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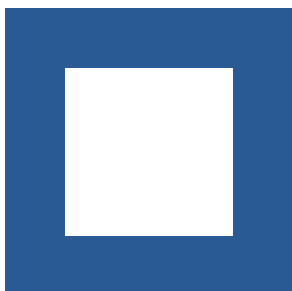
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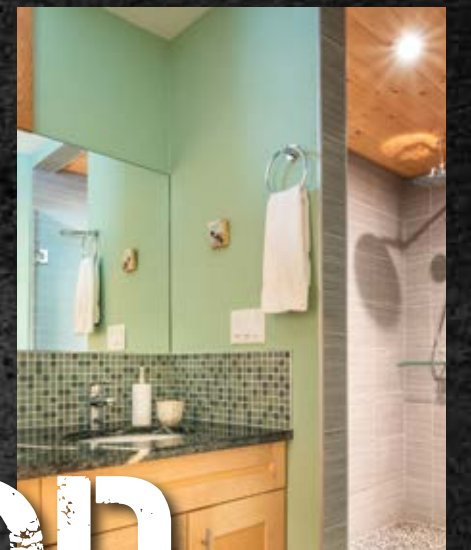
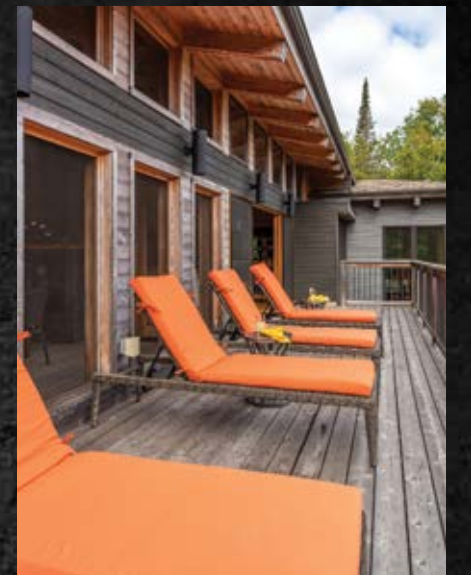
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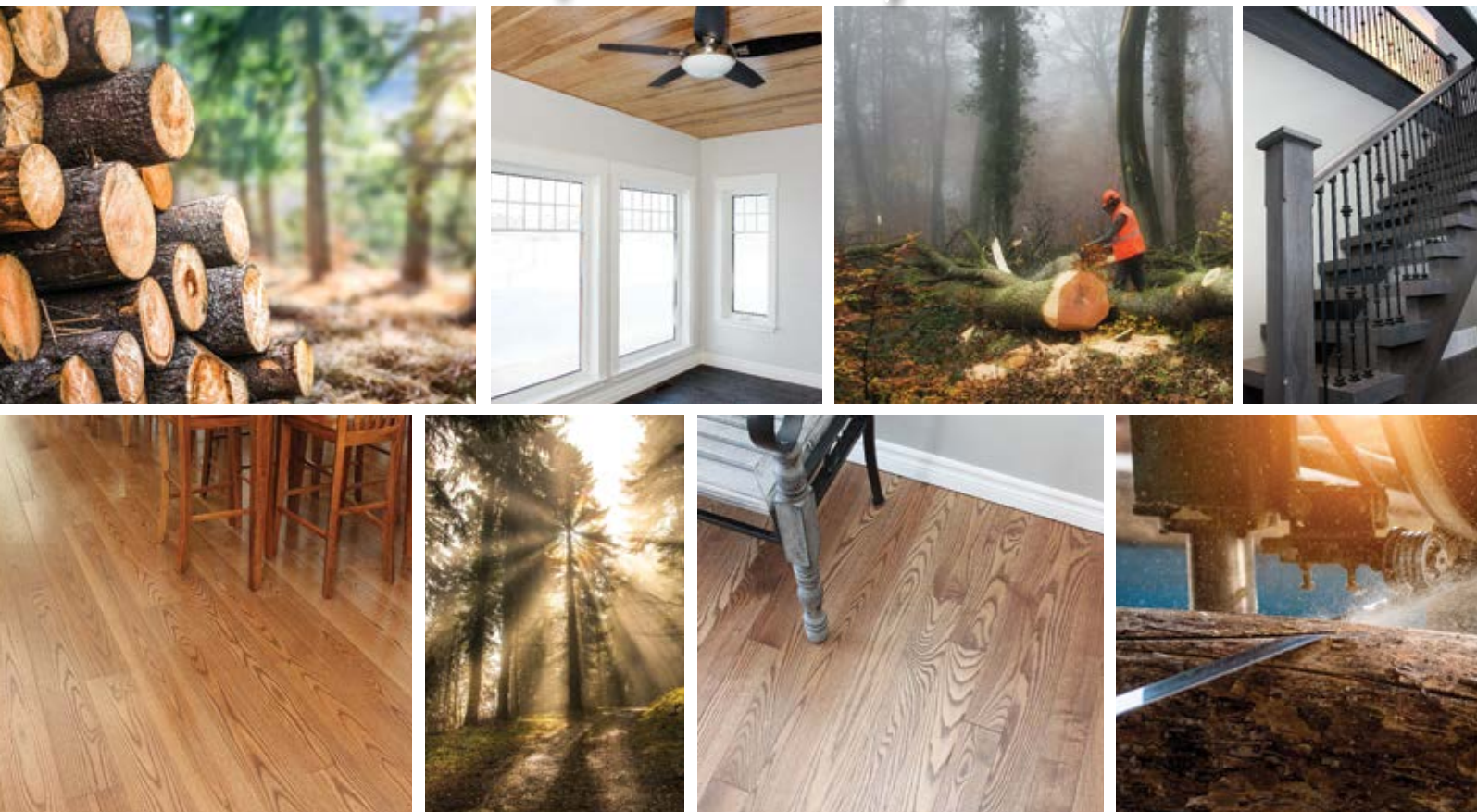
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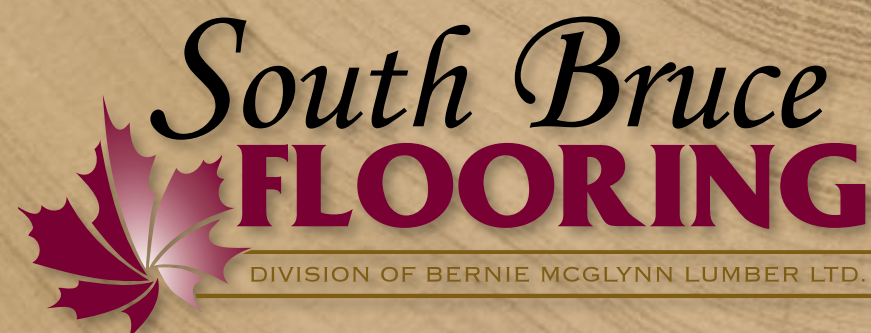


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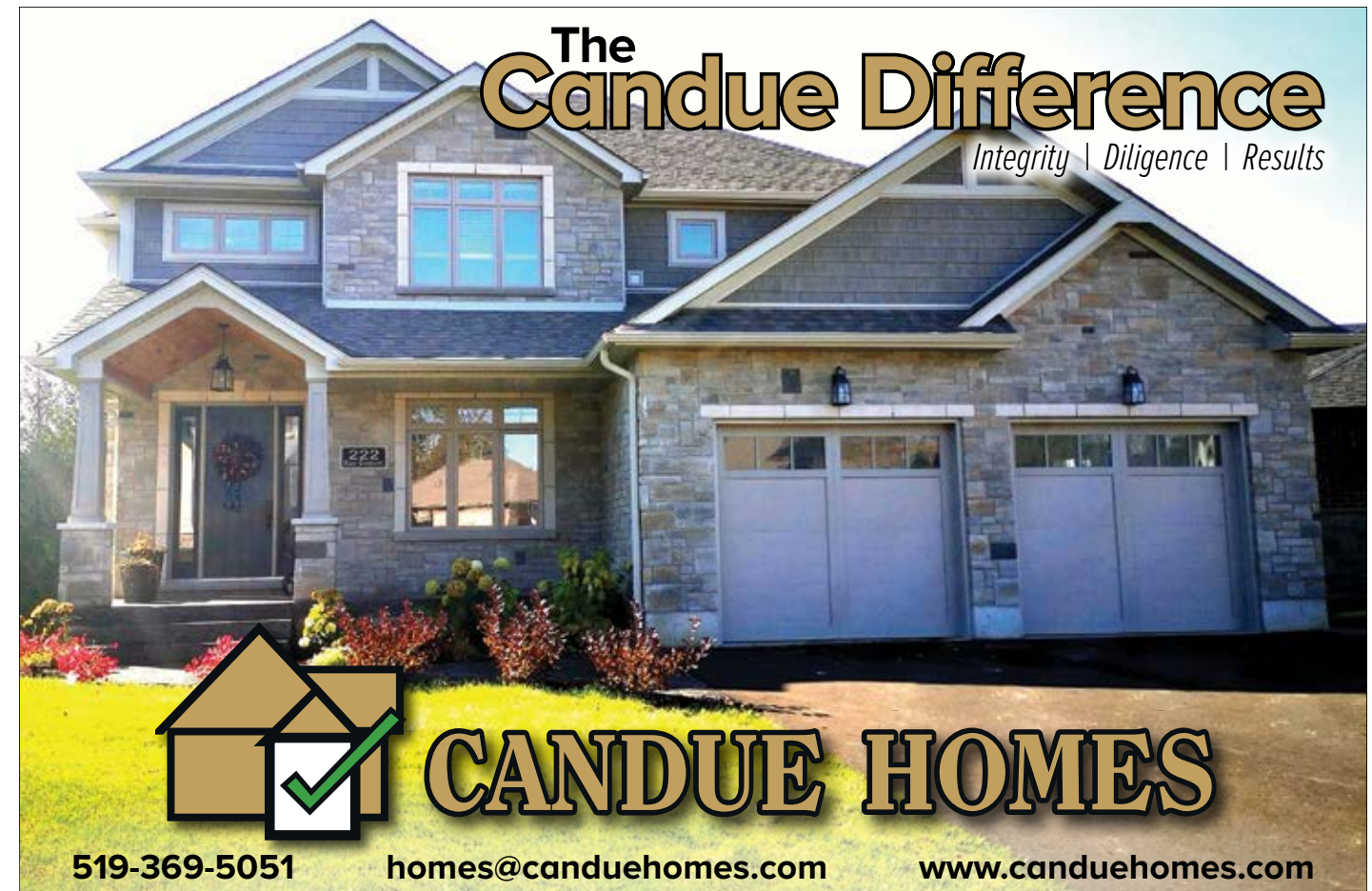
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editor's note

*My mother loved to cook.*

But when she married my father, her repertoire of recipes was limited – very limited. A kind and thoughtful relative gave her a subscription to *Gourmet* magazine as a wedding gift and it truly ignited a passion that she didn't know she had.

Receiving that magazine every month back in the 60s was a revelation. She could travel the world, learn cooking techniques and discover famous chefs, which in turn inspired her to tackle *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* – both volumes – well before the movie *Julie & Julia* was made or the Julie Powell book written. We were the lucky recipients of her foray into this world of incredible tastes.

Mom read every page of *Gourmet*, but her favourite articles were *You Asked For It* and the last page, *Sugar & Spice*. Something from those features always showed up in our Monday-Friday dinners. The weekends were reserved for *Gourmet* dinners; she made the entire menu from the latest issue. My parents' friends looked forward to being invited to these dinner parties and my brothers and I enjoyed the leftovers!

Although OUR HOMES is published four times a year, I hope our readers look forward to each issue as much as my mother anticipated the next issue of *Gourmet*. I hope OUR HOMES inspires a fresh look at your home and introduces you to new decorating ideas, local businesses, recipes, feature articles, beautiful homes and craft projects that complement life in your home. It's also worth remembering that OUR HOMES is local and complimentary – and it's beautiful.

Have a happy fall and take care.

*Sara Martin*

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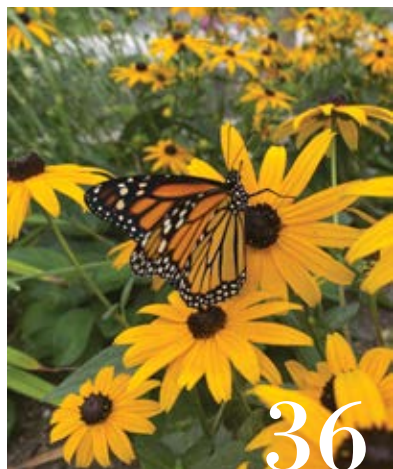


# CONTENTS

FALL 2021



34



36



30

## LOCAL FEATURES

- 30 Style Picks** Capture fall colours in these local finds for your home.
- 40 Home & Designer** A restored farmhouse in Port Elgin is expertly designed for family.
- 62 Spotlight** Interior Motives offers warm and inviting furnishings for every room.
- 72 Home & Builder** A custom timberframe home on Pike Bay honours the land and trees on the property.
- 84 People & Places** These pros help homeowners get ready for the season.
- 108 Home & Builder** A fabulous new home on the waterfront in Tobermory was worth the wait.



40



62

## ON THE COVER

A restored farmhouse bedroom is ready for sweet dreams and sleepovers. Story, page 40.  
Photography by Sandy MacKay.



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*James McGregor*

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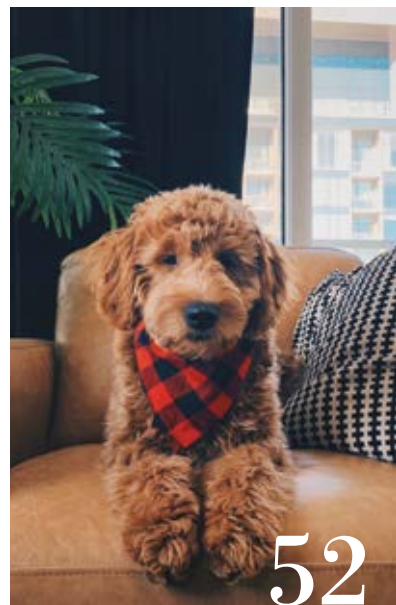
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# CONTENTS

FALL 2021



## DEPARTMENTS

- 22 **Editor's Note**
- 28 **Advice** Healthy Homes
- 34 **Cooking At Home** Root Veggie Salad
- 36 **Gardening** Seasonal Colour
- 52 **Design Ideas** Living With Pets
- 56 **Real Estate** Highs & Lows
- 60 **Double Take** Sitting Room
- 64 **Crafty Ideas** Paper Palm Leaves
- 68 **Entertaining** Fancy Dining
- 96 **Decorating** Kids' Rooms
- 100 **In The Kitchen** Cookie Jars
- 104 **Cooking At Home** PB & J Cookies
- 120 **Projects** Natural Reflection
- 122 **Home Resource Directory**
- 124 **Birding** Time To Fly
- 126 **Good Taste** Pumpkin Pie Milkshake
- 128 **Finishing Touch** Wonderful Wicker



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Designer **Tamarisk McNalty Stephens** shares her ideas.

Creating a home that nurtures overall health and wellness has proven to be an important topic of conversation.

The beautiful thing about a home is that it is (or should be) a unique reflection of the values, priorities and lifestyle of its inhabitants. However, there are some basic tenets that can be applied regardless of style, aesthetic and functional requirements to create an atmosphere that fosters a greater sense of well-being. These recommendations can be implemented without a complete redesign or renovation.

### Determine the pillars of how you want your home to feel



OSLO FURNITURE:  
Nordmark Sideboard

It is a privilege to have a home where you and your family can retreat. Having the ability (financial and otherwise) to curate a home that feels

welcoming, calming, nourishing and restorative – especially when unpredictable circumstances occur in the world – is a true blessing. Take the time to determine how you want your home to feel. For example, creating a calming space is especially important when the news of the world feels heavy. A clean and clutter-free space can quiet the nervous system and make you feel better physically, mentally and emotionally.



Stuv 30  
Woodstove

### Create peace of mind

Taking small steps to create a home that is a little more self-sufficient can contribute to a greater feeling of safety and security – especially when unpredictable circumstances arise. At the end of the day, food, water and shelter remain the fundamental and universal basic needs.

There has been a tremendous resurgence of people growing and raising their own food. There are also many local farmers who offer

CSAs (community-supported agriculture) throughout the year and frequent the seasonal farmers markets. Consider installing a pantry or transforming a closet into food storage so you can buy more items in bulk (flours, beans, etc.) and if you have a cold-storage area, you have the ability to store certain vegetables long into the winter. Investing in an appropriate freezer and learning to preserve food are other helpful options. Condo dwellers can experiment with container gardening, learn about becoming a member of a community garden or perhaps barter with family or friends to use a piece of land for a small garden patch.



BERKEY CANADA: Royal  
Berkey Water Filter System

Generating your own electricity allows you to be less dependent on the larger system. For those not connected to the grid, investing in a generator in the event of a power loss enables you to keep the fridge and freezer running so you don't lose your food supply – just create a regular maintenance schedule and ensure you have the appropriate fuel. Also having a stock of water on hand for a couple of weeks, or a filtration system (such as a Berkey) if you have access to fresh water, can provide added peace of mind. The notion of creating a safe home extends beyond a security system.

### Define various zones

The experience of sharing space with the entire family at home for such an extended period of time, with multiple tasks happening simultaneously – such as working, learning, food preparation, etc. – has emphasized the importance of creating specific zones to maintain a semblance of order in the home. If you don't have a spare room you can transform into an office, or the floor space for designated desks and workstations, consider purchasing totes that hold everyone's individual work or projects. Investing in proper storage such as closed cabinetry or even open shelving with baskets (simple and easy to access) helps to keep everyone organized and the house from becoming overrun with the business of the day. It is also important to keep sleeping spaces reserved for rest and minimize technology there (avoid it if you can). We all know blue light from devices negatively impacts our circadian rhythm and the body's ability to prepare for sleep. It's difficult to relax at the end of the day if you're still looking at a large pile of work or if the notifications on your phone are going off at all hours.

### Bring nature inside

Not only are houseplants an extremely cost-effective way to completely transform the feeling of your space, but adding greenery into your home can reduce stress and anxiety. There is the added benefit of air purification. Nature-inspired artwork can also help calm the senses. Connecting with natural materials such as linen, raw wood, beeswax candles, marble and wool can also help evoke a sense of well-being within the home. **OH**



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PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

2

fall

SPLENDOUR

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3

4

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6

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3D RENDERING



cooking at home

# WARM ROASTED ROOT-VEGGIE

## Salad

RECIPE AND  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
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Visit your local market or farm for the freshest ingredients to make this simple, rustic and warm roasted root-vegetable salad. The veggies sit atop a bed of farro, an ancient grain packed with protein and fibre.



## INGREDIENTS

**Serves 4**

### SALAD

Root vegetables such as beets, carrots, radishes and onions

Olive oil

1 Tbsp allspice

1 cup farro

Feta cheese, to garnish

Pumpkin seeds, to garnish

### DRESSING

¼ cup olive oil

2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar

2 Tbsp honey

½ tsp each salt and pepper

## DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Clean vegetables and cut into similar sizes.

Toss with olive oil, allspice, salt and pepper.

Place on a baking sheet and roast for 25-30 minutes, adjusting the time to the size of your vegetables, until cooked through.

Meanwhile, cook farro to package directions.

To assemble, toss warm farro with a drizzle of dressing and place on a serving plate.

Top with warm roasted vegetables and remaining dressing.

Garnish with feta cheese and pumpkin seeds. **OH**

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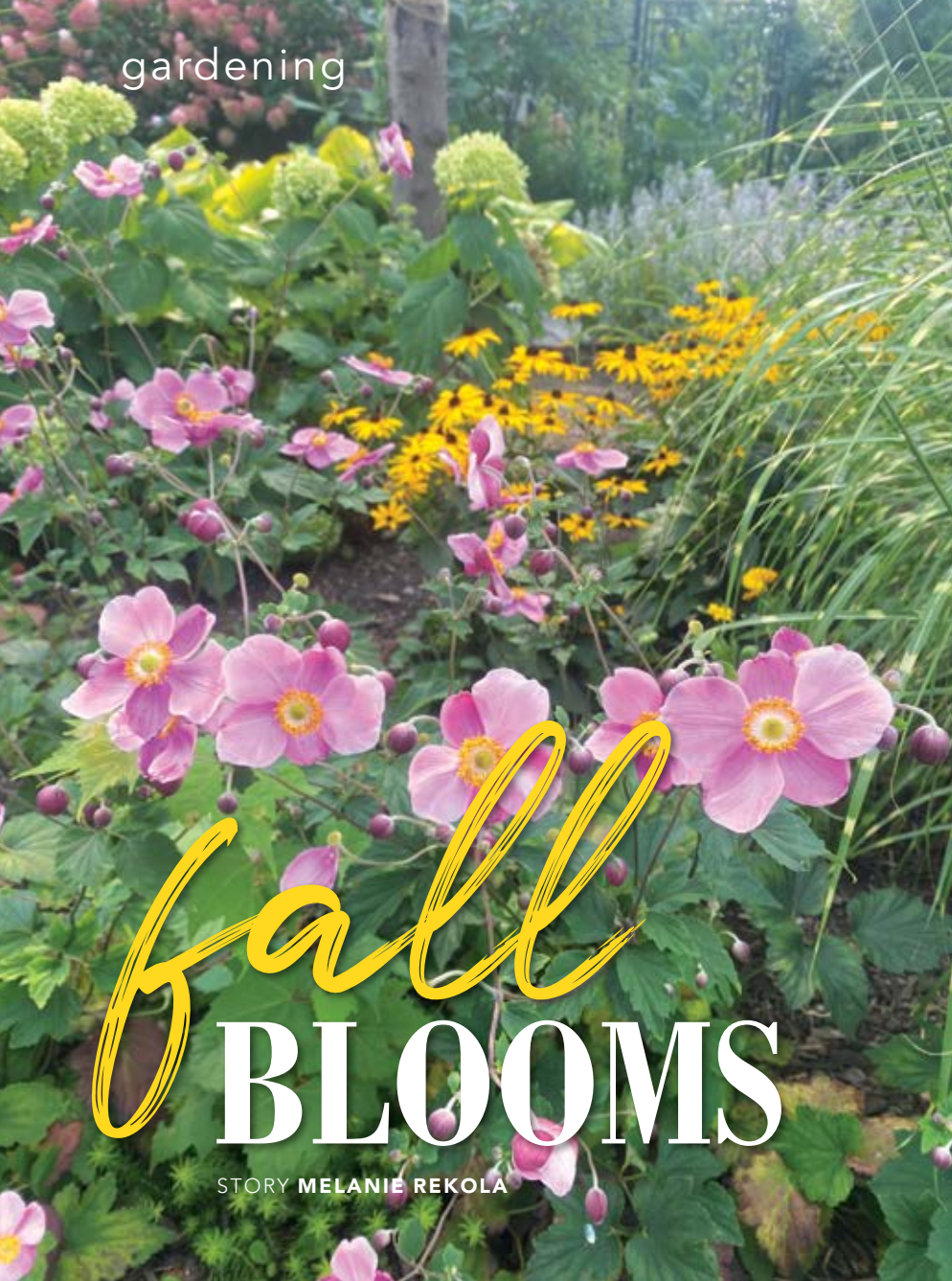
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When we think of fall gardens, many of us often imagine ornamental grasses, the changing colour of leaves and perhaps some berries. Of course these are part of the beautiful autumn season but garden flowers should not be forgotten! Add some spice to your blooming borders and keep your flower show going right up until frost with these beauties.



### NEW ENGLAND ASTER (SYMPHYOTRICHUM NOVAE-ANGLIAE)

One of the first fall flowers that comes to mind, New England asters are the backbone of many attractive fall borders. These reliable, native perennials form dense, fluffy mounds of white, purple, pink or blue flowers. Growing between 36 and 72 inches and requiring moist soil and part shade to sun, they're also extremely attractive to butterflies, particularly hungry monarchs looking for a meal along their fall migration path.

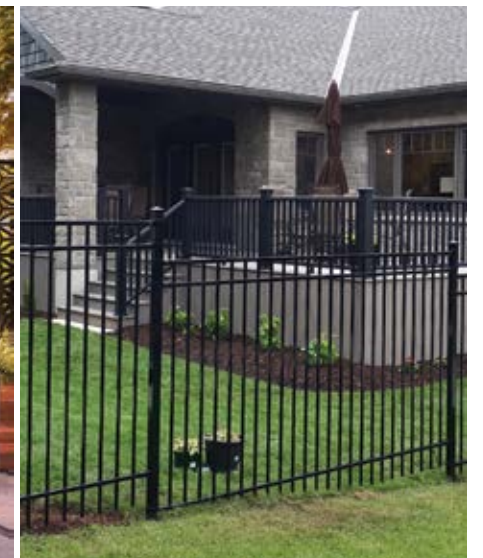
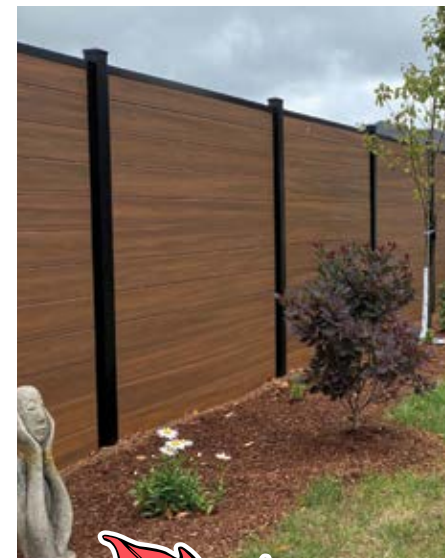


### DENIM 'N LACE RUSSIAN SAGE (PEROVSKIA ATRIPLICIFOLIA)

The distinctive, lacy flower spikes of Russian sage can last for weeks, typically blooming at the end of the summer to early fall. I prefer this smaller 36-inch variety as it doesn't require staking. The beautiful amethyst-coloured blooms begin slowly, and the flower colour gets more brilliant as the small blooms fully open. Mass planting is the best way to enjoy its frothy purple spikes, and it needs full sun and well-draining soil to look its best. It is yet another pollinator favourite. You may be noticing a theme here.

*Continued on page 38*

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## gardening



### JAPANESE ANEMONE (ANEMONE X HYBRIDA)

Elegant Japanese anemone blossoms are a welcome treat to the late summer and fall garden. With pretty leaves and blossoms borne on tall, slender stems, the showy pink or white flowers come in abundance once the plant has had some years to establish. It's elegant in every stage – from tight round buds to spherical seed heads – and deserves a prominent place in the garden. Plant it in part shade to sun and give it enough moisture and you won't be disappointed. Like many of the other fall-blooming perennials, this one is also known to attract butterflies.



### JOE-PYE WEED (EUTROCHIIUM PURPUREUM)

Perennials don't get much tougher than Joe-Pye weed. This tall and rugged native Ontario plant can reach up to a towering seven feet, though there are some dwarf varieties including Baby Joe available. It can spread aggressively, so be mindful where you plant it. It produces handsome burgundy-green foliage and has large, showy heads of whitish-purple flowers in the late summer and fall. Butterflies and bees love these nectar-rich flowers.



### BLACK-EYED SUSAN (RUDBECKIA HIRTA)

Likely one of the most popular wildflowers grown, native black-eyed Susans are a showstopper with their bright golden-yellow aura. These happy, daisy-like flower heads grow to about 36 inches, are drought-tolerant and require full sun. A very low-maintenance native perennial whose blooms make a long-lasting cut flower, these are also an excellent food flower for many hungry garden pollinators.



### TOAD LILY (TRICYRTIS HIRTA)

Unique and delicate, common toad lily blossoms appear much later than most other shade-loving plants. Reaching 24 to 36 inches, these upright, intricate, orchid-like and speckled flowers will stop you in your tracks. There aren't many plants that flower like these in shady situations. If you have a shade garden and need some fall flowers, this is the plant for you!



### STONECROP / SEDUM

These rugged plants are virtually indestructible and come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colours. Sedums have fleshy foliage that make them super drought tolerant. Plant them in a sunny spot and stand back in awe. It's the taller, upright varieties (growing 24 to 36 inches tall) that produce large flat heads of pink or red flowers through the late summer and fall. The nectar-rich blossoms attract all sorts of bees, butterflies and bird species. Some commonly seen fall-blooming varieties are sedum Autumn Joy and sedum Matrona but new varieties are popping up every year.



### NIPPON DAISY (NIPPONANTHEMUM NIPPONICUM)

Sometimes called Montauk daisy, Nippon daisy is well-known for its late-season explosion of perky, white flowers. It grows from 18 to 36 inches and thrives in full sun. Nippon daisy blooms from August to frost as both the leaves and flowers are frost tolerant. The nectar-rich blooms will also lure colourful butterflies to your garden.

**Most of these gorgeous, autumn-blooming lovelies are food-flowers for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Isn't Mother Nature so clever, making these plants flower at exactly the time when many pollinators need them? Of course gardens are beautiful to look at but they are so much more than just good looks to a host of other creatures. Gardens are in fact beautiful, blooming ecosystems! OH**

*Melanie is a certified horticulturist and landscape designer.*



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# FAMILY farmhouse

STORY **RACHAEL HAVENS** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



This century-old bank barn comes into view before the newly renovated farmhouse.



Lorna and John Freeburn love to relax on the large veranda overlooking the Saugeen River. **RIGHT:** The entrance from the carport into the home. Doors and windows were sourced through Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors.



A concrete walkway links the sliding doors of the kitchen to the veranda, passing by the lawn area that has hosted many family gatherings. The roof line of the former summer kitchen addition left its mark on the original section of the home.



WITH FIVE CHILDREN AND 13 GRANDCHILDREN, FAMILY IS EVERYTHING TO LORNA AND JOHN FREEBURN.

**JOHN IS ORIGINALLY** from Ireland but emigrated to Canada and found a job with homebuilders. They asked him to start building in Port Elgin. Lorna grew up in the area.

"John was always looking for a farm," says Lorna, even in those early days. In 1982, they found their first in Arran Township and raised their children there. Most of their children, four sons and one daughter, also work in the homebuilding industry.

Even though the Freeburns just moved into this particular farmhouse in April, it's been a part of their lives for years. Lorna and John rented and farmed the land, located near the Saugeen River, before buying it. *Continued on page 43*



Working with Lorna and John's existing furniture, Kate Robinson added new pieces including this armchair, one of two placed in this light-filled space. Some of the original flooring was replaced with white oak Opus Floors from Bigelow Flooring.



**RIGHT:** Walls are painted Swiss Coffee and all the trim Chantilly Lace, both by Benjamin Moore. Music mingles with the sound of the river when the large sliding door and windows are open. **BELOW:** The wood-burning stove from The Fyre Place & Patio Shop sits on limestone tiles from Owen Sound Ledgerrock, installed by Maple Leaf Flooring. **BELOW RIGHT:** Since this photo was taken, Robyn, Esme, Harvey, Eva, Fergus and Ira have joined the Freeburn clan.



PHOTO: LIGHT AND SHADOW PHOTOGRAPHY

During those years, they would canoe and kayak on the river with their kids. In winter, they would toboggan on the farm's many hills. They can't wait for their grandchildren to play outside like their parents did. "We like to do things as a family," says Lorna.

She relays the history of the home, which is more than 100 years old. There is another foundation, of both a house and barn, on top of a hill in the field at the farm. It's a beautiful

location with sweeping views, but years ago, the material from that home was moved down the hill and added to the current farmhouse.

The farmhouse is in its third act. Lorna and John enlisted **Kate Robinson** of **Home Town Design** to help complete a renovation that honours the old home. Born and raised in Grey-Bruce, Kate named her business in homage to returning to the place where she grew up. *Continued on page 45*

***"WE LIKE TO DO THINGS AS A FAMILY," SAYS LORNA.***





A large, divided farmhouse sink sits in the island, painted Black by Benjamin Moore. The custom cabinets are from Wood & Wallworks. Perimeter cabinets in Pale Oak by Benjamin Moore carry brushed brass hardware from Richelieu Hardware.



Pendant lights over the kitchen island were sourced at Georgian Design Centre. Appliances are from Square Deal Neil's. There's additional seating at the island.



**ABOVE:** The powder room honours the history of the home with some modern touches, like the wall-mounted faucet. An antique stool helps grandchildren reach the taps. **BELOW:** Windows surround the kitchen and offer a view of the river and farmland. Backsplash is Masia from the Europa Collection at Bigelow Flooring and installed by Maple Leaf Flooring.



Kate typically works on either new construction or large-scale renovations like this one. She was involved from the initial plans to the final styling and emphasizes that “the best way to use a designer is to bring them on at the very beginning of a project and keep them to the very end.” Lorna praises Kate’s ability to know exactly what she and John wanted. “She made the home feel like us,” says Lorna.

The Freeburns have lots of construction experience, mostly with new builds. The challenge with the farmhouse, says Lorna, was fitting what they wanted into the existing building. Luckily, they had their two sons, builders **Ben** and **Dylan Freeburn** of **Alair Homes Grey Bruce**.

All involved wanted to stay true to the farmhouse that was already there, and that meant a renovation that took down very few walls and a design that brought in many earth-toned elements, from the exposed brick, discovered during the renovation, to the natural limestone tile from **Owen Sound Ledgerrock** in the front entryway.

*Continued on page 47*



The exposed brick is a design feature on the large opening in the dining area. The table is set with heirloom china and crystal in the dining room. Hy-Mark Mechanical installed the heating and cooling throughout the home.



Serena Freeburn, Lorna and John's daughter-in-law, created the painting over a sideboard in the kitchen. **RIGHT:** Wood & Wallworks made the custom vanity in the guest bathroom. Pendant lighting from Georgian Design Centre hangs in front of the brick wall. Plumbing for the renovation was completed by Mike's Plumbing Services.



Kate Robinson of Home Town Design stands in the upper-level hallway.

Lorna's favourite spot at the farmhouse is the veranda that looks out to the river, where she and John sit just about every morning and every evening. A 10-foot sliding door from **Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors**, which supplied all the windows and doors, ensures that the living room has a river view as well. Kate's favourite room is "a tie between the twin bedroom and the powder room," which has an old-school, metal-bucket sink with

navy trim that coordinates with the navy tile on the floor. Tile was supplied by **Bigelow Flooring** and installed by **Clark Egger** at **Maple Leaf Fine Flooring**. Lighting was sourced at **Georgian Design Centre**, and appliances are from **Square Deal Neil's**. Paint from **Benjamin Moore** fills the house with a neutral palette of Swiss Coffee walls and Chantilly Lace trim throughout.

The kitchen, which walks the line between farmhouse and contemporary, is by **Wood & Wallworks**, which also completed all trim, mouldings and vanities. Kate completed the millwork drawings for the kitchen and vanities, and sourced tiles, plumbing, fixtures and finishes. She also sourced new furniture complemented by antiques in Lorna's collection. Custom pillows from **Picasso Designs** enhance the farmhouse feel.

Continued on page 50





The primary bedroom on the main floor gets a splash of colour from cushions and a throw. Wall-mounted bedside lights hang at the right level for reading. Electrical for the home was completed by G & M Electrical Mechanical Ltd.

Continued on page 50

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Twin iron beds wait for a sleepover. Botanical prints and cushions share a similar theme.

Their antique 16-foot dining table has found a new home. With 11 boards that allow it to extend through the archway into the living room, the table has been able to grow with the Freeburn family. Lorna and John can't wait for everyone to gather around that table once again. **OH**

**ABOVE:** In the primary en suite, a curbless shower with linear drain has both rain and handheld showerheads. Tile was sourced at Bigelow Flooring. **TOP LEFT:** In a guest room, a round bedside table offers plenty of space for books, flowers and a lamp. **TOP RIGHT:** In the convenient second floor laundry room, cabinetry by Wood & Wallworks, features a handy built-in drying rack.

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# Pet-Friendly BY DESIGN

STORY LOUIS DUNCAN-HE | PHOTOGRAPHY HEATHER DUNBAR

## Dogs

Dogs are probably the most common pets in homes, because really, what's not to love? What other member of your family will greet you with the same level of vigour and excitement after simply checking the mail? However, from a design perspective, dogs come with plenty of challenges. Consider paw prints, drool, general stains, shedding of hair and furniture chewing. When selecting fabrics with a dog in mind, focus on performance, colour and pattern to visually camouflage as much as you can. Consider using a medium-to-darker-toned fabric (greys, earth tones or navy), a print or a subtle heathered texturing as these have natural camouflaging properties for your heavy-use pieces.

*Continued on page 54*



Louis Duncan-He, founder and principal of Louis Duncan-He Designs, is an award-winning Canadian designer.



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Homeowners face the challenge of finding ways to live in a space they want with the realities they face.

Yes, most of the beautiful homes we see online and in magazines are art-directed and styled. They're meant to be aspirational, but the realities of day-to-day living are not always captured – makeshift work-from-home stations, designing for toddlers, teenagers and of course, living with pets. Good design always stems from function. A home's design direction needs to be sustainable and stand up to how it's used. When designing a home with pets, work with their needs, not against them. Here are some tips and tactics to keep your space looking its best while still housing your favourite friends.





Cats

Compared to dogs, cats don’t usually make as much of an obvious mess, as they tend to be a little more agile and are more likely to be inside. But what they lack in brute strength and chaos, they more than make up for in the sheer carnage they can cause by tearing into your furniture with their claws. When designing for cats, focus on the texture and weave of the fabric as opposed to the hue (granted, darker colours tend to hide stains better). Cats love any type of fabric they can literally sink their claws into. Broader weaves, rattan or macrame are not your friends. Instead, opt for tighter and more condensed fabrics like velvet, suede, microfiber or other synthetics like acrylic, polyester or nylon. They will be harder to scratch without ample grip. Keep your cats away from the furniture by having a spray bottle handy – this will help to teach them their limits.

Birds, Lizards and Fish

For other pets like birds, lizards, fish or any type of creature that requires a cage or tank, don’t try to work around them, work with them. Treat this as an opportunity to get creative and design with intent and purpose. A client’s daughter wanted her songbird in the living room next to the piano, so we looked for a beautiful antique cage and painted it white to match the overall tone of the space. Having it hung with a custom chain next to the grand piano created a beautiful vignette. Fish tanks or aquariums can be beautiful as well, especially when integrated into millwork. If you are able to customize in any way, it’s well worth the money.



When it comes to designing any space, it’s easier to go with the flow and embrace the challenges, using them as a gateway to spark innovation and creativity. This is especially true when designing a home with pets. You can have a beautiful home with pets, it just takes a little planning, strategizing and thoughtful material selection. Pets are an integral part of our families because they often add the most important ingredient to designing a truly welcoming home – love. **oh**



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STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH** | ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

Housing prices across Ontario are soaring. A recent Aviva Canada report found 31 per cent of Canadians are considering relocating as a result of the pandemic, with more than one third considering a move to a semi-rural or rural location. And that doesn't include the thousands of people who have already moved to greener pastures over the past year.

*Continued on page 58*



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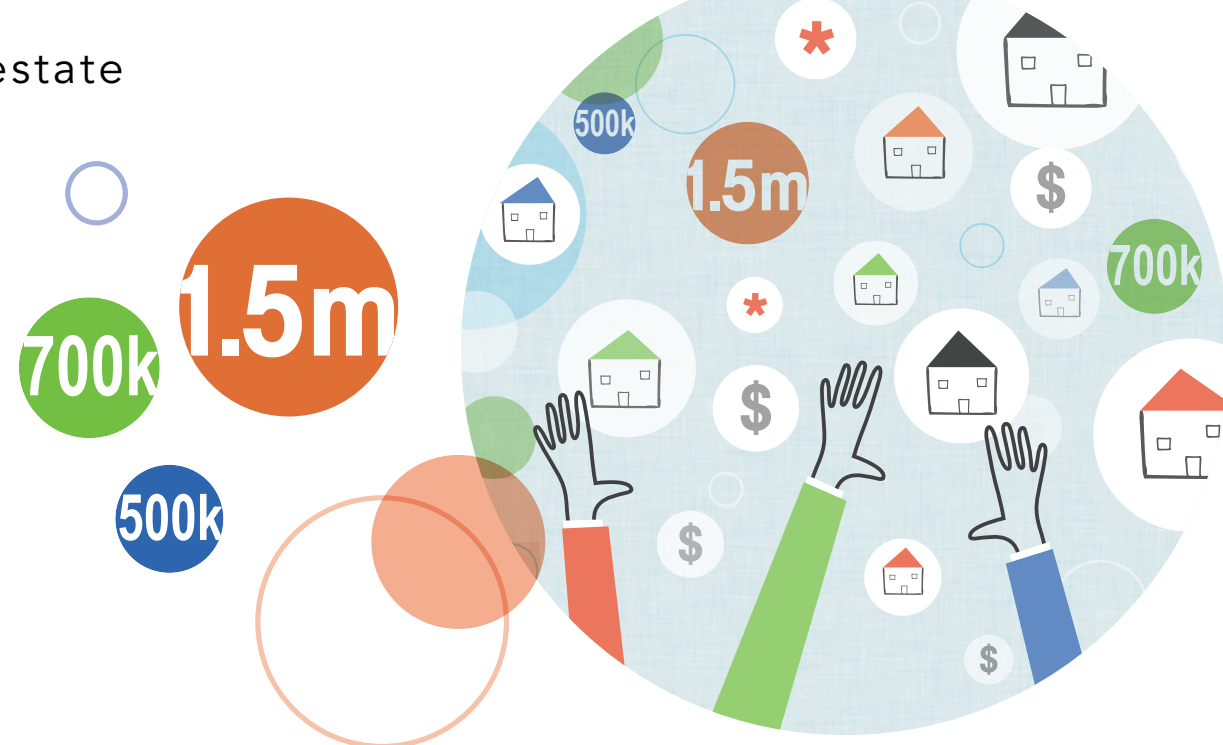
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**THE LATEST PASTIME** on every street in Ontario is finding the answer to “How much did they get?” and then dreaming of upsizing or downsizing with a pocket full of dough. Imagine being a realtor in this crazy housing market.

Sherry Rioux, with the Rioux Baker Team at Clairwood Real Estate Corporation, has been a realtor for 16 years in the Southern Georgian Bay region, where home sales have reached historic levels and housing prices are at an all time high.

“Sellers have to be reminded that although we remain in a strong seller’s market, we can’t let greed overtake common sense,” says Sherry. “Many sellers are doubling and tripling what they originally paid for their properties in a very short time. But sometimes we can easily lose sight of what is a “good and fair” offer. That can come back to bite you if you lose perspective and don’t listen to the advice of an experienced, knowledgeable realtor. Sherry uses waterfront measurements, price per square foot, comparables and local real estate statistics to guide her sellers. “There are many ways to create a list price, and it takes experience, market knowledge and a bit of good luck!”

Home values in Windsor and Essex County barely budged for years until the onslaught of the pandemic. In June, the average price of a home jumped a whopping 38 per cent, and sales increased by almost seven per cent compared to a year ago.

Windsor’s John Rauti, the top producer for 17 years at Remo Valente Real Estate, represents both local and out-of-town buyers.

“Most are buying in this region because prices are lower than where they’re coming from,” he says. He too has to temper the expectations of sellers. “My advice to sellers is simple: Price the home properly and accordingly. Do not let a hot market go to your head; you could price yourself out and pay for it later.”

In Ottawa, Brent Conley of Royal LePage Team Realty says it’s more strategic to list at equivalent market value to similar sales that have recently sold. “In some instances, it may motivate and spur activity and showings to list slightly below market value,” he says. Brent says his buyers must be pre-approved so he knows what their top-dollar purchase power truly is. Ottawa’s resale market is starting to stabilize after a busy spring. The average price of a residential home in July was \$645,426.

Buyers, of course, are still on edge, some forced to put most of their nest egg into the housing basket, yet getting out-bid for properties over and over again.

“We are experiencing a lot of buyer fatigue right now,” says Sherry. “My team members and I have had clients who have submitted offers on four or five different properties and have lost out.” That forced Sherry and her team to change their strategy. “In the beginning we would suggest that they put their best foot forward with the highest price they were prepared to pay and add in some representations and warranties to protect them,” Sherry explains. “As you start to lose out on the bidding process you quickly turn your strategy to, ‘If the next buyer gets this property for even one dollar more than you offered, will you be upset?’

If the answer is yes then that is not your number.’ That means submitting the offer as clean as possible, meaning no conditions, no seller representations and warranties. I don’t personally feel that this is the best way to represent buyers, but if you don’t follow those rules, your buyers always lose out.”

John urges his buyers to think long-term. “When you are interested in buying a specific home, take a look at the potential future value,” he advises. “Do not look at the past or historical value. Remember the area comes into play as well. This can help you to make a proper offer and get the home!”

For these realtors, the current market is exhilarating, lucrative and frustrating.

John tells clients who have been pushed out of the market to cut frivolous spending and start saving, just like house hunters in expensive cities like Toronto and Ottawa have to do. “I tell them to start off in their price range and respect and take care of their home investment so it appreciates to its fullest potential,” he says.

Brent says his biggest frustration is low inventory. “I can’t satisfy expectations,” he says. “I find this difficult to navigate as I truly want my clients to be happy and satisfied and to achieve their personal and financial goals.”

Without a crystal ball, it’s anyone’s guess how long the red hot market will continue.

“Buyer fatigue is showing its true colours right now,” says Sherry. “But I do expect to see a continued seller’s market. With low interest rates and a strong demand to own in Southern Georgian Bay, I could see this continue well into 2023.” **OH**



#### Massie Road, Chatsworth

Authentic Century farm house built in 1887 perched on 50 acres. Scenic drive to the farm; the road stretches uphill and the trees meet in the middle of the road. The house was placed by the original farmer at the high point where the wind works much of the time to provide a pleasant breeze. Genuine country stone house; façade of rare cut stone with a place for your boots by the backdoor. Signs of the original workmanship throughout. High ceilings and original pine plank floors. Floor joists in the basement are pine trees with the bark still on them! Solar panels with excellent income generating and located on the south side of the historic bank barn. Environmentally sensitive wood heating by European wood stoves when desired. The farm has had zero chemicals on it for at least 30 years. The fields directly across the street are identified as organic. Small private freshwater trout spawning brook and additional pond by the house. Trails have been cut and maintained that provides a 2 kilometre track for walking and snowshoeing. Lovely grounds and grand lawn and split rail fence as you approach the home. And perhaps, most importantly, there is a vibrant community life with area events, a local newsletter, a community church and tiny concert hall. So much to offer!

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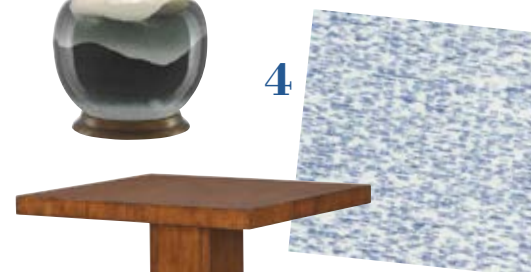
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# INTERIOR MOTIVES

PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

## THE PLACE

Kerri McLean had a career for many years in the food service industry, but she had a dream and a talent for interior decorating. She went back to school to study interior design and switched careers. After graduating, Kerri renovated a building on the family farm to establish her business, **Interior Motives & Co.** Initially she offered repurposed and painted furniture, workshops, colour and design consultations and home staging. She's added unique and interesting décor pieces to highlight the finished furniture along with custom drapery, Canadian-made sofas, chairs and ottomans. Kerri uses her decorating talents to coordinate the merchandise and create inspiring displays that offer ideas and themes for her customers. Kerri loves Christmas and changes the store into a Christmas wonderland of gifts and furnishings for every style. Kerri's aim is to help everyone who visits create a warm and inviting home that brings happiness.



Owner Kerri McLean



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Using Instagram and Facebook, *Live on Tuesday* became an avenue for Kerri to reach her customers during lockdown. It was a fun and informative way to engage with clients when in-store visits weren't possible and Kerri says it's so popular it will continue. New products are highlighted, with ideas on how to incorporate them into your home. Viewers can ask questions and place orders.



## ATMOSPHERE

Soya candles, with Interior Motives & Co. signature scents, are hand-poured on-site. The selection of interesting containers in a variety of materials makes choosing just one difficult. Once the candle burns, bring the container back for a refill.



## GREAT ADDITION

The Nestle chair by Van Gogh Designs is exclusive to the store and is perfect for "couple cuddles" or a luxurious space for one on cool fall nights. Choose from a selection of fabrics to help fit this comfortable item into any interior.



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# PAPER PALM LEAVES

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
ERIN ROCHON

Add some drama into your décor with this paper palm leaf project. The scale and neutral tones are right on-trend for this fun, creative DIY.

## MATERIALS

Brown kraft paper  
Scissors  
Tape  
Wooden dowel  
Pencil  
Glue stick

## HOW-TO

To make a large palm leaf, cut one 24-inch section of kraft paper. Fold the paper in half. Starting on the folded side of the paper, draw half a palm leaf in a teardrop shape. Once you are happy with the shape and size, cut the outline and unfold the leaf.



Next, create an accordion fold by making several alternating folds, creating panels that are similar in size. An easy way to get even panels is to begin folding on the side of your leaf outline. Fold your first panel approximately one-half inch from the edge of the leaf.

Flip your paper over so the first folded section is on the bottom. Fold the next section, using your first section as a size guide. Continue this step until the whole leaf is folded.



Pinch the panels together at the larger end of your leaf and place your dowel in the middle. Tape the panel and dowel together where they meet.

Cut a small piece of kraft paper and apply glue to one side. Wrap the paper around the base to cover the tape. This will give your palm leaf a seamless look.

Create a grouping of leaves, with different shapes and sizes for more impact. Use your favourite vase to showcase your gorgeous palm leaves. **OH**

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Rörstrand: Swedish Grace Dinnerware



Wedgwood: Arris Collection

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Villeroy & Boch: Cellini Dinnerware & Victor Flatware



Rörstrand: Swedish Grace Gala Dinnerware



Wedgwood: Intaglio Dinnerware with Vera Wang Polished Gold Flatware



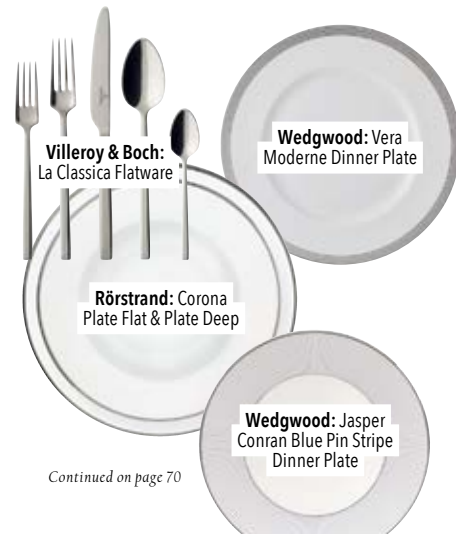
Wedgwood: Arris Collection



Villeroy & Boch: MetroChic Dinnerware with MetroChic d'Or Flatware & Allegorie Premium Glassware



Villeroy & Boch: Royal Dinnerware



Villeroy & Boch: La Classica Flatware

Rörstrand: Corona Plate Flat & Plate Deep

Wedgwood: Vera Moderne Dinner Plate

Wedgwood: Jasper Conran Blue Pin Stripe Dinner Plate

Continued on page 70



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The timberframe gazebo, by the Great Lakes Frame Company, has a view of Pike Bay, which can be enjoyed while relaxing by the fireplace. Outdoor furniture is from The Fyre Place & Patio Shop. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The dazzling style of the home starts outside with the timberframe detail over the porch and in the peak of the roof installed by Bolton Roofing. The circular driveway follows the 180-degree view of the water. Hutten & Co. Land & Shore designed and completed the landscaping. **BOTTOM:** Desboro Doors made the solid and substantial three-panel pine front door. Sidelights let the sunshine into the foyer.



# *a tribute to* THE TREES

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

Andrew Burgess grew up in Mississauga but spent every summer at the octagonal cottage his father built at Pike Bay while pumping gas at the local marina. He eventually moved to Grimsby where he met Kelly, got married and started his engineering firm. In June 2016 the pair started to build their new home on the same three lots where his father built the original family cottage.

*Continued on page 74*





The dining table was constructed by The Great Lakes Frame Company and is surrounded by chairs from Country Charm Mennonite Furniture. The timbers for the home and the table are handcrafted white pine. Lighting was sourced through Elm Ridge Lighting & Interiors.



"I'M DEFINITELY NOT A CITY GUY ANYMORE," says Andrew, and it's no wonder. It would be difficult to call this four-bedroom, three bath timberframe built by The Great Lakes Frame Company anything but home. Surrounded by pine and birch trees, the property sits on its own peninsula. "It's a rare flat site near the water," says **Pliny Loucks**, owner of **The Great Lakes Frame Company**. "The location is wonderful with exceptional natural features. The house sits on a point on the Lake Huron side, and it's designed to take advantage of the views."

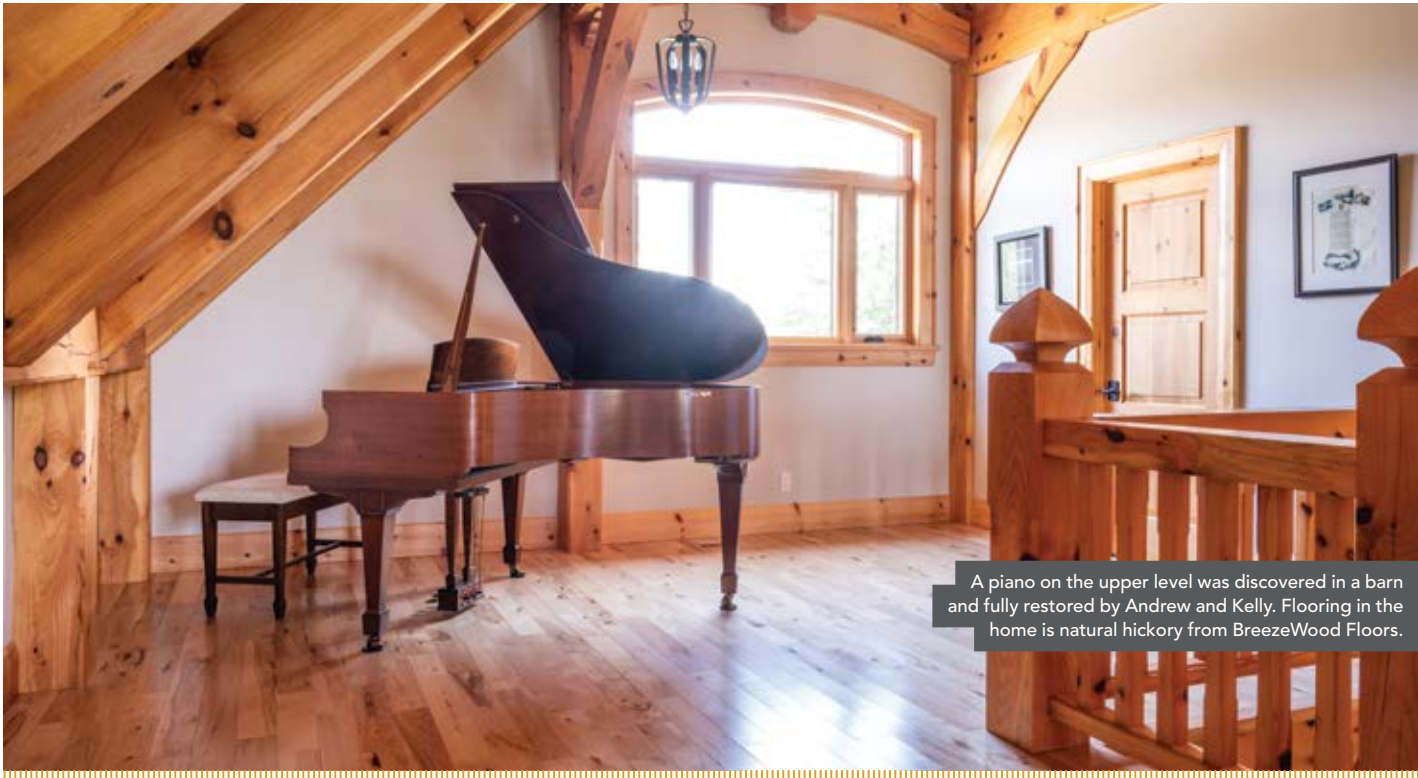
With 11 sliding-glass doors and two floors of windows facing the lake, the views are impossible to miss. It blends the rocks, trees and water with the home, which is built to incorporate those natural elements into the interior. Kelly and Andrew can enjoy the natural beauty of the landscape anywhere inside. Standing in the open-concept living area with Ontario hickory floors feels like standing in a cosy forest. The fireplace from **The Fyre Place & Patio Shop** stands at the centre of the home and rises to the second floor through the canopy of the vaulted ceiling. The living room has a wraparound view of the water and a floor-to-ceiling sliding-glass door to a flagstone patio. Kelly and Andrew's main-floor primary bedroom features a large en suite.

*Continued on page 77*

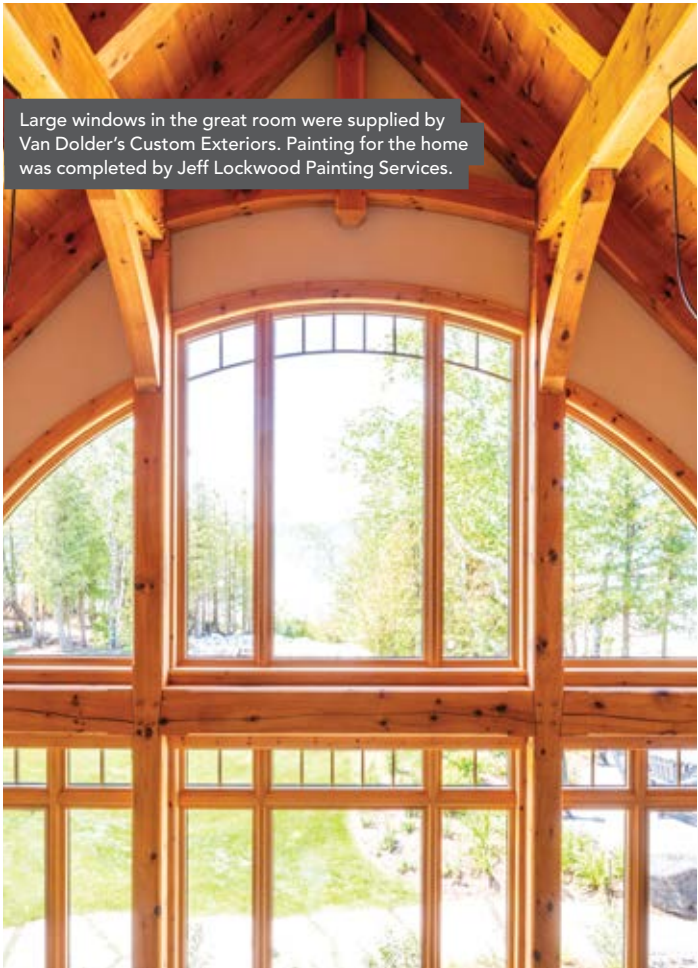


**TOP:** The dining area has a spectacular view of the waterfront through large sliding-glass doors. **ABOVE:** A sweet treat of phyllo filled with apples and cinnamon is enjoyed with a cup of coffee. **LEFT:** A large island in the kitchen serves as a prep space and serving area. Quartz counters are from The Stone Shop. The Timeless Material Company provided the solid knotty pine used to trim all windows and doors.





A piano on the upper level was discovered in a barn and fully restored by Andrew and Kelly. Flooring in the home is natural hickory from BreezeWood Floors.



Large windows in the great room were supplied by Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors. Painting for the home was completed by Jeff Lockwood Painting Services.



The wood-burning Napoleon fireplace from The Fyre Place & Patio Shop has a guillotine door, and its soaring stone chimney was completed by McCutcheon's Masonry.

"My favourite spot in a timberframe house is often the second floor," says Pliny, "because you're living in the timberframe." That is exactly the feeling Kelly and Andrew enjoy when they climb the open-tread staircase to the upper balcony.

The second floor features three bedrooms and a common bath on one side of a sitting room. One bedroom features a dormer, while another has a walkout balcony overlooking the lake on one side of the home. A third bedroom upstairs features another walkout with a view of the lake on the other side of the peninsula. **Jeff Lockwood Painting Services** painted the interior of the entire home.

Andrew says the most amazing part of the process was the ceremony that Pliny held for them when the frame was raised.

Pliny describes building a timberframe home as a turn-of-the-century barn raising. "But take that attitude and replace the horses with a crane," he says. "When we stand a timberframe, we climb to the top and nail a pine bough to the highest peak. It's a Bavarian tradition to thank the trees that gave their lives for the house. It also gives us a chance to thank the homeowner for being a part of their project and to thank the staff." *Continued on page 78*



A friendly black bear.

**TOP LEFT:** The vanity with carved-stone vessel sink in the powder room is topped with quartz from The Stone Shop. Plumbing for the project was entrusted to Mueller Plumbing Contractors. **ABOVE:** The intricate detail of the timbers can be enjoyed from the upper level of the home. The stair railing and newel posts were built by The Great Lakes Frame Company.



“He hosted a barbecue for all of the neighbours,” says Andrew. “It’s supposed to be good luck for the family.” Pliny takes this ceremony and the sentiment of thanking the land very seriously, ensuring that for every tree that is cut down for his projects, a new tree is planted.

Four years after the build, the couple offers glowing reviews of Pliny and his team. “They were really efficient,” says Kelly. “He’s honest and met all the major milestones. He coordinated everything. He wasn’t our general contractor, but he acted like it.” Landscaping was designed and built by **Hutten & Co. Land and Shore**. *Continued on page 82*

**RIGHT:** Pliny Loucks, owner of The Great Lakes Frame Company and the company’s architectural designer, Melissa Emke. **BELOW:** The firepit offers a wonderful view of the water and boat dock. Hutten & Co. Land and Shore divided the shoreline area to create intimate conversation areas linked with pathways.



**ABOVE:** The cedar sauna, supplied by Hutten & Co. Land and Shore, is hidden in a stand of cedars at the shoreline. **LEFT:** After a hectic work day, the sauna not only melts away tired muscles but relaxes the mind with its view of the bay.





The primary en suite has a large shower with tile walls that reach to the ceiling. Tile was sourced at the Tile Depot and installed by Rutherford Flooring. The vessel tub was positioned to enjoy the view of Pike Bay.

Continued on page 82



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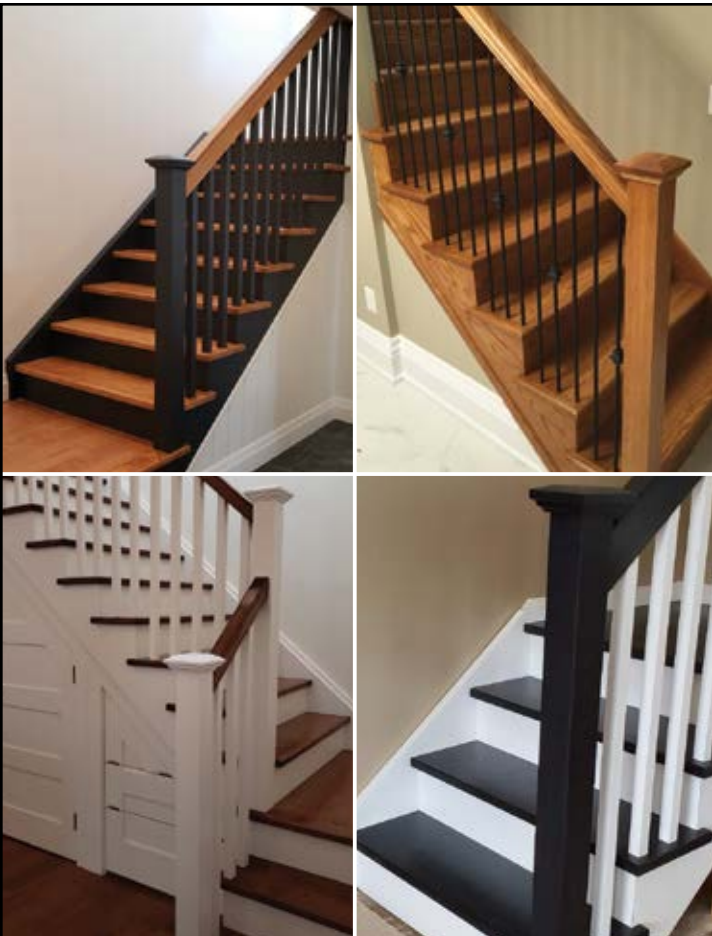


**LEFT:** The sloping timberframe roof frames the bed in a guest room. Quality Air Systems installed the heating and cooling. **RIGHT:** The bright laundry room has plenty of storage for beach towels and overflow groceries from the kitchen. Electrical was installed by Ashpark Electric. **BELOW:** The primary bedroom is furnished with an impressive four-poster bed. Sliding doors lead to a covered porch.



“I think successful people enjoy what they do, and Pliny does,” adds Andrew. “He definitely works extra hours.” The feeling is mutual for Pliny. “Andrew and Kelly were a pleasure to work with,” he says. “They had great ideas and were open to listening to ours.”

“It’s been amazing living here during COVID when the world has been upside down and in turmoil,” says Kelly. “The house made things more bearable. We really have nothing to complain about.” Their kids are making plans to bring friends, and they’re even starting to have friends up on weekends. The pair say they are looking forward to their future at Pike Bay. “We wouldn’t do it any other way.” **OH**



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PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



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*Continued on page 86*



**Adam Lesperance,**  
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I was born in Wiarton and grew up on my family’s maple syrup, dairy and beef farm in Park Head. For my entire life, I have lived, worked and farmed in Bruce County. I am a proud part of the Terri Hastings Group of real estate professionals, which operates under Keller Williams Realty. With offices in Wiarton, Tobermory and Port Elgin, I am able to efficiently assist my clients in selling or purchasing a new home.



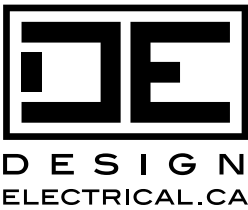
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*Continued on page 88*



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Continued on page 90

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*Continued on page 92*

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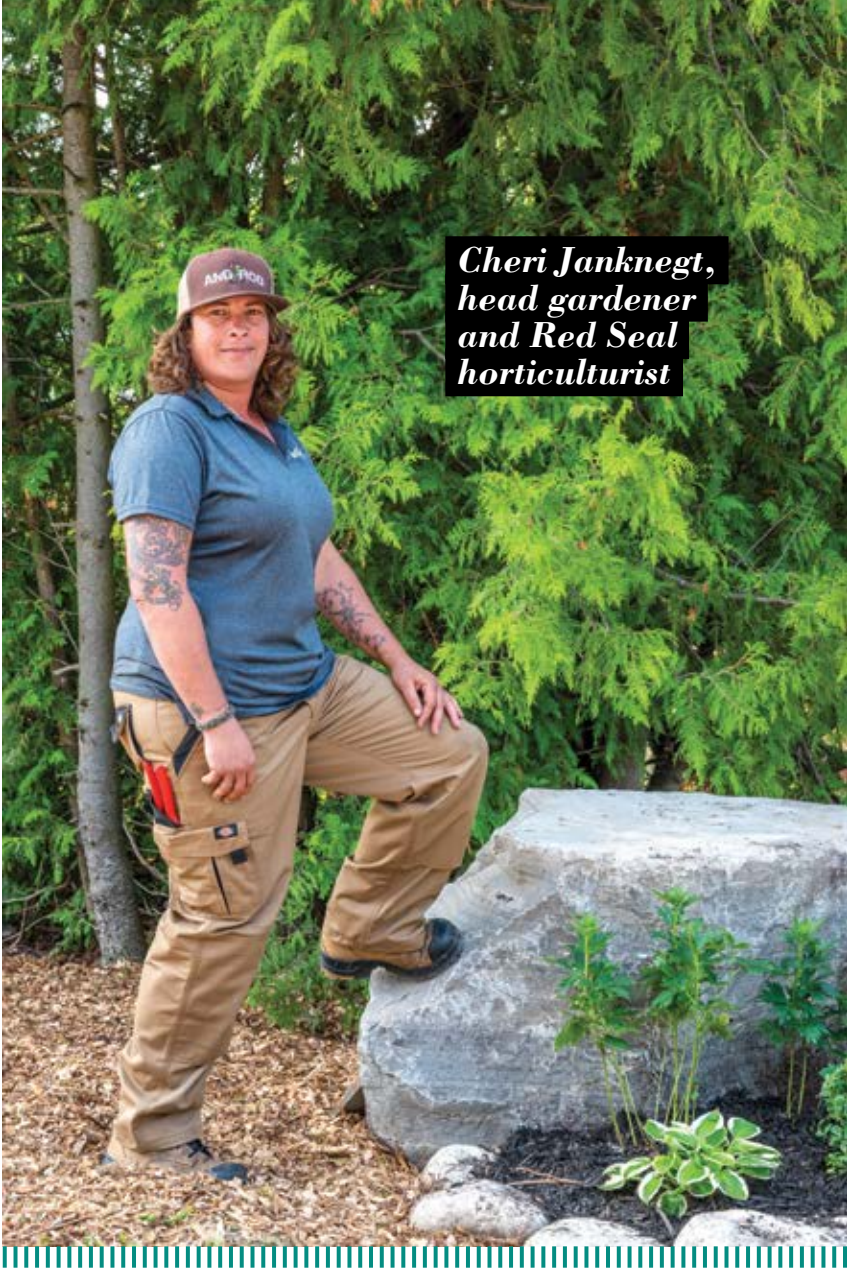
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Continued on page 94

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## Technology that powers the most advanced mobile networks can now power your home Internet.

### Xplornet's new wireless LTE Technology delivers cutting edge Internet to everyone in town.

There's so much to love about living in rural Ontario: less traffic, fresh air, and a strong community connection. Sometimes all these benefits come with a trade off: putting up with slow, unreliable Internet service.

### Xplornet delivers beyond the reach where other Internet providers can't.

Anyone with access to a phone at home has access to DSL Internet. But DSL technology is limited in that it can't deliver the speed that today's homes demand. Xplornet uses towers similar to cell phone towers for Internet connections instead. The technology that delivers high speed from these towers is called Long Term Evolution – you likely have heard it referred to as LTE. And that's what Xplornet has just made in your neighbourhood.

### The technology that powers the world's most advanced mobile networks can now power your home Internet.

Here's how this technology works: Towers use cutting edge fibre optic technology to communicate with a router that Xplornet installs in or near your home. This router is what connects your devices (laptops, tablets and smartphones) to the Internet. To have these devices online at the same time, you need high speed; that's why we offer Xplore 50/10 UNLIMITED.<sup>1</sup>

What does Xplore 50/10 UNLIMITED offer? It's our fastest download speed up to 50 Mbps and upload speed of 10 Mbps<sup>1</sup>, plus unlimited data! As most people know, it's very easy to go through monthly data when streaming or gaming, but with our truly unlimited data, there is no more added stress and worry about overage fees!

Xplore 50/10 UNLIMITED offers speed fast enough to stream your favourite shows and movies, connect multiple devices online at the same time, download large files in seconds and enjoy real-time online gaming. Plans start at \$99.99/month<sup>2</sup> and provide truly unlimited data!

### Xplornet's router allows you to access the Internet from anywhere in your house.

Challenged to get good Wi-Fi everywhere in your house? Ask about Xplornet's optimized home router solution; it delivers a strong, fast Wi-Fi signal to every room in your house. Best of all, Xplornet Dealers are local so they can install and get you up and running on the network within days.

Why keep putting up with spotty Internet service, or data limits? Xplornet's new wireless LTE home Internet can put an end to all that. To learn more about Xplornet's high-speed Internet or to find out about plan details, Visit [fast.xplornet.com/advertorials](https://fast.xplornet.com/advertorials) or call 1-866-311-5888.



Yes, this plan is available to existing customers. Yes, your Internet data is truly unlimited. There is no soft cap. <sup>1</sup>Speeds vary based on your technical configuration, traffic, servers, and other factors. Traffic management policy applies, see [xplornet.com/policies](https://xplornet.com/policies). <sup>2</sup>This pricing is exclusively for new customers and expires October 31, 2021. Includes rental cost of equipment, except optional Xplornet Wi-Fi router. Netflix is a trademark of Netflix Inc. YouTube is a trademark of YouTube Inc. Xplornet® is a trademark of Xplornet Communications Inc. ©2021 Xplornet Communications Inc.





# ROOM to GROW

STORY **MICHELLE BERWICK**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **LARRY ARNAL**

The return of childhood: Prior to March 2020, our kids were being pushed to their limits. Full-time school, homework and tutoring after school, sports, music lessons, martial arts, birthday parties every weekend. Bam! The pandemic hit. Finding ourselves at home for weeks at a time, the need for whimsy and daydreaming became a thing again. So we're back to creating spaces for fun and creativity at home. Their bedrooms are a great place to start. Here are some of our favourite whimsical kids' rooms.



A bedroom that is just as bright and special as the little one who gets to call either one of these spaces their own.

Continued on page 98



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decorating



A bedroom fit for two. Sharing a bedroom can be a struggle, but if this were my room I'd be happy to share it!

## Blue Heaven

This room is easy to accessorize with your child's favourite things. Blue is the perfect backdrop to add personality.



An outdoorsy mountain mural creates a serene and tranquil spot for growing up.

A themed element adds a personal touch. Here we brought a sophisticated nod to a nautical, cottage vibe through small accessories that can easily change out as tastes evolve.

You can have a ton of fun creating a special place for your little one to grow up. Playing with colours, textures, wall decals and décor will set the stage for creativity to run wild and dreams to become endless. **OH**

*Michelle Berwick is an award-winning published designer and principal and creative founder of Michelle Berwick Design.*

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in the kitchen

# COOKIE CRUSH

## THE BITE-SIZE HISTORY OF COOKIE JARS



STORY JULES TORTI

Children and dogs have one superpower in common. Both have the uncanny ability to sniff out a cookie jar at 50 paces, even if the jar is located out of their field of vision.



Cookie jars, long synonymous with doting grandmothers in flour-dusted aprons, have found their place in nearly every kitchen, regardless of whether the cookies inside are from scratch or a package.

While millennials clamour to the romantic ideal of cottagecore, Gen Xers prominently display Star Wars stormtrooper and Death Star cookie jars alongside shiny espresso machines and living green walls.

From skulls to pineapples, vintage to Tuscan, cookie jars are nostalgic and timeless with a magnetic attraction. Andy Warhol fell prey to the captivating designs with more than 175 ceramic jars in his coveted collection. Just how many jars are acceptable for one kitchen counter? How does one choose between the vintage VW camper or smiling chihuahua? Kitsch features largely along with throwbacks to Smokey Bear, the Pillsbury Doughboy, Little Lulu and every Disney character you can recall. *Continued on page 102*



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in the kitchen

All vintage cookie jar images are courtesy of [etsy.com/ca/shop/TrinketsnTreasuresBC](https://www.etsy.com/ca/shop/TrinketsnTreasuresBC)



Vintage Bartlett Collins Glass Lidded Cookie Jar

Vintage McCoy "Cookies" Cookie Jar

Edible history traces the invention of biscuit jars (or barrels) to the 18th century and jolly old England. Glass, metal and stoneware varieties evolved into more creative ceramic options. The designs began simplistically with floral embellishments or images of fruit and vegetables. With innovation, the jars took on the form of animals and popular characters. Post-war, companies decided to take a bite out of the growing popularity by incorporating advertising onto tins. Cookie tins and jars were becoming collectible, and for brands that had nothing to do with cookies – like Harley-Davidson or Coca-Cola – the tins were a surreptitious way to imprint.

With history comes controversy, as cookie jars were a popular outlet for stereotypical racial caricatures. McCoy Aunt Jemima jars



Vintage American Bisque Pottery Co. Smiling Cow Cookie Jar

issued by Quaker Oats in the 1940s remain highly sought-out Black memorabilia items by the public and museum collectors alike since the recent branding change to Pearl Milling Company.

McCoy Pottery of Roseville, Ohio, and American Bisque of West Virginia are touted as foundational companies in the cookie jar movement, with the earliest kitchenware design appearing in 1929 by another Ohio manufacturer: Brush Pottery Company. American Bisque designs are easily recognized as the company specialized in generic clowns, Dutch girls and boys, grannies and chefs.

Jump ahead several decades to the 80s and the innovative scheme by Kraft to market peanut butter jars that could be repurposed as cookie holders. The bear head-shaped glass



Vintage McCoy Raggedy Ann Cookie Jar

jars topped with a plastic green lid (or red, for the crunchy-PB devout) are iconic, right down to their jaunty bowties. Whether the jars were filled to their brims with cookies or coins, both were an ideal investment. To boot, Kraft's classic three-ingredient cookies (1 egg, ½ cup of sugar and 1 cup of Kraft Smooth Peanut Butter) continues to provide an entry-level recipe for kids and newbies to attempt with a high-level of success.

Cookie jars are sentimental, purposeful and a whimsical way to showcase your interests and style. The options are so niche that they can be an ideal, unexpected housewarming gift. You can actually find a Mr. T-inspired cookie jar for your in-law who is a rabid A-Team fan. Don't forget to fill the jar with cookies for the ultimate surprise, though! **OH**



Vintage Coca-Cola Cookie Jar



Vintage Eden Toys Inc. Paddington Bear Cookie Jar



Vintage McCoy Coffee Grinder Cookie Jar



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# *Peanut Butter & Jelly* SANDWICH COOKIES

Your favourite childhood sandwich just became your new favourite cookie. Perfect for after-school snacks, these PB & J cookies are your classic peanut butter cookie with a tangy raspberry filling. They'll bring back childhood memories and create new ones.

RECIPE AND PHOTOS **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**



## HOW-TO

Prepare the raspberry filling. In a saucepan over medium heat, cook raspberries into a jam-like consistency. Press through a fine strainer to remove the seeds and return to the saucepan. Cook purée until thickened. Line a sheet pan with foil and spread the puree flat. Freeze for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, cream the butter and sugars together. Add peanut butter and mix until combined. Add egg and vanilla and mix until combined. Add flour and baking powder and mix just until the dough comes together.

Remove the frozen raspberry puree from the freezer and cut into 12 squares. Take a golf-ball-size piece of dough and split it in half. Flatten one half of the dough and place the raspberry puree in the middle. Cover with the remaining dough and form into a ball, ensuring that all of the raspberry puree is covered. Place on baking sheet and score the top by gently pressing down on the cookie with a fork.

These cookies are quite big, so they will take a bit longer to cook. Bake for 15 minutes or until cookies begin to brown around the edges. **OH**

online

Get more recipes at [ourhomes.ca/blog/recipes](https://ourhomes.ca/blog/recipes)

## INGREDIENTS Makes 12 Cookies

- 2 cups raspberries, fresh or frozen
- ½ cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ tsp baking powder



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(Please see ad on pg 11)



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As the company matured, we came to realize that our passion is "Delivering Innovative Solutions in Wood". We offer our clients custom design services (using CAD drawing generation), precision fabrication and installation.

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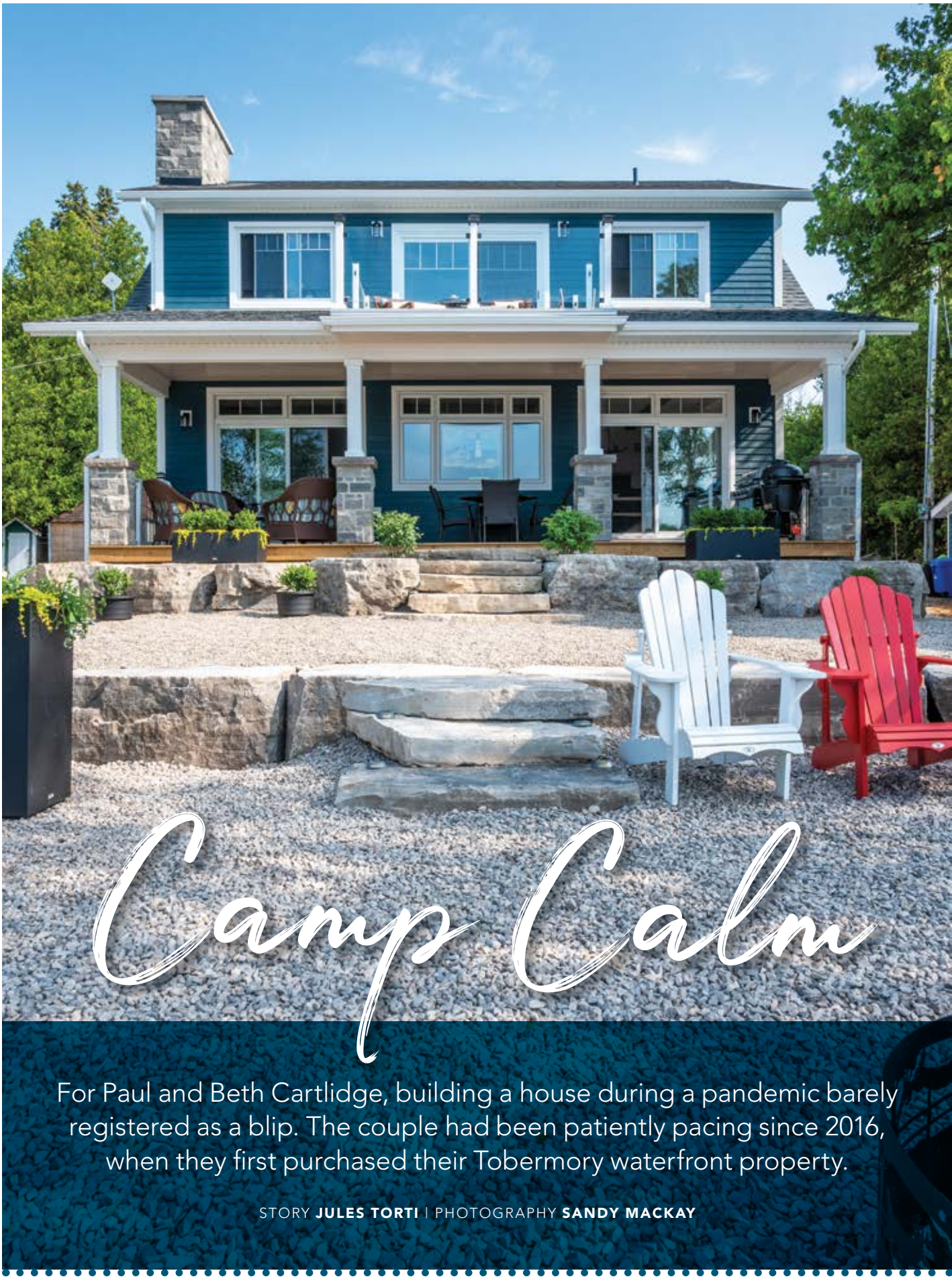
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# Camp Calm

For Paul and Beth Cartlidge, building a house during a pandemic barely registered as a blip. The couple had been patiently pacing since 2016, when they first purchased their Tobermory waterfront property.

STORY **JULES TORTI** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



Tobermory's protected harbour is always busy. Red Muskoka chairs are placed to enjoy the beauty of this waterfront location. **OPPOSITE:** The deep, covered rear porch is a comfortable space to relax on hot sunny days. The upper balcony is adjacent to the primary bedroom. Armour stone and pea gravel tiers were installed by AND-ROD Landscape and Garden Care Solutions and by Rydall Contracting. Grey Bruce Roofing installed the roof.

*Five years later,* they are grateful for the obstacles that suspended their project. "The best thing that happened to us was that decisions couldn't be made," Beth confides. Built in 1920, the harbour home and former fishing charter company had succumbed to mould, bats and a questionable foundation.

"The longer we stayed in the house, the more thankful we were that it would be torn down," Beth confesses. When lake levels surged, opting for a total rebuild over a renovation required pushing the house further back from the 100-year flood line. The move provided desired privacy and the new design capitalized on the mesmerizing view.

*Continued on page 110*



Murphy the golden retriever and Olive the Australian shepherd love the water, and happily retrieve sticks, often together.





**ABOVE:** The linen slip-covered chairs in the great room are from Simply Cottage. The stone on the wood-burning fireplace (Cook's Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Water and Electrical) and the exterior skirting were installed by Pioneer Masonry and sourced at Arriscraft. Cabinets and open shelves were constructed by Beaver Building. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT:** The open-concept great room is designed for entertaining. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A planned lower level was cancelled but the entrance to that space was reconfigured into a wine cellar by Beaver Building and Owen Sound Glass Service.

Paul's mother was born and raised in Tobermory, establishing the family tradition of summer vacations deeply steeped in lake life. Her tiny Harpur Drive cottage legacy was passed on to Paul and Beth, keeping the family connection tethered to Georgian Bay. Paul retired and put his muscle into an ambitious Harpur cottage rehab but Plan A always revolved around living on the water. When they put an offer in on the harbour listing, they never anticipated that their vision would take so long to come to fruition. **AND-ROD Construction Ltd.** had a

three-year waitlist, and finalizing plans with the architectural designer was a year-long process. As subcontractors fell into sequence, the 10-month schedule didn't account for a global pandemic. Beth takes it all in relaxed stride. She's accustomed to being flexible as her commute takes her near Toronto's Pearson Airport – it's all about adhering to the speed limit and detours. The pandemic permitted her to work from home, which for an extended period was the Harpur cottage, "once we put in a propane fireplace." Paul and Beth are well-versed

in change – so it's fitting that the Harpur cottage was dubbed "Camp Chaos." When they sold their Hespeler home, Beth leased a condo in Milton while Paul was overhauling the cottage and they now stay with their daughter in Guelph when they need to be closer to Toronto. "We didn't realize that the chaos was going to follow us!" Beth laughs as she shares the stepping stones of their arduous journey. Bulldozing and building the house have been the most seamless aspect of the last five years. "We had a really comfortable conversation with our architectural designer, **Greg Williamson**. He talked to us about our lifestyle needs and space usage. He suggested we tour some of his designs in Lion's Head and Port Elgin to help establish what kind of design we wanted to emulate. Greg listened to our nuances and really personalized the layout." *Continued on page 113*

**RIGHT:** Beaver Building created the custom maple stairs and railings. The tongue-and-groove boards on the wall are from Ready Pine. Flooring is from Greyfair Flooring Inc. and installed by AND-ROD Construction Ltd.







Hale Navy by Benjamin Moore is the accent colour in the kitchen. Cabinets and counters in Eternal Pearl were sourced at Miller Lake RONA. KitchenAid appliances are from Peninsula Appliance. Kettle Cabinetry installed the tile backsplash.



**ABOVE:** A side entrance leads into a combined laundry and mudroom. Plumbing for the home was completed by Peninsula Plumbing. **BELOW:** Glen's Electrical Services wired the home and installed the pendant lights over the kitchen island. A stainless steel apron sink with a Moen faucet offers a view as dishes are washed. Dog Days Painting painted the entire home.



The custom dining table and bench by Lodge Craftsman can seat 10. Ostaco windows from Wilson Home Building Centre were installed by AND-ROD Construction Ltd. Blinds throughout the home are from Budget Blinds of Owen Sound.

The obvious question surrounded the budget after the lumber market exuberance of 2021. **José** and **Amanda Andino Rodriguez** of AND-ROD provided quotes for framing pre-pandemic, and all the trades honoured their pricing. Despite lockdowns, the only major delay has been the refrigerator delivery.

“AND-ROD’s resource pool really made the difference and they turned our vision into an even better reality,” says Beth. “**Wayne Brown** of **Madd Maxx Customs** was instrumental with his creative ideas and ability to fix almost anything. **Andeks Kettle** of **Kettle Carpentry** did amazing tile work. **Kyle Loucks** and **Darcy Hodgson** of **Lodge Craftsmen** built our custom table and benches. **Wilson Home Building Centre** was so consistent with everything. The timber, windows, roofing materials – even our front door was from Wilson’s.”

The list of trades is formidable. As the project evolved, their front door became a revolving one with visits from **Peninsula Plumbing**, **Glen’s Electrical Services** and **Cook’s Plumbing, Heating, Cooling, Water and Electrical**. *Continued on page 114*





Three maps of the shoreline and water surrounding Tobermory hang in matching frames on the upper-floor landing. Interior doors for the home are Masonite Riverside and were sourced at Miller Lake RONA. **TOP RIGHT:** José and Amanda Andino Rodriguez of AND-ROD Construction Ltd. enjoy a relaxing moment with Maggie, their Chihuahua. **BELOW:** Camp Calm after a day of fun. Lights from the famous Chi-Cheemaun ferry light up the harbour.



“Everything remained on budget – our only surprise was in the landscaping.” Beth shook her head at the irony of purchasing rocks on the Bruce Peninsula. Armour stone, river rock and pea gravel created texture in the backyard and was integral to tier the property from the shore. **Cheri Janknegt** from **AND-ROD Landscaping and Gardening Care Solutions** helped exact their vision. “We joke that the kids will need kneepads to play in the yard. It’s all rock!”



The radiant Thunder Sky exterior siding from Maibec was sourced by José to appease Beth’s desire for a blue, Cape Cod-style home. “I always wanted a blue house with white trim. José suggested the cedar shakes and it really gives it a crisp look. We’ve had so many people stop to ask exactly what colour of blue the house is so they can replicate it.”

Beth is quick to share her favourite, unexpected inclusion. “We have a custom wine closet now where the stairwell access to the basement was located. They couldn’t get through the bedrock and our intended full basement became a crawlspace.” The display includes a playful pandemic six-pack from Jordan Station’s Creekside Estate Winery with cheeky labels like *Vaccination Celebration Libation* and *Spousal Tolerance Enhancement Beverage*. **“Beaver Building** built our wine closet from a picture. They are incredibly talented – they did our fireplace mantel and maple staircase, too.” *Continued on page 116*

**TOP:** The family knows the time of day by the arrival and departure of the ferry to Manitoulin Island. Waterfowl love the harbour’s calm water. **LEFT:** The front porch offers a quiet spot to sit and watch the comings and goings of the neighbourhood. The crisp white door and window trim pops against the Thunder Sky Maibec siding. Cheri Janknegt, head gardener at AND-ROD Landscape and Garden Care Solutions, completed the landscaping.





A bedroom suite offers lots of storage in the primary bedroom. The feature wall is clad in Ready Pine's pre-stained tongue-and-groove planks. **LEFT:** Esprit Deco porcelain tile, sourced through Miller Lake RONA and installed by Andeks Kettle of Kettle Carpentry, lines the primary en suite's shower. **BELOW LEFT:** Three-dimensional artwork hangs in the primary bedroom.

Beth is looking most forward to Christmas, "in a properly heated home! We will finally have the space, heat, a functioning kitchen and running water."

With an average of 16 house guests when the entire family gathers, chaos is inevitable. "We have two family dogs named Olive and Murphy, and the dog next door thinks he's part of our family, too. We tend to accommodate everyone." The tradition that began on Harpur continues. *Continued on page 118*

**RIGHT:** Paul Cartilage created the mirror over the vanity in the guest bathroom. **FAR RIGHT:** Sliding doors in the primary bedroom lead to the upper deck. Its incredible view is enjoyed from sunup to sundown.



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Refinished snowshoes from the old cabin hang over the bed in the guest bedroom.



.....  
**ABOVE:** The bunk room is for the grandchildren, who love to share stories and late summer nights together. **BELOW:** Paddle art by the couple's daughter and daughter-in-law hangs in the main-floor guest bedroom adjacent to the great room. Another tongue-and-groove feature wall adds continuity to the home.



“Paul and I have enjoyed over 30 years together, having a blended family of five children and lots of grandchildren, family and close friends.” The home showcases a blend of their artistic talents too. “My son built the dining-room table,” says Beth. “Paul created the mirrors and picture frames from old windows and refinished the snowshoes that were hanging in the original cottage. Our daughter created sketches of the area and our daughter-in-law and daughter made canoe paddles as art. We also took the stained glass from the original cottage that Madd Maxx created and had him re-frame it as a beautiful focal point for the open-concept great room.” These touches add generational history to one of the oldest – and simultaneously – newest houses in Tobermory’s harbour. Until the gang arrives, it’s Camp Calm before the storm. **OH**



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Raffia  
MIRROR

Natural elements are always on trend and add a feeling of calm and comfort to any space. Create this raffia mirror and bring that soothing feeling into your home and make a big impact in any room.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY **ERIN ROCHON**

**MATERIALS**

- 14-inch round wire wreath frame
- 12-inch round mirror
- 2-3 raffia bundles
- Scissors
- Tape measure
- Mirror or construction adhesive

**STEP 1**

Unravel raffia and cut in 12-inch sections.



**STEP 3**

Move to the inside ring of the frame. Repeat step 2, attaching raffia using lark's head knots until the entire ring is filled.



**STEP 2**

Take 3 or 4 strands of raffia, fold them in half. On the second-to-last ring on the wreath frame, make a lark's head knot by taking the folded raffia and placing the rounded end underneath the ring. Take the other ends of the raffia and put it through the rounded end to make a knot. Make sure to pull it tight. Repeat this process until the entire ring is filled with raffia without any gaps.



**STEP 4**

Once your raffia completely fills both rings, apply mirror adhesive to the back of the mirror along the outer edge. Carefully place the mirror on the inside ring on top of the raffia. Flip upside down and add a few more drops of adhesive to ensure your mirror is properly attached. Follow adhesive instructions and drying times.

Once the adhesive has fully dried, find a great spot in your home to showcase this gorgeous raffia mirror for your friends and family. **OH**





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ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Blackline Power, 59

APPLIANCES

Macdonald’s Furniture & Appliances, 27  
Schuett Furniture & Appliances, 53, 106

ART/ARTISANS/ART GALLERIES/  
STUDIOS/WORKSHOPS

Interior Motives by Kerri, 28

AUDIO VIDEO/HOME AUTOMATION/  
ELECTRONICS/SMART HOME  
TECHNOLOGY

Balaklava, 61

BEDS & BEDDING/MATTRESSES/  
SLEEP PRODUCTS

Tom ‘The Dreamer’ Mattresses, 18

BUILDERS

AND-ROD Construction Ltd., 4&5  
Candue Homes, 19  
Dennison Homes, 35  
Great Lakes Custom Homes, 91  
High R Construction, 22  
The Great Lakes Frame Company, 132  
Valley Home Improvements, 87  
Wiarton Design Centre div of  
Wiarton Home Building Centre, 119

BUILDING/LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

Centre Grey Building Supplies, 123  
Flesherton/Markdale Home Hardware, 123  
Moggie Valley Timber Inc., 65  
Wiarton Design Centre div of  
Wiarton Home Building Centre, 119

CABINETS & MILLWORK/  
CARPENTRY/FINE WOODWORKING/  
CUSTOM FURNITURE

Brubacher Cabinets, 129  
Bruce County Custom Cabinets, 35  
Great Lakes Woodworking Elmwood, 33  
Luxury Woodworking, 66&67  
The Woodworm, 106, 107  
Topnotch Furniture, 14&15

COMPUTER/INTERNET/  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Xplornet Canada, 95

COUNTERTOPS

City Stone, 20  
The Old Barn, 8&9

DRYWALL/PLASTER/STUCCO

Meg’s Drywall, 117

ELECTRICAL

Design Electrical, 87

EXCAVATING/SITE PREP/SEPTIC

Mac Taylor Corporation, 117  
Mulch-It, 37, 107

FENCING/DECKS/GATES

Built Wright Fencing, 37  
Postech Grey Bruce, 39  
Precision Deck and Fence, 12

FINANCIAL/INSURANCE/  
MORTGAGE/INVESTING

Scotiabank – Global Wealth  
Management, 20

FIREPLACES & STOVES/ACCESSORIES

Chantico Fireplace Gallery, 21  
Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 107  
The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 51, 83

FLOORING

Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor  
& Home, 10, 99  
Moggie Valley Timber Inc., 65  
South Bruce Flooring, 16

FLORAL DESIGN/FLORISTS

Markdale Flowers, 33

FOOD & DRINK/RESTAURANTS/  
CATERING/DELI

Lamblicious, 17  
Top of the Rock, 123

FOUNDATIONS

Cook Concrete, 119  
Postech Grey Bruce, 39

FURNITURE & HOME DECOR/  
ACCENTS/GIFTS/COLLECTIBLES

Country Charm Mennonite Furniture, 69  
Fulfords Hardware Inc., 103  
House Rules Design Shop, 71  
Interior Motives by Kerri, 28  
Macdonald’s Furniture & Appliances, 27  
Schuett Furniture & Appliances, 53, 106  
Smitty’s Fine Furniture, 131  
The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 51, 83  
Topnotch Furniture, 14&15  
Unique Pieces, 49  
Wiarton Design Centre div of  
Wiarton Home Building Centre, 119

GARDEN CENTRES/GREENHOUSES/  
NURSERIES

Maxwell Garden Center, 81  
Riverside Greenhouses, 33

GEOTHERMAL

Sandy Hamilton Plumbing &  
Heating Inc., 39

GREEN LIVING

Blackline Power, 59

HEATING & COOLING

Ken Philp ClimateCare, 89  
Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 107  
Sandy Hamilton Plumbing &  
Heating Inc., 39

HOME IMPROVEMENTS/  
RENOVATIONS

Great Lakes Custom Homes, 91  
RM Knapp Construction, 61, 106  
Valley Home Improvements, 87

INSULATION

High R Construction, 22

INTERIOR DESIGN/HOME STAGING

Blended Interiors, 51  
Cottage Country Designs, 29  
Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor  
& Home, 10, 99  
Fulfords Hardware Inc., 103  
Home Town Design, 49  
House Rules Design Shop, 71  
K-Interiors, 35

KITCHEN & BATH

Brubacher Cabinets, 129  
Bruce County Custom Cabinets, 35  
Fulfords Hardware Inc., 103  
House Rules Design Shop, 71  
Luxury Woodworking, 66&67  
Wiarton Design Centre div of  
Wiarton Home Building Centre, 119

LANDSCAPE DESIGN &  
ARCHITECTURE/LANDSCAPING/  
LAWN & GARDEN

AND-ROD Landscape & Garden Care  
Solutions, 4&5  
Earth Power Tractors and Equipment, 105  
Hutten & Co. Land and Shore, 3  
McDonald Crilly Landscaping  
& Grading, 117

LIGHTING

Design Electrical, 87

MACHINERY/SMALL EQUIPMENT/  
FARM SUPPLIES

Earth Power Tractors and Equipment, 105  
Maple Lane Farm Service, 89  
Stoltz Sales and Service, 93

NEW HOME COMMUNITIES

Annex Georgian Bay, 2

ORGANIZATION/STORAGE

Blended Interiors, 51  
Wilson Solutions, 6

OUTDOOR FURNITURE/STRUCTURES

Maxwell Garden Center, 81

PAINTING & DECORATING

Benjamin Moore, 10  
Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor  
& Home, 10, 99  
Fulfords Hardware Inc., 103  
Grey Bruce Paint, 129  
House Rules Design Shop, 71  
Lockwood Painting, 81, 83  
Martin’s Home Hardware, 10

PAINTING, PRIMING, BLASTING  
& STAINING

Premier Industrial Painting, 97

PAVING/CEMENT/CONCRETE/  
INTERLOCK

Cook Concrete, 119  
Extreme Linings and Coatings, 103

PLUMBING

Ken Philp ClimateCare, 89  
NuFlow Plumbing & Gas, 39  
Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 107  
Sandy Hamilton Plumbing &  
Heating Inc., 39

Smith Water Systems, 107

POOLS/HOT TUBS/SAUNAS/SPAS

Rintoul’s Pools & Hot Tubs, 13

REAL ESTATE

Century 21 In-Studio Realty – Team Lisk, 17  
Chestnut Park, 23  
Engel & Völkers – James McGregor, 25  
Re/Max Grey Bruce Realty –  
Shannon Deckers, 7  
Re/Max Grey Bruce Realty Inc. – The  
Bruce Peninsula Real Estate Team, 11, 106  
Royal LePage Locations North,  
Brokerage – Virginia Dawn, 49  
Royal LePage RCR Realty –  
Scott Crowther, 59  
Sotheby’s Realty – Matthew Lidbetter,  
Holly Stone, 2  
Sutton Sound Realty Inc. – Krista Gill, 57  
The Terri Hastings Group | Keller Williams  
Realty Centres, 55  
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Realty Centres – Adam Lesperance, 101  
Wilfred McIntee & Co. Ltd. –  
Gail R. Schuett, 19, 107

RESTORATION SPECIALISTS

Hi-Tech DKI, 97

ROOFING

Reilly’s Roofing, 91

STAIRS/RAILINGS

Lockwood Painting, 81, 83

STONE PRODUCTS/VENEER

Shouldice Designer Stone, 93

TRAIL BUILDING

Mulch-It, 37, 107

WATER TREATMENT/FILTRATION

Smith Water Systems, 107

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Budget Blinds of Owen Sound, 119  
Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor  
& Home, 10, 99  
Martin’s Home Hardware, 10

WINDOWS & DOORS

Desboro Doors, 71

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Sandhill cranes

PHOTO: NIGE LEVES

# AUTUMN'S AVIAN ACTION

## FADING INTO FALL

STORY **LYNNE RICHARDSON**

The crazy, hazy, not-so-lazy days of summer living are fading away, as are the hectic activities we pack into our short but sweet vacations. On the bird front, things are winding down as well. Some of us feel the urge to go south – the birds feel it too. But preparations are necessary, for us and the birds.

This is the time of year many birds disappear from your backyards, but they're not necessarily gone from the area. They need to lay low for a bit while they undergo a post-breeding moult of their now well-worn summer plumage in exchange for a new fall coat of feathers, fresh and strong for migration.

Fall is the time when birds of a feather flock together. As they prepare for their journey south, they instinctively know there's safety in numbers. You may start to notice hundreds of birds congregating, gathering on lines – or staging as ornithologists call it – in one area or another. These get-togethers can make for some captivating fall birdwatching.

### MAGICAL MURMURATIONS

First up is the often much-maligned starling. However you feel about these ubiquitous birds, starlings are the darlings of the sky in the fall. Hundreds come together pre-dusk and put on a spectacular air show known as a murmuration. The birds fly tightly together, creating balloons, blobs, whales and other shapes in the sky as they undulate fluidly through the air. Watching the murmurations is mesmerizing, as is their final dive down into their roost with a wonderful whoosh of their wings. You'll never diss a starling again after witnessing one of these exquisite performances. You can catch this awesome avian action each fall evening if you keep your eyes to the skies and peeled for flocks, or if you know of a roost site in woodlots or thick brushy areas, often in or near towns.



Starlings

PHOTO: HENK BOGAARD

### SWIRLING SWIFTS

In towns across much of Ontario the chimney swift – a compact little brown bird affectionately referred to as a “cigar with wings” – provides more evening entertainment. True to their name, these aerial insectivores nest in chimneys. Come fall, hundreds congregate over old buildings in the evening hours to swirl and twitter before diving en masse into a choice chimney for their nightly roost. The chimneys they choose are often those on our grand old century homes and buildings, enabling swift watchers to have an architectural as well as an avian experience. Nightly swift watches, which contribute scientific data to bird biologists, have become a thing in some towns, and these sweet birds need our help as, unfortunately for them, fewer and fewer suitable chimneys exist on our modern builds.

### SWAMP SURPRISES

Out in the wetlands, yet another fall show is taking place. Great egrets – tall, elegant white waders with gorgeous breeding plumes – have increasingly graced us with their presence. In recent years their breeding range has extended north to the off-shore islands of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. They're usually seen in singles during summer as they wander far and wide to forage for food. But in the fall, they fly in from all directions to wooded swamps at dusk, to roost safely for the night. It's a sight to behold in the soft twilight over a quiet swamp. These roosts are few and far between, so if you do come across one, you're in for an ethereal experience!



PHOTO: NIGE LEVES

Great egrets



PHOTO: LYNNE RICHARDSON

### A SIEGE OF SANDHILLS

Finally, we can't forget our fields. They hold autumn wildlife wonders as well. Sandhill cranes, of elaborate courtship-dancing fame, have spread throughout Ontario in recent years. In the summer they are largely inconspicuous with their cryptic colouring as they keep to the wetlands to raise their young. But come fall, they congregate and take to harvested grain fields to glean through the chaff and stubble to bulk up for their late-fall migration. They can be seen by the twenties, fifties and even many hundreds in a field near you. But you need to give these fields a good look, as they can be hard to see despite their size. And keep your ears open, too. Cranes have very loud, far-reaching, distinctive, primitive, guttural calls – providing you with a strange musical, as well as a visual, treat. Plus, they don't save their famous fancy dance moves just for the springtime; sit and watch a while and you may get a sneak preview.

So don't lament those lovely summer days with an abundance of birds in your backyard. Get out, look up, look around and discover these wonderful fall phenomena of the avian kind. **OH**



good taste

# PUMPKIN PIE *Milkshake*

This milkshake tastes like pumpkin pie in a glass – but without all the hard work! Move over pumpkin-spice lattes...



## INGREDIENTS

2 cups vanilla ice cream  
½ cup pumpkin purée  
1 Tbsp pumpkin pie spice  
¾ - 1 cup milk, depending on consistency  
Whipped cream, for garnish

## PUMPKIN PIE SPICE

1 tsp ground cinnamon  
½ tsp ground ginger  
½ tsp allspice  
¼ tsp nutmeg

Combine all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Garnish with whipped cream and enjoy! **OH**

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
**JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

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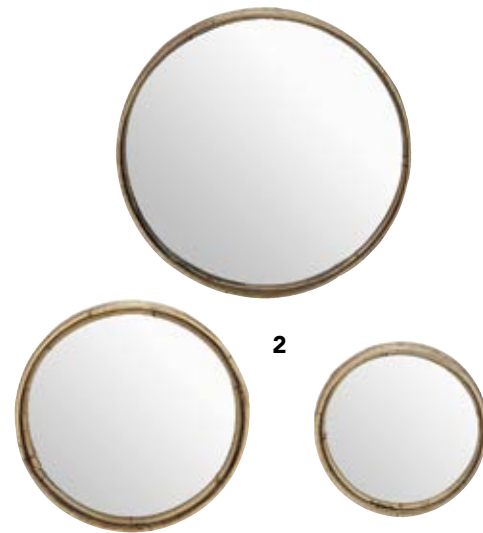
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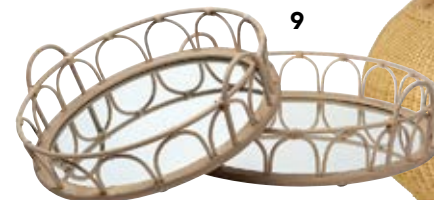


finishing touch



# wonderful wicker

Wicker furniture is increasingly popular, whether made with natural rattan or newer synthetic materials. The particular weave of fibres is what gives wicker its timeless look. Not just for outdoor furnishings, bringing wicker inside is a design trend worth trying. These woven wonders add texture and a relaxed look throughout your home.



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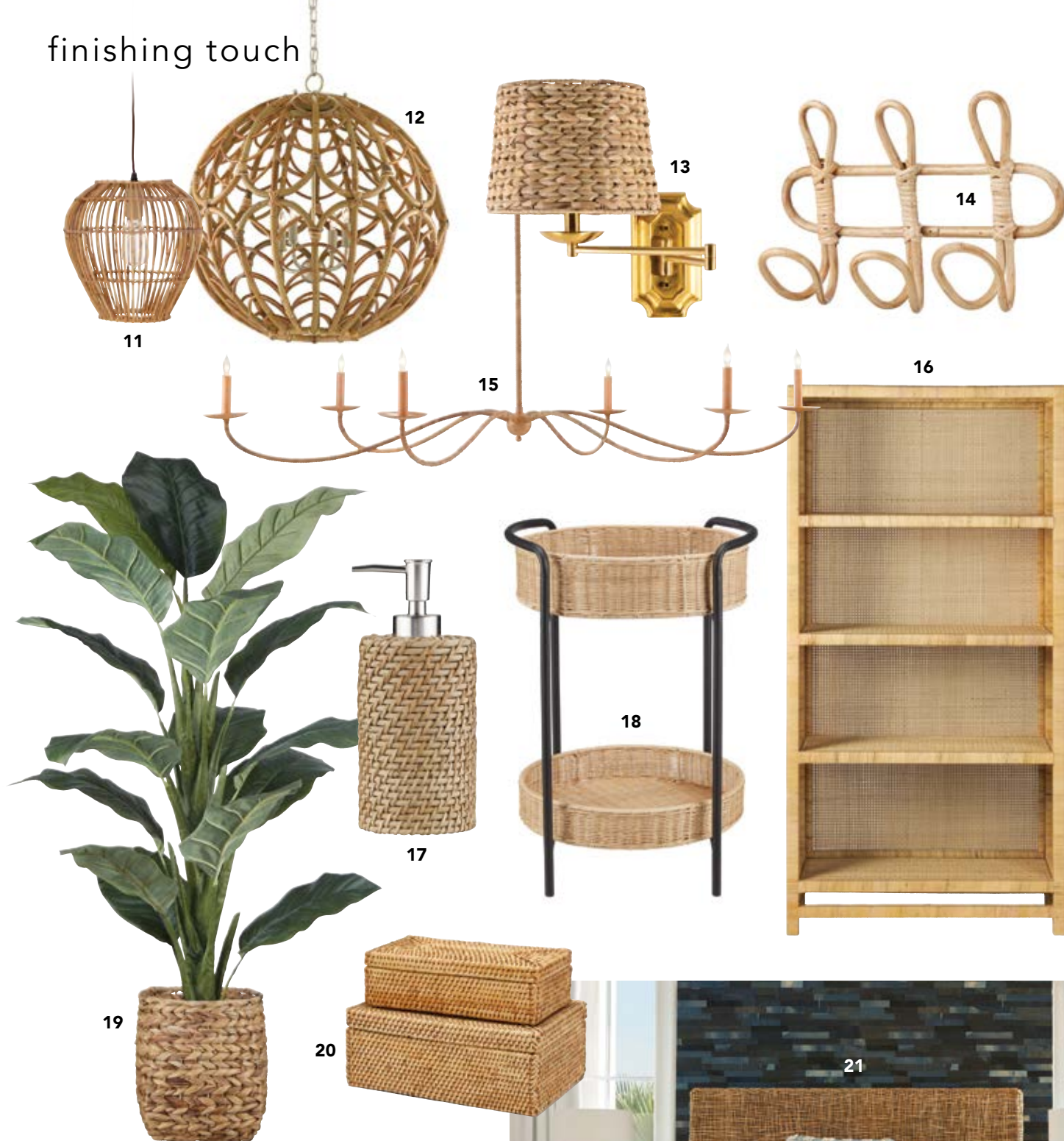
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1. UNIVERSAL FURNITURE: Nantucket Round Dining Table 2. ABBOTT: Round Wall Mirrors 3. IKEA: Snidad Basket 4. MADE GOODS: Tatum Upholstered Bar Stool 5. POTTERY BARN: Willow Wicker Charger Plate 6. MADE GOODS: Ismael Chair 7. BOUCLAIR: Glass and Rattan Table Lamp 8. ABBOTT: Rattan Handle Cheese Knives and Salad Servers 9. MERCANA: Leona Natural Wicker Woven Mirrored Base Nesting Trays 10. MADE GOODS: Sariah Coffee Table 11. SURYA: Manning Pendant 12. CURREY & COMPANY: Cape Verde Orb Chandelier 13. SURYA: Dustin Sconce 14. BOUCLAIR: Set of Three Rattan Hooks 15. CURREY & COMPANY: Saxan Rattan Chandelier 16. MADE GOODS: Isla Bookcase 17. BOUCLAIR: Rattan Soap Dispenser 18. BOUCLAIR: Wicker and Black Metal Side Table 19. BOUCLAIR: Ficus in Rattan Pot 20. MADE GOODS: Kymonix Box Set 21. UNIVERSAL FURNITURE: Escape-Coastal Living Home Collection Headboard and Pull Up Bench OH



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