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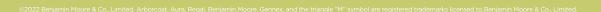
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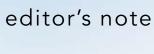




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I GREW UP SLEEPING IN A TWIN BED that belonged to my great-grandfather. It had solid cherry, Georgian-style head-andfootboards that were unusually the same height. The footboard would stop blankets from being kicked off in the night and it fostered my habit of keeping a pillow on my feet. As weighted blankets were not yet a thing, the pillow did the trick. I had lots of stuffed animals that shared the bed and I would place them along the footboard and all along the wall.

My family moved about eight times while I was growing up and that bed was the one constant on the first unfamiliar night in a new home. It was always positioned with one side against a wall – a safety precaution by my parents – to keep me from falling out of bed. To this day, if I spend the night in a twin bed that isn't against the wall, I wake up a few times during the night worrying I am one turn away from landing on the floor.

Years later, with the trend for making beds look like daybeds, the stuffed animals were replaced with cushions in various shapes and sizes. I slept in that bed until I moved out of my parents' home and into my own apartment, which had a queen-size bed. It took some time to adjust to all the extra space, and to be truthful, I was tempted to ask my parents if the twin bed could be moved to my new abode.

This magazine has given me the chance to see many bedrooms that contain twin beds, including the one in Eva Freeburn's sweet haven on page 40. It reminds me of those happy times I crawled into my own twin bed with those stuffed animals and fell fast asleep feeling loved, comfortable and safe - truly the best memories.

Have a hot and fabulous summer.

Sona Wantin

Sara Martin, Managing Editor sara.martin@ourhomes.ca

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ON THE COVER

An eye-catching quartz backsplash makes this sleek white kitchen pop. Story, page 32. Photography by Sandy MacKay.



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HOME EXTRAS



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advice



COOL HOUSE

Designer **Tamarisk McNalty Stephens** explores the principles of sustainable living.

You may be fortunate enough to have air conditioning in your home, but did you know that there are some practical ways to help minimize your dependency on the AC? Read on for ideas that are good for the environment – and your pocketbook!



Ceiling fans should turn counter-clockwise in the warmer months as this creates a downdraft. The effect of moving air hitting the sweat on your skin is known as evaporative cooling. As sweat evaporates, it helps lower your overall body temperature. Thus, you can keep the thermostat turned up a few degrees and still stay cool. High-quality ceiling fans are worth the investment because they are often much quieter while providing powerful airflow.

PAINT

If you have a room that gets a lot of southern exposure in the warmest months of the year, keep the paint light and airy. Dark colours can absorb the sun's radiant energy and that energy creates unnecessary heat gain.

BEDDING

An important consideration in the summertime is optimizing comfort levels in the bedroom. In addition to keeping the room cool (65°F is considered optimal for sleeping), another element that can greatly impact body temperature is the material of your mattress, pillows and bed linens. Natural materials are preferred over synthetics because of their ability to breathe. Some

synthetic materials (including most memory foam mattresses) are very dense and tend to trap body heat. Ensure your bed frame allows for proper airflow around your mattress. Consider a mattress topper made from natural material such as latex, wool or cotton. Select bedding that is natural and breathable - such as linen. Use a lighter duvet in the summer months made with natural down or wool filling. These will help keep you cool as they allow moisture to escape. A shredded latex pillow with a cotton or linen cover is a good combination to help keep your head cool. Latex is a naturally breathable material and when shredded, provides improved airflow.









TILE

Porcelain or natural stone tiles generally provide cooler

temperatures in the summer (look to Mediterranean architecture) – that is, if not continuously exposed to direct sunlight. Natural stone floors and porcelain tiles will hold heat, which is why they are often successfully paired with radiant heating options to warm up spaces in the colder months. Again, consider selecting lighter-coloured flooring in rooms that get direct sun exposure.

WINDOWS

If you are in the market for

replacing windows, get the most energy-efficient windows you can afford. Spend some time with a professional to review the various frame, glazing and operation options. To minimize solar heat gain and reduce energy loss, you may require different energy efficiency ratings depending upon the exposure/orientation of various windows within your home and the overall ratio of window glazing to walls. A professional can also make recommendations on the operation styles and how the layout can optimize the breeze available from cool air entering through lower window openings, travelling through the house and the warmed air exiting at a higher location. Close windows first thing in the morning and open them up once the outside temperature has dropped in the evening.



POTTERY BARN: Classic Belgian Flax Linen Rod Pocket Blackout Curtain in Dark Flax

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Window treatments are an excellent way to keep the cooling bill in check by controlling solar heat gain (while also adding an element of design). Blackout drapery is the most effective at preventing the sun from entering a room and offers a great solution for the sunniest times of day for south/west facing windows (specifically bedrooms). Solar shades provide various degrees of privacy, light penetration and heat transfer – all while offering a view to the outside.

LANDSCAPING

Landscaping outdoors can also help to keep the inside of your home cooler. Planting deciduous trees, shrubs and tall grasses can provide shade that will help mitigate solar gain in the summer months.

APPLIANCES

Practical day-to-day tips include firing up the outdoor grill instead of using the oven, installing a clothesline for drying and waiting to use the dishwasher until temperatures dip in the evening. Also remember to turn on exhaust fans in the bathroom when taking a shower to remove hot, humid air. OH



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4 THE COOK'S CUPBOARD

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Art

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6 CITY STONE

Porcelain

Maxine is full-bodied porcelain stoneware made in Italy. With large sizes and reduced thickness, its applications are as varied as the rich and delicate natural stone appearance.

151 King St. E., Thornbury 519.599.7300 | citystone.com

Continued on page 26





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style picks



7 ELEGANT STONE HOUSE

Console Table

This timeless piece has beautiful hand-turned legs and a spacious bottom shelf perfect for baskets for extra storage. Made of white oak but available in other woods and stains.

116514 Grey Rd. 3, Desboro 519.897.8500 | elegantstonehouse.ca

8 SMITTY'S FINE FURNITURE

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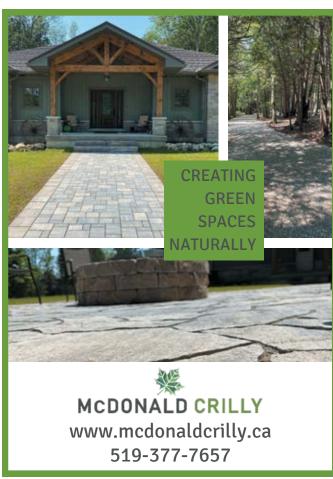
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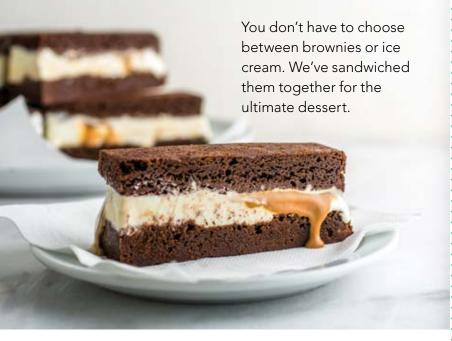






ice cs eam SANDWICHES

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY JENELLE MCCULLOCH



Brownie

INGREDIENTS

1 cup cocoa powder

1 cup all-purpose flour

34 tsp baking powder

1 tsp salt

1 cup unsalted butter, melted

2 cups granulated sugar

3 eggs, room temperature

1 tsp vanilla extract



INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350°F and line two 9x9-inch square pans with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl combine cocoa powder, all-purpose flour, baking powder and salt. Mix thoroughly and

In a large mixing bowl, combine melted butter and sugar. Whisk until combined. Whisk in eggs and vanilla extract. Fold in dry ingredients until just combined.

Split the brownie mixture between the two pans (about 2 cups of batter in each pan). The batter will be thick.

Take a piece of parchment paper and place it on top of the batter. Press the parchment into the batter to flatten the batter (this will help the batter bake evenly). Bake for 15 minutes.

Remove from oven, let cool and place in freezer until ready to use.

INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups whipping cream

1 tsp vanilla

1 can (300ml) sweetened condensed milk

½ cup Dulce de Leche

INSTRUCTIONS

In the large bowl of a stand mixer or using a hand mixer, whip the cream until thick and fluffy. Add vanilla and continue to beat until stiff peaks form. Fold in the sweetened condensed milk.



Remove whole brownie from one pan.

Spread the filling evenly on top of the brownie still in the second pan.

Drizzle Dulce de Leche on top and swirl into the filling.

Place the other brownie on top and gently press down.

Freeze for approximately 6 hours.

Cut into rectangles and keep frozen until ready to eat. OH





















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gardening

We work hard at making our gardens beautiful and it is downright disheartening when pests make our outdoor living spaces inhospitable or devour our hard-earned efforts. Luckily there are many natural, DIY methods to help!







Slugs

Spread crushed, cooked eggshells around plants that are susceptible to slug damage. The jagged edges of the shells deter slugs from reaching the plant. You'll also be enriching your soil at the same time.

Aphids

Make a concoction of a few drops of dish soap, one teaspoon of oil and one litre of water and add to a spray bottle. Spray the infected plant as needed. It also works on white fly and other common pests. Sometimes just a forceful spray of the garden hose works too! Aphids also love marigolds - so if aphids are feasting on your leafy greens in the veggie garden, plant marigolds as a trap plant to lure them away.

Squirrels

We must share our gardens with a host of wildlife so it's best to plant bulbs that squirrels don't enjoy eating, such as muscari, daffodils and allium instead of tasty tulips. Squirrels are notorious for digging up newly potted plants and bulbs. Sticking toothpicks or sticks into the soil surface helps to deter them.

Though cayenne pepper products are available to repel squirrels, they aren't a good option. They can cause them a lot of pain and even temporary blindness, so I recommend less harmful methods. Tuck in some pet hair around your favourite bulbs to discourage them instead.



Bunnies

Rabbits often eat the tender new wood of fruit trees and other tasty trees and shrubs in the dead of winter when there's nothing else for them. Make a temporary cage of chicken wire around these plants and keep in place for the winter months to protect them from bunny damage. In the veggie garden, chicken wire caging also works well.

Deer

Deer are infamous for quickly demolishing a garden. For a large property I suggest planting an easily accessible bed of their favourites (like cedar, hosta, roses and daylily) to entice them away from the ornamental areas. For small spaces, fencing works best.

Mosquitoes

Make sure you use the water in your rain barrels regularly as mosquitoes will make a breeding ground out of any standing water. Don't leave areas of standing water anywhere in your yard as mosquito larva can even live in very moist soil. Cedar trees do not attract mosquitoes but standing water does.

Certain strongly scented plants like citronella grass, mint, lavender, catnip and rosemary deter mosquitoes. By having them near your outdoor seating areas you can enjoy their captivating scents and natural repelling qualities.





Ticks

Many of the plants with heavy scents listed under mosquito repellents above can also repel ticks. Plant these at your garden perimeters to have fewer ticks in your yard.

Wasps

Often any yellow and black flying insect is mislabelled as a bee but usually they are wasps. Wasps are pollinators too and an important part of our ecosystem, but understandably you don't want them trying to eat your outdoor meal at the same time you are. Faux paper wasp nests work as a great deterrent - place them near your al fresco dining space for best results.

Raccoons. mice and rats

Keep meat scraps out of your compost so it's not as fragrant and attractive to these types of wildlife. Keep the ground around bird feeders free of old seed buildup too. Although it may seem like an easy fix, live traps and poisons are never the answer. Farther along the food chain, poisons keep on killing and predators that eat the poisoned prey also perish - like owls, cats and fox. Live trapping may seem humane but often those relocated animals suffer a slow death – not knowing where to find food, shelter and water and are driven out by the existing fauna in the new area.

Exotic pests, including red lily beetle, emerald ash borer, etc.

Due to climate change, many exotic insect pests are here to stay. Avoid planting their favourite food plants if you want a low maintenance garden. If you do find an invasive insect infestation, placing them in a bucket of soapy water is a quick, humane and hygienic method of dealing with them. OH

Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.

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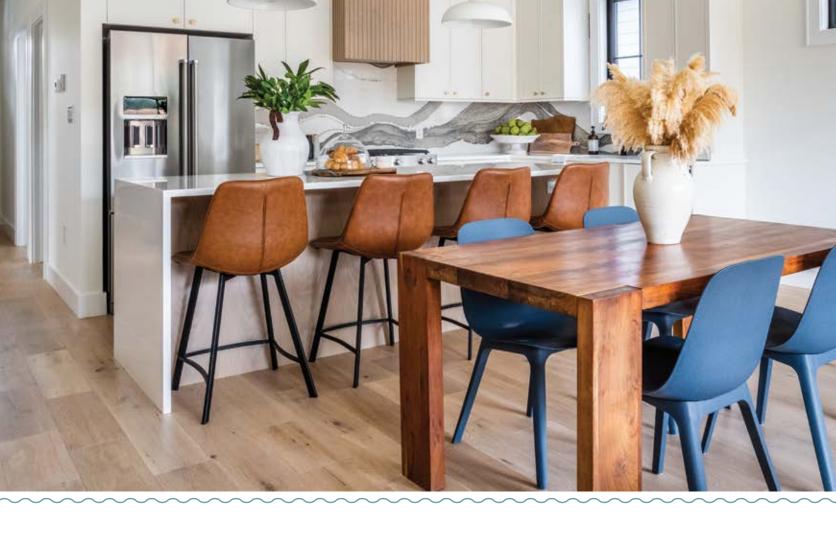




Having grown up in the region, the Freeburns know that development boasts its own network of trails and natural features. Southampton is one of the best towns for families and seniors who The development offers buyers the opportunity for innovation in love the idea of living in cottage country near the water. Along with creating a custom home, while maintaining a unity of design quality and developers Seaton Group, the prime location for a new development architectural style throughout the estate. was selected and the vision for **Southampton Landing** was born. Homes here reflect the coastal-style cottages of Southampton, blended with the contemporary elegance of Alair Homes. Inviting front Ben and his wife Robyn favoured the idea of living in a community, and porches are a signature feature, with garages tucked back so they do the pond and creek surrounded by preserved green space with walking trails made the development site a great place to raise their two young children. not dominate the front of the house.

With their own family in mind, the Freeburns designed the Cabot Model to be their own home, which was part of the six initial homes built on an existing street. In July 2021, the Freeburns moved in and the groundbreaking of the development began in 2022. Continued on page 36

ABOVE: The curve of the blue dining chairs and leather stools at the large island share a similar profile, creating continuity. KitchenAid appliances are from Square Deal Neil's TV & Appliances. **TOP LEFT:** Fresh croissants sit under a glass dome on the kitchen island. Plumbing for the project was completed by Mike's Plumbing Services. TOP RIGHT: The window over the kitchen sink is framed by a Skara Brae Cambria quartz backsplash. A sisal runner is cosy underfoot when cooking at the gas range. **RIGHT:** Gold hardware adds an elegant touch to the slim profile of the Shaker-style kitchen cabinets. All cabinets and the white oak range hood were custom made by Wood & Wallworks.





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Southampton Landing is within walking distance to year-round

amenities, including the diverse selection of restaurants and boutiques

on High Street, South Street Beach and the Southampton Boardwalk,

known for its majestic views of Chantry Island. In addition, the

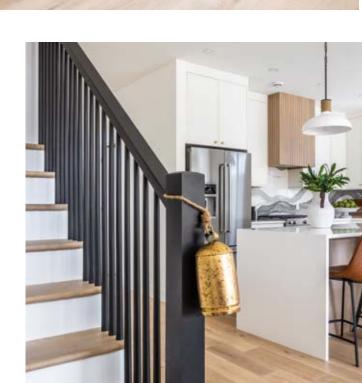
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The Freeburns' great room features expansive floor-length windows. The lift-and-slide patio doors and energyefficient windows from Armor Windows and Doors sourced from VanDolder's **Custom Exteriors** allow the family to enjoy peaceful views and natural lighting while keeping cosy year-round. In the heart of winter, the house remains warm from the radiant in-floor heating.

"I love how the sliding doors really open up the living space and provide us with easy access to the backyard and a view of the trees behind us," says Robyn.

With a contemporary-rustic style in mind, Robyn and Ben brought their floor plan to **Home Town Design** to assist with the overall interior design. Owner and principal designer Kate Robinson and her team provided options for the materials, lighting, furniture, custom millwork and finalizing the style. Continued on page 39





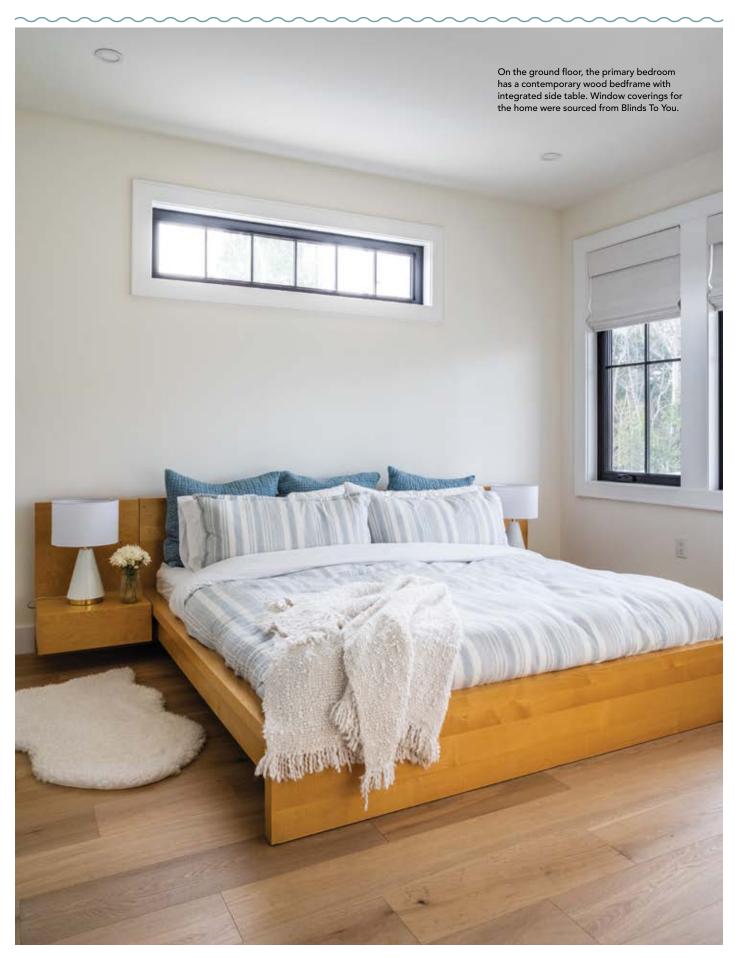


THE HERRINGBONE PEPPERMILL BRICK FLOORING WAS INSPIRED BY BEN'S AGRICULTURAL ROOTS.

ABOVE: The rear entrance door matches the front door. Muddy boots can land on the herringbone brick flooring sourced from West Shore Stone & Brick. In-floor radiant heat was installed by Hy-Mark. **RIGHT:**The herringbone brick flooring extends to the mudroom. Custom cabinetry, with the slim Shaker-style profile, by Wall & Woodworks, maximize storge for this busy family. Baskets help contain smaller items. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The Cambria quartz counter on the kitchen island has a waterfall edge. The pendant lights are a farmhouse design harking back to Ben's agricultural roots. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Drawers and cupboards provide storage options in the island. Electrical for the home was installed by G&M Electrical Mechanical. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The stairs were crafted by Wood & Wallworks using tapered wood spindles and white oak treads.



home & builder





"We offered several solutions to modernize the classics, such as the slim Shaker cabinet door profile and the tapered spindle stair railings to provide extra detail and fit their style," explains Kate.

Growing up on a farm, Ben liked the idea of bringing rural accents into the modern design. Home Town Design offered a variety of suggestions inspired by Ben's agricultural roots, such as the herringbone peppermill brick flooring in the mudroom, manufactured by Canyon Stone Canada and sourced from West Shore Stone & Brick Inc. The MasterGrain front door in a cashew-colour, sourced from Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors, was a custom feature selected to create an inviting, rustic entrance to the home. Allen's Home Hardware Builiding Centre supplied the timbers and building materials.

Warm whites and natural tones were selected to create a calm and welcoming environment, accented by the coastal blue furniture pieces inspired by the crystal-clear blue waters of Lake Huron. Continued on page 42



FAR LEFT & LEFT:

In the primary en suite, vertical stacked subway tile lines the shower and the wall behind the vessel tub. The black details in the encaustic floor tile are repeated in the plumbing fixtures and hardware. **BELOW:** The double sink vanity by Wood & Wallworks has flat panel white oak doors and a quartz counter. Matching black-framed mirrors and bar lights above add to the clean, uncluttered design in this space.



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home & builder A landing area at the top of the stairs on the second level is a reading nook and overlooks the living area below.



ABOVE: The hexagon tile in the family bathroom was a suggestion by Kate Robinson of Home Town Design. The hexagon mirror over the vanity mimics the pattern of the floor tile. TOP, MIDDLE & BOTTOM RIGHT: Interior doors to the bedrooms on the second level are sourced from Wood & Wallworks and the profile matches the slim Shaker-style used in the kitchen. Double closets offer lots of storage in both bedrooms.

"Home Town Design helped us create an environment which was modern, yet warm for our children," says Ben. "They also suggested many of the unique details in our home, such as the black-and-white hexagon tiles in the bathroom, and the pendant and chandelier light fixtures."

The home includes four bedrooms, with the primary bedroom and their daughter's room on the ground floor. Kate says the Cabot Model floor plan was designed for a family with growing children, and her team offered creative solutions to add extra storage space for games and toys in the final design.

In the kitchen, the beautiful Cambria quartz countertops are complemented by an eye-catching Skara Brae Cambria backsplash. Alair Grey Bruce often recommends Cambria quartz to clients who wish to add an elegant accent to the clean lines of their homes.

"If you want a focal point, an eyecatching backsplash is an excellent way to achieve it," says Kate.

The Freeburns look forward to welcoming many new families to the Southampton Landing development as they too build and design their forever custom homes. on















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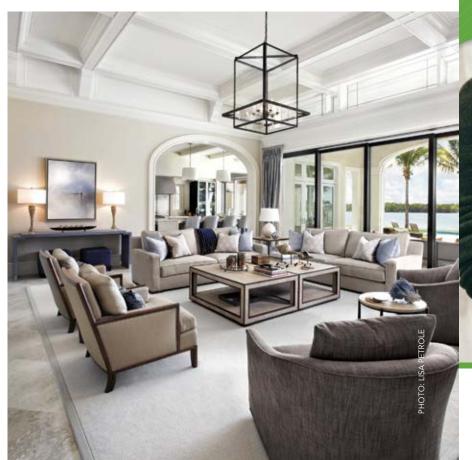
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You know that feeling you get when you arrive at your vacation home. Whether you own, rent or visit as a guest, that sense of rest, relaxation and recreation is irresistible - and once you're there, you never want to leave. But it's not just the waterfront or wooded location that gives you the feels. The set-up and style of the home play an important role in how you socialize, entertain and enjoy it. Here are some design features you can incorporate in your home to create that vacation vibe. Continued on page 46





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Pay attention Now, add to flow

Entertaining is the name of the game in most vacation homes, which benefits from an open-concept floor plan connecting the kitchen, living room and dining area into one unified space. This communal layout allows family and friends to gather and spend time together, while still giving each other room to breathe.

But there's a catch-22: the space needs to be open, but also connected and cosy. How do you achieve balance between these seemingly conflicting characteristics?

Start with a consistent aesthetic. Echo materials and finishes in all connected living areas, such as continuous wood flooring, millwork and colour scheme. From designing many vacation homes I can attest this blurs the boundaries between rooms, making them appear larger and fresher, while allowing natural light, views and conversations to flow freely.

warmth and interest

You can do this by organizing your space according to activity. The beauty of this design approach is the ability to customize the space to your hobbies and preferences, such as adding a charming banquette to host family meals and game night, a cosy reading corner to dig into a juicy book and an inviting conversation area in front of the fireplace. The aesthetic of each area should be consistent with the broader style of the space, but independent of the others with its own dedicated furnishings, accessories, light source and rug, to visually anchor each vignette.



Create a relaxed aesthetic

Vacation means rest and respite, relaxation and rejuvenation. For most of us, vacation time also signals a return to nature, which serves as not just the location but as inspiration.

Indeed, recent trends have shifted back to nature in a big way. with a more relaxed, organic palette of colours, materials and finishes. Colours tend to be less saturated, with gentler, more muted blues and earthy greens at the forefront this year. Meanwhile, materials and finishes are softer, with mattes and textural elements that are both touchable and visually warm. The same qualities resonate in fabrics and upholstery, which lean to linen, wool and blends, layered to bring more texture and softness to the space. Overlapping area rugs, pillows and throws are a great way to bring a comfortable, "collected" look while adding a cosy touch and small but mighty hits of colour.



Remember, the name of the game at your vacation home is "easy living." Daily cleaning and maintenance should be the last thing on your mind. To that end, seek out materials, fabrics and finishes that require little maintenance but offer good durability.

Keeping function and comfort in mind, scale back on your furnishings. This creates more room to move, while leaving fewer things to dust! When replacing old furniture or adding new

pieces, look for dual-purpose pieces that serve their primary function while doubling as storage.

Achieving harmony between function and style can be challenging, but remember your vacation home is your great escape and ultimately, it should serve your every want and whim. Work with a professional designer to ensure it's a space that pulls you back, for all the right reasons. он

International Designer Laura Hay, Principal of LH Decor & Design Inc., brings over a decade of experience to her work in residential interiors in the GTA, Canada, United States and Bahamas.











Peach & Pineapple AGUA FRESCA





INGREDIENTS

(Serves 4)

- 1 cup pineapple, chopped
- 1 cup peaches, chopped
- 2 cups water
 Juice from 1 lime
- 1 Tbsp sugar*

INSTRUCTIONS

Combine all ingredients in a blender and mix until smooth. Taste and add more lime and/ or sweetener.

Pour the mixture through a fine mesh strainer.

Serve over ice. Enjoy!

*May substitute other sweeteners for sugar or omit sugar altogether, depending on sweetness and ripeness of the fruit. Adjust to taste. OH



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Stylish SIPPING

IS IT TIME TO GIVE YOUR BARWARE AN UPGRADE?

STORY CONNIE JESKE CRANE

Is there anything more lovely – for hosts and guests alike – than an easy-breezy catchup with friends over cocktails? Whether on a leafy backyard patio, cottage deck or in the kitchen, one thing is for sure – our inclination to entertain at home is one pandemicdriven trend that Canadians are continuing to embrace in 2022.

Yet even if you're itching to whip up a batch of your signature sangria, you may also be wanting to spruce things up a bit first. In the wake of a long pandemic, many of us have a pretty lacklustre collection of barware on our hands by now. Missing pieces. Glassware that's been put through the dishwasher too many times. Not to mention, how many of us are simply tired of our same-old pieces by now?

How to get that home bar ready for some celebrating? We asked two Ontario retailers about barware trends for 2022. Right off the bat, Andrea Hopson of Toronto's Hopson Grace, and Christine Bourne, owner of Maggie + Dix in Meaford, confirm there's demand. Both are seeing customers busily upgrading barware this year. Here's some inspiration to get your summer sipping off to a stylish start:

COLOUR MAKES A COMEBACK

As with home décor, barware is seeing a renewed embrace of colour in 2022. At Hopson Grace, Andrea sees colourful glassware "increasing in popularity as people become more comfortable with incorporating colour into their tablescape and into their life." Colourful glassware, she adds, "is a wonderful way to provide that pop without having to commit too heavily to new dinnerware or even new table linens." Among other options, Hopson Grace carries mouth-blown, unleaded crystal tumblers by German maker Dibbern in colours like azure, aqua, rose and amber. Also trending, says Andrea, is mixing colours rather than having glassware in one colour. "It allows people to be a little creative."

In Meaford, Christine says colour is part of her shop's general aesthetic. "I like a burst of colour." This year, among the on-trend choices at Maggie + Dix are made-in-France La Rochère "Bee" glasses in hues such as emerald, aubergine and blue. Christine also carries pink vintage-inspired glassware and pastel-toned floral patterned drink shakers. Continued on page 52



DIBBERN: Americano Tumblers



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entertaining

MULTI-PURPOSE PIECES

Both retailers have also noticed a shift towards multi-functional glassware. Christine says many of her customers "want something that's more all-purpose" - glasses for example, that work for wine but also for a cocktail.

Similarly, Andrea sees a trend towards universal wine glasses. "We're seeing this regardless of whether people are oriented to red wine, white wine, sweet wine or champagne." Her shop carries universal wine

glasses by two makers, Jancis Robinson and Zalto. She says such pieces are "considered absolutely suitable for every type of wine or beverage, including sparkling wine and champagne."

In addition, Andrea says lowballs, or double old-fashioned glasses, are trending - and again leveraged for versatility. "We've been fascinated to see that glasses of that shape and size are not only popular, of course, for water and cocktails, but even for wine." In this category, she says both thin, lightweight glassware and heavier, more traditional pieces made of non-leaded crystal are popular.



Christine sees brisk demand for "more hardware accessories, like nicer drink spoons and bar towels." Other popular choices, she says, include bottle stoppers, tablecloths, wine totes and coolers, bar trays and drink cubes.





PITCHERS

Whether used to serve cocktails, wine, infused water or mocktails, pitchers are another great way to add pizzazz. Christine, who carries various styles, including versions from La Rochère to match her shop's glassware, says pitchers are hugely popular.

Andrea has seen a shift from classic decanters towards carafes and decanters that are "beautifully organic and fluid in shape. They feel great in the hand. They're not heavy. They're easy and beautiful to handle."

BEAUTIFUL OUTDOOR LIVING PIECES

If you want to take the party outside, think about adding some fresh pieces here too. "I do well with the picnic baskets, picnic blankets and all of that melamine serveware." says Christine.

Acrylic pieces are also uber-hot this year. "We start to see people anticipate the summer months with a renewed interest in acrylic and shatter-free," Andrea says. With acrylic, she also notes how much offerings such as stemware and tumblers have evolved. "The designs and shapes are so beautiful now!"

Finally, Andrea says serving trays are another stylish must-have for outdoor living. "The ease of having that easy-to-wipe surface, whether with a tray that's all acrylic or made of a lightweight wood, makes it very easy and portable. Especially if you're loaded down with great drinks!" on













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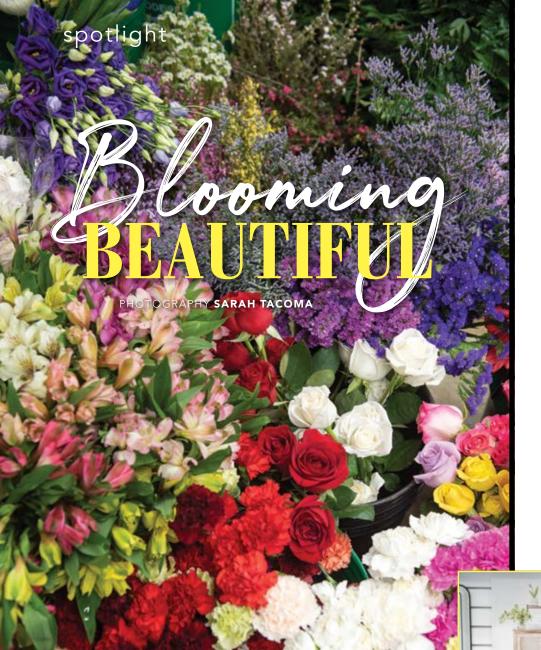


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MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

Everlasting flowers and special requests that honour a loved one's life are important at Markdale Flowers. Kimberley says it's helpful to have an understanding of a person's life and the information she gains from talking to family members is used to personalize floral tributes, adding items that represent a special hobby, career or event to tell their life story.

THE PLACE

Receiving a beautiful floral arrangement for any occasion always brings a smile. Kimberley Lewis, owner of **Markdale Flowers**, has been creating those arrangements for years. Kimberley is celebrating Markdale Flowers' third anniversary, but she's been in the floral and décor business for 10 years. Every lush plant and beautiful arrangement that leaves her store is a testimonial of her talent and dedication to providing customers with products that celebrate each client's special moments.









WEDDINGS

Kimberley works with each bride to create a signature style and colour theme for the big day while considering likes, dislikes or allergies to create the perfect floral display. The store also has finishing touches for rent, including marquee letters, arches, vases and lanterns to complement the wedding venue. She also offers the option of custom orders of loose flowers for the bride who wants to create her own bouquet and centrepieces.









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EXTRAS

If a customer wants the option of adding something significant or personal to a floral gift, there is a large selection of giftware, balloons, home décor items and indoor plants to make a thoughtful gift even more special.



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Is blue the new it colour? I say yes! This versatile hue comes in hundreds of shades and tones, from primary blue, barely-there baby blue, to Pantone's 2022 colour of the year – a bold, purplish periwinkle. Indeed, there's a variation of blue that goes with everything in every room. Here's why blue is my go-to hue in much of my own design work and where to incorporate it in your own home.

WHY THE DRAW TO BLUE?

This incredibly adaptable colour is a "shape-shifter," with a shade for every mood, making it a fixture in many different rooms, with varying results. Blue can range from energizing and relaxing to brooding, depending on its tone, temperature and vibrancy.

Continued on page 6



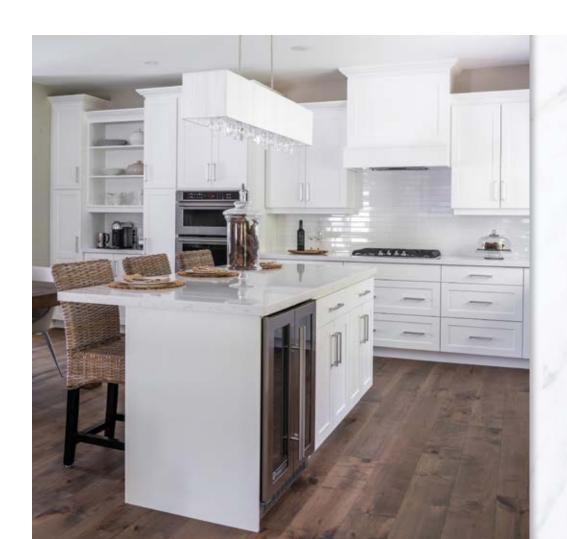




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BLUE

STORY PATTI WILSON
PHOTOGRAPHY MIKE CHAJECKI & JAMES C LEE

decorating



TEMPERATURE & MOOD

turquoise and other ocean-inspired

hues. The bathroom is the logical

inspiring a sense of calmness and relaxation. They also pair well with

other bathroom staples such as

mirror and polished chrome and

complement crisp white casings,

fixtures and floors. This classic

palette boasts widespread appeal and for good reason. The look is

fresh and clean, perfect for a spa-

Beyond temperature, colour

intensity can also influence the

mood of your space. A saturated

shade of blue will convey a very

blues act as palette-cleansers,

which are essential for hectic

lifestyles, delivering some much-needed serenity when it's

time to retreat.

different look and feel than a faded version of the same. Barely-there

inspired bathroom.

choice for these cool colours,

Blue is thought to be a cool colour and it often is – but not always. Cool blues have green undertones, while warm blues have purple ones, such as denim or slate, which boast earthy, organic characteristics and are subtly warm. The "temperature" of your blue can dramatically impact the overall ambience of the room.

A warm blue is the perfect choice for cosy spaces, such as a living room, family room or den, giving some wonderful depth and drama. These shades of blue have a warmth and intimacy to them, which are conducive to the intimate activities taking place in these areas of the home. Depending on the desired atmosphere in your space, consider a moody, navy blue.

Meanwhile, on the cool side of the colour spectrum, you'll find greenish blues, such as aquamarine, HOW TO "DO" BLUE

That all depends on your space,

That all depends on your space, your intended vibe and the blue you'll be using. But generally speaking, if blue is your dominant colour in the space, chances are it is a lighter, paler shade. In this case, blue acts as your backdrop, which you'll liven up with a

secondary colour and accent colour. Refer to the 60-30-10 rule when playing with colour proportion: 60 per cent of the space is reserved for the dominant hue, 30 per cent for the secondary and 10 per cent for the accent, which is usually a bolder choice.

If blue is your secondary or accent colour (or both), chances are you've selected something a little more daring, more vibrant or darker. A feature wall, a bank of cabinets, furniture and accessories are all impactful ways to incorporate your selection into a more neutral aesthetic.

I've always enjoyed working with blues in my design work and in spite of the ever-changing trends I've seen come and go, this one seems to have endured them all with grace and a touch of drama. It remains at the forefront in 2022, inducing a sense of calm in a world that can get crazy at times. Try it out in your



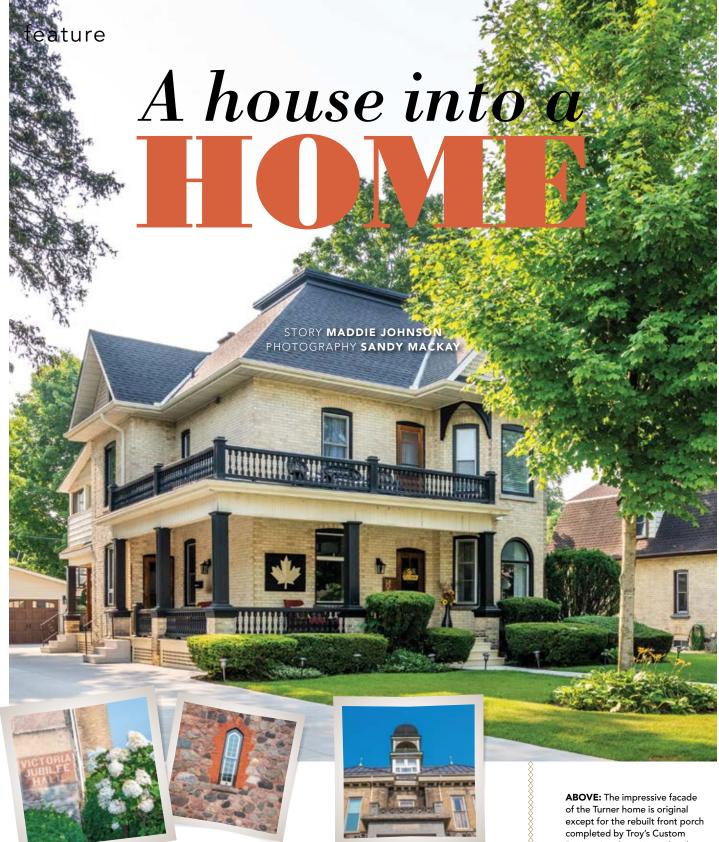
Patti Wilson, principal of award-winning Patti Wilson Design is known for creating stylish, thoughtfully curated, livable interiors.





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THEY SAY IT TAKES HANDS TO BUILD A HOUSE, BUT ONLY HEARTS CAN BUILD A HOME. FOR NICOLE TURNER, IT WAS A BIT OF BOTH. of the Turner home is original except for the rebuilt front porch completed by Troy's Custom Design. Landscaping and sod were sourced through River's Edge Garden and Landscaping Services. Superior Concrete Finishing Inc. poured the new front walkway and the driveway. LEFT: The preservation of the historic buildings in Walkerton, many made using the iconic yellow brick the area is known for, makes a tour through this town interesting and enjoyable.



Nicole and her family moved into the yellow brick century home in Walkerton three years ago and with a little hard work and a whole lot of love, together they turned the old house into a home. And Nicole couldn't be happier.

"It feels like home," Nicole says, "which is weird, because we've only been here three years."

Nicole and her family moved to Walkerton after her husband, Shawn, acquired the General Motors dealership in Hanover. They were living in Guelph at the time, where they spent 11 years in a new build, so when it came time to move, the Turners wanted something with a bit more character. Continued on page 66



ABOVE: Shawn, Gryphon holding Georgie, Cooper and Nicole Turner enjoy a summer day on the side porch. **TOP LEFT:** Cabinetry in the mudroom was built into an unused doorway and window. Flooring for this space was sourced and installed by Cuneo's Carpet One Floor & Home. Much of the wood trim in the home, including the front foyer, has been left unpainted, showcasing a patina rich in history.



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feature



"The cookie cutter wasn't me," says Nicole. "I wanted something I could put my own stamp on."

And the result is anything but cookie cutter.

The large century home sits tall on a quaint street and features high ceilings, high baseboards and a network of living spaces connected in a way true to its time. The minute Nicole walked into the old home she could see its potential.

The house was built in 1906 and Nicole believes her family is the fourth to call it home. A few months after they arrived, the granddaughter of the original owner came to visit, and as Nicole took her on a tour, the woman shared her memories, recalling what she could about the history of the old house and its original layout.

A lot of the original structure remains the same, except rooms that were once dark and dimly lit are now bright, warm and very welcoming. Lockwood Painting and Nicole painted almost all of the interior walls white. Nicole took on the restoration of the living room fireplace, uncovering the original brick, which she cleaned and repaired.

"I wanted a modern home, without changing out the wood features," she says. And pretty much everything that has been refinished, Nicole did all by herself. Continued on page 68











A bookkeeper by trade, Nicole also owns a small business with her sister Paula called **The Pallet Sisters**, where they build handcrafted and customized gifts, signs and home décor.

"When I get inspired I build things," Nicole laughs. "So I figured I had the knack to do some stuff myself."

A perfect example of her creativity is the dog's "bedroom" that Nicole crafted under the staircase. She got the idea while watching HGTV with her daughter one day and started working on it immediately. She customized the mini-room right down to the wallpaper and even included frames with photos of her dog and his friends.

Nicole also handmade the large wooden sign sitting in the dining room and sourced side tables from secondhand stores, which she refinished and painted herself.

"You have your ideas and slowly bring them to life, and that's what I love about it," says Nicole.

The second floor, accessed by the main staircase or one located at the back of the house behind the kitchen, features a split level with a second living area before it opens up to the three main bedrooms at the front of the house. Hidden behind what looks like a closet door is another staircase that leads to the third floor, which Nicole has turned into a guest area. *Continued on page 71*

TOP LEFT: In the kitchen, the window over the sink opens to the rear mudroom. The tray on the island was made by Nicole. Updated windows for the home were installed by Candue Homes. FAR LEFT: An ingenious idea keeps food and dishes for the dog and cat off the floor in the kitchen. LEFT: Kitchen duties for the Turner household are displayed near one of the two doorways into the kitchen.

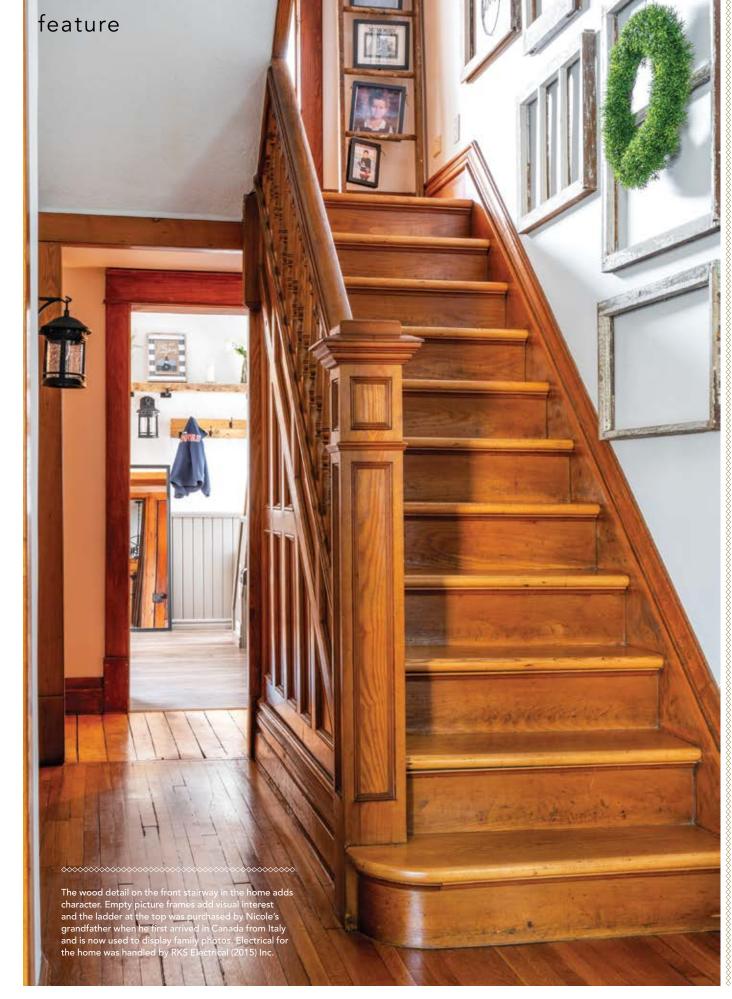
"YOU HAVE YOUR IDEAS AND SLOWLY BRING THEM TO LIFE, AND THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT." –Nicole Turner



LEFT: Georgie the Yorkshire Terrier has a dream bedroom under the back stairway to the second floor. Nicole got the idea while watching HGTV and completed the project herself. ABOVE: Gryphon and Georgie come in the back door after playing outside. BELOW: The vanity in the primary en suite was refinished by Nicole. All paint for the home was sourced at Cuneo's Carpet One Floor & Home. Plumbing projects were completed by Mid-West Refrigeration Ltd.



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RIGHT: The wainscotting in Cooper's bedroom was added by Troy's Custom Design and painted 50's Pink by Benjamin Moore. FAR RIGHT: A desk organizer hangs on the wainscotting in Cooper's bedroom and helps to keep the homework and study area tidy.

BELOW: Gryphon's bedroom is a shrine to hockey, the game he loves to play and watch. The dual aspect windows have curtain rods made of hockey sticks.



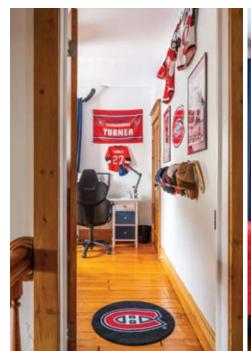
The top floor also has its own living room with two additional bedrooms and tons of space and it is perfect for when Nicole's large family comes to visit. Eventually, she says she would like to turn it into a primary suite.

Other elements of family are found throughout the five-bedroom house that really make it feel like a home, right down to an old ladder that Nicole's grandfather used for work that now serves as a picture shelf at the top of the stairs. And because she comes from a large family and loves to entertain, one of the things she likes most is the size of the house. She says you can have 14 people in the house and not hear a thing.

"It isn't open-concept but it doesn't feel closed off, either," she says.

Continued on page 72









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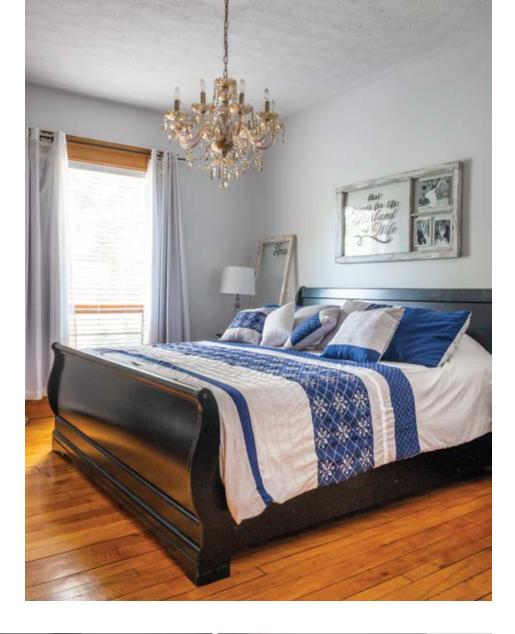
feature

There are also challenges that come with living in an old home, the biggest one being that Nicole says she never stops finding new projects to work on.

"Things are a lot more work than you would think and every day you see something else that needs to be fixed or touched up," she laughs. Nicole says she has a running list, but she is trying not to work through it all too fast.

While the home still has its original brick exterior, the front porch and large yard have been completely redone. A local man handspun all of the spindles on both porches and the backyard features a collection of locally sourced and refinished elements. New garage doors were installed by Wm. Haws **Overhead Garage Doors**

RIGHT: A crystal chandelier in the primary bedroom hangs over the king-size sleigh bed. The original wood floors gleam in the sunlight. BELOW LEFT: A door on the second floor opens to reveal a stairway to the third floor. Once up the stairs, visitors can enjoy this self-contained area. Deep plush carpet was sourced and installed by Cueno's Carpet One Floor & Home. Trim and moulding were installed by Troy's Custom Design. MIDDLE: A vintage desk on the third floor overlooks the seating area. RIGHT: A vintage typewriter in the office area on the main floor is a reminder of how technology has changed.











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The pièce de résistance is a "BinZebo" that overlooks the pool at the back of the yard. The unique structure was built from a recycled grain bin and has been turned into an outdoor living space that has been wired for TV and features a handcrafted firepit from Freiburger Welding & Machine Shop Ltd. in Walkerton. HDTV **and Electronics** completed all of the outdoor wiring to the televisions and speakers and did

some work inside as well.

The yard also features a pool bar that was installed by positioning a panel into the side of the garage that can slide up so they can have drinks by the pool.

"I like things that make us different, one-of-a-kind," says Nicole. "I'm so happy how the home turned out. It is everything I pictured and more." on

ABOVE: The BinZebo crafted by Weathered Design & Fabrication has been wired by HDTV and Electronics for a television. The fencing around the pool was installed by Green Acres Landscape & Fence. The pool is maintained by Byers Pools & Hot Tubs. Superior Concrete Finishing poured the pool deck and the base of the BinZebo. **BELOW** LEFT: Wm. Haws Overhead Garage Doors installed the rolltop bar window. Klassy Metal Art made the custom sign on the garage. Troy's Custom Design supplied the live-edge bar counter. **BELOW RIGHT:** Georgie enjoys her personal chaise by the pool and the matching umbrella keeps her cool on hot days.











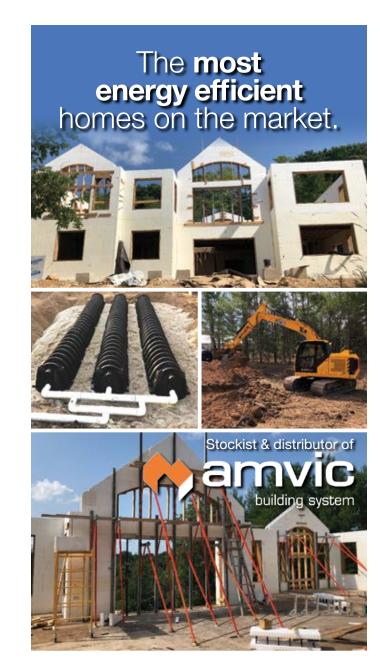


Should You HIRE A DESIGNER?

TWO ONTARIO DESIGNERS TALK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL UPSIDES

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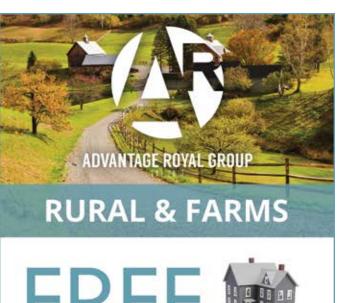
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Continued on page 78

In the past, designers weren't the go-to option for most homeowners, but things have really changed. According to IBISWorld statistics, Canada's interior designers have seen steady market growth in the last five years.

On the ground, Canadian designers confirm they're seeing this trend. "The whole thing has changed," says Ottawa-based Catherine Pulcine of CPI Interiors. "People are much more receptive to the idea that you would hire someone to help you." In the business for 30 years, Catherine attributes the shift to several factors, notably TV home décor shows. "The whole HGTV thing really brought the realm of interior decorators and designers into peoples' homes."

Curious about working with a designer? Wondering how your project might benefit? We talked to Catherine in Ottawa and also to Brittany Zazula of London-based Ben & Britt at Home. Here are the benefits they say a good interior designer can bring:

BETTER UTILIZATION OF YOUR SPACE

First off, Catherine says, "An interior designer has a very different perspective on the space. And when someone is living in a space or they've had something for a while, they only see it for what it is, they don't see it for what it could become." A designer, says Catherine, can take your wants and figure out how to make a space work better for you.

WELL-CHOSEN PRODUCTS AND **MATERIALS**

From contractors to furniture suppliers, designers have extensive contact lists, says Brittany, and can help clients make better purchasing decisions. "We know what's good and what's not." And designers also factor in a client's lifestyle, she adds. "What's practical? Do they have kids? What furniture is going to hold up against stains? Do they have pets? It's really about saving them in the long run on things they're going to use, that are practical, functional and still beautiful

NO COSTLY MISTAKES

Purchases for your home can involve significant costs, says Catherine. Leveraging a designer's experience means you could prevent some expensive headaches. For example: "If you order a sofa and it doesn't fit or it's the wrong colour or you didn't choose the right style, and you didn't realize what size it was, chances are that you can't return it. So now you're stuck with it." A professional, she adds, can help you steer clear and thereby save money in the long run.

LOWER STRESS LEVELS

With more comprehensive jobs requiring lots of big-budget, tricky, in-the-minute decisions, Brittany says, "It really mentally helps to have an interior designer - the amount of stress that it removes! I mean people don't really realize how much stress they put on themselves."

HELP WITH PAINT CHIP WOES

Anyone who's struggled over umpteen swatches knows how difficult it is to choose paint colours that work. Yet a simple colour consult with a designer, says Catherine, can make all the difference to a project. "Most people think it's such a simple thing. But the colour of the paint makes a dramatic difference to the overall impression and the feel of the space." A professional, she says, can help you avoid colours that feel a bit "off" and create a space that feels put together.

COHESION

Finally, says Brittany, "The biggest thing we can do is tie the project together, unlike when a homeowner spends years picking out one piece here, one piece there and it's a hodgepodge." And Brittany also often sees the opposite case. "There are so many times I go into clients' homes and they have been sitting in an empty space for years. They can't make decisions and don't know where to start." A professional can get clients to the finish line - completely and cohesively, she says. "And a finished space equals a happy space!" **oH**



DESIGNERS ON GETTING THE MOST FROM THE PROCESS:

Choose wisely - Check out potential interior designers' credentials, portfolios and talk to previous clients.

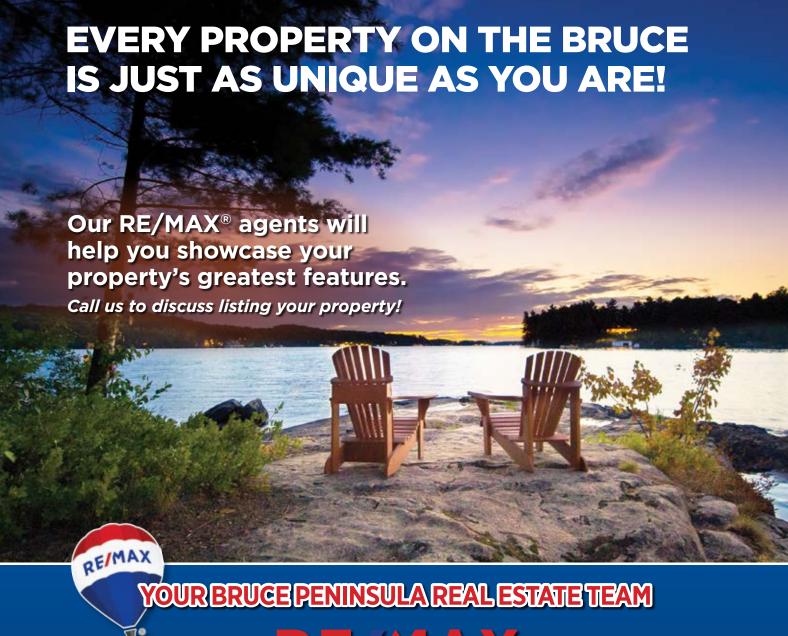
Do your financial homework -

Work out a budget for your project and understand how design costs will factor in. (Some designers charge hourly, some have flat fees, etc.)

Gather visuals - Use Pinterest, magazines, Instagram, etc. to relay your expectations and aesthetic preferences.

Communicate - Good communication throughout a project is key. Choose a designer you like working with, ensure all household members have their say upfront and keep the lines of communication open,

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FROM OUR



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SKILLED trades

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PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA

QUALITY HOMES

Quality Homes is Ontario's premier modular home and cottage builder. In their state-of-the-art indoor construction facility, over 3,500 homes and cottages across central and southwestern Ontario have been built. Quality Homes has been an ardent supporter of student co-op programs for more than 30 years and believe that skill development is best learned in the field under the close supervision of seasoned experts. The indoor building process offers a broad exposure to various trades in an environment of increased health and safety.



Throughout high school I enjoyed shop classes and was encouraged by teachers to explore carpentry co-ops. Working at Quality Homes has been a very handson education and I hope to follow this placement into an apprenticeship as a carpenter. I encourage other women to consider the trades for their career.



Continued on page 82





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VALLEY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

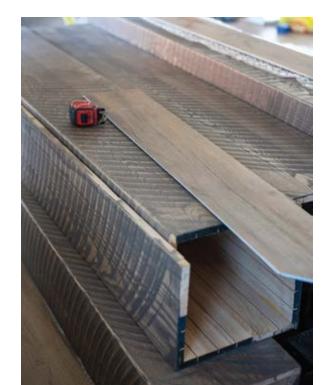
At Valley Home Improvements we pride ourselves on providing excellent customer service to our clients. We help them with projects ranging from decks, interior and exterior renovations, additions and garages, all the way to custom homes. We support apprenticeship programs because our team can become licensed carpenters while learning firsthand on our jobsites as well as supplementing their knowledge with in-class training.



Shawn McAdam, Carpentry

MEET SHAWN

My father is a carpenter and growing up I would work with him. I learned a lot and really enjoyed our building projects. In high school I decided to pursue a career in the trades. I have worked at Valley Home Improvements for three years and this is the second year of my apprenticeship as a general carpenter. I was drawn to this trade because I get to see a new build or a renovation from the beginning and work towards it all coming together.





MEET COBY

I started working for Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc. when I was 15. I was encouraged to work in many different divisions of the company, which has helped me to settle on an apprenticeship as a residential refrigeration technician. This position involves a variety of projects, different sites as well as planning. I feel what I do is integral to how people live and enjoy their homes and I am happy I can be a part of that.

......

SANDY HAMILTON PLUMBING & HEATING INC.

Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc. is a local family-owned-and-operated company that gives quality service. We have been in business for 22 years and our team consists of TSSA gas technicians, oil-burner technicians, sheet-metal technicians, plumbers and apprentices. The apprenticeship program is a great way to train the next generation of workers and helps us prepare our business for the future. Our apprentices learn a much-needed skill set from our licensed technicians and journeymen and we gain hardworking employees who are willing to learn new skills. The program is a win for both the apprentice and the employer.



people & places





MEET MITCH

My father is in the trades and he always encouraged me to find a trade that could be my career. I was fortunate to get a job as a general labourer at Candue Homes. Seeing all aspects of new-home building exposed me to all the trades involved in that process. I found carpentry to be interesting and varied and have begun my apprenticeship as a carpenter. After the home is framed, the carpentry crew and I back-frame the basement, showers, fireplaces and generally have the structure of the home ready for electrical, plumbing and HVAC to be installed.

Continued on page 86

CANDUE HOMES

Candue Homes prides itself on being a local, family-owned business with over 30 years' experience in new-home construction. We believe each member of the Candue team is instrumental in the success of our business, therefore investing in our employees is a priority. It is important for us to develop the full potential of each individual and supporting apprentices is key in that fundamental growth. The success of our employees ensures our success and growth!











MEET JORDAN

I wasn't sure if working in the trades was what I wanted to follow, but this co-op for the Flato Developments Inc. community in Dundalk has given me the chance to see the opportunities available in the trades. My job title is warranty technician, which involves finishing up little touch-ups and small repairs before a home is ready for sale or to be released to the homebuyers. This position is interesting and is developing my skills as a carpenter, which is the apprenticeship I am now completing through Georgian College.



Launched in 2005, Flato Developments Inc. is building communities across Southern Ontario. As community builders, our focus is creating and connecting neighborhoods we build. We strongly believe it is our responsibility to support the education, training and growth of the next generation. Building and development is a growing, vibrant industry in Ontario and we are proud to play our part.





OYAP is a School to Work program that opens the door for students to explore and work in apprenticeship occupations starting in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the Cooperative Education program. The program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

The goals of OYAP are:

- To provide students with the opportunity to start training in a skilled trade while completing the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- To enable students to make the school to work transition by direct entry into apprenticeship training.
- To provide employers with the opportunity to train the skilled workers they require.
- To provide a viable solution to address the problem of skilled tradespeople shortages in general, and specifically the lack of young people joining the trades.

Contact Dave Barrett at Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

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MEET JOSHUA

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship program has given me the schooling, opportunity and funding to realize my dream of a career as a carpenter. Working with Aitken Custom Framing Inc. lets me see the building process from a foundation to our fast and interesting work creating the frame of a home. I have worked in areas where we frame several homes and after we have moved onto the next project, I get to drive by and see the stages of the build that take place after us. I like the fast pace of framing and appreciate the knowledge of my co-workers, who teach me something new every single day.

Continued on page 90





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MEET WILLIAM

After a presentation by OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) at my high school, which showed us the many different trade careers, plumbing caught my interest. My three-month co-op at Lang's Plumbing & Heating & Air Conditioning was very educational. While there I was working on new-home construction projects that involved the installation of toilets, shut-off values, water heaters and other common plumbing jobs. It gave me an extensive introduction and deepened my initial interest enough that I will take an apprenticeship in plumbing when I graduate from high school. I was considering university, but when I learned how I could work, learn and earn income at the same time as an apprentice, it was very appealing.

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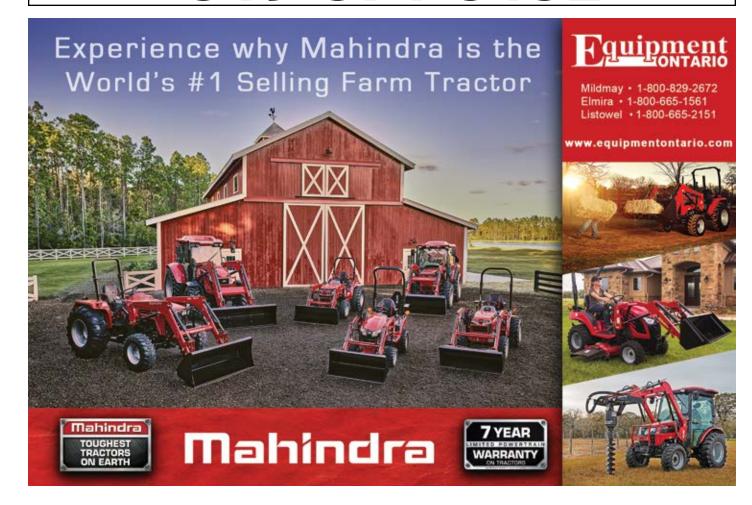
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design ideas



LEVEL UP your KITCHEN LIGHTING Kitchen lighting is so much more than just a bulb to illuminate dark corners. Yes, it must be practical, but it should also be artistic, inspiring and a focal point in the space. From a designer's perspective, your lighting plan should integrate into the broader design with regards to functionality and aesthetics.

If you've engaged a designer for a kitchen renovation, communicate with them early on to ensure your goals for the space are baked into the overall plan. Here are some of my key items to note when lighting up your kitchen.

LIGHTING, 3 WAYS

In general, lighting falls into one of three categories: ambient lighting, task lighting and accent lighting.

Ambient light is the overall lighting in the room, commonly in the form of ceiling fixtures intended to illuminate the entire space. The kitchen demands brighter ambient lighting than you might otherwise opt for in a room like the den. In the kitchen, plan for more ambient light sources, such as pot lights that can be distributed evenly throughout, but have a minimal visual impact on the design.

Task lighting refers to focused lights that illuminate a specific area for a set purpose. As its name suggests, this type of lighting should correlate to your tasks, so I always evaluate the space based on my clients' activities and their location. Some areas that typically require concentrated lighting include above the island, countertops, cooking areas, sink and kitchen table – areas that are commonly used to prepare and eat meals. Also consider your secondary uses of the space. If you use part of your kitchen as a pantry, office, homework area or for hobbies, ensure your lighting plan accommodates each pursuit and pastime. Continued on page 94





design ideas

Accent lighting is purely decorative and can be used to highlight notable features within your kitchen, or to act as focal points. For example, in-cabinet lighting can be a beautiful feature if you have glass cabinet doors, allowing you to highlight glassware, china or collections. Strategically placed wall sconces can draw attention to open shelving, frame the cooking area or highlight a beautiful backsplash. Even integrated appliance lighting can serve a function, while acting as an accent.

TIP: Task lighting and accent lighting should be on a separate switch from ambient lighting, allowing options for light and illumination in the kitchen. Remember to also add dimmers to easily adapt your lighting for your specific needs, whether it's preparing a meal, dining, entertaining or any one of the other things you do in your kitchen.









THE LOOK

While each type of lighting has a distinct job to do, the opportunity to add style into a space should never be wasted! When choosing lighting for your kitchen, always consider its aesthetic impact in terms of colour, shape and finish.

You'll want to ensure your lighting fixtures stand out, but still complement the kitchen's overall aesthetic. Is your space clean and contemporary? Then consider a more streamlined or minimal style of fixtures.

TIP: The technical side of your lighting is as important as its style. It always helps to have your fixture professionally mounted and be sure to consider the right height of each fixture within the context of the kitchen space. The general rule is to hang pendants three feet above a table or countertop or six feet above the floor.

As a final thought, consider your bulbs. Not only do they come in different intensities, they also come in different temperatures. A cool bulb is slightly blueish, while a warm bulb is yellowish.

At the end of the day, have some fun with your lighting. Your lighting should make a statement while adding that stylish key ingredient to your kitchen design. **oh**

Jennifer Backstein is the creative director and principal designer for Jennifer Backstein Interiors.





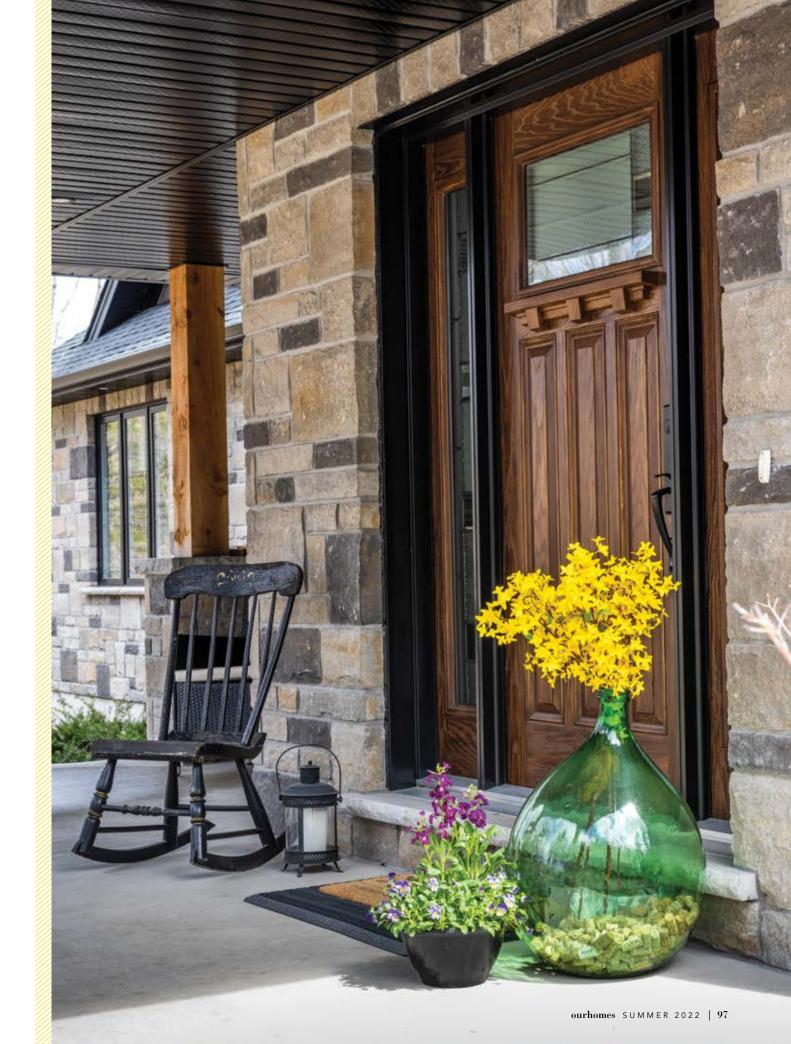
THE ARS IN THE STORY RACHAEL HAVENS PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY



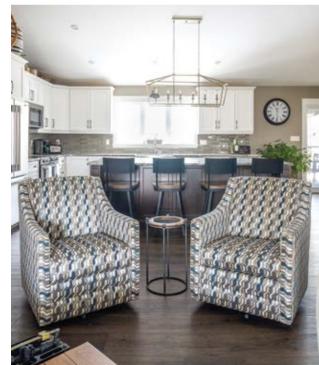


Kevin and Jo-Ann Eccles have known each other all their lives, quite literally. Their fathers grew up on the same concession, just a mile apart, and were in each other's weddings. The pair were born 21 days apart and christened on the same day. "We've been married for 40 years and been in church for 63," laughs Kevin. Continued on page 98

TOP LEFT: Kevin and Jo-Ann Eccles are passionate cribbage players and being dealt the perfect hand of cards deserves a toast. BOTTOM LEFT:
DR Designs, Architectural Services & Consulting assisted the Eccleses on the design of the home.
Stone from Shouldice Designer Stone is a mixture of Hampton and Norton Blend and was installed by Bross Masonry. Windows were sourced from Golden Windows Limited. Roofing was completed by Reilly's Roofing Ltd. OPPOSITE: An antique rocking chair sits by the Mission-style front door under the protected front porch. Bright, cheery flowers and a lantern greet visitors.



home & builder



FAR LEFT: Swivel chairs in the living room from Smitty's Fine Furniture can face the fireplace or the action at the kitchen island. The great room walls are painted PPG Gray By Me, with trim in Eggshell. **LEFT:** Sidelights and a large window keep the front foyer bright and welcoming. Flooring is Twelve Oaks Vinyl in Bourbon Cask, installed by Kuglin Contracting. BELOW: A gift that Kevin received on an official tour to Korea that translates his name hangs over the propane fireplace. The Stressless leather lounge chair is from Smitty's Fine

Don and Susan Tremble, owners of Candue **Homes**, have also been on the scene nearly as long, as Jo-Ann and Susan grew up going to school together. When the Eccleses sold their family home a few years ago, Don called Kevin and asked "so where are we building your new house?" The friends had joked about it for years, but Kevin says "the fact is, that if we were going to build a house, it was going to be Candue."

Candue has been building residential properties for about 35 years, now completing around 50 houses a year from custom homes to developments. There is a key team working alongside Don and Susan, including their sons Kevin and Jason who do accounting and excavating respectively. Don's niece and nephew, Becky and Chad, have also come in as partners, making Candue a true family owned-and-operated business. Continued on page 101

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: A reading nook for their grandchildren is tucked in a quiet corner near the entrance to the garage. Tile for the floor was sourced through House Rules Design Shop and installed by Gary Voisin Flooring Solutions. TOP RIGHT: A collection of books for every age is within easy reach of the reading nook. The binoculars help to view interesting birds that live on this forested property. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Kevin's involvement in the dairy industry created his passion for collecting glass milk bottles, which are displayed in a glass-front cabinet on the lower level. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The sliding barn door is a reminder of the Eccleses' agricultural background and leads to the reading nook and the garage entrance.









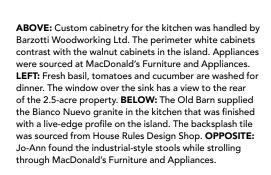




Kevin Eccles was raised on a dairy farm before turning to politics, serving as an elected official for 18 years, including Mayor of West Grey and Warden of Grey County. Farming gave him experience building barns and silos, but never a house. "Building didn't scare me as long as it was something that housed livestock or machinery," he jokes. A custom home was a different animal entirely.

First up was finding a property, which took nearly a year. Having always lived on secluded farm properties, moving to town wasn't in the cards. "Jo-Ann was scared I would buy another farm and get back to farming," Kevin admits. They settled for 2.5 acres in a new development in Grey County, not too far from family in Durham. Continued on page 103









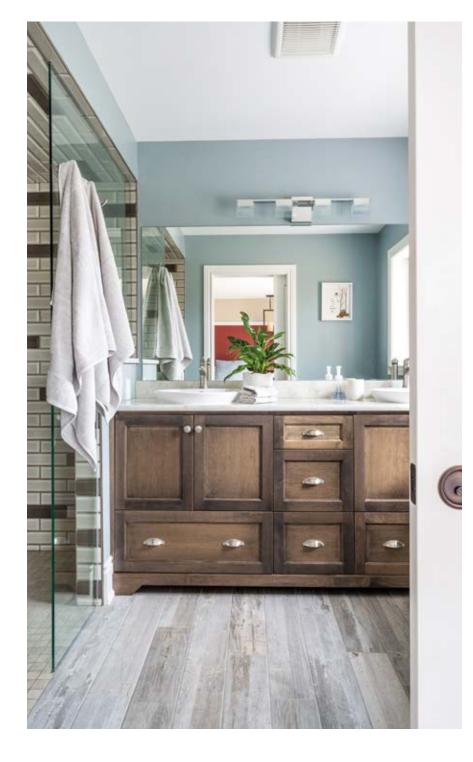
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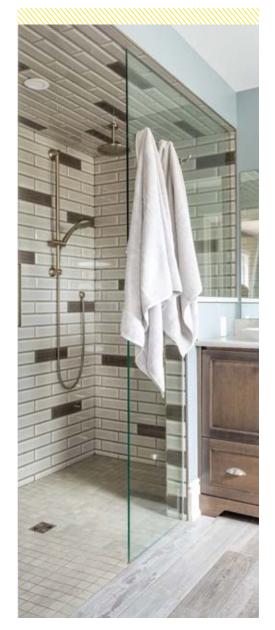


When it was time to design the home, the Eccleses turned to **Darryl Regimbal** of **DR Designs, Architectural Services & Consulting**. After a few meetings, a plan was in place and it was time to break ground. Less than a year after purchasing their lot, they moved in.

Describing the style of the home is easy for Kevin, who says the goal was simply to make it "open and welcoming." The door is always open for family and friends, who love to congregate around the large island that bridges the kitchen and great room. There is a wine cooler to one side of the island and a beer fridge to the other. "There might even be a bag of peanuts in one of the drawers," Kevin quips.

Continued on page 104

LEFT: Barzotti Woodworking Ltd. crafted the primary en suite vanity from maple finished in antique grey with black paste and topped with Suprano granite from The Old Barn. BELOW: The shower is curbless with glass subway tile from House Rules Design Shop. Plumbing for the home was completed by Pratt Plumbing & Heating. OPPOSITE, TOP: An accent wall in the primary bedroom was created with trim and paint. Light switches for the pendant lights are conveniently located by each side of the bed. Electrical for the home was installed by Dingwall Electric. BOTTOM LEFT: A collection of vases and a landscape painting are a focal point in the main-floor hallway. BOTTOM MIDDLE: A LOVE sign in the primary bedroom doubles as a shelf for cherished mementos. The spider plant enjoys the sunlight from the sliding doors to the rear deck and a hot tub. BOTTOM RIGHT: The silver pocket watch is protected under a glass dome and belonged to Kevin's great, great, great-grandfather.

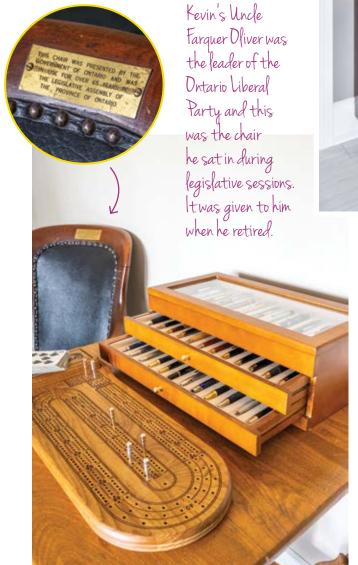


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home & builder

The countertop on the island has a unique liveedge finish. This was a first for Reay Hunter of The **Old Barn**, who brought Kevin and Jo-Ann's vision to life and exceeded their expectations. Kuglin **Contracting**, who did the flooring, was a key trade as well. "Scott Kuglin's attention to detail is second to none," Kevin says.

Ground Effects Landscapes completed the landscaping, including the lawn, berm, trees and flower beds, often in 33-degree heat. "They were absolutely fantastic," Kevin reveals. "Jo-Ann and I are just elated with what they did." **Dingwall Electric** wired the home. Don at Candue cannot praise all of the trades enough, either. "The majority of them have been with me a long time, many 15 years or more. They all take a lot of pride in their work, they always go over and above." Continued on page 106







ABOVE: The vanity in the guest bathroom has double vessel sinks on Suprano granite from The Old Barn. The cabinet from Barzotti Woodworking Ltd. is finished with a musket brown stain and black paste. FAR LEFT: Kevin's main-level office has a cribbage board and a collection of personalized pens from government officials Kevin has worked with. **LEFT:** The stairway to the lower level is from Century Stair Systems Inc. An open-caged pendant light hangs next to a wall painted PPG Gibraltar Gray.





"I FIND MYSELF THINKING 'THAT'S KIND OF TAKING MY BREATH AWAY.'" -Kevin Eccles

BELOW: The light from the sliding doors to the backyard make the leather chaise a comfortable spot to read a book. TOP LEFT: The lower-level family room is anchored by the propane fireplace installed by Kuglin Contracting and clad in Fusion Stone, Great Lakes Series in Fawn. **TOP RIGHT:** Press-back chairs surround a table ready for a fast-paced game of Crokinole. Built-in shelving holds puzzles, games and a small bar. RIGHT: The east-facing deck at the rear of the home can be accessed through the dining area and the primary bedroom. Ground Effects Landscapes planted trees, constructed a berm, created flower beds and seeded the lawn, making this property an escape for Kevin and Jo-Ann.









A back deck, which just may be Kevin's favourite spot, runs the entire length of the home. "I love the deck in the summertime, it faces to the east, so in the morning with the sun coming through the trees, I find myself thinking 'that's kind of taking my breath away.' " On chillier mornings, the sunrise can be enjoyed from the hot tub. Upon seeing this hot tub, Jo-Ann and Kevin's

young granddaughter Jane declared "I just love it here, it's like a spa paradise!"

With two children and six grandchildren, family will always be top of mind for Kevin and Jo-Ann. They are looking forward to enjoying their new home with those they love most. Kevin reflects, "just as my little granddaughter said, this is paradise." **OH**



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These programs support area seniors and adults living with disabilities to continue to live in their home, with family, and in their community.

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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. Our pro painters are always

ready to help you with all your painting needs. For more information contact Jeff Lockwood Painting Services at 519.372.3008 or visit our website at lockwoodpainting.ca (Please see ad on pg 75)



ONTARIO YOUTH

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

Did you know that all secondary schools in Grey and Bruce counties are equipped with tech shops?

And did you know about the **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship** Program (OYAP), which is a co-operative education program offered in all secondary schools allowing for 'real world' handson learning in skilled trades occupations, while students work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma?

Apprenticeship is a first-choice pathway to careers in the skilled trades offering a diverse range of career options in the Motive Power, Industrial, Service, and Construction sectors.

OYAP works hard to dispel myths about careers in the skilled trades, and to ensure students understand apprenticeships are earned and not just given. The skilled trades are where STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is applied every day, and students are encouraged to prepare now, while they are in secondary school, or be prepared to upgrade later.

Businesses and industries that take co-op placements often see the high calibre of students during these placements, and offer to sponsor them as apprentices. OYAP is also able to register students as apprentices while still in secondary school, so that upon graduation, they will then continue their training as registered apprentices.

Please visit oyap.com to learn more about the OYAP and join us in inspiring the next generation of apprentices (Please see ad on pg 87)

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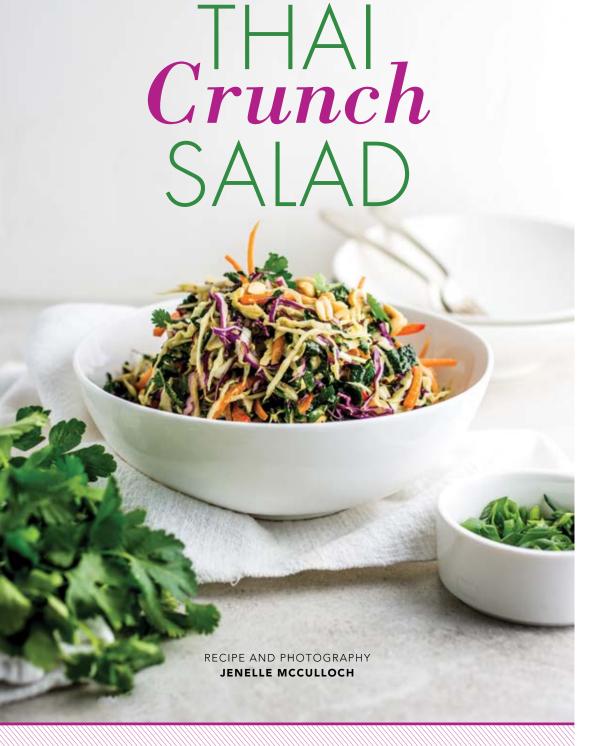
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cooking at home



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Ingredients (Serves 4)

SALAD

2 cups cabbage, shredded
1 cup carrots, shredded
1 red pepper, thinly sliced
2 cups black kale, shredded
½ cup peanuts, roasted
Handful cilantro
3 green onions, thinly sliced

THAI PEANUT DRESSING

¼ cup peanut butter

3 Tbsp rice vinegar

2 Tbsp honey

2 Tbsp soy sauce

1 tsp sesame oil

2 cloves garlic, minced

Pinch of red chili flakes

Instructions

To make the dressing, combine all ingredients in a small blender or whisk together in a bowl until smooth.

Add salad ingredients to a large bowl. Pour dressing onto the salad and toss.

Serve with your protein of choice for a full meal! **OH**











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