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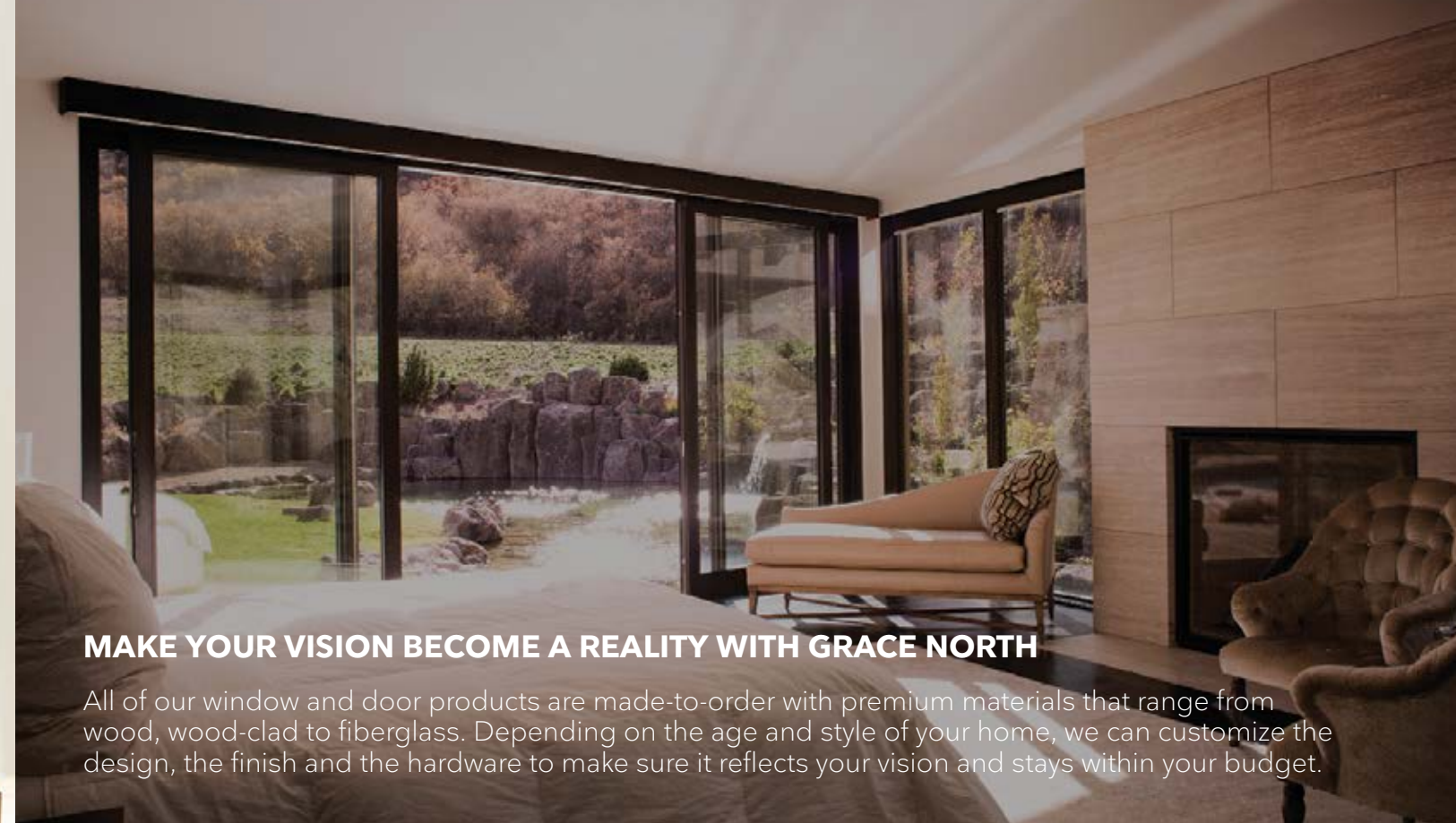
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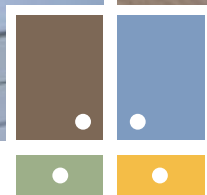
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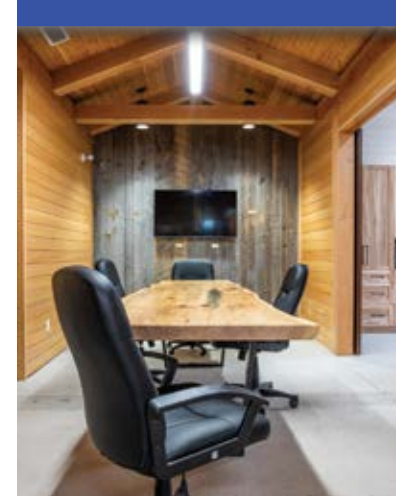
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## editor's note

*we*

FIRST NOTICED WYLIE AS HE STALKED  
SQUIRRELS IN OUR YARD.



It was early spring and the days were cool and nights freezing when this scruffy orange cat began hunting meals around our home. My wife Lori and I never saw him catch any of the elusive black rodents. Assuming he was homeless, we didn't want him to go hungry so I began putting out a dish of cat food and bowl of water on the edge of the deck. He was skittish initially and would flee whenever he saw me. Later, I'd find his food dish empty, a sign he had been back unseen. That's how he earned his nickname.

A little later, he broke the ice while I sat reading on the deck. I looked up, surprised to see him calmly lapping a drink from his water bowl. He glanced at me warily from time to time but he didn't flee, a sign this might be the beginning of a friendship. I put a cat bed in a corner of our garden shed and left the door ajar. A carefully aimed trail camera confirmed he was sleeping there at night.

To help keep him warm when the temperature dropped below zero, I stitched closed the arm holes on an old down vest and draped it over a wire frame to fashion a dome over his bed. The camera showed another cat, a grey and white tabby, would occasionally visit. Curious raccoons also prowled the kitty dorm.

Online advice about taming stray or feral cats recommends letting the cat decide when it wants to befriend you. We've been following that advice. Sometimes, when our Siamese house cat Hillary Rodham has gone back to bed after her breakfast, I open the sliding door to the deck and place Wylie's food on the living room floor. He comes in, eats, and like comedian Rodney Dangerfield, leaves immediately.

When it rains, Wylie sits beneath a cedar shrub at a neighbour's house. One day, when our neighbour was outside watching Wylie skirt the shrub, I told him Wylie likes that spot.

"Is he yours?" the neighbour asked. "No. He's a stray. We've been feeding him for a few weeks," I replied. "So have we," the neighbour said. Wylie is definitely living up to his reputation.

*Walter Franczyk*

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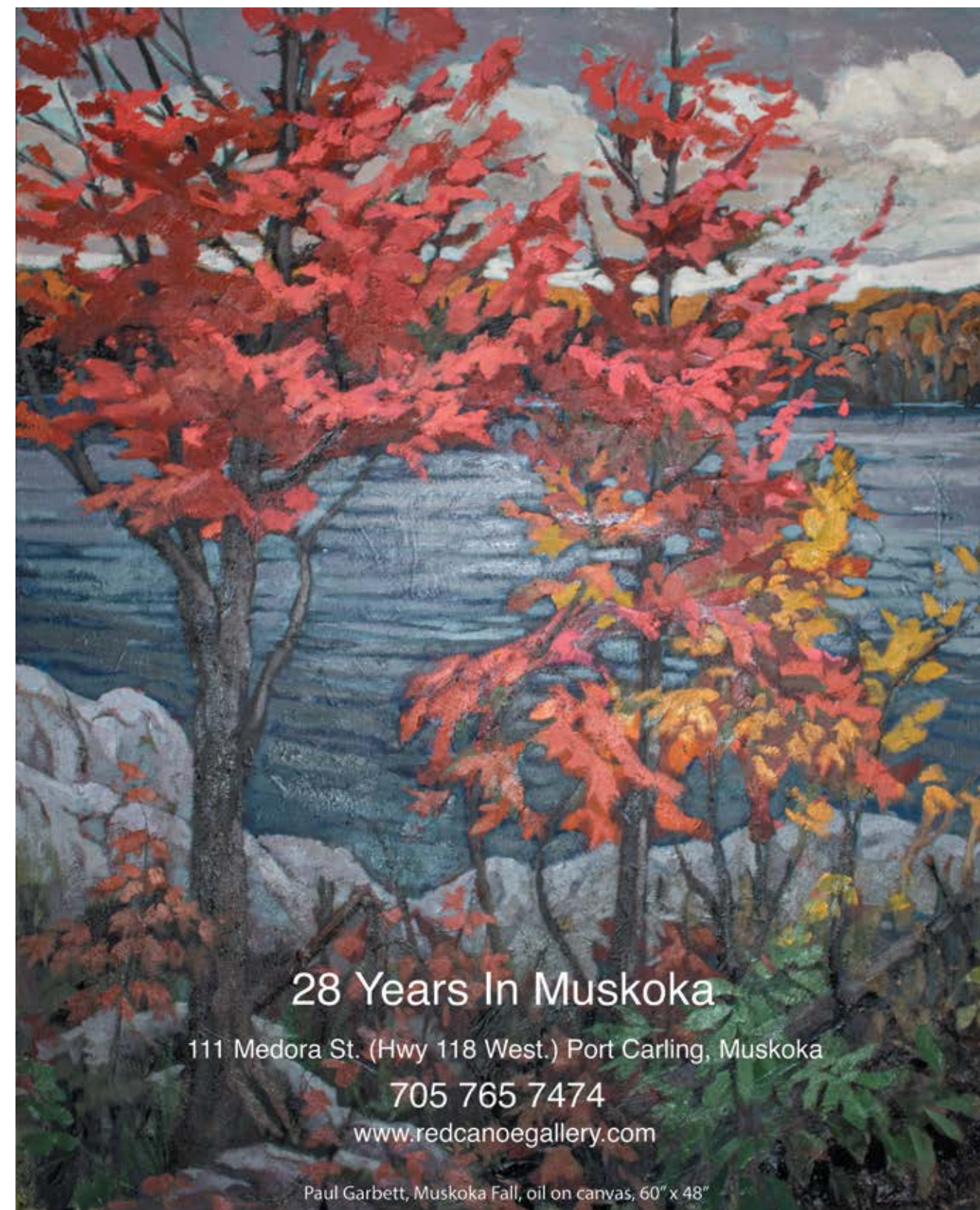
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Paul Garbett, Muskoka Fall, oil on canvas, 60" x 48"

red canoe gallery





# Curate WELL-BEING AT HOME

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

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

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

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

It is a privilege to have a home where you and your family can retreat. Having the ability (financial and otherwise) to curate a home that feels welcoming, calming, nourishing and restorative – especially when unpredictable circumstances occur in the world – is a true blessing. Take the time to determine how you want your home to feel. For example, creating a calming space is especially important when the news of the world feels heavy. A clean and clutter-free space can quiet the nervous system and make you feel better physically, mentally and emotionally.



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## Create peace of mind

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

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

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

Generating your own electricity allows you to be less dependent on the larger system. For those not connected to the grid, investing in a generator in the event of a power loss enables you to keep the fridge and freezer running so you don't



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lose your food supply – just create a regular maintenance schedule and ensure you have the appropriate fuel. Also having a stock of water on hand for a couple of weeks, or a filtration system (such as a

Berkey) if you have access to fresh water, can provide added peace of mind. The notion of creating a safe home extends beyond a security system.

## Define various zones

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

## Bring nature inside

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



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PHOTOGRAPHY **WALTER FRANCZYK**



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*Continued on page 28*



7



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cooking at home

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

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Continued on page 32



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cooking at home



INGREDIENTS  
(Serves 4)

SPICED CARAMEL SAUCE

- 1.5 cups white sugar
- ¼ cup water
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 5 Tbsp butter
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg



CANDIED WALNUTS

- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp water
- 1 cup walnuts
- ½ tsp salt



PEACHES

- 6 peaches, halved and pitted
- 1 tsp butter
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- Your favourite ice cream

HOW-TO

CARAMEL SAUCE

Place sugar and water in a heavy-bottomed pot. (It is very important while caramelizing sugar that you do not stir it! Stirring will cause the sugar to crystallize and create a mess.)

Heat water and sugar over medium heat until sugar is dissolved and comes to a simmer. Let the water and sugar simmer untouched until an amber colour is achieved, about 10-15 minutes.

Turn off heat and whisk in heavy cream. (A word of caution: Be careful at this step, as the cream will cause a lot of steam and can result in a steam burn.) Whisk in butter until melted.

Return to stovetop and stir on low for 2-3 minutes until caramel bubbles. Add salt and spices. Let cool.

You can store sauce in fridge for up to 1 week.

CANDIED WALNUTS

Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Over medium heat combine sugar and water (again, do not stir!) and bring to boil until mixture is amber in colour.

Remove from heat and stir in walnuts.

Once coated, turn walnuts onto the baking sheet and separate with a fork.

Sprinkle with salt and let cool to harden.

PREPARE PEACHES

Now for the easy part! Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium-high heat.

Dip the cut side of the peaches in sugar and cinnamon and place sugar side down in the pan. Cook until caramelized and soft.

To serve, top peaches with ice cream of choice, caramel sauce and candied walnuts! **OH**



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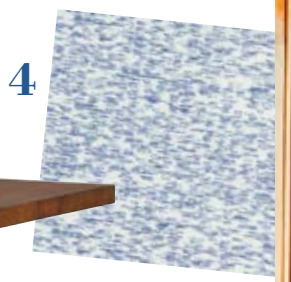
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meant  
**TO BE**

Translucence defines the new lakehouse Azra Khan and her husband Owen Prowse built on Lake Rosseau.

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



*the* architecture, colours and landscaping were all chosen to complement the natural environment. “The cottage happens to be here, but it’s really the lake that you come for,” Azra says. That semi-transparent essence is apparent at the home’s front porch where glass doors reveal an enticing and welcoming glimpse of the lake beyond the home’s great room.

Inside the four-bedroom cottage, the couple used muted colours, textures and patterns to create a sense of openness and comfort, intent that the cottage not stand in the way of the lake. “We wanted to feature the natural elements, the beautiful trees, the water, all the reflective elements,” Azra says.

*Continued on page 38*



The new lakehouse is designed and landscaped to fit the natural environment. **BELOW:** Slip-covered sofas by Urban Rustic Living were custom-built for a casual look in the great room. **OPPOSITE:** Swivel chairs, covered in high-performance fabric, complement the great room furnishings.







Chrome-and-grey leather stools align with the kitchen island, illuminated in the evenings by large pendant lamps.



Urban Rustic Living furnished the dining table and padded chairs in the open-concept kitchen. **BELOW LEFT:** Carrara marble in a muted graphic pattern forms the kitchen backsplash. **BELOW RIGHT:** A patterned mirror mimics the flooring in the powder room.



In the mudroom and laundry, a nostalgic 1960s pattern of British tiles by Laura Ashley is reminiscent of dragonflies.



“Every window was strategically placed to capture a particular view.” Family roots in the area grow four generations deep. Owen was six weeks old when he first came to Muskoka, where his grandfather had a summer place. Parents of four boys, age 15 to 22, the couple have become expert homemakers. “We live in a home that’s 153

years old in the city so we have been renovating or restoring, in some form, our entire marriage,” Azra says. They also restored an old farmhouse near Windermere as a cottage and have been summering in Muskoka for more than 25 years. “It was important for us to build where we had roots.”

Azra had been looking for the optimal spot for a new cottage for about three years when her search ended at this three-acre property with 908 feet of waterfront on a small, very private bay near the north end of Lake Rosseau. “I love the view,” she says. “When I saw it I just knew.” The couple’s realtor, [Laura Morrison of Chestnut Park Real Estate](#), recommended they hire [Steve Strickland of Strickland Contracting](#) to build their new cottage. Steve and Azra selected [Ian Maclaren](#) as the cottage architect. “I had interviewed several architects and the one I felt a connection with, who I felt understood what we were best trying to do, is the architect that we chose,” Azra says. “It was really a fantastic collaboration between myself, the architect and the builder. We always felt like we were on the same page, which was terrific. It made the whole building process quite lovely. The kids enjoyed it as well and now two of them are working for Steve this summer.”

*Continued on page 40*



# feature



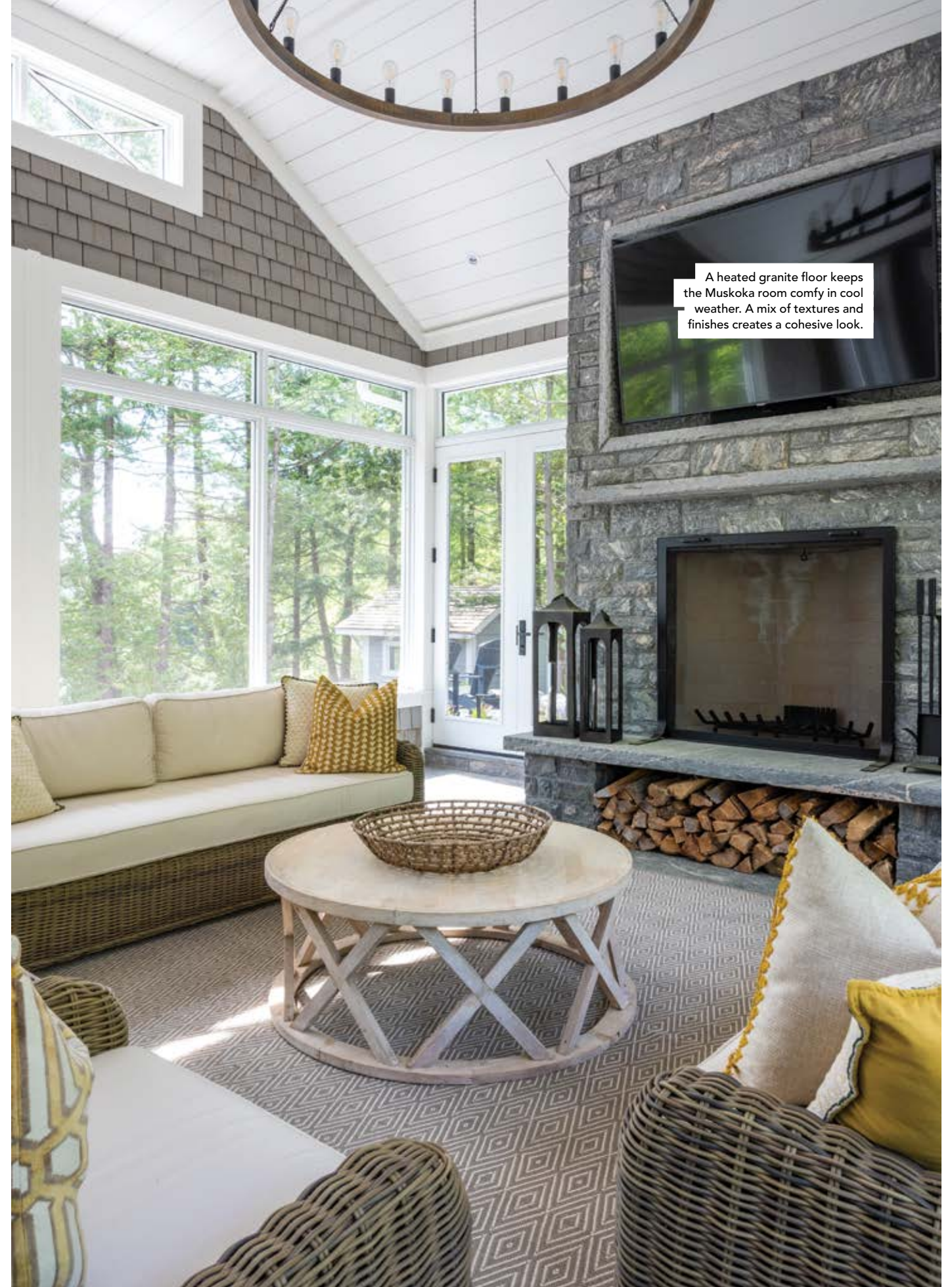
A firepit from Sandhill Nursery centres the front patio. **LEFT:** Wall finishes transition from shiplap on the main floor to board-and-batten on the ground floor.



In homage to Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, cedar shingles sheath the interior of the Muskoka room.



A heated granite floor keeps the Muskoka room comfy in cool weather. A mix of textures and finishes creates a cohesive look.



A very detail-oriented person, Azra designed the 4,200 sq. ft. cottage interior and gave builders a binder with a wish list for every room. One of her favourite features is the intricate marble tile work that distinguishes the mudroom, laundry, kitchen and the home's six bathrooms. All the floor tiles are replicas, materials that have been around forever. "It's the special features and details of finishing that really differentiate one cottage from another," she says.

The lake is visible from every bedroom where blinds from **Window Quilt Muskoka** retract, hidden by valances built into the window trim. **Window Works Muskoka** supplied the large, Canadian-manufactured, Lepage Millwork windows.

The couple enlisted the **Urban Rustic Living** design team to furnish and decorate the lake house. "I heard they were amazing to work with and just really good at finding items or customizing items for unique spaces," Azra says.

Azra had a great sense of what she was looking for and had accumulated ideas from previous renovation and restoration projects, says Urban Rustic Living owner **Tary Roossien**. "From the beginning, we had a good picture of the vision that she had, what she wanted to achieve, and how she wanted the cottage to feel. That really gave us a great platform to work from." Most furnishings were custom-made. "Even before the foundation was dug, we were working with regard to furniture, lighting, colours," Tary says. "We were never under pressure because we were doing things ahead of time and making sure the decisions worked with the overall goals of the build."

*Continued on page 42*





Outside, with the expert assistance of **Mike Brown** of **Brown's Landscaping** and **Dale Maw** of **D.B Maw Landscaping**, the owners sculpted their property to hug the entire bottom of the bay. Granite flagstone footpaths link the home to a stone patio and firepit overlooking the lake. Stone walkways and granite stairs traverse the terrain to a natural, sandy beach at one side of the property, to the waterfront boathouse and dock, and a flex room and sports court to the south. Arbourist **Paul Kennedy** thinned the forested shoreline to allow cottagers a view of the lake through the trees while maintaining their privacy.

Built with sturdy Douglas fir timbers, a polished and sealed concrete floor, the flex room has multiple purposes. It serves as an indoor cycling



A fenced sports court provides an excellent basketball venue for this very active family.



Stone footpaths and stairs connect the various outdoor activity areas. **ABOVE, RIGHT:** The flex room is built with glass-panelled garage doors to provide lots of interior light for indoor cycling as well as an entrance and exit for vehicles.



To help preserve the view, the couple chose to build a single-storey boathouse. **TOP LEFT:** Canoes and water toys await paddlers at the shoreline. **ABOVE:** One stretch of the 900-foot waterfront is a sandy beach.

centre for the boys. It has a sofa that pulls out to a queen-size bed for extra guests. Glass-panelled garage doors at either end can open to admit cool summer breezes. In winter, family vehicles can be parked inside, housed out of the snow.

The couple are thrilled with Steve Strickland's workmanship. "We couldn't be happier," Azra says. They hope to eventually make the lake house their retirement home. They spent their first Christmas at the cottage last winter and try to be here as much as they can in the summer. "We want it to be a multi-generational cottage," Azra says – a place where their children will gather when they, in turn, have their own families.

*Continued on page 44*



feature



The primary bedroom enjoys an expansive view of Lake Rosseau and Picnic Island. **ABOVE LEFT:** Marble tiles in a Starry Night pattern cover the floor in the en suite. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A cantilevered space holds a tub overlooking the surrounding forest and lake.

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They've named their lakehouse *Kismet*, a word borrowed from the Turkish language that means fate or destiny, something meant to be. "When people come to visit, there's a feeling of joy, a feeling of happiness when you walk into a space that just feels right," Azra says. **OH**



**TOP LEFT:** An extra-large sectional sofa and matching games tables were custom-built for the ground-floor family room. **ABOVE:** Each bedroom was built with distinctive millwork as a wall finish. **LEFT:** Each of the four bedrooms has a view of Lake Rosseau.



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From a design perspective, “imperfectly perfect” interiors have been gaining popularity as the world becomes more accepting of imperfection and increasingly seeks out the beauty in it. Gone are the unattainable, stress-inducing standards of perfection. This interior trend is all about living our best life in comfort and style. Here’s how to get this look.

## MIX OLD AND NEW

Vintage pieces are key to this aesthetic. If it’s distressed, aged and faded, all the better. Remember, they’re not just scratches, they’re stories. One reason I really love this style is that it doesn’t demand the purchase of all-new items; the contrast between old and new can be quite beautiful. Some newly purchased furnishings and accessories can make your vintage pieces pop in a way that’s uniquely you. This style is also conducive to upcycling cast-off furnishings with some new upholstery and a fresh coat of paint.

Generally speaking, avoid anything that’s too matchy-matchy and aim for eclectic and artisanal. Look for contrasts and combine a variety of materials such as wood, glass, lacquer, metal and mirror. The goal is for your items to look collected rather than purchased in one afternoon at your local big box store.

*Continued on page 50*

# PERFECTLY

# imperfect

STORY **SASCHA LAFLEUR**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **WEST OF MAIN DESIGN**

This world is full of wonderful things that happen entirely by accident, but when it comes to our homes, the “perfectly imperfect” aesthetic doesn’t always come by chance. Though effortlessly curated in appearance, this distinctive style is quite deliberate, reflecting unique lives and interests, and the home that’s at the heart of it all.



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design ideas



Try this: In the kitchen, take the mix-and-match approach to your metallic finishes. For example, try pairing brushed nickel cabinetry hardware with gold-toned lighting or plumbing fixtures. Just keep a consistent temperature – warm with warm, or cool with cool. Alternately, matte black metal is a neutral and trendy option that pairs well with everything.



TELL YOUR STORY

Incorporate sentimental items and found objects that speak to your personal interests and experiences. Find a place to display that retro typewriter or your vintage camera collection. Put yourself out there through things that bring you joy and help tell your story.

Bring added interest to your collections by peppering your display with plants, books and artwork to create mini focal points through the space.

Think in odd numbers when displaying your collections and curios on tabletops, shelves or the fireplace mantel. Arrange your accessories in groups of threes or fives, with the largest item in the middle. This draws attention to the centre of your display and creates balance.



The final piece of decorating advice could easily apply to life as well. Rather than trying to fight the randomness that sometimes surrounds us, embrace it. Do things just because and you might be surprised by the outcome. **OH**

*Sascha Lafleur is the principal senior designer at West of Main.*

LIVE IN LAYERS

Textiles can completely change a room, adding warmth and dimension to what would otherwise be a cold and sterile space. Along with this particular aesthetic, pillows and throws were never intended to be neatly lined up and folded into a perfect little square. Just toss, drape and pile them where needed.

Your fabric choices create a mood and set a tone. Layer bold animal and cultural prints with more subtle patterns and solids for instant impact without having to make a huge investment or commitment. You can lighten up your fabrics during the warmer months with linens and cottons and go warmer and heavier during the winter with wool, faux fur and chunky knits.

Consider adding reclaimed antique rugs, window coverings, wall coverings, upholstery and accessories such as cushions and throws. Again, look for variety in colour, vibrancy, pattern and texture.



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# Blooming

## IN BALA

PHOTOGRAPHY **WALTER FRANCZYK**

### THE PLACE

Jennifer Davies and husband Bob Naylor opened **Pratt's Garden Centre** in Bala because they knew it was time to grow. Owners and operators of Pratt's Lawn Care & Landscapes, the couple built their new 11,000 sq. ft. greenhouse to satisfy local cravings for flowers, plants and garden supplies. Every spring, Jennifer says, they'd have people shopping for plants at the family's personal greenhouses. "People are obviously looking for something that they're not finding elsewhere." The garden centre enhances their thriving landscaping service. "With the growth we were experiencing, we needed to be able to serve our customers in a more complete fashion. This allows us to offer a wider variety of services and to be able to finish our landscape projects completely with all the flowers, plants, décor and outdoor furniture."

### PRODUCTS

A vast selection of colourful annuals, houseplants and accessories fills greenhouse shelves. Perennials and trees are displayed outside. "We have mulches and soils and all the soil amendments," Jennifer says. In addition to serving individual homeowners, Pratt's supplies many local landscapers.



"When they're working on jobs they know they have easy access to the materials. We can load trucks and trailers for them," Jennifer says.

### PATIOS

Pratt's builds a lot of firepits, large patios and outdoor spaces, so the store's ample offering of patio



## FAVOURITES

"I love the flowers and the plants. They're the root of this business," Jennifer says. "We sell happy. When people walk in here, people are instinctively happy – they see the colour, the brightness, they see whimsical pieces – they're just happy." **OH**

furniture and décor complements the natural greenery and colours. Armchairs, tables, rugs, sofas, cushions, lanterns, pillows and planters abound. "Décor is one of those things that's fun to switch up every year," says Jennifer. "You have investment pieces like furniture, but you can add different pillows or make changes that feel fresh year after year."

### SERVICES

Pratt's can help homeowners design gardens. "People come in for solutions. They have particular spots that are shady or really wet and they're looking for something that will work for them," Jennifer says. "They want some real consultation and advice."



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STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **CLINT SPALDING**

# CUTTING EDGE *condo*

A MUSKOKA SUMMER WOULDN'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT QUIET, LEISURELY TIME ON A PEACEFUL LAKE.

*Continued on page 56*

The Cutter's Edge furnished this spacious lakeside condominium in luxurious, contemporary style.  
**INSET:** A balcony protected by frameless glass railings overlooks the east end of Fairy Lake.







Northern Ontario with spacious showrooms spanning Huntsville to Verner. The Cutter’s Edge has designed and furnished everything from cottage bunkies to downtown Toronto condos, model homes and lakeside retreats.

At Fairy Lake, the condominium owners hired the company to furnish and plan their space to reflect modern, sophisticated living, says Robin. “The owners were looking for a clean, contemporary design with an emphasis on luxury Muskoka living.”

Initially, the clients envisioned an elite, Restoration Hardware feel that captured the sophistication of city life with elements of Muskoka living mixed in. “During our initial site visit it became evident that the finishing millwork selections would better complement a more modern, coastal feel,” says Robin. “We brought this to life through warm wood tones, minimalism in design and crisp luxurious linens.” *Continued on page 58*



**SUMMERING LAKESIDE** at a waterfront condo on Fairy Lake is a luxurious treat, thanks to interior design and furnishings by **The Cutter’s Edge**. “It was key for us to make the waterfront the focus of every space,” says Cutter’s Edge general manager **Robin Wood**. In this newly-built condo, furnishings were positioned and tones and colours chosen, to complement the natural beauty outdoors.

Fairy Lake is located in a 60-kilometre waterway that includes Lake Vernon and Peninsula Lake, and is a place where denizens cherish and protect their habitat. The Cutter’s Edge was a natural choice to furnish a home in this setting. Robin’s parents Hubert and Terry Lawrence founded the company as a home décor and wood furniture manufacturer in the Almaguin Highlands more than 30 years ago. A thriving family firm, it has grown to service



**TOP LEFT:** A sectional dash stone leather sofa and pandora white leather armchairs form the central gathering spot in this new home. **ABOVE:** Engineered hardwood covers most floors throughout the condominium. **FAR LEFT:** A linear fireplace glows warmly on a wall where windows overlook the forested lakeshore. **LEFT:** The Cutter’s Edge manufactured this long wooden hallway table.



feature

Robin and her team had worked with the owners before so they were given generous, creative freedom to run with their design ideas. With four bedrooms, three bathrooms and more than 3,500 square feet of space, the condo was an inviting, blank canvas. The design team started by bringing together ideas and concepts to marry Muskoka waterfront living with an urban upscale vibe, Robin says. They then developed a cohesive plan from room to room. “From there, it was a matter of laying out furniture, choosing art and soft finishes,” she says. “As always when taking on a new project, we love to come up with new furniture designs tailored to fit the space.”

The creative process had its challenges. Some custom furniture pieces, including a 114-inch headboard, didn’t fit in the stairways or elevators. The Cutter’s Edge team brought the furnishings into the condo by hoisting them up and over the second-storey balcony.

A modern, sophisticated look was achieved with warm wood tones that complement the engineered hardwood flooring throughout. Texture and minimalist décor, with art and rugs anchoring each space, were also key.

**RIGHT:** The large great room coffee table was custom-built for the space.  
**BELOW:** The blue-and-white galley kitchen, with an integrated refrigerator, makes efficient use of the open-concept space.



Leather chairs surround the long, wormy maple dining table.

“With the open-concept kitchen/great room being the gathering point in the condo, our objective was plentiful seating to make it comfortable,” says Robin. “The table was designed at 11-and-a-half feet long to easily accommodate 10 people, with additional seating for five at the island.” Cutter’s Edge used wormy maple to craft the long dining table. The nearby, eight-foot-long sideboard was created with continuous grain across the front. The oversize chandelier above the dining table was selected to illuminate the grandeur of the table, yet carry a light and airy silhouette as to not distract from the open-concept space. *Continued on page 60*

**RIGHT:** Pocket doors lend the condominium a streamlined, uncluttered look.







A wall of windows spans the entire width of the great room, allowing ample natural light and a bird's eye view of the eastern end of the lake where boaters navigate the narrow, serpentine canal to and from Peninsula Lake. A sectional leather sofa in dash stone with leather accent chairs in pandora white offer seating in this calm oasis. A glassed, linear fireplace punctuates the other exterior wall of this room. Large windows look out onto the forested shoreline.

Just off the galley kitchen, a sliding door opens to the balcony where frameless glass railings allow an unobstructed view while keeping onshore breezes pleasantly tranquil. "We continued the open-concept feel out onto the covered balcony with crisp white Sunbrella-upholstered seating and wood coffee tables to mimic the wooden ceilings and an additional dining table to enjoy the gorgeous outdoor space," Robin says.

In the kitchen, comfortable and practical linear pulls accent the two-tone cabinetry, including an integrated refrigerator, colour-matched with pantry cupboards. Floating shelves flank the modern, stainless steel range hood above the gas stove. *Continued on page 62*

**ABOVE:** An octagonal mirror serves a visual treat in one of the home's three bathrooms. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A sliding wooden door built in a herringbone pattern reveals a home office. **RIGHT:** Ample shelving and storage complement a well-equipped laundry room.



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The Cutter's Edge manufactured a king-size bed with built-in side tables for the primary bedroom. The company made all beds and nightstands throughout the condo.

The bedrooms were designed to provide an oasis for each guest to unwind in northern tranquility. “We wanted each room to have a different theme centred around the Muskoka outdoors but tied together through modern and cohesive colour palettes,” says Robin.

The Cutter's Edge manufactured all the furniture in the condo, including the beds and nightstands. In the primary bedroom, the king-size bed with that 114-inch headboard was made with built-in side tables. Another bedroom, ideal for a young family, is furnished with a roomy bunk bed that has a queen-size bed below and an extra-large twin bed on top.

The Cutter's Edge relied on its own resources to complete the project while many suppliers and businesses were closed by COVID pandemic lockdowns and restrictions. This modern home's finishing touches and custom-built furnishings make it a pleasurable living space not only in summer, but all year round. **OH**

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# REAL ESTATE AGENT

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

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

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

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

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

Home values in Windsor and Essex County barely budged for years until the onslaught of the pandemic. In May, the average price of a home jumped a whopping 44 per cent, and still, sales increased by 76 per cent compared to a year ago.

Windsor's John Rauti, the top producer for 17 years at Remo Valente Real Estate, represents both local and out-of-town buyers. "Most are buying in this region because prices

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

In Ottawa, Brent Conley of Royal LePage Team Realty says it's more strategic to list at equivalent market value to similar sales that have recently sold. "In some instances, it may motivate and spur activity and showings to list slightly below market value," he says. Brent says his buyers must be pre-approved so he knows what their top-dollar purchase power truly is. Ottawa's May sales numbers were up 78 per cent compared to a year ago. The average price of a residential home there was \$678,320.

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

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

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

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

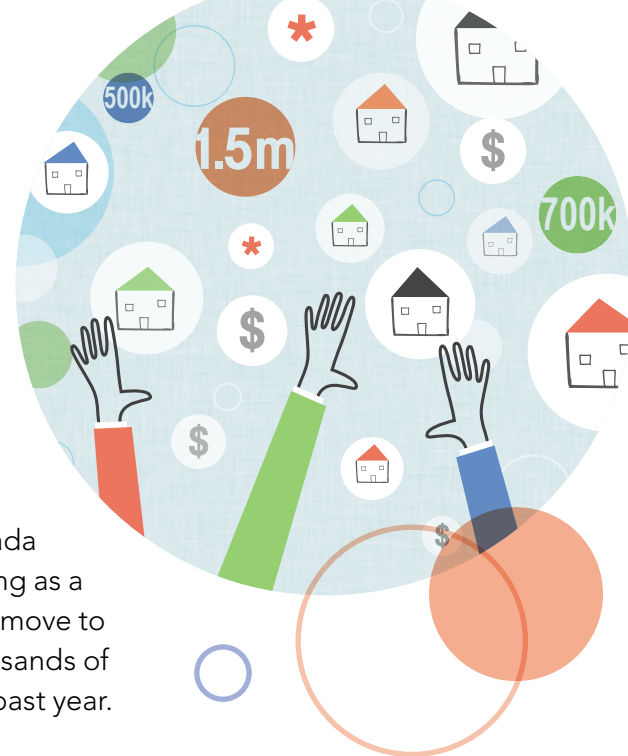
For these realtors, the current market is exhilarating, lucrative and frustrating.

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

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

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

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



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PHOTOGRAPHY **WALTER FRANCZYK**



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## AWARD WINNING

Heidi Ehlers has worked with plants most of her life. For the past 15 years, she has studied floral design in New York, created award-winning gardens and brought her previous experiences to her current role as creative director of Green Love, as much a passion as a career.

*Continued on page 68*



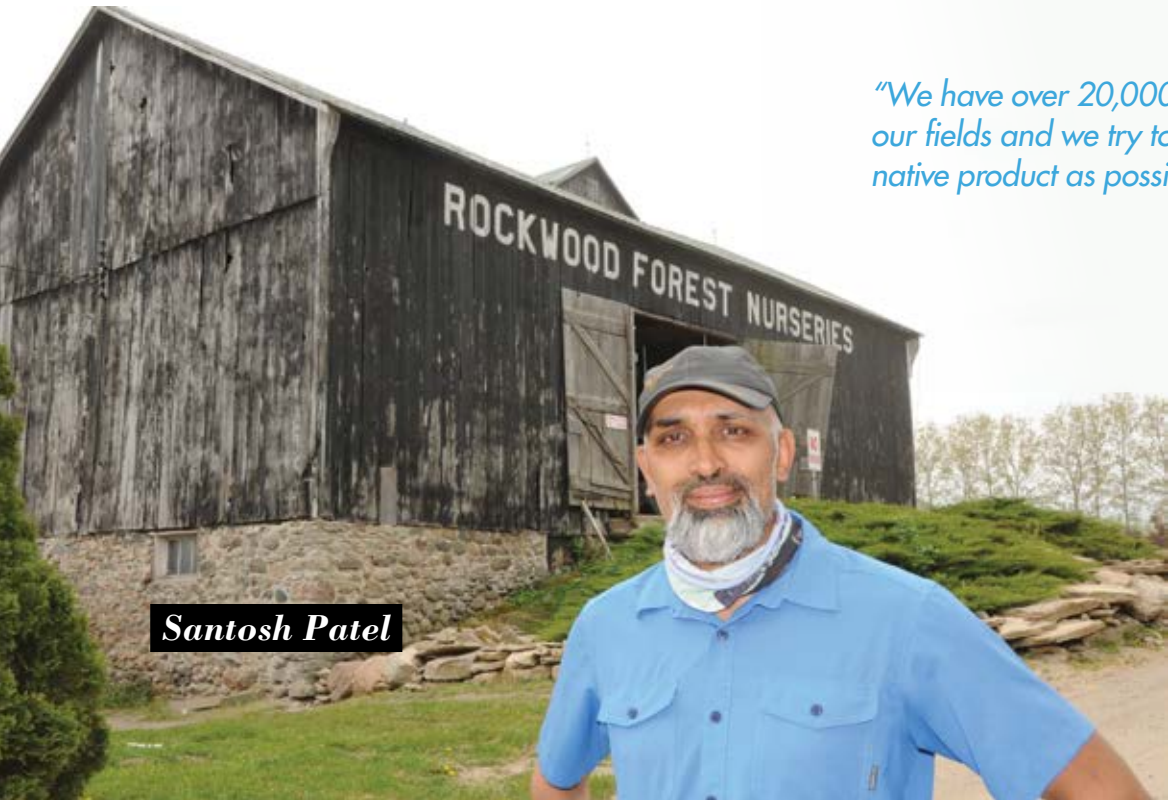
## GREEN WALLS

Round or square, large or small, contemporary, organic, traditional or abstract, green walls are at home in any indoor environment, work with any décor and are 100 per cent maintenance free. In the Green Love studio, concepts become real; ideas become art.



**Heidi Ehlers**





Santosh Patel

*"We have over 20,000 trees planted in our fields and we try to grow as much native product as possible."*



## ROCKWOOD FOREST NURSERIES

A nursery wholesaler and retailer, Rockwood Forest Nurseries focuses primarily on wholesale customers, builders, landscapers and do-it-yourselfers. "We grow our own trees here on our 300-acre farm and we have over 15 greenhouses," says owner Santosh Patel.

### FAVOURITE FACET

"Being outside is unbelievable. I love being around people and I love it when people come to us for personalized service and expertise because they want to improve their home and want products grown locally," Santosh says. The business is under new management and is a change in career for Santosh, who bought Rockwood from founder Marc Ouellet. "I'm very fortunate. My entire team has come back and we've also recruited some great talent from Fleming College, a local college here in Lindsay."

### MEMORABLE PROJECT

"We won a tender last year with the City of Kawartha Lakes to supply them with 150 trees. It's great to see our trees being planted across the community."

## URBAN RUSTIC LIVING

A team of design experts at Urban Rustic Living offers full-service custom design, colour and design consultations, staging and floor plans. "We usually work in combination with our clients and a panel of two or three designers," says Tary.



### BEDROOM

A beautifully constructed custom bed with stitching and nail-head details, faux fur pillows and grey-textured, creamy white fabric elevates this primary bedroom. "It creates texture but remains soft, fresh and very inviting. The bed is layered with a duvet as well as a coverlet to give it that overall luxurious look." Wooden end tables were built large with marble tops. "The bedroom task lighting is adjustable, depending on what kind of lighting you're looking for."



Tary Roossien

*"It's best having the client as part of the team. We really try and encourage that."*



### GREAT ROOM

Custom-built to fit a large space, these sofas have two seat-pillows for an expansive look. "The very soft and subtle slipcover makes them feel a little bit more casual." Armchairs are swivels that can turn to face the kitchen, TV or lake view. "What's great about that swivel is that it really doesn't look like a swivel. They're very, very comfortable." The high-performance fabrics are perfect for a busy cottage as they can be cleaned with just soap and water.

*Continued on page 70*



METAL ART

A forest of three-dimensional metalwork by sculptor Cathy Mark grows at the shop's centre. One of three metal artists displaying their work in the store, Cathy mounts her rugged steel sculptures of iconic windswept pines – reminiscent of Georgian Bay and Muskoka – on granite and burls of various tree species. Coasters and trivets are photos of Muskoka and Georgian Bay scenery printed on tumbled marble.

INTIMATE LIGHTING

On dining and patio tables, fireplace mantels, bookshelves or window sills, e-Kandle Kuffs can warm a dark space or add ambience to a special event. Illuminated with battery-powered electric tea lights, these hurricanes are adorned with photos of leaves, plants and flowers – images digitally reconstructed for a 3D look, printed on vinyl, then layered on rice paper, wrapped and bonded around acrylic cylinders.



SERVING BOARDS

Manitoba artisans combine a colourful plant-based epoxy with acacia or Canadian maple to create cutting boards, cheese boards and bread boards. Available in various sizes, shapes and colours, the serving boards are hand-poured. Each one is unique. The plant-based epoxy is made from recycled bio-products, including palm oil, soybean oil and cashew nut shells.



THE CORNER CABINET

Housed in an old blacksmith's shop near the Silver Bridge in Bracebridge, The Corner Cabinet hosts an eclectic mix of home décor and gifts, handmade by artisans from across Canada. Best known for its plentiful collection of functional pottery and metal art, the shop also carries smaller items such as blown glass, wooden bowls and boards, handmade jewelry and even socks and baby moccasins. Specialty foods, including sauces, birch syrup, spices, teas and shortbread cookies, are also available.



Kevin & Velvet Bradley



MEMORABLE PROJECT

This amazing new property on Georgian Bay was a blank canvas for us to work with. We wanted to add to the natural beauty of the granite that surrounds Georgian Bay and make it seem as if the landscaping had always been there. It has many outdoor seating and gathering places to enjoy the incredible views.



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TRENDS

We have many requests for firepit areas and outdoor gathering places in all price points. People are looking for lots of places to enjoy as they spend more time at the cottage and want to be outside as much as possible.

Continued on page 72



HILLTOP INTERIORS

At HillTop Interiors we pride ourselves on our dedication to the relationships we build with clients. We are comfortable with all design styles, from rustic log and contemporary homes to beachfront cottages. Inspired by the shores of Lake Rosseau and the beautiful surroundings of Muskoka, we are well-known for our famous Muskoka style that brings the splendour of nature to interior design.



Lena Patten

PHOTO : HEATHER DOUGLAS



SPECIALTY

HillTop has a large selection of furnishings at the showroom in the village of Rosseau. Each furniture piece is exceptionally created with a love for striking, cottage-style fabrics. All sofas and chairs can be customized to suit your space, with any of the beautiful fabrics offered in HillTop's design centre.

DESIGN TIPS

Lighting is one of our favourite aspects of design. An interior design is only as good as the lighting design to accompany it, like a spotlight accenting a work of art. Hilltop offers various styles in interior and exterior lighting, ceiling fans and lamps. If this is an area you are wrestling with in your build or renovation, let us help you. Ask us about our custom lighting proposals.



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CREATIVITY

Skycove is a projected glass window structure that creates a smart extension of up to 20 square feet of valuable space without extending a home's footprint. Whether located in a bustling living area or placed in intimate rooms like bedrooms and dens, Skycove can be your favourite retreat.



VERSATILITY

The Marvin portfolio of products for builders, architects and homeowners is designed to provide exceptional solutions for any budget and any project with a focus on creating better ways of living. Imagine an inviting space, flooded in light, where you can enjoy a cup of coffee with a close friend or escape into a good book. Marvin Skycove is a fully constructed, glass box structure that projects into the open air, creating a smart extension of usable space that delivers stunning, panoramic views.

Continued on page 74



# LIVING LIGHTING PARRY SOUND

Located in the Northern Living Kitchen & Bath Design Centre, Living Lighting Parry Sound offers the Georgian Bay, Parry Sound and Muskoka area a wide range of quality, brand-name lighting, lamp and fan products. From rustic Muskoka, clean and modern to sparkly glam, you will find lighting fixtures to fit your home or cottage décor. A team of designers, a full-time lighting consultant and being a part of the Living Lighting brand allows us to provide the most complete solutions to our clients.



## TRENDS

Over the last few years integrated LED lighting has transformed the market for lighting fixtures. With full dimming capability, these fixtures have a longer lifetime rating than a regular bulb. Lighting companies like Kuzco and Tech Lighting are able to create sculptural lighting designs that come to life. With more control over the appearance and light output, the possibilities are endless.



*Jason Robertson & Candice Pelletier*



## WHAT ELSE

Even though we have a full lighting showroom with chandeliers, fans, landscape displays and portables, we don't stop at lights. We also have another showroom area full of plumbing fixtures from top brands and even some unique fixtures you may not have heard about. We can have a lot of fun with our clients selecting coordinating lighting and plumbing fixtures, often to complement the beautiful cabinets we create for them.

*Continued on page 76*

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Wendy Pringle

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Continued on page 78



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Virginia Adams



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As operations manager at this dealership serving the Parry Sound and Muskoka area, Virginia Adams says Bobcat of Parry Sound has lots to offer in compact equipment that stands up to the most rigorous tasks. “Our sales, service and parts departments ensure excellent service. We are always here to help you get the tough jobs done.” Honda, Stihl and Husqvarna power equipment are also available. The Bobcat E60 compact excavator delivers maximum hydraulic and engine horsepower to tackle aggressive digs.

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Continued on page 80

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## CONTACT US

We are always happy to hear from customers looking to find a lumber yard or store that carries Ready Pine in their area. We also love to see finished projects and offer some inspiration or suggestions on which colour or profile to pick. Ready Pine is so versatile and changes a space as soon as the first few boards are in place. **OH**

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STORY LOUIS DUNCAN-HE | PHOTOGRAPHY HEATHER DUNBAR

## Dogs

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

*Continued on page 84*

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

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



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

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## *Birds, Lizards and Fish*

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



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

## *Cats*

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

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**WITH ONTARIO LOCKED DOWN AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, A COTTAGING COUPLE DECIDED TO USE THEIR EXTRA TIME AT HOME TO RENOVATE THEIR MUSKOKA LAKEHOUSE. “WE NEEDED A PROJECT,” THE OWNER SAYS.** *Continued on page 90*

**ABOVE:** Granite stairs climb the landscaped shoreline from Peninsula Lake to this newly renovated lakehouse, built by SML Contracting Inc. **OPPOSITE:** Pine trusses and beams by Timmerman Timberworks span the vaulted ceiling in the cottage great room.





White leather-and-chrome chairs flanking the dining table add a modern touch to the rustic elements of this classic Muskoka cottage. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Instead of a kitchen island, the owners chose a peninsula as an informal dining spot. Quartz covers all the kitchen counters.



The large kitchen with white upper cabinets and chocolate-coloured lower cabinets has been the scene of many memorable get-togethers.



**“WE DECIDED SINCE WE’RE NOT TRAVELLING, LIKE MOST PEOPLE, LET’S PUT OUR MONEY TOWARD SOMETHING ELSE.”**

Built a dozen years ago on Peninsula Lake, the five-bedroom cottage is the family’s little piece of heaven, a summer retreat where they’ve made cherished memories with family and friends and kindled familial traditions with their son and daughter. “It represents our happy place,” says the owner. The couple usually undertake a cottage project every year. “But this year, it tended to be the entire cottage, rather than just a room here or there.”

They had the interior of the 6,300 sq. ft. home completely repainted. They replaced the furniture in about 80 per cent of the house, modernizing the space while keeping it cosy and homey.

**Urban Rustic Living** owner **Tary Roossien**, who supplied furnishings and coordinated the makeover, describes the lakehouse as a traditional Muskoka cottage, in a comfortable classic style favoured by the owner. Every room blends with or opens to another, so harmony in furnishings and fabrics is essential, she explains. “Everything here has to work together,” Tary says.

*Continued on page 93*





Comfortable new furniture was a major part of the Muskoka room makeover. **ABOVE:** The deck atop the boat port is equipped with an outdoor kitchen. Late afternoon on the dock is one of the owner's favourite times of day.

The octagonal Muskoka room, furnished with oversize armchairs flanking the stone-fronted fireplace, sits beneath a soaring timberframe dome that ascends to a central cupola. "It retains the feeling of a cottage," says Tary. "It's a very unique space." Tall windows forming most walls of this room can slide down to reveal screens that admit the cooling breeze off the lake. "We love the Muskoka room," says the owner. "It's lovely to sit there and read a book or listen to the sounds on the lake or the rain. It's a very peaceful room."

Reclaimed, wide-plank hemlock flooring and the timber-framed great room with arched trusses supporting a cathedral ceiling firmly establish the character of an aged cottage. Contemporary furnishings, such as a dining table with chairs in white leather and chrome, bookended by upholstered seats trimmed with metal studs, add a classic touch to the large, open-concept kitchen. "We wanted a kitchen that was big enough to be the heart of the home, as everyone gathers there," says the owner. "It is filled with many great memories of delicious meals, loud conversations, laughter and more than a few dance parties."

Muskoka had long been a familiar place to the couple before they built their cottage. A condo they bought at Deerhurst two decades ago was their summer place when they began looking for property on which to build. When they first sat down with their builder, **SML Contracting Inc.** president **Bruce Fitter**, they had a pre-conceived notion of the layout they wanted and the open-concept design. Bruce filled in the details. "We cannot speak more highly of Bruce Fitter and his very talented team. They were awesome to work with and we have never had an issue because the cottage was so well built," says the owner. "The attention to detail was amazing." **Timmerman Timberworks** furnished the cottage's sturdy pine beams and handled the home's heavy timber construction.

Designing and building a custom home for the first time was a pleasure for the owners. Having a construction background proved beneficial in the building process. "At the end of the day you get what you want. It was very satisfying, watching your vision come to light," the owner says. *Continued on page 94*



An indoor barbecue with a long wooden table and benches furnishes a space linking the Muskoka room with the cottage dining room. **BELOW:** All-weather armchairs surround the lakeside firepit.





Each principal bedroom has its own en suite. **Rolston Home Building Centre** supplied new bathroom counters for the latest renovation. “It was a pleasure to work with Basil Markow (at Rolston),” the owner says. **Window Quilt Muskoka** furnished shutters and other window treatments.

Outside, **HLD Muskoka** landscaped the property with granite patios, steps and footpaths that lead to a waterfront firepit, a sandy beach and the dock. “They did a fabulous job,” says the owner. HLD planted the shoreline with dozens of birch trees and pines. They built the boathouse and boat port with a fully equipped, stainless steel kitchen, complete with granite counters on the upper deck. Out on the dock in the late afternoon is a favourite time of day. “I really love when it’s five o’clock on a sunny afternoon and things are starting to wind down before dinner. I find that a very peaceful time,” says the owner.

*Continued on page 96*



**ABOVE:** Countertops on the ground floor bar are shaped from polished concrete. **LEFT:** A large sectional sofa provides comfortable seating in the media centre where the owners enjoy movies and streamed television shows. **BELOW:** A new sofa and matching armchairs with poufs from Urban Rustic Living furnish the ground-floor family room.



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She describes the ground-floor family room with its bar and adjacent media centre as the fun area of the home. Urban Rustic Living furnished the family room with a new sofa, end tables and armchairs. One wall displays framed replicas of turn-of-the-century London newspapers. One front page proclaims the world's first flying machine. The other reports the sinking of the Titanic. On the opposite side of the room, a fire glows warmly in a cut-stone fireplace, one of four fireplaces supplied by **The Fireplace King** and built by **Norm Bennett & Sons Masonry**. New grey leather stools belly up to the glass-topped bar, painted **Benjamin Moore's** Kendall Charcoal to complement the polished concrete countertops. Two newly furnished guest rooms occupy the east end of the ground floor.

**Taylor Carpet One Floor & Home** installed new carpeting throughout the family room and the large media room where a custom-built sectional sofa faces a large projection television and movie screen. That sofa was used quite a bit while the couple watched movies and Netflix during their stay-at-home isolation, the owner says.

Tary helped the couple decorate and furnish the cottage when it was first built and has been back several times for encores as the owners upgraded the interior. "She's always a pleasure to deal with," says the owner. "She just really understands my tastes, my likes and dislikes. So it's easy. Tary knows what will work and what won't work in the cottage."

*Continued on page 98*



A loft over the garage holds an entire suite of rooms with its own private entrance. **BELOW LEFT:** Rolston Home Hardware Building Centre supplied the new vanity top in this en suite. **CENTRE:** A sliding glass door in this bedroom, redecorated by Urban Rustic Living, opens to the Muskoka room. **RIGHT:** A shower behind a glass door occupies one corner of this en suite.



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Before the pandemic, the couple enjoyed hosting visitors on weekends and holidays, sometimes a full house with as many as 18 people. With the pandemic waning in Ontario, the owners expect there will be many more happy gatherings at their woodland retreat. “It’s something we look forward to,” says the owner. “It’s something that our guests, who come every single year, look forward to.” **OH**

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- HLD Muskoka • Norm Bennett & Sons Masonry • Rolston Home Building Centre • Royal Muskoka Painting • SML Contracting Inc.
- Taylor Carpet One Floor & Home • The Fireplace King • Timmerman Timberworks • Urban Rustic Living
- Window Quilt Muskoka • York Marble



A sleigh bed in this ground-floor guest bedroom has a breathtaking view of Peninsula Lake.



Supplied by The Fireplace King, a gas fireplace in the primary bedroom is surrounded with stone by Norm Bennett & Sons Masonry. LEFT: A starburst ceiling light illuminates the primary bedroom where a subtle houndstooth fabric sheaths the headboard.



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# DRIFTWOOD WREATH



PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**

Add a beachy vibe to your space with this fun and easy-to-make driftwood wreath. Plus, there's the added benefit of long walks along the water to collect driftwood!



## TOOLS

- Pencil
- Jigsaw or scroll saw
- 7-inch diameter bowl
- Paintbrush
- Glue gun
- Screwdriver
- Wire cutters

## MATERIALS

- ¼ to ½ inch-thick plywood (large enough to cut a circle 14 inches in diameter)
- Roll of kraft paper
- Lots of driftwood pieces, 9 inches in length or a little shorter
- Sandpaper
- Hot glue sticks
- Acrylic paint in three colours (we've used navy, light blue and white)
- Picture-hanging hardware (screws, D-ring hangers and wire)



## HOW-TO

To create the plywood backing for your wreath, draw a 14 inch-diameter circle with a 10 inch-diameter circle inside. Don't worry if it's not perfect; it will be hidden behind the driftwood. Cut your circles with either a jigsaw or scroll saw to create a wooden ring.

Place your ring on a large piece of kraft paper. Using something round, with a diameter of about 7 inches, trace a circle with a pencil inside your wood ring. This will be your guide as you begin gluing the driftwood pieces onto the ring. You can temporarily glue your backing to the paper to prevent sliding. Peel paper from wood when complete.



Paint approximately 10-12 pieces of driftwood in each of the three colours you've chosen and leave the rest of the pieces natural. Let dry before gluing onto backing.



Begin gluing the driftwood pieces onto the wood ring, using the longest pieces first. Do not go too far past your pencil guideline on the inside of the ring. Leave some space between each piece to get a nice starburst shape.



Once you have the first layer glued around the entire ring, begin filling the spaces with slightly shorter pieces. Continue layering driftwood pieces until the backing is completely hidden.



Use shorter pieces and layer with the smallest pieces on the top layer.



Decide which way to hang the wreath and attach hardware and wire to the backing.



Now you're ready to hang and enjoy your work of art! **OH**

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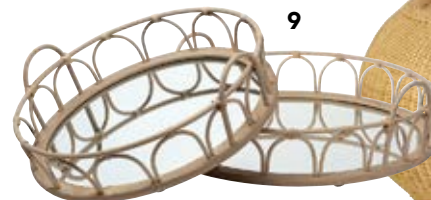


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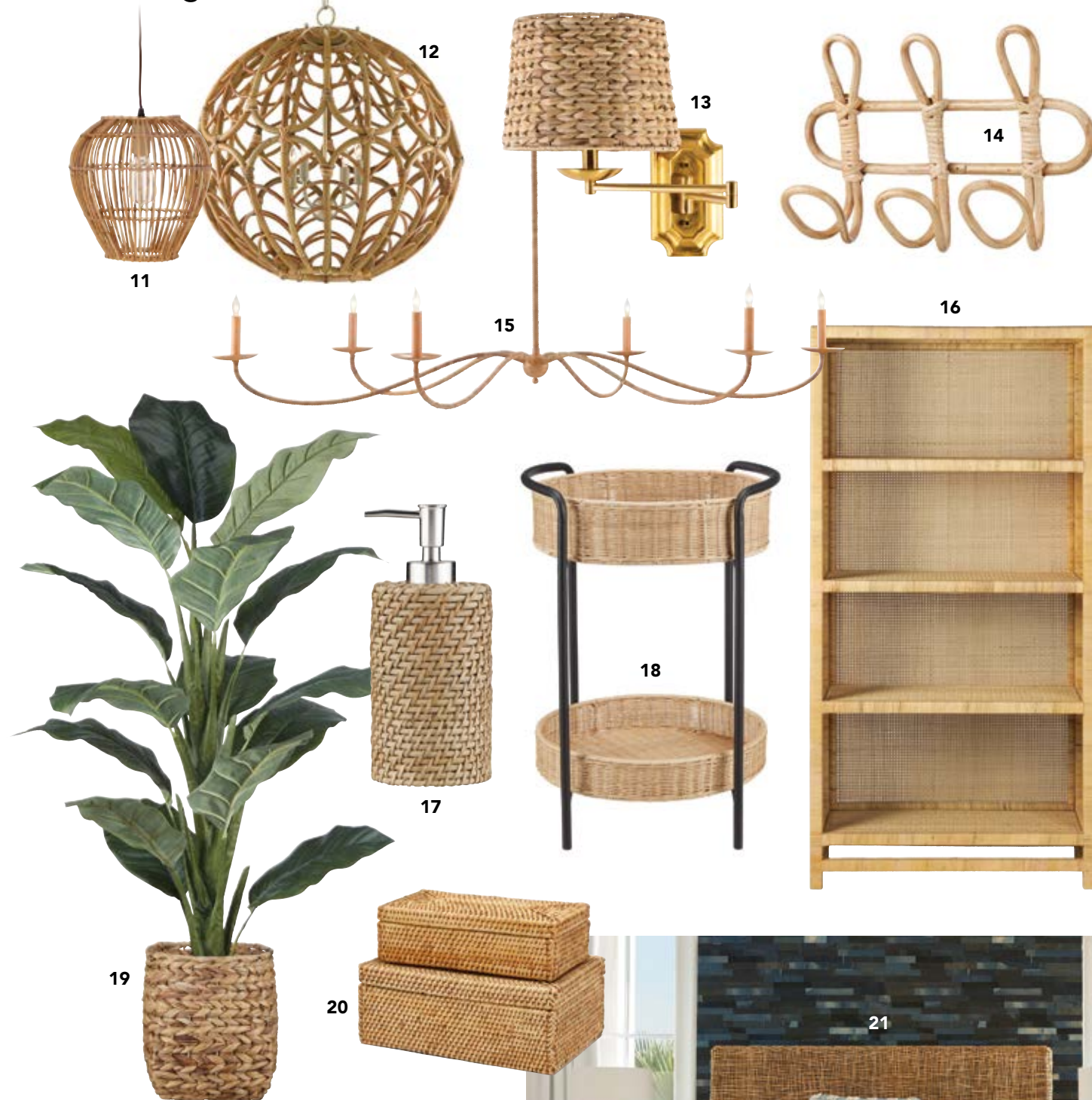
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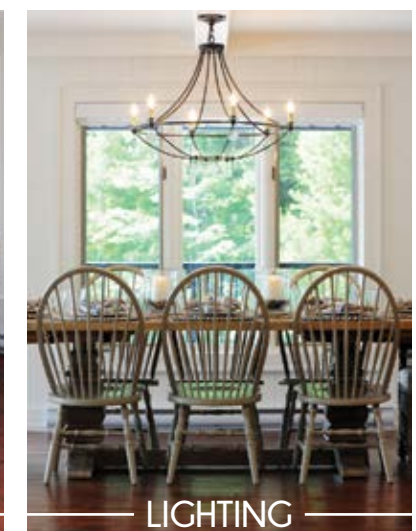
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