail

PHOTOGRAPHY **HILIARY BREADNER**
COMMITTEE PROJECT MANAGER FOR
THE LOVE OF GREY BARN QUILT TRAIL



≈ **DOUBLE WEDDING RING**

This quilt symbolizes the circle of love and the connection between an inspirational grandmother, her family and friends and the love, dedication and passion put into everything she did.

In 2001, Donna Sue Groves, a contemporary quilter from Adams County, Ohio, created a large painted quilt square to honour her mother. An admirer of quilts and old barns, Donna Sue displayed the square on her property for passersby to admire. The project quickly expanded to include 20 painted sampler quilt squares on barns around the county, encouraging visitors to drive through the countryside and discover Donna Sue's community. Her vision for a barn quilt trail has spread throughout the United States and Canada, with more than 7,000 quilt blocks now on display. Quilt blocks are now popping up on barns across Ontario, telling stories of local history, tourism, agriculture, family traditions and heritage. Grey County has joined the movement with the For The Love of Grey Barn Quilt Trail.



≈ **UNITED**

The owners of this farm researched its history and discovered it was settled by an Irish immigrant who purchased 100 acres of Crown land. Because one of the present owners is of Scottish ancestry, the thistle was chosen as a link between the start of the farm, present day and thistles on the property. The head of the flower is in the shape of a crown, representing Crown land, and the colours came from the husband's kilt.

≈ **THE BIRD**

A celebration of a mother's love of Barred Rock chickens and a special pet hen named Salt and Pepper – all cherished memories for her daughter.



« **CALEDONIA COW**

Wiley represents the happy dairy cows that reside in this recently restored barn. The two Irish shamrocks represent the farm's first owner, who emigrated from Northern Ireland. The current family's Scottish roots are represented by the Scottish Thistles.

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« **CAMPBELL'S CELTIC KNOT**

The infinity (or Celtic) knot was chosen to represent the endless intertwining and looping of family and farming. The colours of red, black and white represent love, life, passion, purity, fertility, Holstein cows and Canada.



≈ **BELL'S OAK TREE**

Just after the marriage of the owners, a large pine tree by the house was struck by lightning. That tree was replaced with an oak, which was chosen because of its deep roots. The barn on this property was raised in 1882.



≈ **STARBURST**

A quilter and her family moved to the farm where her husband was raised. The bright colours make this quilt a focal point for everyone who drives by or visits their farm.

≈ **GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN**

A granddaughter remembers the quilt frame set up in her grandma's dining room and the quilting bees that took place as she played under foot. Although she never had the privilege to quilt with her grandmother, she did take up quilting after her grandmother's passing. The multi-generational love of quilting is now being passed to her own granddaughters.



≈ **THE FAMILY TREE**

The apple tree on this quilt pays homage to the orchard on this land, in operation for almost a century. Ten apples on the tree represent parents, children and grandchildren, and four apples in the bucket are in memory of family members who have passed. The friendship of family and friends is symbolized by the border of friendship stars.



≈ **TULLOCH'S TARTAN STAR**

The eight-pointed star on this quilt is divided into four sections, each representing a generation beneath the family's patriarch, who arrived from Scotland at the age of 17. The Tulloch tartan was also incorporated into this design.



» **MAPLES AND MASSEYS**

A maple bush at the back of the family farm is reflected in this quilt, which hangs on a barn raised in 1895. Maple leaves surround the symbol for the tractor brand Massey Ferguson, formerly Massey-Harris. The owner's father owned a Massey-Harris 30 in 1953, and Massey Ferguson equipment remains the brand of choice on this farm.



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Spicy DOUBLE CHOCOLATE COOKIES

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

THESE DOUBLE CHOCOLATE COOKIES HAVE A LITTLE SECRET – A KICK OF CAYENNE, CINNAMON AND GINGER. A YUMMY ADDITION TO YOUR COOKIE EXCHANGE OR HOLIDAY DESSERT TABLE.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup cocoa powder
- ¾ tsp baking soda
- ¾ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp salt
- ¾ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips



DIRECTIONS

- Mix together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, spices and salt in a bowl.
- In a stand mixer, beat together butter and sugars.
- Add eggs one at a time until combined.
- Add dry ingredients in two portions on low speed, mixing until combined.
- Add chocolate chips and mix – the dough will be thick.
- Chill dough in fridge for at least 12 hours, or up to 72 hours.
- When ready to bake, scoop 2-inch balls and bake at 375°F for 12-14 minutes. **OH**

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