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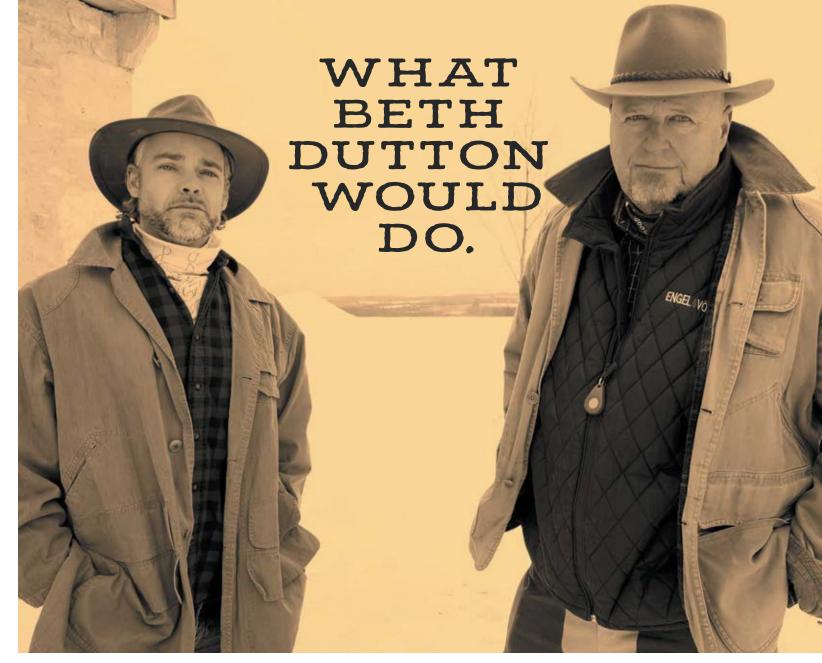


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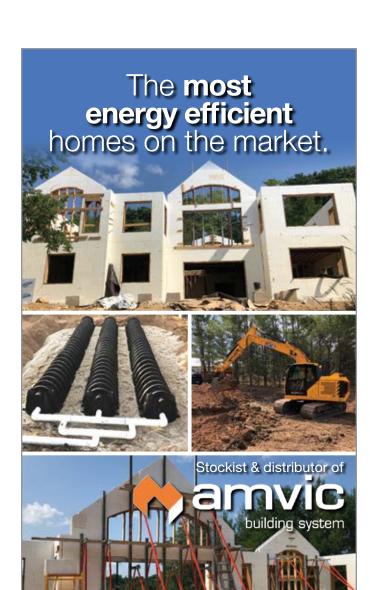
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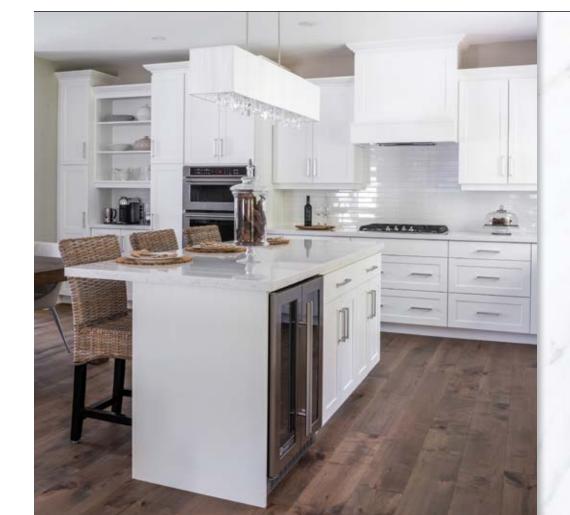






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editor's note



WITH MY FINGER AND THUMB on the white line and my feet in the blocks, I'm crouched and ready. "Bang" goes the starter's pistol and I'm off and running to welcome spring in a flurry of activities.

Many of my to-dos are reoccurring rituals, like installing screens on windows, putting away warm throws draped on sofas and beds, and removing stakes that line the driveway to guide the snowplow. As I work away, I think of the possibilities inside and outside my home. Do I want a new area rug? Does the exterior of the house need painting and is it time for a new pop of colour on the front door? Is the mudroom in need of better storage, and should it be built-in? The list just keeps growing, and thankfully, whatever I decide to tackle, I know that OUR HOMES Grey & Bruce Counties can help me find the local businesses that can help.

I must admit the three homes we feature in this issue have influenced my current list. With their unique characteristics and style, I'm sure you will see products and design features you'll want for your own home. That's why it's so much fun reading about and admiring other

I always get a takeaway idea, large or small, from the homes I've been privileged to feature through the years in these pages. Each home and business we visit helps me with creative ideas I can use in my own home. I hope this beautiful spring issue does the same for you.

Enjoy!

Sona Montin

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CONTENTS SPRING 2023









- **24** Style Picks Fresh seasonal additions for every room of your home.
- **38** Home & Designer An organized and responsive designer helps first-time homeowners stay on the right path.
- **60** Spotlight Cuneo's Carpet One Floor & Home has been making homes comfortable and stylish for 75 years.
- **64** Feature Home A challenging new build creates a rewarding collaboration with a master woodworker.
- **80** People & Places Get your next project done right with help from these experienced local businesses.
- **102** Feature Home Raising three young boys puts family-friendly features at the forefront in this Marshall Heights home.



ON THE COVER

The details in this primary en suite create a relaxing escape. Story, page 38. *Photography by Sandy MacKay.*



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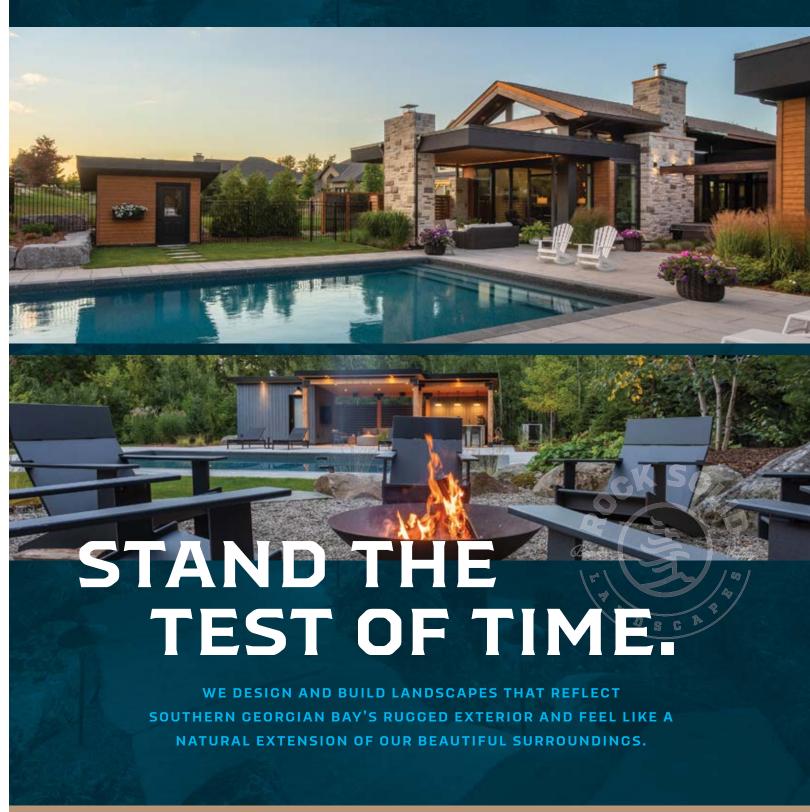


DEPARTMENTS

- 16 Editor's Note
- **22** Advice Earth-Friendly Exteriors
- 28 Cooking At Home Frozen Limoncello
- **30 Decorating** Colour Your World
- **34** Design Ideas Mad For Mudrooms
- **50** Focus Marvellous Magenta
- **54** Double Take Powder Room Perfection
- **56 Real Estate** Backyard Plunge
- **76** Birding Singing for Love
- 94 Gardening Soil for Growing
- **114 Crafty Ideas** Concrete Vase
- 116 Home Resource Directory
- **118 Cooking At Home** Baked Salmon
- **120 Finishing Touch** Textural Objects









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advice



Designer Tamarisk McNalty Stephens shares her ideas.

It is easy to become overwhelmed when faced with the enormity of the construction industry when starting a home project. We want the decisions we make to have a positive environmental impact, but we can't always know if our decisions help. We must embrace the challenge and focus on doing the best we can, as the cumulative effect of one small decision, if repeated over many projects by many people, can make a difference.

Environmental issues are complex and there are no perfect sustainable solutions. Determining what is best for your project requires listing the pros and cons of materials and being willing to embrace compromise.

It is always important to ask questions and to be informed and educated about the implications of using a particular material. These questions should pertain to the entire process, from sourcing materials – local, raw, recycled, reclaimed and renewable – to processing, manufacturing and production. Consider the treatment and finishing of the materials, maintenance requirements (how durable is it?), and what will happen to it at the end of its useful life. Can it be recycled, repurposed or reused? Will it biodegrade?

Why not start on your home's exterior the eco-conscious way? Cladding is any material used to cover a wood structure, and therefore represents on opportunity to marry sustainability, style and durability in your material choices.

HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF SOME COMMON CLADDING OPTIONS. CLADDING IS ANY MATERIAL USED TO COVER A STRUCTURE'S EXTERIOR.

WOOD

Wood siding can have a low environmental impact as it is sustainable and can last for many years if properly maintained. It is a renewable resource and at the end of its lifecycle, it can biodegrade and nurture the growth of more trees. Just ensure it is responsibly harvested.

Cedar is particularly beneficial as a wood option because it naturally repels insects and is moisture resistant.

The application of pine tar is something to be explored for the



treatment of wood as it is a natural substance and can produce a beautiful finish while contributing to increased longevity of the product.

Over the last several years we have also seen a North American adaptation of the traditional Japanese treatment of wood preservation called Yakisugi, which is the process of charring wood to improve durability and resistance to weather, water, rot and insects.

The longevity of this product can be 80-100 (or more!) years when care is taken to properly maintain it, which involves applying oil every 10-15 years.

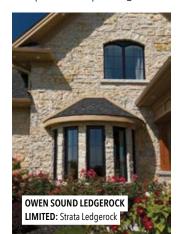
There is also a larger selection of engineered wood siding products available. They are durable and also utilize recycled components during production.

METAL

Metal siding is often manufactured from recycled materials (such as steel and aluminum) and there are many profiles and designs available. It also lasts a very long time and requires little maintenance. Metal siding also accepts paint well should the exterior need modernization or a refresh down the road. A downside is that it can be dented rather easily, depending on the gauge and the design.

STONE

Stone siding is a great option that can last forever. Stone is heavy to transport and requires significant reliance on fossil fuels during the



mining process, however, aside from cutting, the manufacturing process is limited and it also requires no chemical surface treatment.

Manufactured stone might also be a consideration. There is generally less waste during installation because the pattern and pieces are designed to fit together with some precision. They are lighter than natural stones but generally do not last as long. As with many manufactured products, the aesthetic is often not as genuine as its natural counterpart.

BRICK

Brick is also a very durable and low-maintenance option. The components are naturally sourced. During manufacturing, bricks are baked in intense heat for a long time requiring significant energy inputs, however companies are innovating manufacturing methods that reduce the environmental impact. A local source for brick is the best option as the heavy nature means there is significant fuel consumption to transport.

FIBRE CEMENT

Fibre cement siding is a product manufactured from materials including sand, cement, minerals and organic materials made to mimic natural wood siding, concrete, etc. It is durable with minimal maintenance. Newer versions often incorporate recycled materials and are more lightweight than previous models (so you can transport more per load, which is better for the carbon footprint). However, some are manufactured under significant heat, which can be energy intensive

VINYL

Vinyl siding is a popular siding choice for many homeowners due to its affordability. It is made from PVC, which is not environmentally friendly. However, there is very little waste during manufacturing and its lightweight nature makes transport more energy efficient. Some companies have been developing programs to repurpose and recycle vinyl siding, so hopefully less of it will end up in the landfill. **OH**



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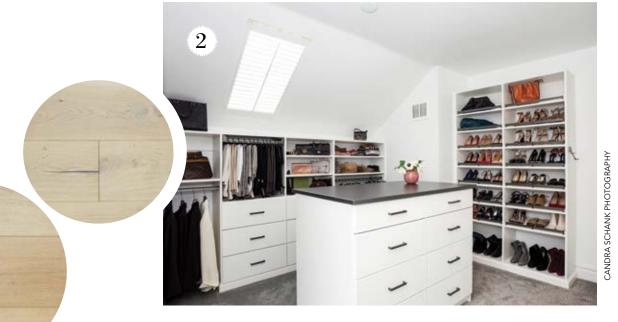
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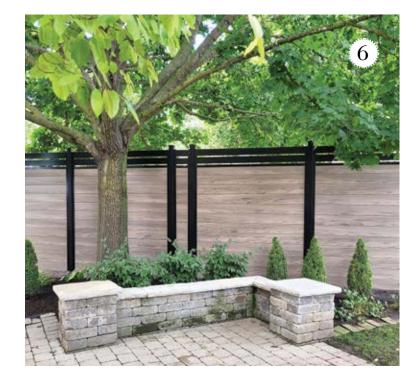
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Continued on page 26

ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 25

style picks







Dekton Counters

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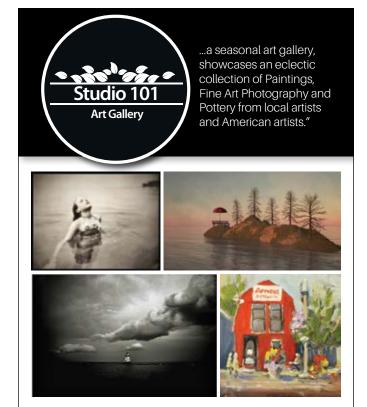
Light up your home with this beautiful lamp from Renwil. The frosted light-blue glass and clear crystal base will add elegance to any room you decide to place it in.

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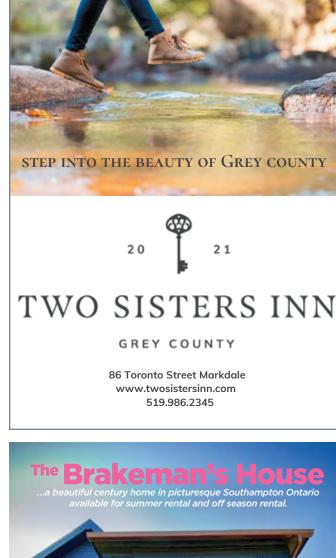


The Traeger wood pellet grill does it all. It smokes, grills, bakes, roasts and braises. Its induction cooktop sautés, simmers and sears. With WiFi technology, you can cook from anywhere. But the fun is standing in front of this cooking machine making memorable feasts.

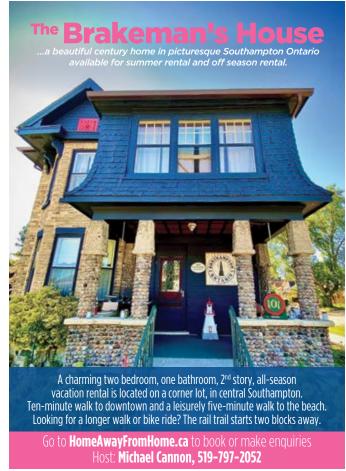
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14 oz. sweetened condensed milk

2 cups heavy whipping cream

½ cup lemon curd (see recipe)

In a bowl, mix together limoncello and sweetened condensed milk.

In a separate bowl, whip heavy whipping cream until soft peaks form.

Gently fold whipping cream into the condensed milk mixture until combined.

Pour into a small baking pan.

Drizzle lemon curd into the mixture.

Freeze for a minimum of six hours before serving.

Lemon Curd

Serves 4

1 cup granulated sugar

2 Tbsp lemon zest

6 egg yolks

½ cup lemon juice

½ cup softened butter, unsalted

Add sugar and lemon zest to a food processor and pulse to combine.

In a medium-size pot on medium heat, whisk yolks and sugar mixture until dissolved.

Add lemon juice and whisk until combined.

Turn heat to low and whisk until thickened.

The curd is ready when you coat the back of a wooden spoon and can draw a line down the back through the curd.

Remove from heat and whisk in butter until dissolved.

Strain curd through a fine mesh sieve.

Cool in the fridge until ready to use. **OH**

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A TANGY LEMON CURD.

Brush Georgette MCCULLOCH Strokes

Picking a paint colour isn't easy. Never fear, the big paint brands are sharing their top colours for 2023. Will you embrace brash, bold colours or fall in love with a warm neutral?











Behr

Behr's Blank Canvas is a warm white hue. Behr describes it as more creative than clinical, more artisanal than sterile. "Blank Canvas effortlessly offers a clean and inviting blank slate that allows individuality and creativity to flow freely," says Erika Woelfel, the paint brand's vice president of colour and creative services. "This white easily harmonizes with a wide range of hues, including neutrals, earth tones and pastels for a charming and cosy appeal."

Benjamin Moore

Make a statement with Benjamin
Moore's pick – Raspberry Blush
(2008-30). Vivacious and unapologetic,
this saturated red-orange is a bold
choice. "People are ready to bring
colour back into the home, taking
a step outside their colour comfort
zones," says Andrea Magno, colour
marketing and development director at
Benjamin Moore.

Dulux

Vining Ivy (DLX1148-6) is the colour Dulux Paints wants you to try this year. It's a striking and optimistic green-blue jewel tone, symbolic of deep water. "Canadians took pause during the pandemic to reflect on what matters most, appreciating the beauty of the natural world like never before, and this is translating into uber-earthy and rich, sanctuary-like colour choices for the home," says Mitsu Dhawan, Dulux brand manager.

Continued on page 32



SIDING: Black 2132-10 Arborcoat® Exterior Stain, Semi-Solid DECK & CEILING: Leather Saddle Brown, Arborcoat® Exterior Stain, Semi-Transparent



Grey Bruce Paint & Decor

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Sherwin-Williams

Sherwin-Williams selects Redend Point (SW 9081), a soulful yet subtle hue. The company describes it like this: If the most beautiful beige could blush. "Redend Point was inspired by the idea of finding beauty beyond ourselves," says Sue Wadden, director of colour marketing at Sherwin-Williams. "It is a heartening hue that invites compassion and connection into any space."

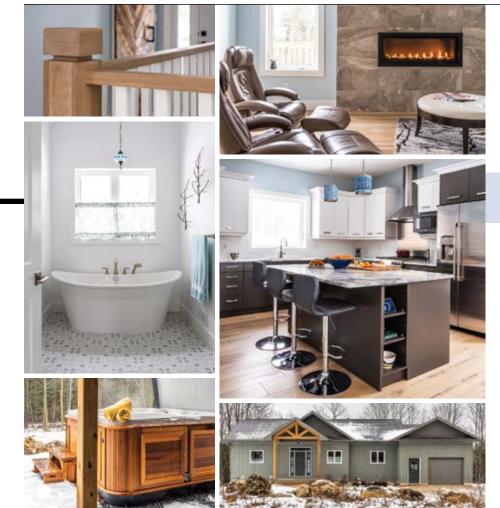
BeautiTone

BeautiTone's Moments (CL24-4) is a calming shaded blue with an influence of green. "Moments is reflective of Canadians' continued desire for stability and comfort as we focus on moving forward in our daily lives," says Darryl Allen, creative manager, BeautiTone Paint and Home Products. "Evoking feelings that are nostalgic and hopeful, this reliable hue brings a renewed appreciation for our ability to create lasting, meaningful moments in spite of adversity."

Sico

Melt Water (6156-63) is Sico's pick for 2023. It is an intertwining of blue and green that celebrates the healing powers of water and nature. "On the other side of the pandemic, people are looking for a mental reset and want to infuse their homes with invigorating colours that help give them a boost as well as refuge in today's unpredictable world," says Martin Fuchs, PPG senior marketing manager, Sico paint brand. on







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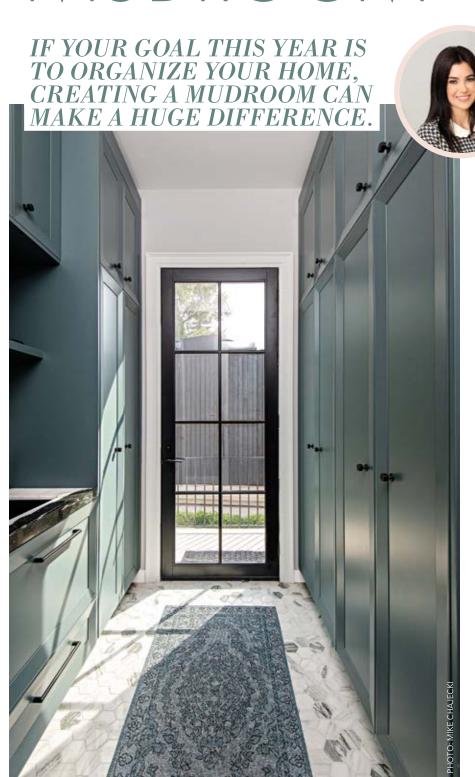
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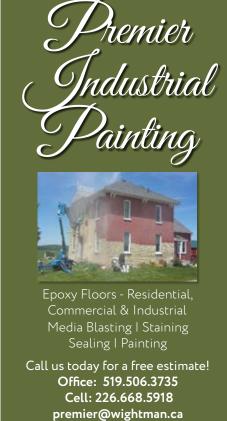
Organization is the key to every wellfunctioning and aesthetically-pleasing home. It's also the secret to a smooth day, despite how busy life often gets. A well-designed mudroom can make all the difference. While this utilitarian space has specific, practical demands, the mudroom must also make the right aesthetic impression as a main entry point into your home. How can you achieve a perfect balance? Consider these tips when planning your mudroom.

DESIGN

Do you have unique needs for the mudroom, like accommodating a lot of people and stuff? Or does your space have atypical dimensions, like very high ceilings? A custom storage system supports the best use of your space, creating dedicated areas to hang coats, store bags, shoes, dog essentials, sports equipment and the like. The nice thing about custom cabinetry is that you can tailor it to your needs. If you're looking for a lower-budget option, there are some modular storage products available at your big-box retailer that let you customize your system to meet your needs. While you're poring over all your storage options, think beyond traditional cabinetry. You may even have a piece you can upcycle for this space. For example, a large antique armoire or dresser can serve as an attractive statement piece in the entrance or hallway while doubling as extra shoe or seasonal storage. Continued on page 36







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design ideas

ORGANIZATION

Organization in this room is vital, and a system that works for you is one that's made for you. Mudroom needs are different for everyone and everyone's organizational and lifestyle needs are unique. A system tailored to your specific needs and wants will never disappoint. When designing an organizational space for your home, such as the mudroom, be mindful of your lifestyle and consider household members. Who will be using the area, how often and what for? And equally important, what will they have in tow? Pets with food bowls, beds, leashes and toys? Children with backpacks, hockey bags and swimming gear? Snow pants and winter boots? What about your own needs and wants? By considering all these factors, you can design a mudroom that facilitates the needs of everyone in your household.







STYLE

Take a cue from the rest of your home when determining the aesthetic direction of your mudroom. What is the prevailing style of your living areas and kitchen? Whether modern, traditional or something in between, echo that vibe in your mudroom to create aesthetic continuity. Your mudroom should feel like it's part of the living area, not an afterthought. Consider colour, texture and the proper lighting, and be sure to incorporate some accessories. Art, wallpaper, a mirror and a rug can add the character and visual interest that utilitarian areas of a home often lack. When it comes to selecting products and materials, always opt for durability. For flooring, choose a slip- and stain-resistant material that can withstand the wear and tear typical of hightraffic areas. To add even more style and function, a washable, water-resistant rug is a must!



The mudroom is critical to a home's overall function and aesthetic. It's a transition space. A well-organized, well-functioning mudroom catches the incoming and culls the clutter so your home's living areas can really shine. And like many other utilitarian rooms in the house, the mudroom can now be its own style icon.

Home is so much more than just a place we retire to at the end of the day. It's where we live, work and play. It's where we gather with loved ones and, sometimes, relax and enjoy some alone time. Home is what you make it, and with some planning and a little professional help, it can be the best place in the whole world. OH

 $Kate \ Davidson\ is\ the\ founder\ and\ principal\ designer\ of\ Kate + Co\ Design, which\ is\ known\ for\ creating\ luxurious\ livable\ interiors.$



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HOME EXTRAS

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JAMES LOREE AND STEPHANIE ARSENEAULT relocated to Ontario to pursue new career opportunities. It was an exciting time as they juggled moving, building a house and expecting their first child. "We are excited and proud to have our own home, a place where we can raise our daughter Eva, host our family and make memories," says James.

Located in a small subdivision in Port Elgin, this four-bedroom, two-storey house, built by **Alair Homes Grey Bruce** with exterior stone from **West Shore Stone** and **Brick**, is close to Lake Huron. The proximity to water, an extensive trail system and natural landscape attracted James and Stephanie. They started planning their 4,300 sq. ft. family home while they were still in Alberta and forged a strong partnership with designer **Kate Robinson**, owner of **Home Town Design**. Continued on page 40

LEFT: James Loree and Stephanie Arseneault with six-month-old Eva. **BELOW:** The home was built by Alair Homes Grey Bruce. Stone for the exterior is Olde Quebec supplied by West Shore Stone and Brick Inc. The MasterGrain front door was supplied by Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors. **OPPOSITE:** The calm and cohesive nature of the home is viewed through double pine doors from Wood & Wallworks, stained to match the white oak engineered hardwood flooring from Bigelow Flooring.



ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 39

home & designer

They met virtually to discuss every aspect of the design. "Kate is very organized, responsive and a great listener," says Stephanie. "She really heard our ideas and worked hard to get things perfect." Kate helped the first-time homeowners navigate the nuances of designing and selecting materials, colours and fixtures. "She kept us on the right path with small things like how many pot lights and receptacles we needed and the bigger things like designing a kitchen," Stephanie adds.

Kate returned to her roots in Owen Sound five years ago to open Home Town Design.
Kate knew, as a child, she wanted to design.
"My mother went away on business trips, and I would transform a room while she was gone," says Kate. "I didn't have the knowledge back then to finish what I started but I knew it was what I wanted to do." Kate believes building a friendship with her clients is the key to designing a home that fits their lifestyle. "You have to have a connection to understand their routines, how they live and entertain," she explains.

Continued on page 42







ABOVE: Silestone Miami Vena covers the white oak island and perimeter cabinets. The range hood over the Zline six-burner stove is made of white oak and the backsplash is white square variegated tile from Centura's Village Series. FAR LEFT: Kate Robinson, owner of Home Town Design. LEFT: Fresh yellow cherry tomatoes and English cucumber slices with a ranch dip are ready for arriving guests. Cabinet hardware is brushed gold from Richelieu Hardware.

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40 | ourhomes SPRING 2023

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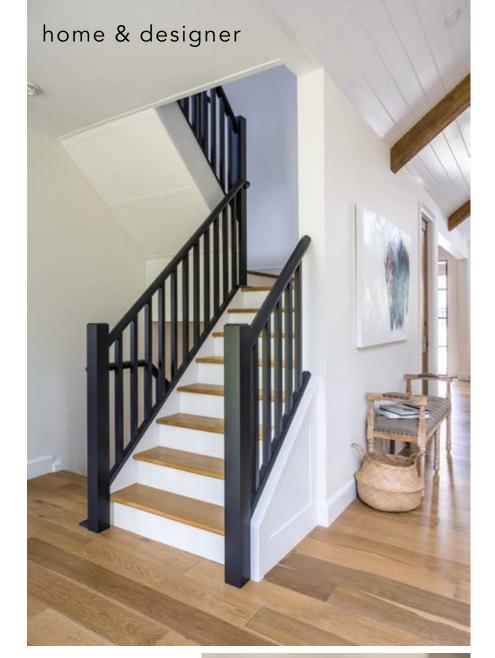
James and Stephanie wanted the overall design to reflect a western flavour, evocative of their time in Alberta, yet exude a warm, timeless and classic feel. "The most challenging aspect of the project was ensuring the details flowed together," explains Kate. "We wanted a consistent flow throughout, without everything being the same." She skillfully infused a mountain vibe, using texture, materials and natural elements. For example, a fieldstone fireplace with a wood mantel and wood beams punctuating the vaulted ceiling in the great room accentuate this theme. Kate used a neutral palette to spotlight the couple's art collection that includes paintings of bison by Alberta artist Michael Sydoryk and mountainous landscapes by Heather Pant, also an Alberta artist, that harken back to their western home. Continued on page 44

TOP LEFT: Art in the home is bold and colourful and reminiscent of the couple's time in Alberta. The bison painting by Michael Sydoryk hangs above a tufted bench in the living room. **ABOVE:** A cream jug on the dining table holds pussywillows. Padded and upholstered dining chairs have Mid-century modern style. A double closet beside the front door is generous and keeps the front foyer neat and tidy. **LEFT:** Black-framed windows offer a view of the wooded area at the rear of the property. Furniture, including many vintage pieces, was sourced through Home Town Design.

.....

James and Stephanie wanted the fireplace to be the focal point of the open-plan living space and Kate achieved that with a Continental gas fireplace insert, surrounded by Rubble Buff stone supplied by West Shore Stone and Brick Inc. and installed by H&D Bloodworth Masonry Inc. ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 43

ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 43



ABOVE: The stairs, with black railings and white oak treads from Wood & Wallworks, lead to the upper level and down to the finished lower level. Trim from Alexandria Moulding is painted Benjamin Moore Chantilly Lace. TOP RIGHT: A cosy nook on the second level offers inviting armchairs and a quiet space to read and relax. RIGHT: A table in the front foyer displays elk antlers and a soapstone carving by Leo Arcand. The painting is by Heather Pant.





An open floor plan allows plenty of light, space and interaction with family and guests. "We wanted everything to circle around the fireplace in the great room," says James. "The open concept allows natural light to be pulled from every corner of the house." The large Silestone-topped oak island in the kitchen ensures everyone can gather around during food preparation. Stephanie wanted a bright yet soft and relaxing feel to the kitchen while maintaining clean, minimalist lines. Panelready cabinets, enclosing Fisher & Paykel appliances, a convenient corner lazy Susan and ample lower drawers help achieve this look. Engineered white oak flooring, supplied by **Bigelow Flooring Inc.**, a cream palette and gold accented brass hardware lend a warm glow to the kitchen. "We chose brass fixtures for the kitchen and primary en suite instead of chrome or nickel for a warmer feel," says Kate.

Dual vanities, finished in Organic White Caesarstone, twin sinks and a soaker tub highlight the primary en suite. Kate selected variegated ivory subway tiles, supplied by Sarana Tile, for the spacious glass-enclosed shower to create interest and the illusion the tile is handcrafted. "I would describe it as perfectly imperfect," she says. "There are no harsh lines and when the light hits the tile, it reflects different colours." A walk-through closet and dressing area lead to the primary bedroom suite.

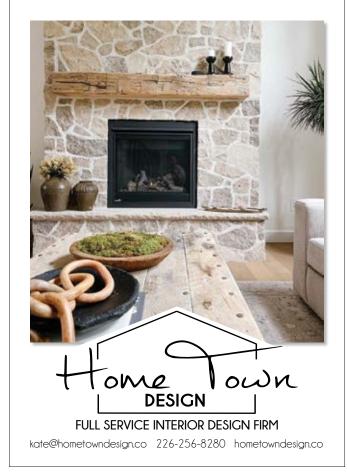
A contrasting black railing anchors a white-oak staircase that ascends into a cosy, intimate loft. This inviting nook beckons readers to curl up on the comfy armchair. "It's the perfect spot to read and have some personal space," says James. Continued on page 48



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BELOW: A feature wall with a panelled design in the primary bedroom adds textural interest behind the bed. Neutral linen bedding and Boho-inspired toss cushions add to the relaxing vibe. **RIGHT:** Sweet dreams for Eva in her pink bedroom. A painting of the Three Sisters Mountains by Kayla Eykelboom is a graphic and colourful addition. BOTTOM LEFT: A bathroom sits between Eva's room and the guest bedroom on the second level. The vanity is painted Benjamin Moore Beacon Gray. BOTTOM RIGHT: Floating white oak shelves in Eva's room display teddy bears, alpaca toys, a favourite book and artwork.



Guest bedrooms, baths and Eva's nursery are also located on the upper level. A painting of the Three Sisters Mountains by British Columbia-based artist Kayla Eykelboom accentuates the nursery's pink accent wall. "We actually lived at the bottom of this mountain range," says James. The nursery is one of Stephanie's favourite rooms. "I always wanted a pink bedroom when I was a little girl, so we made sure to incorporate the colour into Eva's room," she says.

As James and Stephanie settle into their home, they eagerly anticipate hosting family for holidays and watching their daughter light up their lives with memories that will last a lifetime. он











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BACKYARD POOL Should you take the plunge?



If you don't own a pool, a stretch of scorching-hot summer days may find you wishing that you did. Oh the sublime pleasures of the backyard poolside retreat! Imagine slipping into cool water whenever you feel like it. Your house will be given instant party-central status, not to mention the kids in your life revelling in joyful – and screen-free – fun.

While the appeal is simple from a homeowner's perspective, when it comes to financial investment and real estate ROI, things get more complicated. The truth is, while they may be wildly fun, pools do not substantially boost property values in every case.

What if you're tempted nevertheless? We consulted Sam McDadi of Mississauga-based Sam McDadi Real Estate Ltd. about backyard pools, tips on maximizing property value, and other considerations today's homeowners should keep in mind. Continued on page 58









100' of Georgian Bay waterfront!

Set on gently sloping lawns, this beautifully appointed waterfront home opens to glorious views of Georgian Bay from all its principal rooms. The open-concept layout features an exceptional kitchen with granite countertops & bespoke cabinetry, a bright, roomy dining area and a gathering space bracketed by twin patio doors & custom fireplace. An expansive view, hardwood floors & delightful lighting fixtures add the perfect finishing touches. The primary bedroom, with a stunning five-piece ensuite, has its own view of the gardens & water beyond as does the lower-level bedroom. The family room, complete with patio doors & impressive fireplace, easily accommodates two seating areas & a games table. Running along the entire back of the house & overlooking lawns & the Bay is a spacious aluminum deck. A new detached double garage was built with the intention of converting the existing attached garage to two bedrooms & a bath. MLS: 40341534



The macro trend

First off, Sam notes there's been a fascinating shift post-pandemic when it comes to swimming pools. In hard dollars, pools may add a bit more value today than they used to. Sam describes the pre-COVID real estate evaluation this way: "Years ago pools were viewed as a liability. In fact, if an appraiser was to appraise a home, they might have even subtracted some value for the house, and it was clear it was pretty much a break-even proposition. So if a client asked me, 'Hey Sam should I put a pool in?' I would be saying, 'If you're here for a year or two in the house and you're going to sell, you're not going to get the ROI on it. But if you're here for 10 years then at least you can get to enjoy it."

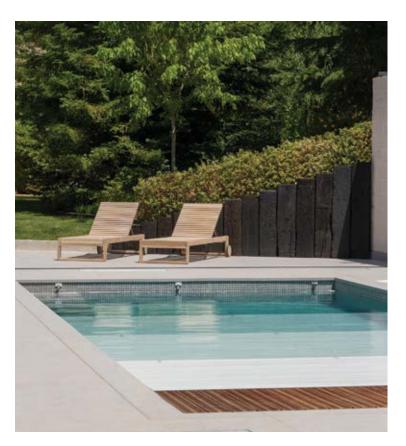
Come March 2020 though, as we remember too well, at-home recreation suddenly became incredibly important. All sorts of backyard amenities - hot tubs, trampolines and yes, pools - became sanity savers for many families.

"That all changed with COVID because people wanted to have a self-sufficient home where they didn't have to go out, and so pool companies were heavily in demand," says Sam.

And turns out, the trend is having some staying power. "There's definitely been a shift, and I think today, a pool has value," says Sam. Probably not a dollar-for-dollar relationship, but I do think that if somebody has a pool, it adds value to the house, versus not having a pool."

By the numbers

Statistics support that shift. In Ontario, according to data from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), nearly 6,800 swimming-pool permits were issued in 2020 - a 53 per cent jump from the previous year. In 2021 the provincial trend continued, with MPAC reporting "9,059 swimming pool permits issued in 2021," another bump of 33 per



CONSIDERATIONS FOR SELLERS

Splashy good times aside, if you're looking at a pool installation from a financial perspective (especially if you want to sell down the road), thinking about property value is particularly important. Here are some factors to consider:

- Look at comparable local properties to determine what buyers expect at your price point. (Pool? No pool? What kind of pool?)
- With higher-priced luxury properties, realtor Sam McDadi says buyers expect "the latest and greatest." Here, he says, older kidney-shaped pools may not add much value, whereas a state-of-the-art rectangular in-ground pool is attractive to buyers.
- When deciding, don't forget to factor in associated costs - from pool construction (\$20,000 and up for an in-ground pool) and fencing, to maintenance (roughly 10 per cent of your pool's installed costs) and potential hikes in your home insurance and property taxes.
- If you end up putting your house on the market, put effort into staging your pool area. Clean your pool, adding a fresh liner if necessary, and refresh landscaping and furniture, says Sam. "The more you can do to create a nice Muskoka-like setting, l would do that."

Case-by-case basis

Without a doubt, the pandemic has seen more homeowners embrace poolside living. And best case, this move has increased their property values a bit.

Ultimately though, this decision - do we start digging up the backyard? - remains highly personal While some families with pools create wonderful memories you can't put a price on, Sam says for others, a pool isn't worth the sizeable investment. "Other times you get people saying, 'Listen, we opened it and all year we used it once. It looked nice, but we didn't really get the mileage out of it."

The right decision, he says, continues to involve balancing not just real estate trends, but what's best for your particular household. With pools, "It continues to be really, case by case." on



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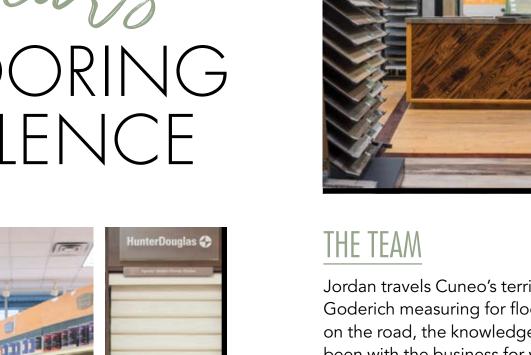
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THE PLACE

In 1948, entrepreneur Tony Cuneo opened his store in Walkerton to help customers decorate their homes with paint, wallpaper and window coverings. His son Steve carried the Cuneo's torch for more than 40 years, adding flooring, carpet, tile, decorating and installation services and opening a second store. Under Steve's guidance Cuneo's became the go-to destination for interior products to make homes comfortable and stylish. Today, the third generation, and Steve's son Jordan Cuneo, oversees the Walkerton location and the large second location in Hanover, all under the Carpet One Floor & Home umbrella. Jordan, who has worked in the stores since high school, has an extensive understanding of the business and every flooring product Cuneo's handles.







Jordan travels Cuneo's territory from Owen Sound to Goderich measuring for flooring customers. While he is on the road, the knowledgeable staff, many who have been with the business for years, help commerical and retail customers select carpet, area rugs, Benjamin Moore paint, hardwood, vinyl, tile, wallcoverings and custom window coverings for their projects. Customers can complete their own projects with materials supplied by Cuneo's or have the staff take care of everything - ordering, delivery and installation of everything the stores sell.

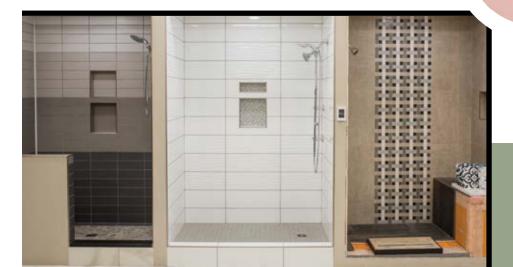


BUYING POWER

to Cuneo's Carpet One Floor & **Home** when it joined the Carpet One network. With a buying group of 110 stores across Canada and more than 1.000 stores across the United States, Cuneo's has access to a huge inventory, great prices and an extensive selection for customers. With supplier changes and updates as well as following current trends, Carpet One helps Cuneo's keep their inventory up to date. White oak flooring in wider planks is an example of a popular design trend and Cuneo's is excited to supply many different options. They also offer in-home consultations for any of the five key products on offer: flooring, carpet, tile, paint, wallcoverings and window coverings. on



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60 | ourhomes SPRING 2023 ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 61







NOW, TOSS IN A GLOBAL PANDEMIC and a newborn baby right before you break ground.

"It was interesting to say the least," laughs Lindsey, but well worth it, now that her home is complete.

Lindsey and Jeff have been living in Point Clark for over a decade, but when the pandemic lingered and an empty lot came up for sale on the other end of town, they decided to jump on it. They loved parts of the home they were living in at the time, but it just wasn't their style, so they thought they'd give "the whole building thing" a try.

"It definitely wasn't the experience I was expecting it would be," says Lindsey, "in the midst of a pandemic no less." Continued on page 66

RIGHT: The home was built by Quality Construction Services, with plans by Dar-Cad Designs. The roof was completed by Karn's Roofing Ltd. Stone is Arriscraft, in a mixture of Fresco Silverado and Citadel Manitoulin Mist and installed by Russell Masonry. Sod was laid by Zack Eybergen Landscaping.





64 | ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 65

feature

RIGHT: Full-height Shaker-style doors open to the secret walk-in pantry that contains open shelving, lower cabinets and counter space. BELOW RIGHT: The fireclay Franke single basin sink adds to the farmhouse feel that Lindsey wanted to achieve in her home. BELOW: Luke Lorenz, president of Luxury Woodworking and Cabinets Ltd. with Luxury designer Stefanie Stroeder (sitting) and homeowner Lindsey Cleland. The home was styled by Angela Kensit Home Staging Co.



Lindsey had always wanted to build her own house. A lover of all things interior design, she liked the idea of being able to handpick every inch of her home, from the layout plans to the finishing touches and everything in-between. She wanted to incorporate the open-concept layout that their last house had, while blending the kind of style and functionality it would need to fit her growing family. In terms of design, she was going for a modern, farmhouse feel. "I just wanted it to feel bright and airy, but still very homey," she says.

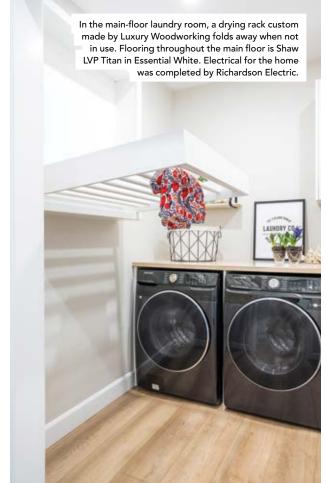
Luxury Woodworking and Cabinets Ltd. helped her bring that vision to life.

"I had all my ideas, and they helped it turn out better than I ever could have dreamed," she says. Continued on page 69











Luxury Woodworking is a custom cabinetry business based in Walkerton that specializes in custom kitchens, bathrooms and cabinetry solutions. They do everything at their showroom in Walkerton from start to finish, design to installation.

"We sometimes joke that we provide everything including the kitchen sink, if needed," says Luxury's president **Luke Lorenz**.

Lindsey worked alongside Luxury designer **Stefanie Stroeder** to create cabinetry way beyond what she expected.

"You have so many ideas, but actually making them work and fit in your space is difficult," Lindsey says.

The five-plus bedroom house has cabinetry on every level and the finished product adds an element of unique sophistication, while still being both functional and comfortable.

Lindsey also wanted the main floor to be full of windows to showcase the surrounding greenery and bring the outside in.

Two fireplaces, one on the main floor and the other in the basement, are flanked by large custom built-ins that house a mix of floating shelves and classic, closed-off cabinetry. Sound system and televisions purchased and installed by **HDTV and Electronics**. The bathrooms have also been fitted with beautiful cabinets designed to optimize space, without compromising style. The mudroom and laundry room include elements of custom cabinetry as well, right down to the popout hanging rack for laundry fitted into the wall. Continued on page 70

ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 69

feature



LEFT: In the primary bedroom the Decor-Rest tufted bed in Casa Ivory from Smitty's Fine Furniture is flanked by matching side tables. Heating for the home was completed by Troy's Heating & Cooling. BELOW: Sitting Buddha resides on a chest of drawers in the primary bedroom. Walls are painted Benjamin Moore Light Pewter. BOTTOM: The hallway from the primary bedroom to the en suite has closets on each side with sliding barn doors. The window over the soaker tub is centred to the doorway that floods the hallway with sunlight.





But, the pièce-de-résistance has to be the kitchen. Gorgeous cabinetry stretches from floor-to-ceiling in an innovative use of the space. Custom cabinets have been installed to optimize storage and easily tuck away everyday appliances. There's even a secret walk-in pantry. All electrical was completed by **Richardson Electric** and interior painting by **Jeff Lockwood Painting Services**.

"It was very much a collaborative experience," Lindsey explains. "The cabinetry design and installation for our home was critical to bringing our vision to life and went far beyond the kitchen and bathrooms." Continued on page 74



ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 71







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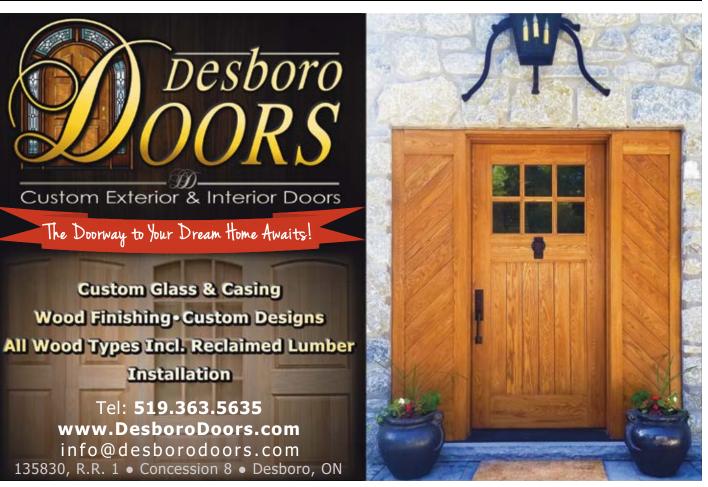




FAR LEFT: In son Daniel's bedroom, the theme is dinosaurs. Walls are painted Benjamin Moore Storm. The bed by Crate Designs is from Conway Furniture. **ABOVE:** A group of furry friends await play time in the child-size tent. **LEFT:** The soothing palette in daughter Leah's bedroom started with a wall colour of Bunny Gray by Benjamin Moore. A crystal chandelier is something pretty for Leah to gaze at as she falls asleep.







They officially broke ground on their

new property in April 2021 and moved in on

And despite the chaos, Lindsey says

building their dream home gives them a huge

"It's that much more enjoyable to be in a

space that makes you feel calm and happy,"

she says. "It's great to be able to spend time in a place that you designed from scratch with

March 1, 2022.

sense of accomplishment.

your family in mind." **oH**



Spring migration refills our forests with birds and their songs. From the dawn chorus to the dusk evensong, there's sure to be music in the air for you to enjoy while reaping the benefits of the restorative powers of nature.

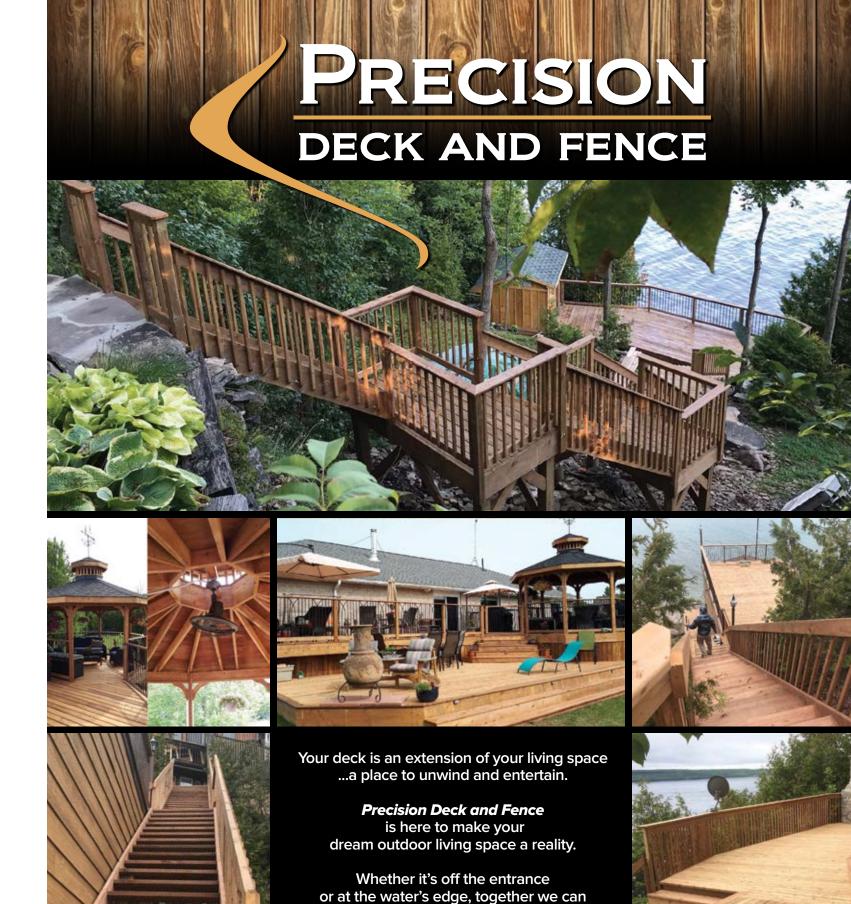
MUSIC LESSONS

In spring, the countryside comes alive again with the sound of birdsong. At no other time of year do birds sing so persistently, making spring a perfect time to tune your ears to the treetops and learn a birdsong or two. Each returning species arrives ready to rock out its best tunes to try to impress a female audience. Listen up and you will be impressed too.

Birding by Ear

Experienced birders identify most of the species they encounter by their songs before they make a visual connection. Being able to identify a species by ear makes you much more aware of the avian diversity out there. Birdsong engages your ear, which alerts your eyes to birds that may be hidden from sight by distance, foliage or other features. And if you don't have time to track the songster down visually, you can still have a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment knowing what species is announcing its presence.

Learning individual birdsong can be challenging, but you can start off with already-familiar species that you are bound to hear frequently. When that first Robin appears in early spring, stop, look at it, and watch it sing. Actually seeing a bird sing helps imprint the bird to the song and connects it to your memory bank. Continued on page 78



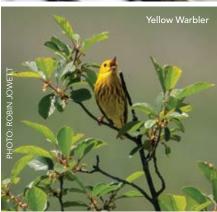
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Onomatopoeia

Another approach employed by some birders is the use of onomatopoeia, which is defined as the formation of a word from a sound associated with what it is named. Check out a number of species that have names that are based on their calls. Starting with some of these examples might get you on your way to learning a few new songs.

- The omnipresent Black-capped Chickadee who calls out its name the year through, adding a "dee, dee, dee" to the end for extra emphasis!
- The little Eastern Phoebe, who nests under the eaves of your shed, will quite emphatically call out its name through the day.
- If you take a walk in the woods, your ears should soon pick up an Eastern Wood Pewee slowly and sweetly singing its name, throwing in an "a" between the pee and the wee -"pee-a-wee."
- There is even one songbird that starts singing after dusk – that nocturnal champion of all singers, the Eastern Whip-poor-will (Caprimulgus vociferous!), which repeats its name hundreds of times through the night in peak breeding season. You'll never forget this song if you're lucky enough to have a Whip-poor-will serenade you through the night!

Mnemonics

Another trick to learning birdsong is the use of mnemonics. A mnemonic is a tool or a prompt, such as words or associations that assist in remembering something. Many birders use mnemonics to help them remember a birdsong. Look in any bird guide or app and you will often see songs described by what the bird seems to be saying.

- The mournful Coo cooing of the Mourning Dove may be described as "boo hoo hoo hoo."
- The Grey Catbird sings a "meow" note.
- The Red-eyed Vireo's deliberate up-and-down song from the treetops are described as "Here I am, where are you; I'm up here, you're down there."
- The iconic calls of the Common Loon are described as yodels, wails and laughs.
- Everyone's favourite seems to be the clear four-note whistles of the Whitethroated Sparrow which is interpreted as "Oh Can a da!"

There's an App for That

Should these tricks of the trade not help tune up your ear, you can always try out some technology. There are apps that will record birdsong on your phone, then automagically identify the singer for you. Some even pop up a picture of the bird and will further link you to biographies on the bird. But even the app can get confused by any given song. It will often suggest a number of possibilities, any of which may or may not be accurate! However, the app can be a terrific aid in your pursuit of taking your ear-birding skills to the next level.



DAWN CHORUS

Once you get a handle on a few songs, get up and out early on a warm spring day to experience the dawn chorus. The dawn chorus is unique to the bird world and is one of the highlights of springtime! The chorus gains momentum as dawn breaks and soon becomes a symphony of birdsong. Once your ear is familiar with a few individual songs, listening to the chorus will be akin to listening to a symphony where you start to recognize the sounds of each instrument as the music moves through its repertoire. The thrush section warms up first, followed by the blackbirds, the wrens, the flycatchers and warblers and soon all species are adding to the morning concert. Recognizing each species as it joins in makes for a magical morning!



EVENSONG

If you are not an early bird yourself, you can check out an encore chorus performance at dusk. It is a more subdued version of the dawn chorus with fewer species joining in, but perhaps a better time to practise your birding by ear.

Birdsong is so evocative of springtime. Birding by ear adds to your already-satisfying birding by eye enjoyment of the return of birds to our countryside. Just get outside and listen for those songs of joy! **o**H



89446 Fordwich Line manufacturers of fine furniture 1 km North of Hwy 87, Gorrie

519.335.3213 or topnotchfurniture.com



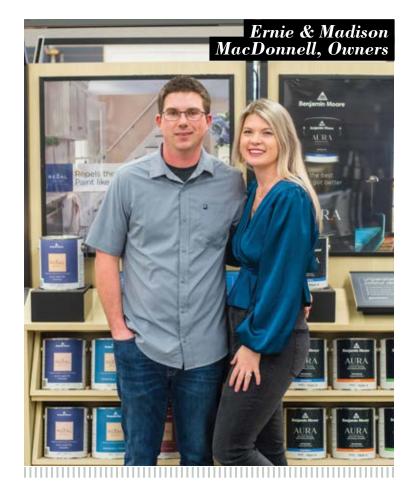


EXPERIENCE MATTERS



Trust local professionals to complete your next home project.

PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA



COLOUR IDEAS

In-home colour consultations are back! We use the elements in your space along with current design trends to curate a customized colour palette for your home. Stop in or call the store to book an appointment.

GREY BRUCE PAINT & DECOR

Grey Bruce Paint & Decor is under new ownership! Locals Ernie and Madison MacDonnell are looking forward to continuing to serve customers in Owen Sound and the surrounding area with their design and colour needs. Offering a large assortment of paint products, over 3,500 colours to choose from and a growing selection of home décor, there is something for every home, cottage or business.

TRENDING COLOURS

Although whites and neutrals are still very much in demand, we are starting to see a call for more colour inside our homes. We have picked some of our favourites that will turn your space into a calm, relaxing retreat.

2142-60 November Rain



ourhomes SPRING 2023 | 81

80 | ourhomes SPRING 2023

SOUTH BRUCE FLOORING

Since 2004, our retail showroom has been supplying customers with quality hardwood flooring from trees sourced in Ontario. The showroom sits at the heart of the milling operation where the hardwood flooring is manufactured and displays samples of flooring in maple, ash, cherry, elm, beech, hickory, walnut and oak. The showroom also sells stairs, solid-wood doors, building material, trim and mouldings, mulch and woodchips.



NEW OFFERING

The current trend for wider flooring planks has led to the development of Engineered Hardwood Flooring that offers plank widths of five and seven inches, a four millimetre wear-lay and is the same thickness as our standard hardwood flooring. This unique product is available in many of the wood species available in the showroom.





ADDING VALUE

Hardwood flooring is a durable choice for a renovation or new home build. Our products are low maintenance and will add a natural element that will also contribute to better air quality as well as character to the interior design of your home. It also gives a richness of colour and tone that only natural wood can.

Continued on page 84

YOUR LOCAL, TRUSTED, **HEATING & COOLING PROFESSIONALS**



HEATING | COOLING | PLUMBING | ELECTRICAL | GEOTHERMAL | AIR QUALITY



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THE GREAT LAKES FRAME COMPANY

We have built a reputation for designing and constructing high-quality custom timber structures. We craft only a limited number of traditional hand-cut, timber-frame homes each year. Let our team of design consultants and our wealth of experience show you how your dreams can become reality.

NATURE'S BEAUTY

We design and craft full timber-frame homes, hybrid homes, commercial timber spaces and outdoor living spaces. Energy efficiency combined with natural elements are used to craft impressive and unique living spaces.









DETAILS

The highest quality controls ensure a steadfast, critical approach to every project. Conscientious attention to detail found only with the traditional hand-cut timber framing methods ensure that each project exemplifies the spirit of the timber framer's art.

Continued on page 86



STARTING OFF

ON A SOLID FOUNDATION



FOR EFFICIENT FOUNDATIONS THAT MEET THE HIGHEST ENGINEERING STANDARDS IN THE INDUSTRY.

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Our office is open 9 AM - 4:30 PM - Mon. to Fri.

1300 20th St. E., Owen Sound 519.371.7887 A1storagesystem.com



MAYNE PIPING AND PLUMBING

Our focus is on quality plumbing for custom homes, renovations and service. We also install water treatment systems, pump and pressure systems and hydronic heating. Our team is experienced in commercial, municipal water and wastewater jobs as well.

A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

A plumbing apprenticeship requires 9,000 hours or roughly five years working under a licensed plumber. In that time, you are prepared and taught to complete any plumbing install or repair when you graduate as a master plumber. Our team has a combined master plumber experience of 59 years that allows us to complete any project, big or small.





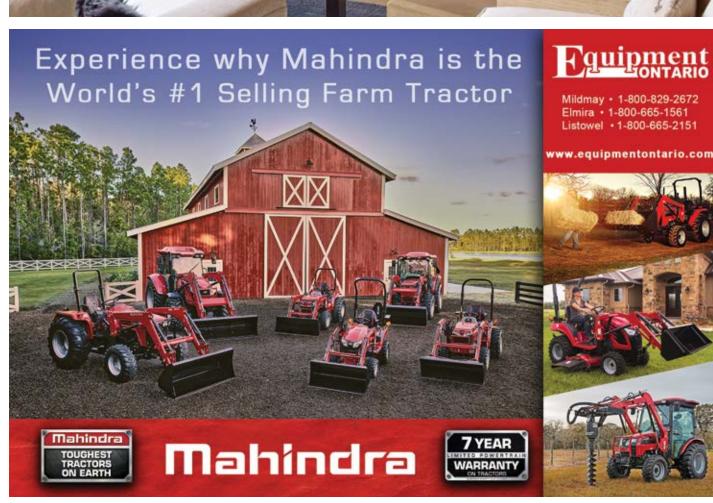


HOT WATER OPTIONS

Electric boilers and combination heaters are becoming more popular, as well as point-of-use hot water heaters. There are alternative energy options like wood-fired boilers. Many of the projects we work on are moving away from propane and natural gas, especially in the passive, energy-efficient sector.

Continued on page 88





SMITTY'S FINE FURNITURE

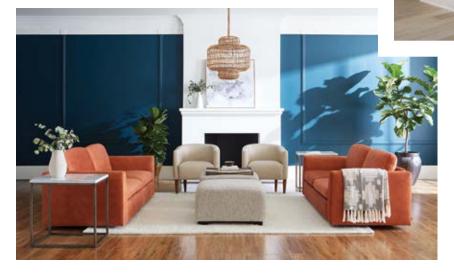
At Smitty's Fine Furniture, our showroom team will work closely with customers to find customized solutions for their personal style. They are well informed on every brand the store carries and will cover all details to make your purchase the right one. We want our customers to feel at home in the showroom to help achieve their vision.





DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Our customers reach beyond merely fulfilling household needs and are moving towards finding design elements that can refresh how their home looks and feels. They also care about how the products are made. The selection of Canadianmade brands we carry absolutely supports these goals with a focus on customizable fabrics, finishes, current design trends and sustainable manufacturing.



SO MUCH MORE

You can expect a personalized shopping experience with our deep expertise in the products the store carries and helpful advice towards your goals for your home. Furniture is a personal choice and we make the shopping experience about you

Continued on page 90





FLESHERTON/MARKDALE **HOME HARDWARE**

Flesherton & Markdale



Markdale and Flesherton Home Hardware for all your paint, plumbing, electrical, hardware, household and outdoor needs. Markdale now carrying a wide selection of safety footwear with the best brands at great prices. Come in and check out our new product lines. As always, our friendly staff are here to help.

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stop home building and

improvement store. We carry lumber, insulation, plumbing, electrical, roofing, handtools, windows, doors, paint, cabinets, and countertops.

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people & places



WEST SHORE STONE & BRICK

We offer an extensive selection of stone, brick and veneers for interior and exterior projects. We have all your masonry and landscape supplies and happily serve trades and the general public.



MASONAL STONE

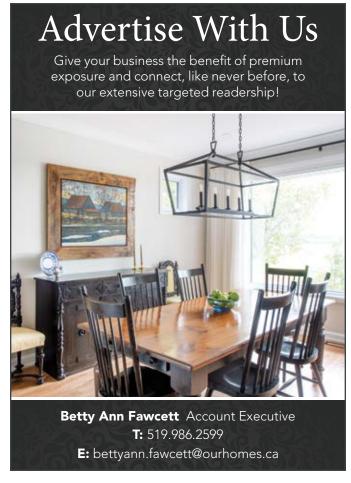
Masonal Stone is a great choice for your natural stone ideas. We carry a large selection of thin stone veneers and full-bed stone all quarried in Canada.

THE YARD

Browse the yard for ideas and products needed for your latest project. You will find sample boards displaying the many varieties of landscape stone for inspiration. Once you have explored the yard head inside to the showroom to see samples of how the products look installed.

"One-stop shop offering excellent customer service and all the products needed to get your job done!"











1 Balsam St #14, Collingwood 705 445 5292 theglassplace.ca Tile
Hardwood
LVT
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Glass Railing
Mirrors
Storefronts
Stair Railing
and more...

VALLEY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Our goal is simple, to put you first. We specialize in high-quality new construction as well as renovations and additions. Our knowledgeable and experienced staff combined with our long-standing network of skilled tradespeople and suppliers allow us to ensure quality workmanship.







POSSIBILITIES

Our clients for this project wanted their home to be elegant but comfortable. We renovated the living room, dining room and kitchen to significantly change the feel of the home. The clients were so happy with the outcome that phase two will include the bathrooms and mudroom. OH







MYCELIUM YOU SAY! WHAT THE HECK IS **MYCELIUM? MYCELIUM** IS HAVING ITS DAY IN THE GARDENING SPOTLIGHT, HOWEVER, IT REALLY PREFERS THE DARK.

Mycelium is best thought of as a process, not a thing.

Mycelium is part of every fungus, and mushrooms are the fruits of fungi. Like an apple on a tree, the apple is the fruit of a much larger entity that also has roots, trunks, branches and leaves. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of fungi, the place where spores are produced. Spores are the way fungi propagate. But not all fungi produce mushrooms.

Fungi are part of the "wood-wide web," a term Dr. Suzanne Simard, a forest ecologist, coined in 1997. Fungi are everywhere and they can be likened to a sort of underground internet. Continued on page 96

Good Little Builders

General Contractor, Residential Construction. Renovations, and Additions

goodlittlebuilders.ca / 548-363-2208 Grey-Bruce and Surrounding Area







Mycorrhizal fungus, a type of mycelium that has a special relationship with the roots of trees and shrubs, is a beneficial fungus. Mycorrhizae can't produce their own food (carbohydrates and sugars) so they anchor themselves to plant roots and send out miles of mycelium into the soil for a reconnaissance of nutrients. By doing so, they increase the surface of the roots so trees, shrubs and perennials can take up more nutrients while sharing some carbs with the mycorrhizae.

It is a symbiotic process, a close relationship that forms to the advantage of each of the unrelated organisms. Most plants depend on fungi to provide nutrients in exchange for carbs and sugars. As a result of this association, the plant increases its drought tolerance as well.

Many, many plants depend on mycorrhizal fungi, which help link trees to create networks (the woodwide web) so plants and fungi can form healthy relationships. It's how trees talk and support each other and share nutrients.

Plants rely on these beneficial fungi not only for nutrition but also for defense. These fungi will completely surround young roots and prevent other predators from reaching the root surface.

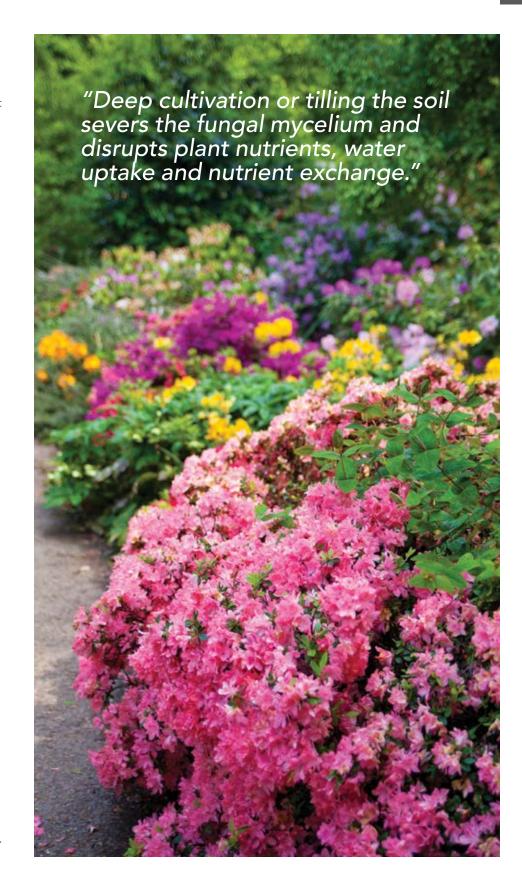
There are thousands of species of mycorrhizal fungi and most plants form relationships with many different species. A single fungus can form relationships with many different plant species. This network pretty much connects all the plants in your garden or any ecosystem, and therefore, the plants that are otherwise unrelated can send nutrients to each other.

Dr. Suzanne Simard, author of Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest, found this to be true in her research in British Columbia.

So, what does this all mean to us gardeners and farmers? It means we might want to rethink our cultivation practices. Deep cultivation or tilling the soil severs the fungal mycelium and disrupts plant nutrients, water uptake and nutrient exchange. Mycorrhizal fungi are also negatively affected by pesticides and chemical fertilizers. We should use compost as fertilizer instead.

When planting new trees and shrubs, use a commercial mycorrhizal inoculum, found at your garden centre. It can be added to existing plants in your garden too, or, if it is practical, the next time you are in the forest you can scoop up a bag of soil and add it to your planting hole for your new tree. It will have abundant naturally occurring mycorrhizal fungi.

We have to garden with a sense of relationship between every living thing, especially plants, soils, fungi, bacteria, worms, bees and birds. Success in our gardens will be easy when we work with nature! $\mathbf{o}\mathbf{H}$



Teresa has a Bachelor of Science degree, an Ontario Diploma in Horticulture and is an ISA Certified Arborist.



SPENCER SAFETY SOLUTIONS

For over 15 years, Janice Campbell has worked on preventing workers from getting injured. In 2021, she opened Spencer Safety Solutions as the only safety consulting firm in the Grey-Bruce Area. If your business has over 6 employees, we are here to help you ensure compliance with safety legislation.

Whether you just need a review of your existing safety program or need to start from scratch, we are your local resource. Other services include office ergonomic assessments, site audits, incident or harassment investigations and

Available training courses include Working at Heights (for those in construction) and the refresher courses. Supervisor and Health & Safety Representative training can be developed specifically for your organization. If you are looking for some online training options, our website has over 100 courses to choose from, including safety, computer and leadership courses.

We stay current on the issues in the safety industry, in multiple sectors. If we don't have the answer to your question, we have a large network of people we can reach out to and get it. Call us today for a free 30-min call to discuss your safety needs: 519.376.SAFE spencersafetysolutions.ca (Please see ad on pg 47)



"ORGANIZATION **FEELS GREAT"- STOR-X ORGANIZING SYSTEMS**

STOR-X Organizing Systems is a Canadian-made, family owned and operated company for 30+ years. We have helped thousands of homeowners across Canada and the US go from chaos to calm. Less clutter. Less stress. More time to focus on what really matters.

At STOR-X Georgian Bay we are dedicated to creating functional storage solutions for every area of your home and business. We work with our customers to design practical storage that will guarantee long lasting organization. Our complementary consultations are offered in-home or online. We take a deep dive into your space, your needs and your vision to create a design that is optimal for your lifestyle. Our mobile software allows us to design with you, our customers, from the comfort of your homes. We offer the latest trends on finishes, accessories, and hardware. We take care of the design, manufacturing, shipping and installation. We even offer a life-time warranty! Looking to get organized? Contact us today at STOR-X Georgian Bay to request your complementary consultation.

"Organized is a lifestyle I'm excited to help customers achieve. It can be both practical and beautiful."—Kimberlee Bowerman, Owner of STOR-X Georgian Bay.

kimberlee.bowerman@stor-x.com 519.377.3087 STOR-X.COM

(Please see ad on pg 55)



SHERWIN WILLIAMS At Sherwin Williams in

Collingwood, our team is

passionate about helping you complete the project of your dreams! We offer innovative colour selection tools, exceptional paints and stains and a wide selection of brand-name painting supplies to both homeowners and professionals. We also provide personal trademark customer service and expert advice. Need help choosing the right colours for your space? We provide FREE colour consultations to provide you with confidence in your choices. Consultations are 30 minutes via phone, text or video chat. Our certified colour consultant will provide you with colour recommendations and send colour samples directly to your door! Are you a contractor? Sign

up for a Pro+ account and start enjoying the benefits right away! We offer FREE delivery directly to the job site! Other benefits include customized business tools, everyday savings and preferred pricing. Expand your purchasing power today so you can say yes to more jobs! Enjoy 0% interest - always.

With more than one hundred stores in Canada, Sherwin-Williams is the one-stop shop for all of your painting and staining needs. For your next painting project, ask Sherwin-Williams Collingwood. We are here to help you succeed.

Follow us on Instagram @sherwin williams_collingwood 705.443.8146

(Please see ad on pg 27)



VALLEY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Choosing the right construction company for your property is a big decision – choosing us is the right one! With over two decades of experience, no project is too large or small for Valley Home Improvements. Bringing your vision for your space to life in creative and functional ways is what we do

What makes us great at what we do? Our team of knowledgeable and experienced staff, our longstanding network of skilled tradespeople and suppliers, using only the highest quality of products and our attention to detail. What does this mean for you? A highly skilled team that is invested in the success of your project, with exceptional, durable, and safe results.

You always come first - we pride ourselves on our trusting relationships with customers. Your time is valuable, and we work really hard to stay on schedule, tracking timelines and milestones. We are Tarion and Aging in Place licensed, so you know you're in good hands. Rest easy, leave the technicalities to us and look forward to the finished project!

Whether it's a brand new construction you need, renovating a space or creating an addition – we've got you. Get in touch, we'd love to have a chat about how we can help. 519.924.0025 valleyhomeimprovements.ca

(Please see ad on pg 33)

Continued on page 98



ELMIRA DOOR AND TRIM LTD.

Elmira Door and Trim is a business built on experience and customer service. While the business is a relatively new adventure for Mike Woroch, the building industry is definitely not. Alongside his father Bob Woroch, Mike grew up surrounded by doors, trim and the people who install them. Over the years, they have learned that nothing is more important than providing customers with outstanding service. Even the best products are of little value if they're not on site when needed.

This father-and-son team is a rare combination of talent, knowledge and family values. With a shared passion for the industry and a deep commitment to excellence, Mike, Bob and their team are dedicated to providing topnotch interior doors, trim and hardware products to customers across the region.

From the idea stage through to delivery, Elmira Door and Trim has the expertise to help you select the products and styles you need to complete any building project to perfection by providing the kind of personal attention that only a locallyowned business can offer.

Visit elmiradoorandtrim.com contact us at 519.210.9999 or info@elmiradoorandtrim.com Visit Our Showroom at 2-35 Union St, Elmira

(Please see ad on pg 111)

Good Little Builders

General Contractor, Residential Construction, Renovations & Additions

GOOD LITTLE BUILDERS INC.

Based in Markdale, Good Little **Builders** specializes in residentia construction and renovation in Grey-Bruce and surrounding area. We take great pride in our work and in meeting your goals for your home or cottage. We will share our expertise to help make your future home healthier, more energy efficient, and more environmentally sustainable through thoughtful consideration of design, material selections and construction methods. We are certified PHIUS Passive House Builders.

Our process typically starts with a consultation meeting to identify the key objectives and deliverables of your project. We will work together to clarify and document the scope of your project which is then utilized to develop a realistic and achievable cost estimate and construction schedule for completing your project.

While our business is new to the area, we have roots in Grey County and have been working in the building construction industry with over 20 years of experience. We offer General Contracting, Pre-Construction Planning, Project Management, and custom carpentry services. We look forward to speaking with you about your future home, cottage, garage, bunkie, addition or renovation needs.

For more info, please contact us by email at hello@goodlittlebuilders.ca phone 548.363.2208, or visit goodlittlebuilders.ca

(Please see ad on pg 95)



ANGELA KENSIT HOME STAGING CO.

Angela Kensit Home Staging Co. is a local business designed to help homeowners, builders and real estate professionals effectively prepare and sell their properties. The goal of staging is to make the home appeal to the greatest number of potential buyers, thereby selling faster and for more money. Our services are designed to do just that!

Strong first impressions are critical when it comes to marketing and selling your property. Angela Kensit Home Staging Co. will make your listing photos stand out and give your investment a competitive advantage. With a warehouse of inventory available, we can easily tailor your home to showcase at its best.

If you are a homeowner feeling stressed or overwhelmed with where to start, or an agent who simply wants to include value in your real estate services by partnering with a home stager, we can help. You will be provided with guidance every step of the way. The process has been designed with your needs in mind, creating a simple and effective approach to preparing homes for the real estate market.

Services include: • Complete
Home Staging Consultation with
Written Report • Partial Home
Staging • Full/Vacant Home
Staging • Model Home Staging
for New Developments

Angela Kensit Home Staging
Co. partners with real estate
brokerages and agents to
enhance the real estate services
offered by providing consultations
as a part of their listing package.
Contact us to discuss.

519.777.6290 © angelakensithomestaging.com (Please see ad on pg 73)



SUNSET BLINDS

Tyler and Courtney are the thirdgeneration owners of **Sunset Blinds**, a full-service window covering company along the Lake Huron shoreline. Helping customers transform their homes with luxurious fabrics, stylish designs and leading-edge technology is what they do best.

Their team specializes in a variety of products from Hunter Douglas, Alta Window Fashions (Shade-O-Matic), Eclipse Shutters, Springs Window Fashions (Graber) and Maxxmar Window Fashions. Spending more time outdoors? They also sell and install exterior awnings and sunshades by Rolltec.

Whether you are looking to outfit your entire home or just one window, choose from endless fabric choices and customized solutions to suit your style and budget. Take a short drive to one of their showrooms in Goderich, Kincardine or Port Elgin to explore displays, discuss your window covering needs and set up a free in-home consultation. Thinking about a contemporary look, classic or functional design? They have your privacy and light control needs covered!

With over 28 years of experience in the business, their excellent customer service doesn't end with the sale and installation of your blinds. When you invest in quality window coverings, they are backed by great manufacturer warranties for years to come. Your complete satisfaction is their goal!

Goderich | Kincardine |

Port Elgin sunsetblinds.ca Follow us on (Please see ad on pg 47)



POSTECH SCREW PILES

You can't make a great building on a poor foundation – we know this better than anyone. Whatever your project, our screw piles are the perfect solution. Take your pick from decks, garages, additions, homes, sunrooms – any structure that concrete can support, screw piles do it better.

That's not all. Compared to concrete, installing screw piles is quicker and cheaper, there are no landscaping damages and they can be fixed in almost all types of soil with minimal equipment. This means you can get started with your construction a lot sooner, keeping overall costs down. A win-win!

Postech Screw Piles are insulated from the inside, this is durable and permanent. Even better, this stops ice or frost from forming at their base, making them ideal for the Canadian climate. Our expert certified installers are around the corner from you, ready to help start your project on the right footing. Working with us is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

- Get on an initial call with us.
 We schedule an
- appointment and complete your installation.

 3. You get to start your
- 3. You get to start your construction!

We service Grey, Bruce and Dufferin counties. Get in touch, we'd love to have a chat about how we can help.

519.924.0050 postechpiles.com (Please see ad on pg 85)



ROYAL HOMES

You want a home that's perfect for you, and whether you know what that looks like or not, our talented designers will help bring it into reality. We don't believe in a floor plan that's not quite right. Our library of custom floor plans is here for inspiration, and with the help of our design experts, you can further customize them to your heart's content. Together, we can bring your unique vision to life. We let you customize everything - walls, floors, stairways, doors, windows, kitchen, bathroom, lights, door handles ... everything.

Our Design Centres let you explore the possibilities in person. We also have a full fabrication shop and paint booth that lets you customize to your heart's content.

A **Royal Home** is built to match your lifestyle perfectly, whether you're looking to build your first home, craft a cottage retreat, or retire to a custom home.

We are specialists in unique designs, including barrier-free homes that are welcoming and accessible to individuals who use a walker or wheelchair. Our design experts will work with you to create a plan that provides everything your family needs to make a house feel like home.

Contact us today!

1.800.265.3083 designandsales@royalhomes.com (Please see ad on pg 4&5)



LOVING UP LOCAL

Here at The Market Shoppe, we have so much love for our local community that it no longer fits within our store! Loving Up Local is a passion project that started with an idea and ultimately a dream to sustain thriving small towns. We are building a community of small businesses to help everyday shoppers find them in a world full of big box stores, chains and online marketplaces.

Loving Up Local is designed to showcase local shops, eateries and service businesses within our communities.
Supporting local businesses keeps our small towns thriving, storefronts full and main streets busy and bustling. Make the switch from small businesses being your "sometimes" choice to your first choice.

You can take pride in knowing that your purchase also made a massive positive impact in your community. For now, the project participants are mostly located in and around the Markdale area. We also have amazing participants in small towns all over, and we hope to expand and bring even more small community love!

By Loving Up Local you can ensure small businesses will be there when you need them.

For more information, check us out at lovinguplocal.ca (Please see ad on pg 29)



GREY BRUCE PAINT AND DÉCOR – UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!

Same great service with fresh new faces.

Located in the heart of Owen Sound, Grey Bruce Paint and Decor's oversized showroom is designed to help you choose the perfect colour for your interior and exterior projects. Whether you have an idea in mind or would like to take advantage of our colour consultation program, allow us to help you find the perfect product and finish to make your vision come to life. If you require a paint or stain, we have an extensive premium product line from Benjamin Moore to fit a multitude of budgets and design concepts. Pick up all the supplies you need to complete your project including paintbrushes, rollers, titan sprayers and more.

While you are here, take the time to browse our newly revamped and ever-growing home décor section.

Visit our showroom at 1580 20th St E, Owen Sound to let Grey Bruce Paint and Décor help you complete all your home projects. 519.371.4207

(Please see ads on pg 12, 31)





WOMEN IN TRADES

Empowered Women Empower Women. *Picture yourself in a future you built.*

Women make up nearly half of the entire Canadian workforce, but the perception still exists that certain jobs - particularly those in the skilled trades - are not suitable for women. Today we must stop stereotyping in the workforce. As none of the skills are defined by a person's gender, if you are a woman interested in the trades, there is nothing stopping you from empowering yourself to put on a hard hat and a pair of steel-toe boots and shatter the stereotypes around careers in the trades. The work of skilled tradespeople keeps our cities - and our lives - moving. In fact, it is estimated that by 2025, 40 percent of all occupations will be in skilled trades.

Work in the trades can sometimes be hard, physically demanding work, and women are held to the same standards as men, however, a woman can be just as physically fit, determined, confident, and capable of operating the same tools and machinery as their male counterparts. It takes more than a physical requirement in the skilled trades, to get the job done. Balance, dexterity, hand-eye coordination, stamina, and even academic skills like reading, writing and mathematics are assets for working in the skilled trades.

Think you know what a career in the trades is all about? Time to think again!

While electrician, plumber, auto mechanic, carpenter, and welder first come to mind, the skilled trades are actually so much more diverse – think everything from...

- Hairstylist
- Baker, Cook or Chef
- Computer Hardware Technician
- Educational Assistant and Child Development Practitioner
- Network Cabling Technician
- Agriculture Dairy Herdsperson and Horticultural Technicians
- Special Events Coordinator and Entrepreneur
- Information Technology and more,

all leading to rewarding, lucrative careers. With over 100 designated trades in Ontario to choose from, no matter what your passion is, there is a trade for you. Skilled tradespeople are in high demand to fill well-paying jobs and build rewarding careers.





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 Justin Graham at Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Bluewater District School Board and Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board
351 1st Avenue North Chesley, Ontario NOG 1LO 519-363-2014 Ext. 2132 | 1-800-661-7509

Contact Elaine McLachlin Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) Coordinator

Simcoe County District School Board
1170 Highway 26 Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6 705-734-6363 Ext. 11342

Contact Steacy Hinton Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
45 Alliance Blvd., Barrie, Ontario L4M 5K3 705-722-3555 Ext 281











When Kaitlyn and Sandy Hamilton built their forever home, raising sons Silas, Kaleb and Everett inspired

their design plans.

After starting his career in heating and plumbing, Sandy Hamilton expanded his original business, **Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc.**, into new residential construction and formed **Hamilton Developments** in 2009. Along with his wife and business partner Kaitlyn, their experience building houses helped shape their choices when designing their own home in Durham.

The Marshall Heights subdivision is home to many spec houses built by Hamilton Developments. The peaceful and family-friendly neighborhood seemed perfect for raising their family.

Sandy and Kaitlyn's home was modelled after a spec house with five bedrooms and ample space to accommodate a family, With the help of **Murray Norris** of **Homes By Design**, the Hamiltons customized the blueprint to suit their family's specific needs.

Features like the spacious two-bay garage and main-floor laundry room sold the Hamiltons on the model. Modifications to separate work and play included the kids' private playroom in the walkout basement and a detached work garage for Sandy.

Continued on page 105

ABOVE: Built by Hamilton
Developments, the stone for the home
is from Shouldice Designer Stone's
Estate collection in Hampton and
Norton blend with installation by AC/
DC Masonry. The home was framed by
Aitken Custom Framing and the roof was
completed by Reilly's Roofing. RIGHT:
The family enjoys some outdoor fun
with Kaleb and Silas ready to roll on the
four-wheelers. Everett stands at the door
to the outdoor toy garage. Landscape
maintenance is handled by The Grounds
Guys of Hanover.











Expanding the mudroom into a "wet mudroom" area in the garage was an example of the family-friendly features incorporated into the design.

The masonry on the home's exterior is Estate Stone in a dramatic Hampton and Norton blend colour from **Shouldice Designer Stone**. A house made of stone with front entrance pillars was essential to Sandy's vision.

The home's interior is a blend of contemporary aesthetics and modern luxuries designed with family in mind.

Kaitlyn honed her experience from working with Sandy on building homes for over a decade and channeled her natural talents into interior design. With help and products from **House Rules Design Shop**, the Hamiltons chose elements like luxury vinyl plank flooring, tile and several statement light fixtures.

"Through our experience designing spec houses for Hamilton Developments, we developed an appreciation for keeping design simple," says Kaitlyn. "We recommend choosing two paint colours for the walls and cabinets." All cabinetry, including the kitchen, was supplied by **B L Duncan Woodworking**.

The wall colour, **Benjamin Moore**Collingwood, is relaxing and welcoming. Hale
Navy on the cabinetry in the office and the
wet bar downstairs adds a dramatic splash of
colour throughout the home. Continued on page 106



Inside, guests to the Hamilton home are welcomed by a stunning contemporary chandelier, and the main floor opens into an open-concept living, dining and kitchen area. Kaitlyn wanted her kitchen designed for entertaining guests, complete with a double oven and a walk-in pantry. The kitchen backsplash in Glass Boutique tile adds a luxurious accent, while dark choices like black granite countertops from **The Old Barn** are more forgiving for a family with active children.

The wooden dining table and chairs exemplify the many custom furniture pieces made by **Backwoods Timber Creations** to blend rural inspiration with contemporary charm. The Pietra di Gré stone flooring in select bathrooms adds rustic accents to the modern aesthetic.

In the heart of the living area, a sectional sofa, from MacDonald's Furniture & Appliances, faces the fireplace and wall-mounted television for cosy family evenings. Audio and video was installed by HDTV and Electronics. Continued on page 108

LEFT: Black granite countertops in the kitchen were sourced from The Old Barn. Plumbing for the home was completed by Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc. Plants thrive in the window over the stainless-steel apron-fronted sink. Custom cabinetry was supplied by B L Duncan Woodworking. Stools at the kitchen island are from Amisco and custom ordered from MacDonald's Furniture & Appliances.









RIGHT: Hardscape material for the project was supplied by Ground Up Hardscapes and Natasha King of Dreamscapes helped with the landscaping. Windows were sourced through Golden Windows Limited.

BELOW: Silas, Kaleb and Everett race to the top of the climbing wall on their backyard play structure, built by Sandy. BOTTOM LEFT: The hot tub is sheltered under the rubber decking of the upper deck and sits on a heated concrete pad so there is no need to shovel. Outdoor furnishings are from DJ's Handcrafted Solid Wood Furniture. BOTTOM RIGHT: Everett helps in the separate work garage. Building materials for the project were supplied by Young's Home Hardware Building Centre.





The house features a two-storey deck. The upper-level deck provides space for grilling and dining al fresco, and the covered recreation area below features an outdoor television and hot tub.

"The rubber decking on the upper deck shelters the lower level so we can enjoy the outdoor entertainment area in all seasons," explains Sandy. "Our outdoor concrete pad is heated and has a sensor to melt all the ice and snow, so we never have to shovel."

Sandy and Kaitlyn love that each boy has their own bedroom and there's a guest room for when Grandma or guests come to stay.

"The grand bedroom suite is our little oasis," says Kaitlyn. "We love the walk-through design connecting the bedroom to the five-piece bathroom and generous walk-in closet." Continued on page 110







Downstairs features an entertainment area complete with a wet bar. Walk-out access to the lower deck and a separate entrance make it easy for Kaitlyn and Sandy to entertain with family and friends.

One of the most impressive behind-thescenes features of the Hamilton home is the mechanical room housing the equipment for the many electrical and technical systems. In-floor heating, indoor and outdoor sound systems, and grounds irrigation systems are just a few modern design elements that make the house comfortable and easier to manage in all seasons.

From their experience in residential construction, Sandy and Kaitlyn know the importance of working with reliable tradespeople. They say building their dream home over a year went smoothly thanks to their most trusted support crew, including Brent D Rawn Electric, Aitkin Custom Framing and Reilly's Roofing. Sandy also notes that Jason Lamont of Lamont Trim has a gift for doing flooring and trim precisely to the Hamilton Developments standard.

Continued on page 112



ABOVE: The wet bar on the lower level is painted Benjamin Moore Hale Navy and is surrounded with stools from Backwoods Timber Creations. **RIGHT:** The expertise of Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating is highlighted in the mechanical room of the home.











Sandy, Kaitlyn, Silas, Kaleb and Everett are thrilled with their family home. The boys are excited to ride their bikes, go four-wheeling and toast marshmallows around the fire during another spring and summer of a memorable childhood. он



ABOVE: Kaitlyn installed the Boho tropical mural in the primary bedroom. ABOVE RIGHT: Tile in the primary en suite shower was sourced through House Rules Design Shop and installed by Paul Wingrove of Custom Tiling. All window coverings for the home were sourced through Brutons Decorating. RIGHT: Kaleb's bedroom highlights his interest in dinosaurs. Walls throughout the home are painted Benjamin Moore Collingwood. FAR RIGHT: The double vanity in the primary en suite was supplied by B L Duncan Woodworking and the stone counter is from The Old Barn. Black accents in the hardware, faucets, mirrors and lighting match the heated black tile floor.





















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GAWX ONCRETE VASE

space. Create this vase and get the concrete look without the heavy lifting.

MATERIALS

Vase

Spray primer

Sand texture medium

Acrylic paint in light and dark grey

Paintbrush Wax paper

Clear coat or topcoat

STEP 1

Clean the vase to remove any oil or debris. Next, outside or in a well-ventilated area. spray the vase with a primer and let dry.

To create the concrete look, pour dark grey paint onto wax paper. Mix sand texture into the paint. This will add a gritty feel to your paint. Paint the entire vase and let dry. Apply a second coat if needed.

Dry-brush the lighter grey paint over the entire vase. To dry brush, dip your brush into a small amount of paint, wipe off excess onto the wax paper until most of the paint is gone. Holding the brush lightly, brush horizontally back and forth over the vase adding the light grey. Continue this step until the light grey has been applied over the whole vase.

To protect the paint, apply a clear coat or topcoat. Once dry, apply a second coat.

Add water and your favourite flowers, greenery or branches. OH



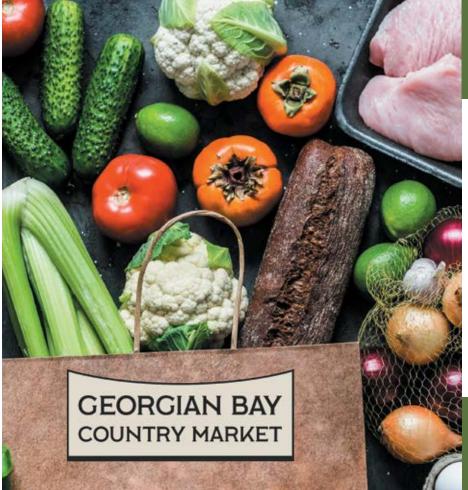












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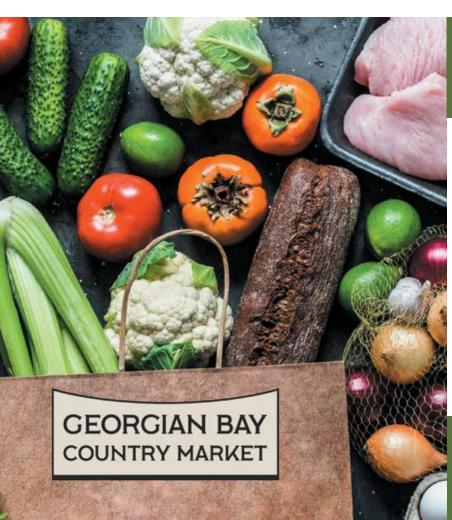






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Brakeman House Seasonal Rental, 27 Two Sisters Inn, 27

APPLIANCES

Macdonald's Furniture & Appliances, 2 Square Deal Neil's TV & Appliances, 75

ART/ARTISANS/ART GALLERIES/ STUDIOS/WORKSHOPS

Interior Motives, 22 Studio 101 Art Gallery, 27

AUDIO VIDEO/HOME AUTOMATION/ ELECTRONICS/SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY

HDTV and Electronics, 113

Candue Homes, 13

BUILDERS

Good Little Builders Inc., 95, 98 Great Lakes Custom Homes, 89 High R Construction, 14 Miller's Home Hardware Building Centre/Beaver Homes, 7 Royal Homes, 4&5, 99 RTC Carpentry Inc., 95 Spring Ridge Contracting, 59 The Great Lakes Frame Company, 124 Universal Builders, 35 Valley Home Improvements, 33, 97 Wiarton Design Centre div of

BUILDING/LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

Wiarton Home Building Centre, 55

Centre Grey Building Supplies, 89 Flesherton/Markdale Home Hardware, 89 Miller's Home Hardware Building Centre/Beaver Homes, 7 Moggie Valley Timber Inc., 57 Spring Ridge Contracting, 59 Wiarton Design Centre div of Wiarton Home Building Centre, 55

CABINETS & MILLWORK/ CARPENTRY/FINE WOODWORKING/ CUSTOM FURNITURE

Brubacher Cabinets, 15 Great Lakes Woodworking Elmwood, 31 Luxury Woodworking, 62&63 Topnotch Furniture, 79

CLOTHING/FASHION/FOOTWEAR/ **JEWELRY/LUGGAGE & LEATHER GOODS**

Sunpoint, 119

COUNTERTOPS

City Stone, 15 The Old Barn, 8&9

DRYWALL/PLASTER/STUCCO

Meg's Drywall, 93

EDUCATION

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), 100&101 Simcoe County District School Board, 100&101 Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, 100&101

ELECTRICAL

Brent D. Rawn Electric, 111 Richardson Electric, 73

EXCAVATING/SITE PREP/SEPTIC

Mulch-It, 10

FENCING/DECKS/GATES

Built Wright Fencing, 93 Postech Grey Bruce, 85, 99 Precision Deck and Fence, 77

FIREPLACES & STOVES/ACCESSORIES

Air Tech Mechanical, 115 Chantico Fireplace Gallery, 19 Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 95 The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 10, 87

FLOORING

Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor **& Home**, 12, 53 Moggie Valley Timber Inc., 57 South Bruce Flooring, 17 The Flooring Place, 91

FOOD & DRINK/RESTAURANTS/ CATERING/DELI

Georgian Bay Country Market, 115 Good Family Farms, 91 Loving Up Local, 29, 99 The Cook's Cupboard, 51 Top of the Rock, 89

FOUNDATIONS

Postech Grey Bruce, 85, 99

FURNITURE & HOME DECOR/ **ACCENTS/GIFTS/COLLECTIBLES**

Country Charm Mennonite Furniture, 121 Interior Motives, 22 Macdonald's Furniture & Appliances, 2 Smitty's Fine Furniture, 123

The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 10, 87 Topnotch Furniture, 79 Unique Pieces, 51 Wiarton Design Centre div of

GARDEN CENTRES/GREENHOUSES/ NURSERIES

Wiarton Home Building Centre, 55

Maxwell Garden Center, 33 Riverside Greenhouses, 95

GEOTHERMAL

Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc., 111

GLASS/MIRROR & DESIGN/ GLASS WALLS

The Glass Place, 91

HEATING & COOLING

Air Tech Mechanical, 115 Ken Philp ClimateCare, 83 Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 95 Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc., 111

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

HDTV and Electronics, 113

HOME IMPROVEMENTS/ RENOVATIONS

Great Lakes Custom Homes, 89 RM Knapp Construction, 23 RTC Carpentry Inc., 95 Valley Home Improvements, 33, 97

INSULATION

Airtight Insulation Solutions, 91 High R Construction, 14

INTERIOR DESIGN/HOME STAGING

Angela Kensit Home Staging, 73, 98 Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor **& Home,** 12, 53 Home Town Design, 47

KITCHEN & BATH

Brubacher Cabinets, 15 Great Lakes Woodworking Elmwood, 31 Luxury Woodworking, 62&63 Wiarton Design Centre div of Wiarton Home Building Centre, 55

KITCHENWARE/RESTAURANT SUPPLY

The Cook's Cupboard, 51

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE/ LANDSCAPING/LAWN & GARDEN

Beaver Valley Rocksolid Landscapes, 21 Hutten & Co. Land and Shore, 6

MACHINERY/SMALL EQUIPMENT/ **FARM SUPPLIES**

Equipment Ontario, 87 Maple Lane Farm Service, 59

MOVING & STORAGE

A1 Storage, 85

ORGANIZATION/STORAGE

Stor-x Orangizing Systems, 55, 97 Wilson Solutions, 37

OUTDOOR FURNITURE/STRUCTURES

Maxwell Garden Center, 33 Silo Outdoor Products, 10 The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 10, 87

PAINTING & DECORATING

Benjamin Moore, 12

Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor **& Home**, 12, 53 Grey Bruce Paint and Decor, 12, 31, 99 Lockwood Painting, 73 Sherwin Williams, 27, 97 Southhampton Home Hardware, 12

PAINTING, PRIMING, BLASTING **& STAINING**

Premier Industrial Painting, 35

PLUMBING

Ken Philp ClimateCare, 83 Mayne Piping and Plumbing, 13 Pratt Plumbing and Heating, 95 Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc., 111

REAL ESTATE

Engel & Völkers - McGregor Hahne Group, 11 Royal LePage RCR Realty -Scott Crowther, 57 Sutton Sound Realty Inc. – Krista Gill, 3

ROOFING

Reilly's Roofing, 113

SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Loving Up Local, 29, 99

STONE PRODUCTS/VENEER

West Shore Stone and Brick Inc., 49

TRAIL BUILDING

Mulch-It, 10

TRIM/MOULDING/CASING

Elmira Door & Trim, 98, 111

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Budget Blinds of Owen Sound, 31 Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor **& Home**, 12, 53 Sunset Blinds, 47, 98

WINDOWS & DOORS

Desboro Doors, 75 Elmira Door & Trim, 98, 111

WORKPLACE SAFETY

Spencer Safety Solutions, 47, 97

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INGREDIENTS (Serves 4)

4 salmon fillets, skin removed

2-3 large potatoes, thinly sliced

Fresh dill, or herbs of choice

¼ cup sundried tomatoes, sliced

¼ cup olives, pitted and sliced

1/4 cup artichokes, sliced

HOW-TO

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Prepare four sheets of parchment paper twice the size of the salmon. Fold each sheet in half.

On one side of the parchment paper lay 6-8 slices of potatoes. Place salmon on top.

Top with dill or other herbs, sundried tomatoes, olives and artichokes. Drizzle with olive oil.

Turn parchment paper over to create a pocket and fold in all sides to seal.

Repeat with each piece of salmon.

Place pockets on a baking sheet and bake 20-25 minutes at 350°F, or until salmon is cooked. Serve with salad. **OH**

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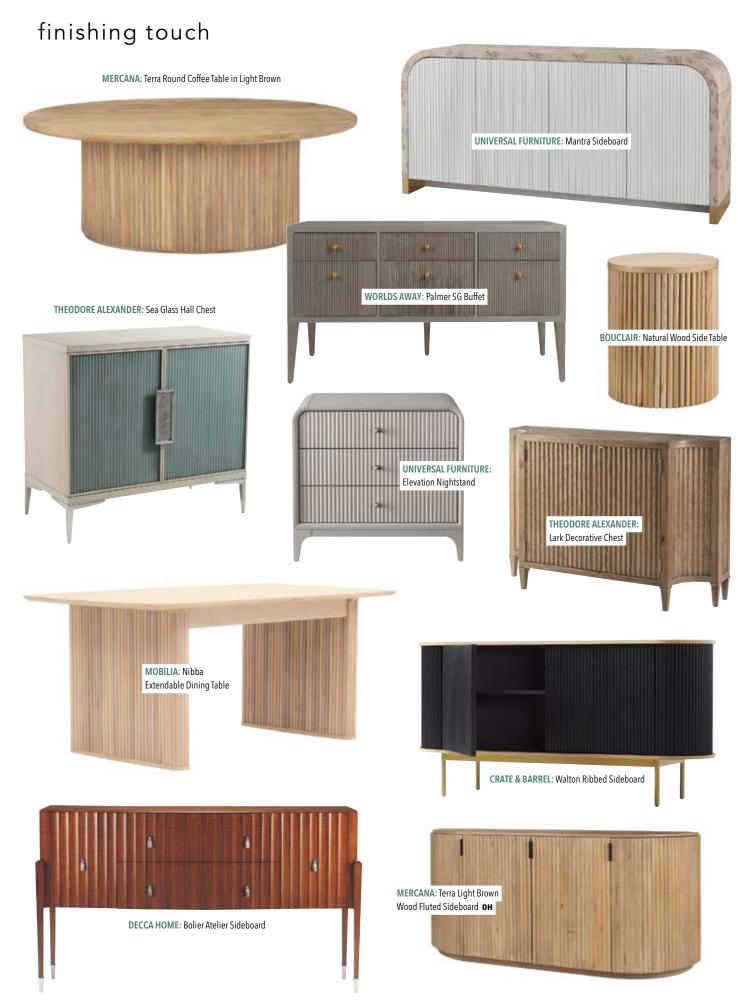
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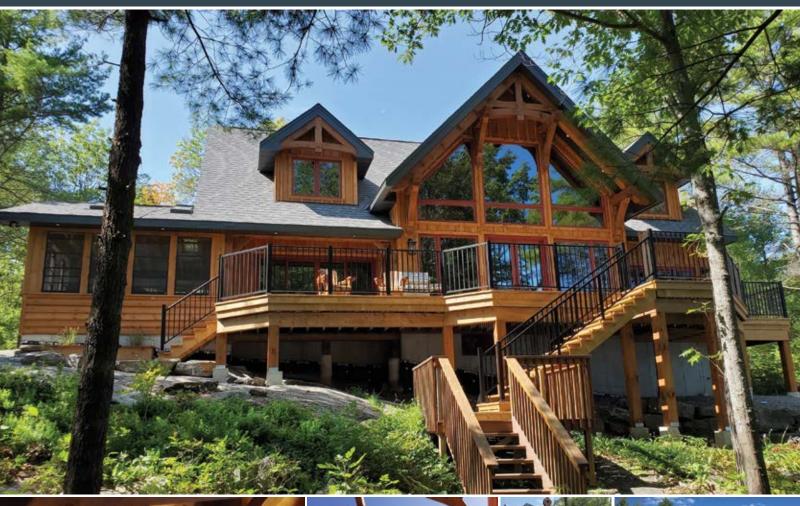
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