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## editor's note



**MY FIRST APARTMENT IN NIAGARA** could be described by a single word: beige. Beige parquet flooring, beige walls, beige countertops – all beige. I was young, and it was a rental, options for renovating were slim, so I accepted that beige would be the backdrop to the memories I made in my first adult home.

It was there that I learned the importance of buying for my individual space; not the dream home that lived on my Pinterest board, but for my current beige apartment.

As a new transplant to the region, this decorating challenge was my invitation into Niagara's local home furnishing shops; welcoming stores brimming with decorative pillows, dreamy artwork and versatile furniture (my coffee table could be raised into a desk – my first office space). These stores gave me hope that I too could brighten and warm my dark, beige apartment.

A few of these pieces I still carry with me, and they have now found their place in my forever home.

This issue is filled with ideas and products for making any space into a home. We also walk you through two gorgeous homes in the northern and southern tiers of Niagara. And as always, we catch you up on the latest trends and stylish items being sold by Niagara's top local retailers and tradespeople.

I am thrilled to be stepping into the role as Managing Editor. I first joined the OUR HOMES team in the midst of the pandemic, full of excitement and ready to immerse myself in the beautiful residences and meet the local tradespeople and retailers who made them so. But lockdowns prevailed, and my feet remained firmly planted in my slippers, touring homes via Zoom with generous homeowners who proudly carried their tablets into every nook, allowing me a digital glimpse into their lives.

It is because of these passionate people that I felt welcomed from my very first day.

I thank you readers and welcome you into the familiar space of our pages, while I begin a new and exciting chapter.

Gabrielle Tieman-Lee, Managing Editor  
gabrielle.tieman@ourhomes.ca

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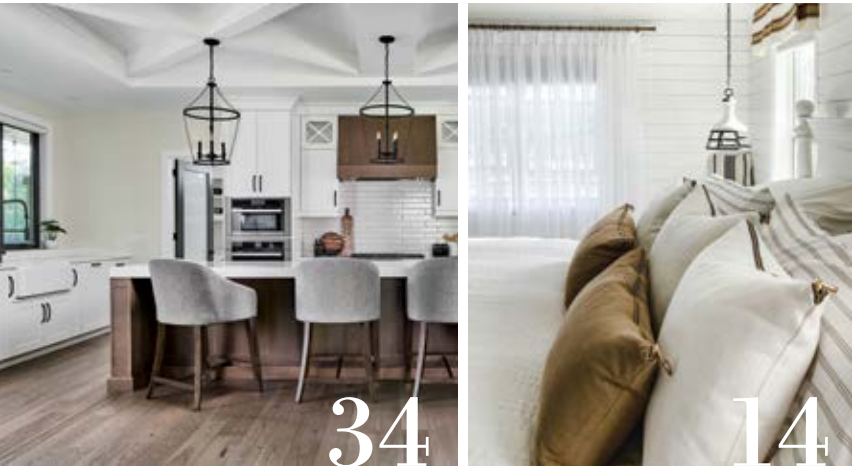
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# Curate WELL-BEING AT HOME

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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*Continued on page 16*



Mohegan Sage

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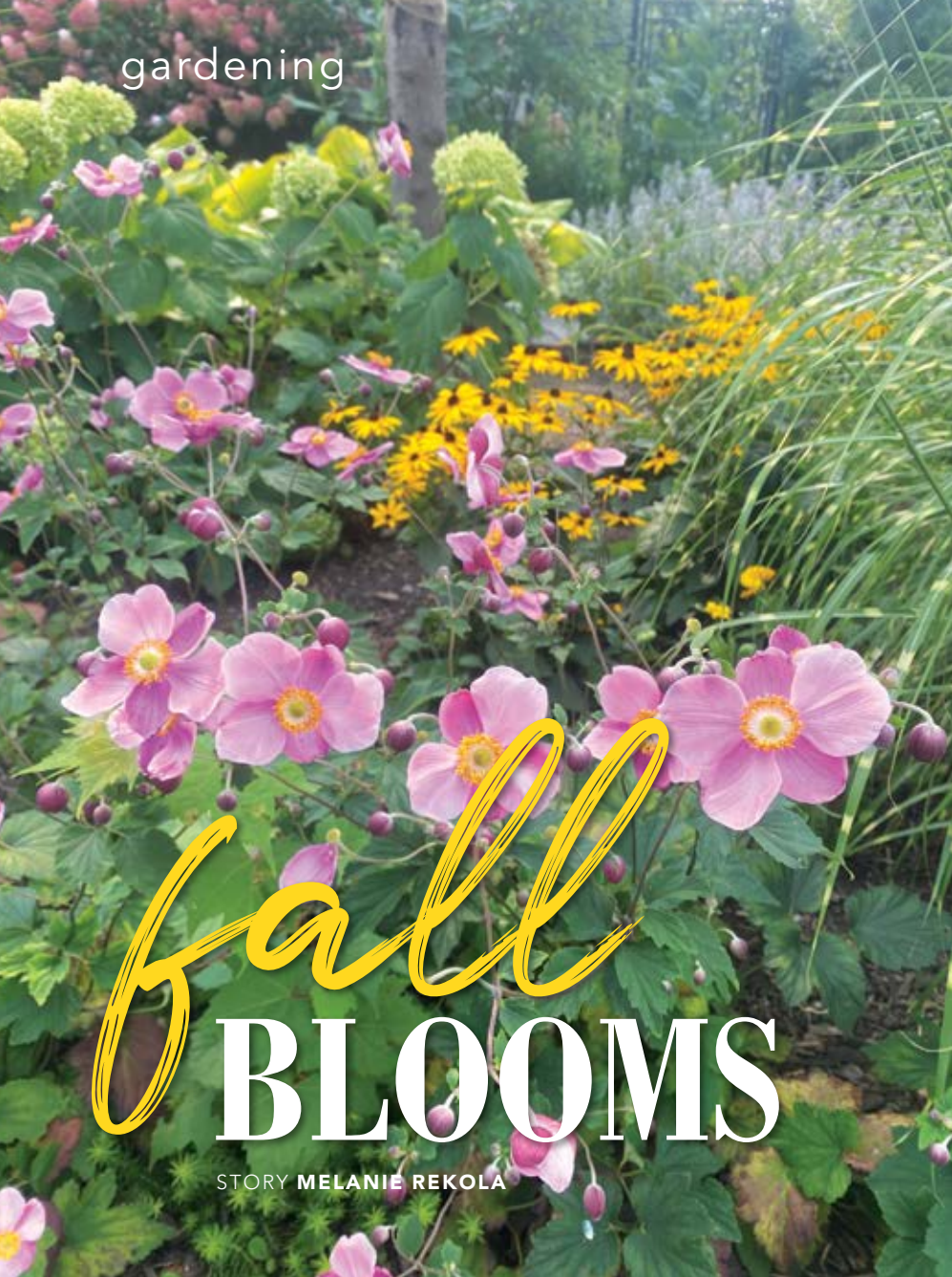
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# fall BLOOMS

STORY MELANIE REKOLA

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



## NEW ENGLAND ASTER (SYMPHYOTRICHUM NOVAE-ANGLIAE)

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



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

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

*Continued on page 20*

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## gardening



### JAPANESE ANEMONE (ANEMONE X HYBRIDA)

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



### JOE-PYE WEED (EUTROCHIMUM PURPUREUM)

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



### BLACK-EYED SUSAN (RUDBECKIA HIRTA)

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



### TOAD LILY (TRICYRTIS HIRTA)

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



### STONECROP / SEDUM

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



### NIPPON DAISY (NIPPONANTHEMUM NIPPONICUM)

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

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

*Melanie is a certified horticulturist and landscape designer.*

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# EVOLUTION of a FAMILY HOME

STORY TIFFANY MAYER | PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF

*IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR KELLY AND ELI MILENKOFF TO GET CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT WHEN THEY PURCHASED THE PIE-SHAPED LOT IN WELLAND'S SOUTH END, WHERE THEY WOULD BUILD THEIR FAMILY HOME.*

It was a deep swath, backing onto Draper's Creek with enough room to construct the abode of their dreams when they broke ground in 2018.

But the Milenkoffs kept their eyes on the future as much as the present when planning the new build.

Today, the 4,200 sq. ft. two-storey has countless features that check all the boxes for the couple and their three children, Anja, 11, Nika, 9 and Pirin, 6. It's in

a neighbourhood far enough away from the noise and distractions of city life while keeping the commute to soccer practice and amenities to 10 minutes at most.

When Kelly designed the layout, vetting her plans through **Chris Venditti** at **Coredraft Drafting & Design Services**, she kept her family dynamics in mind: a young, close-knit bunch with both parents working from home. *Continued on page 24*

**ABOVE, LEFT:** Family treasures and soft furniture combine to create a comfortable and welcoming living area where the whole family can gather together. **MIDDLE:** Kelly united her passion for antiques and love for preserving family heirlooms while decorating their home. **RIGHT:** Pirin, Kelly with Lennon, Eli, Nika with Gordie and Anja.



# home & designer

Spaces inspired by model homes the couple visited had to be conducive to family activities, like the backyard fiberglass swimming pool with a southwest exposure from **Leisure Pools** and installed by **MP Paradise Pools**. The home also required quiet spaces for productivity.

But family dynamics change and Kelly considered that, too. She wanted each child to have their own space as teenagers. She also kept the couple's aging parents in mind by incorporating an independent living suite with a framed-in kitchen on the lower level for when they're ready to settle there.

Kelly says the couple chose the location because of its proximity to green space and because their family was growing. "I knew in my head what I wanted from all the houses I'd seen," she says.

That included making the kitchen the heart of the home with its two large islands, each capped with charcoal grey granite from **First In Counters**. One is for meal prep and storage, the other for eating and kibitzing with guests.

There's also space for Anja to indulge her love of baking, a butler's pantry to house Kelly's three coffee machines, a walk-in pantry and plenty of cabinet space, all by **Silver Creek Cabinetry**.

"This is our main hub," says Kelly. "This is where the kids hang out. This turned out to be a classroom [during the pandemic] – our everything space. Every drawer and space has a purpose." *Continued on page 27*



**TOP:** The driveway, designed by Eli and executed by C & H Concrete Services, serves as a signature piece of outdoor art. **ABOVE:** Multi-level entertainment areas overlook a fiberglass pool, the centerpiece of the backyard oasis. **LEFT:** The landscaping, executed by Miljanic's Property Maintenance Inc., was designed to complement the wild, preserved greenspace behind the home.



**LEFT:** The family's collection of hats frames the oversize mirror leading to the mudroom. **ABOVE:** A custom dining table extends to seat 12 comfortably in the formal dining room. **BELOW:** Airy and bright, the mudroom offers lots of storage and moving space for the on-the-go family.







Two large islands fill the space, making the kitchen the hub of the home. **LEFT:** The imported Italian backsplash tile was sourced from Alfieri Flooring Experts. No two are the same. **BOTTOM, LEFT:** Decorative antiques add a story to the modern kitchen. **MIDDLE:** Peak organization is key in the busy household. Kelly labels her pantry items for quick and easy access. **RIGHT:** A handmade Cookie Monster jar holds Anja's recently baked treats.



The kitchen opens to the living room, where the family gathers to watch television and sit by the fireplace. The surround is the same granite that tops the kitchen counters and islands, tying the rooms together.

Built-in shelving by Silver Creek provides space for important keepsakes and decorative flourishes, including pieces from **Hamiltons of Pelham** and **Vermeer's Garden Centre**, that give the home an upcountry flair.

On the floor, wide-planked hardwood with a distressed look from **Alfieri Floor Experts** complements the exposed pine overhead beams by **Stephen LaRose of Stellar Construction Niagara** with their hand-hewn look and iron brackets that conjure a farmhouse from another era.

Kelly shaved a few feet off the living room in her plans, giving that area to the neighbouring mudroom.

"When five of us are getting out the door for school and work, we're not falling all over each other," Eli says.

The walls are covered with antique key motif wallpaper, a nod to Kelly's love of skeleton, bit and barrel keys. The powder room nearby pays further homage to that fascination with a lamp adorned with old-fashioned keys from her collection.

A large dining room with a table that seats 12 rounds out the main floor. The space is hugged by three-quarter wainscoting by Stephen LaRose of Stellar Construction Niagara, flush with the frames of Dashwood Windows installed by **Kevin Mans Construction** and **Gabmar Homes**. *Continued on page 28*






**ABOVE LEFT:** An impressive staircase by Maplewood Stairs leads to the upper-level bedrooms. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** Pops of colour add personality to Nika's sweet bedroom. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Pirin's nautical-themed bedroom is washed in natural light. **BELOW:** Pretty in pink, Anja's bedroom is feminine and fun while keeping her hobbies on display.

In the front hall, the staircase by **Maplewood Stairs & Railings Ltd.** beckons to the second level where a U-shaped hallway leads to each child's bedroom and two bathrooms. One bathroom, shared by the girls, is complete with a double vanity blinged out with Swarovski crystal handles, and a private toilet and shower to ensure peaceful mornings. The other bathroom is Pirin's, just steps from his bedroom door.




Like downstairs, the dominant wall colour is Calm, an off-white by **Benjamin Moore**. Kelly deliberately chose classic black and white throughout, giving her the option of changing the colour scheme with accent pieces and furniture she refinishes in on-trend hues.

*Continued on page 30*






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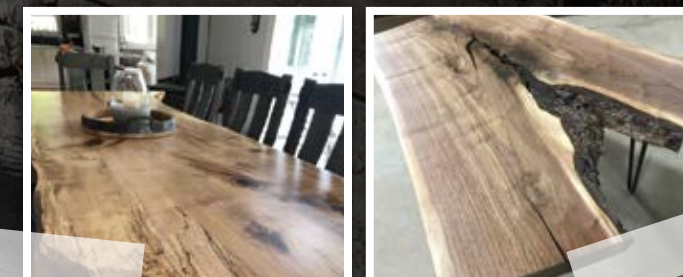
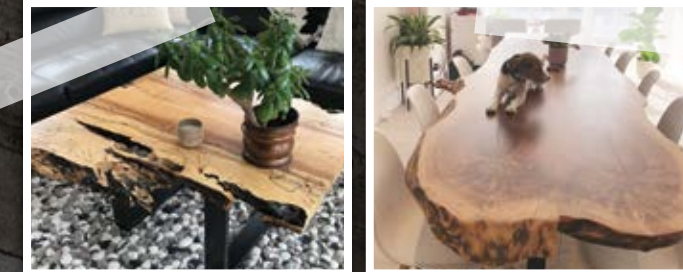


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The pièce de résistance, though, is the primary bedroom wing. It takes up half the upstairs and is designed with privacy in mind. A spacious sleeping area at the south end of the wing has floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the greenspace at the back of the home. The fireplace features iron and wood touches similar to its main-floor counterpart. Kelly refinished existing furniture to fit the rustic interior aesthetic. A long hallway leads to dual walk-in closets, with Eli's converted to a secluded office where he runs his real estate business and **Brick**

**Properties Inc.**, the property management company he operates with Kelly. Past those is the en suite with its massive trapezoid shower, plumbed by **Starco Plumbing**, and featuring three showerheads and a pebble tile floor. The toilet is partitioned by frosted glass from **Regional Glass & Mirror Inc.** for privacy. Dual vanities, a make-up table, freestanding tub and heated floors finish the room. Every detail is deliberate, done for now and the future, with home and family evolving together. **OH**

◇◇◇◇◇ **TOP LEFT:** Views of the creek behind the house can be viewed from the primary bedroom windows. **TOP RIGHT:** A floor-to-ceiling iron fireplace warms the bedroom's sitting and reading nook. **BELOW LEFT:** The en suite utilizes a variety of materials to give the room texture, including frosted glass doors and pebble floors. **BELOW RIGHT:** Kelly and Eli's shared walk-in closet boasts ample closet space and island storage.



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spotlight

# family FIRST



PHOTOS: JOEL SMITH

## THE PLACE

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## THE APPROACH

With no pressure sales and a welcoming approach, their highly-skilled team of interior decorators and designers remove the intimidation from in-store browsing. Staff are present from furniture selection and customization to room staging. "Anything you need, even with colour coordination and paint selection, we want to help," manager and owner Frank DiPalma Jr. says. In-home consultations are available to help customers design, size and purchase directly from the room they are redecorating, ensuring each customer is thrilled when their furniture arrives. Full-service delivery and set up are also available.

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Bright and vibrant colours like rich oranges, reds and cobalt blues are making a bold statement in the showroom and catching the eye of those looking to switch out their neutral tones. Not ready to introduce bold colour just yet? Frank Jr. says black-and-white prints are also making a comeback for the coming season. **OH**



PHOTO: JOEL SMITH

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Matt DiPalma, Kim Melvin, Hannah Siemens, Frank DiPalma, Joanne DiPalma, Karen Bedard and Josie Tropea



# SWEET Sanctuary

STORY DENISE WILLSON  
PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF



## NEATLY TUCKED INTO A MATURE NORTH-END NEIGHBOURHOOD OF ST. CATHARINES IS A NEW STREET OF TOWNHOMES.

The street name, Peach Street Common, spins visions of casual living with a dash of sweet nostalgia. These modern farmhouse-style townhomes fit the bill. With a precise balance of classic comfort and contemporary flair, these bungalow townhomes boast style to the core. *Continued on page 36*

Designed with entertaining in mind, the open-concept main floor encourages the flow of conversation from kitchen to living room. **LEFT:** A quartz waterfall counter and backsplash make an impressive statement in the powder room.





All 28 units were planned and built by **Rinaldi Homes**, a local home builder known for quality workmanship and award-winning designs. “Peach Street Common took a year-and-a-half to bring to life, in the midst of a pandemic,” says **Danielle Rinaldi**. Danielle is one of a team of family members and professional trades who contribute to the fine reputation of Rinaldi Homes. Rinaldi includes a talented in-house design team recognized by the **Niagara Home Builders’ Association**. “This model home won several awards,” Danielle says. “Including *Best Townhouse Over 1500 Square Feet*, *Best Kitchen Design & Build* and *Most Outstanding Bathroom*.” The design team also works with homebuyers to pick interior selections that meet their personal needs and lifestyle.

While each unit was designed to be unique, the model end unit (shown here) has 3,234 square feet of living space, including a fully-finished lower level and covered backyard deck with privacy screens. The contemporary floorplan appeals to both young families and couples looking to downsize from large family homes. “We’ve built several of these homes before,” Danielle says. “We used our existing plans and added elements to suit the sought-after Lake Street and Simpson Road neighbourhood.” Bump-outs and large, black-framed windows, for example, were used to draw lots of natural light into every room. Double-car garages by **Yarnell Overhead Door Ltd.** solve parking and storage dilemmas. Covered front porches create spots to lounge and

greet neighbours. Front doors, supplied by **Crowland Sash & Frame Ltd.**, make a bold statement and exterior brick, wood-grain siding by **Royal Building Products** and iron details were used to create a cohesive community. The front-porch columns and chimney tops were designed and forged by **Ironworks Niagara**. Windows were supplied by Dashwood Windows & Doors and the low-pitch roof was provided by **Stark Lumber** and installed by **Herb Lodde & Sons Roofing Ltd.** Masonry products were supplied by **Burnstein Brick/St.Catharine’s Building Supply**. Because these are condo units, the property is maintained by **DeKorte’s Landscaping**, a bonus for those who prefer the outdoors for leisure. *Continued on page 38*

**ABOVE:** Striking coffered ceilings frame the modern kitchen and island eatery. **TOP LEFT:** Pop-up outlets are hidden inside the wet bar for discreet convenience. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Natural light illuminates the bright white Caesarstone and Cambria countertops. **TOP RIGHT:** The walk-in pantry and wet bar expands prep and cooking surfaces. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The walk-in pantry’s custom cabinetry and built-in wine fridge supply ample food, appliance and dish storage. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A modern take on the traditional chandelier by Don’s Light House adds grandeur to the quaint dining area.

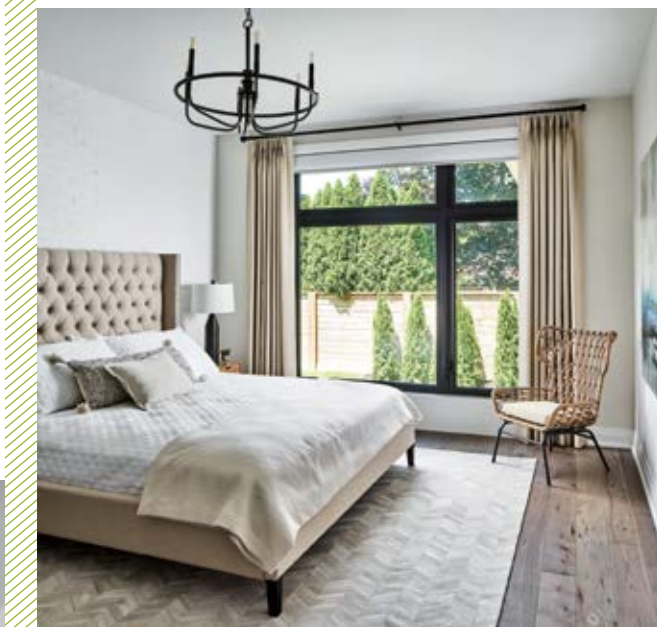




The interiors are a play on contrasts with crisp white walls offering a clean yet contemporary backdrop to bursts of black and wood-grain accents. Wall panelling painted white creates texture without deviating from the simple setting, honouring the classic lines of the home's design. Hardwood floors from **Aristocrat Floors** run throughout, imbuing the space with warmth. Aristocrat also supplied the floor tiles and backsplashes for wet areas such as the kitchen, laundry room and bathrooms. All window coverings by **The Drapery Workroom** are discreet and offer shade options from blackout to subtle natural light. Nine-foot ceilings add depth and bouncing light while the open-concept floor plans allow for multi-use areas. The kitchen is defined by a striking coffered ceiling.

With only one set of stairs (by **Amber Stairs & Railings**) leading to the basement, these townhomes celebrate all the best features of bungalow living. The main floor has an open-concept kitchen and living area where guests can relax or gather around the large kitchen island. The island was completed in rich wood tones to stand out from the kitchen cabinetry and match the custom range hood.

**TOP RIGHT:** A multipurpose front den provides space for a work-from-home office or additional lounging. **RIGHT:** The primary bedroom has a view of the private green space behind the home. **BELOW:** A beautiful en suite has heated floors leading to the floating tub and shower combo.



"We design homes that are great for entertaining," Danielle says, noting how areas were created as conversation hubs. Crisscross details in the kitchen cabinetry mimic the coffered ceiling designs, which draw the eye up, and exquisite quartz countertops add a pop of elegance. **Artcraft Kitchens** did the home's cabinetry, vanities and built-ins. The Caesarstone and Cambria countertops throughout were supplied by **Kirkpatrick Stoneworks**. **Don's Light House** supplied the modern farmhouse iron light fixtures. Doors and trim are from **Turkstra Lumber**.

"The walk-in pantry is one of my favourite features," Danielle says. "It's a mix between a butler's pantry and walk-in pantry, with lots of storage and spots for hiding appliances." The built-in Miele appliances were also sourced locally from **Nickerson Home Appliances**.

*Continued on page 40*

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**LEFT:** The only set of stairs leads to a spacious and bright finished lower level. **RIGHT:** The modern farmhouse look continues in the lower level with a gas fireplace from One Stop Fireplace Shop surrounded by chevron tiling.

The main-floor living doesn't end there. A front den provides work-from-home space or additional lounging and the laundry room is only steps from the stunning primary bedroom retreat. Stone plays double-duty as a focal point to showcase the floating tub while making good use of shower space, and the brick wall in the primary bedroom adds depth and texture. The walk-in closet with built-in cabinetry is swoon-worthy. **The Ensuite Bath and Kitchen Showroom** supplied the bathroom fixtures and plumbing was done by **Plumbtech Services**. The model townhouse includes a finished basement for additional

entertainment space. Chevron tiling and a gas fireplace from the **One Stop Fireplace Shop** carry the modern farmhouse look to the lower level. Every townhouse, wired by **H Electric**, is EnergyStar certified, Holmes Approved and smart-wired by **Dell Smart Home Solutions** for quality, comfort and peace of mind.

Although the street name, Peach Street Common, is befitting, Rinaldi Homes dedicated this new community to the land; and the stone feature flanking the entrance says it all.

"We call it *The Orchard*," Danielle says. "It's a nod to the acres of peach and cherry trees that once dotted this area." What could be sweeter than that? **OH**

### LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- Amber Stairs & Railings • Aristocrat Floors • Artcraft Kitchens • Burnstein Brick/St.Catharine's Building Supply • Crowland Sash & Frame Ltd. • Dashwood Windows & Doors • DeKorte's Landscaping • Dell Smart Home Solutions • Don's Light House • H Electric • Herb Lodde & Sons Roofing Ltd. • Ironworks Niagara • Kirkpatrick Stoneworks • Nickerson Home Appliances • One Stop Fireplace Shop • Plumbtech Services • Rinaldi Homes • Royal Building Products • Stark Lumber • The Drapery Workroom • The Ensuite Bath and Kitchen Showroom • Turkstra Lumber • Yarnell Overhead Door Ltd.



All landscaping is taken care of by Dekorte's Landscaping, a pleasant extra for those who prefer to relax outdoors. **LEFT:** While all 28 units of The Orchards are sold, those looking to downsize or start a family in modern comfort can turn to Rinaldi Homes – currently building in Black Creek and Fort Erie, with their Fonthill Abbey townhomes set to be available this fall.



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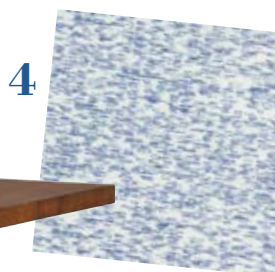
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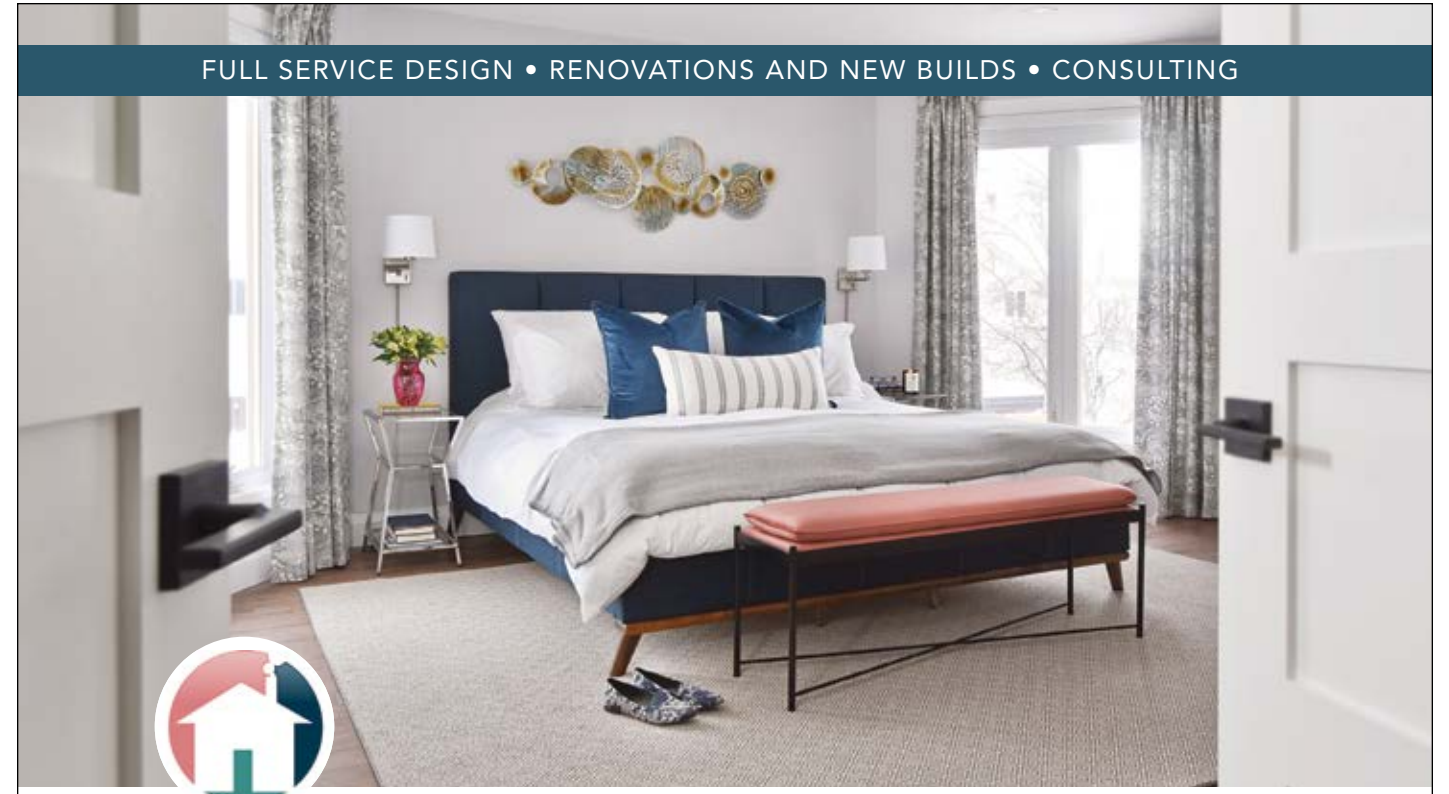
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- 6. **LEXINGTON HOME BRANDS:** Barclay Butera Balboa Island Raffia Hall Chest in Marine Blue
- 7. **GRESHAM HOUSE:** Barbara Swivel Chair
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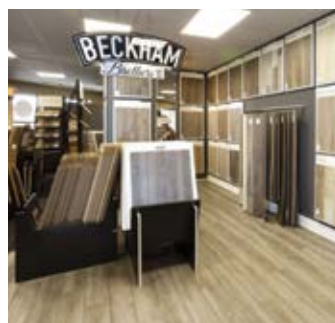
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Since moving to Niagara in September 2020 and expanding their woodworking business, David and Karley Holley have curated a luxury brand of solid wood home furnishings and custom kitchenware that leaves an impression. **Holley Woodworking** specializes in naturally highlighted solid wood furniture, corporate branded giftware and custom kitchen cutting boards. They offer design services, 3D modelling, professional finishing and delivery of custom projects. They also offer wholesale pricing, sample packages for new retailers and a 2-year warranty on their kitchen cutting boards.

Follow their evolution.  
**holleywoodworking.com**  
**416.206.5005**  
**holleywoodworking@gmail.com**  
*(Please see ad on pg 8)*



### LAURIE SPRAGUE DESIGNS

**Laurie Sprague Designs** is a boutique interior design and decorating firm specializing in whole home, kitchen and bath renovations.

We believe that the best interiors tell a story and have unique personal style. We love to mix new and vintage items to create beautiful, cohesive and cosy homes for our clients.

We offer a variety of services tailored to meet your unique needs such as kitchen and bath design, space planning, custom furnishings, lighting and window treatments.

Taking time to build relationships and gain trust is an important part of our process. Our mission is to create happy places for our clients to enjoy for many years to come. Our style is a blend of contemporary and eclectic which lends itself to a relaxed and comfortable lifestyle.

We understand that building or renovating can seem intimidating and stressful but it doesn't have to be. We guide you through the planning and decision making process with the bigger picture in mind.

Working with an interior design professional should be a fulfilling and fun experience. Let's work together to create a space that makes you happy and also enjoy the process along the way.

Follow their evolution.  
**905.687.2192**  
**info@lauriespraguedesigns.com**  
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*(Please see ad on pg 43)*



### TIMBER FRAMING, SPECIALTY LUMBER AND METAL ROOFING

From planning to designing and engineering, **W.L. Daboll Timber Framing** can help create the perfect project to help satisfy your lifestyle or business needs.

New Homes, Renovations and additions or commercial projects are our customers. Working on heirloom restorations where hard to find materials or special profile matches are needed, we can custom make it with our partners that do CNC machining.

Our products include Timbers made to order from the log to dimensional lumber, siding, flooring, and trim. Available species include Ontario grown hardwoods and softwoods, Western Red Cedar, #1 structural Douglas Fir.

Metal Roofing is also a large part of our business – we are a distributor for Easy Building Products and can supply architectural steel roofing, standing seam roofing for both residential and commercial grade, right down to standard G-rib barn siding. Over 25 colours available with various styles to suit your project.

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**905.641.8337**

*(Please see ad on pg 53)*



PHOTO: JOEL SMITH

### MELISSA REY – INTERIORS BY BETTER SHADE

**Interiors By Better Shade** is a local gem that has been serving the Niagara Region for over 65 years with quality products and services from uniquely styled window coverings to furniture and design.

We are now offering a new service to our clientele – an in-home consultation with our interior decorator Melissa Rey to help you professionally stage your home. Melissa has traveled the world, bringing her keen eye for design with her. Our customers can utilize her ability to create and coordinate between different design styles to reinvent their own homes.

Melissa uses her design experience to create a practical and attractive layout to bring form, function and design into the household or wherever you need a helpful hand to bring a space from ordinary to extraordinary.

Customers can book Melissa to come to their home and create a design layout that incorporates natural elements into their home, or even blending two unique home styles together as one as you downsize, upsize or alter your existing aesthetic.

Using her knowledge of fabric and style, Melissa can assist customers in finding the perfect pieces from our store of Canadian made furniture and accessories to provide the perfect balance of style and utility.

**469 Glendale Ave, St. Catharines | 905.227.4555**  
**interiorsbybettershade.com**  
**@interiorsbybettershade**  
*(Please see ads on pg 6, 7)*



### CELEBRATE LIFE AT HOME WITH OUR HOMES

**OUR HOMES** magazine is your local home resource guide. Readers love our magazine because we show and tell you about beautiful and unique local homes. Plus, we promote local homes-related product and service providers, and help you find professional trades. Whatever you need to build, renovate or decorate, you will find in our much-loved magazine.

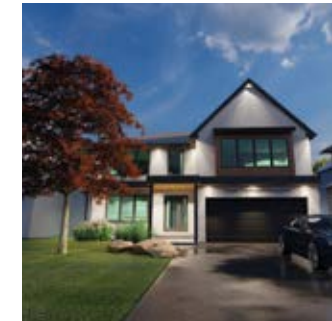
OUR HOMES magazines saturate 14 local markets in Ontario and connect over five million readers annually to our advertisers through premium, consistent, local content and beautiful photography. Our readership and distribution numbers are audited. Our advertisers reach our high-income demographic through targeted distribution in each region and throughout Ontario.

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*(Please see ad on pg 53)*



### JORDAN STATION DESIGN CO INC – NIAGARA'S LEADING ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN FIRM

Founded in early 2019, **Jordan Station Design Co.** is an award-winning Architectural Design firm, located in the heart of the Niagara Region. Our focus is on high-end residential development and we are dedicated to producing elite quality architectural design combined with sustainable and energy-efficient construction methods.

Our team is actively involved in all aspects of residential projects from initial consultation to final reveal. Our passion lies with a distinctive ability to adapt to all styles of design. We are always in pursuit of creating functional, efficient and beautiful architecture for our clients. Strong relationships with homeowners and their families, contractors, and professionals alike are what set us apart from the rest.

We are a team of passionate designers whose goal is to always bring our clients' visions to life through our creative solutions and vast design expertise. At JSDCo, we are dedicated to creating seamless and balanced designs and are at the forefront of design in the Niagara Region and surrounding areas.

To learn more about Jordan Station Design Co visit [jordanstationdesignco.ca](http://jordanstationdesignco.ca) and follow us on [@jordanstationdesignco](https://www.instagram.com/jordanstationdesignco)  
*(Please see ad on pg 9)*

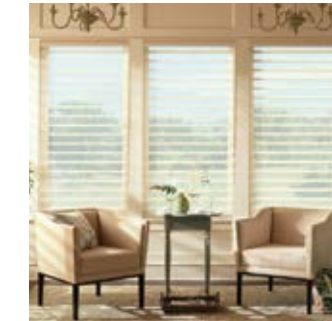


### ENNS CABINETRY

Every person is unique, and so is their design style. From traditional, transitional, to the growing contemporary design trend, **Enns Cabinetry** strives to stay at the forefront of many different design preferences. One such growing trend is combining solid colour cabinet doors with wood grain accents – and vice versa. One way to do this is "framing" the cabinet with thick panels. This makes each cabinet pop off the wall by separating it from the one next to it and can also make your cabinets look like a piece of art, delicately placed in the perfect spot of your room to draw your eye.

But this trend isn't limited to kitchens. It can be done in home bars, bathrooms, and even bedroom nightstands. And the options for material varies. There is the traditional wood slab door, but the industry is continually adding new, more durable synthetic products that can give you peace of mind that they will stand up for years to come – in a variety of colours! Visit our showroom or check out our Instagram to see more.

**36 Scott St W, St. Catharines**  
**EnnsCabinetry.com**  
**@EnnsCabinetry**  
*(Please see ad on pg 4)*



### ADD STYLE TO YOUR HOME!

Serving the Niagara area, **The Drapery Workroom** offers a wide selection of window coverings. We are locally owned and have been in operation for over 30 years. From draperies to blinds, we can steer you in the right direction. Working with Rinaldi Homes has let us show some of our finest designs and craftsmanship.

Our experienced design professionals will help you select the window coverings that meet your needs for privacy, light control, energy efficiency and child safety.

We will also help you choose colours, textures and finishes that complement your interior décor beautifully.

**Please be sure to call us at 905.788.0711 or email us at [draperyworkroomwelland@gmail.com](mailto:draperyworkroomwelland@gmail.com) for a free consultation with one of our experts.**  
**50 King St, Welland**  
*(Please see ad on pg 39)*



# your GO-TO

Niagara experts talk emerging trends and the key to exceptional customer service. Reach out to these local professionals and witness firsthand how they can transform your home.



PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF & JOEL SMITH



*Stephanie Lipinski, Lisa Littleton, Jason Newhouse, Kristy Stull & Jason Howes*

## DON'S LIGHT HOUSE

Don's Light House has been lighting homes in the Niagara Region for more than 48 years. We showcase quality lighting designs that elevate your interiors. Our lighting professionals have years of experience to make your lighting selections stunning and simple.

### CURRENT TRENDS

Two-tone finishes are all the rage. A strong influence of Mid-century modern is showcased in orbs, Sputnik styles and clean simplicity. LED lights have opened many other options with various colour temperatures to select from.



*"Experience the difference a lighting showroom can make."*

### EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

From new homes to renovations, our lighting professionals take the time to get to know each customer's unique designs and styles to guide your lighting selections. With many years of experience, we offer the advice and knowledge to make sure your lighting exceeds expectations.



*Continued on page 50*



## THOMAS TV SALES AND SERVICES LTD.

Thomas TV is a full-service audio and video shop that has been serving Niagara for more than 57 years. They specialize in home theatre systems, integrated music throughout your home, HiFi audio and, of course, TV. From your first visit to their showroom to delivery and final installation, their knowledgeable and friendly staff are committed to providing the best customer service.



*Jordan Fraser, Tom Tsaparis, Brody Hill, Kaitlin Thomas, Tyler Thomas, Jennifer Thomas & Ray Thomas*



### TOP PRODUCTS

Thomas TV's current top electronics include the Samsung Neo QLED TV; the Sony OLED TV; Yamaha AVENTAGE Home Theatre Receivers; Revel Speakers for home theatre; music and outdoor and AudioQuest cables and Pro-Ject turntables.



### CUSTOMER TRENDS

Customers are looking to improve their home entertainment experience. They want larger TV screens that take full advantage of streaming services, with the smartest apps that make home a destination for entertainment. Many want to improve their TV's sound by adding a premium soundbar with Dolby Atmos. Add a full home theatre surround-sound system or create a dedicated home theatre for movie nights.

## INTERIORS BY BETTER SHADE

Interiors by Better Shade is celebrating 66 years of adding the finishing touch to your home with custom window treatments made on-site, quality Canadian furniture and now kitchens. Our two-storey showroom keeps expanding and features the latest trends in furniture with the recent addition of sofas, chairs, sectionals and accent pieces from Italy.



*John Fiorino, Dave Cecchi, Janice Baker, Melissa Rey, Scott Somerville, Jordan Cecchi & Dorothy Hallett*

### VERSATILE CUSTOMER SERVICE

Our experienced team of interior decorators are available for in-home and in-store consultations for window coverings as well as furniture. We have in-home consultations to help you design every element of your home to achieve the look you've always wanted.

### DELIVERY WITHOUT DELAYS

It is all about getting your furniture and window coverings without delays. We have sourced beautiful furniture from new suppliers in Canada and Italy who have quicker timeframes without compromising on quality and style. We have a selection of popular items in stock and have a full range of home furnishings that are available quickly. Our window coverings are affordable and made to measure with expedited install dates and prompt production times.



Continued on page 52



## VERHOEF ELECTRIC INC.

Whether you are building a new home, updating a single room or renovating your entire house, Verhoef Electric can help bring your dreams to light. We specialize in all residential solutions, from rewiring knob-and-tube homes, upgrading panels and hardwiring smoke alarm systems to bringing your home up to current electrical code.

PHOTO: CAROLE AND ROY TIMM PHOTOGRAPHY



### COMPETITIVE EDGE

Established in trust, integrity and hard work, Verhoef Electric upholds our competitive edge while striving to complete projects on time and within budget. We believe it is this foundation that keeps our clients and contractors returning, project after project. We look forward to connecting with you.



**Kevin Verhoef, Nathan Rensen, Darrick Vanderwier & Deanne Haanappel**



PHOTOS: CAROLE AND ROY TIMM PHOTOGRAPHY



### LATEST TRENDS

Home generators and home office task lighting, which can increase illuminance to better accomplish work activity, are both trending now. Outside, pools and spas continue to be in high demand as well as electric-car charging walls.

*"Wired for Service... Grounded in Trust"*

Continued on page 54

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Beautifying properties in the Niagara area since 1984, DeKorte's offers expertise at every stage of designing, building and maintaining your beautiful outdoor living space. DeKorte's offers all the services needed to create and preserve a beautiful outdoor space at home.

### TOP PRODUCTS

If you can dream it, DeKorte's Landscaping can supply it. Offering the latest and greatest products to transform any yard into an oasis, including waterfalls and unique water features, outdoor kitchens and living rooms, pizza ovens, fireplaces, vegetable gardens, large and oversize pavers, clean lines, composite decking and permeable pavers.

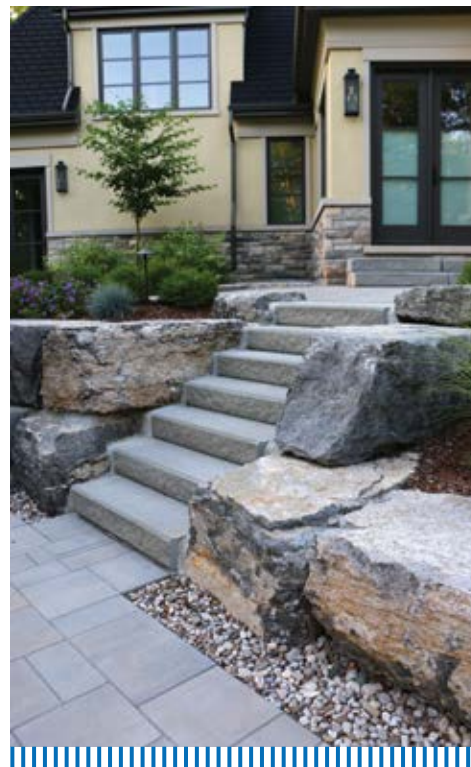


**Eric DeKorte, Jack DeKorte, Dan Burke & Shane Korvemaker**



### EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE

From highly experienced landscape designers to trained craftspeople and landscape crews, DeKorte's ensures a top-level product executed by top-level professionals.



Continued on page 56

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## FOOD4KIDS NIAGARA

Food4Kids Niagara provides healthy food packages to elementary school students who are experiencing food insecurity during weekend periods, summer months and more recently during the COVID-19 crisis. We address deep poverty through targeted and direct food provision for those whose basic needs are not being met.

### THE PROGRAM

This school year, Food4Kids will support 500 students at participating schools across the Niagara region. Every week volunteers assemble food packages delivered to schools on Friday. Once at the school, the package is discreetly tucked into the child's backpack to ensure a non-stigmatizing approach.



*"In addition to providing much-needed food, this program also educates my kids about how a community and a support system work. It's a really wonderful program and I'm very grateful for the help," ~Participating Parent*

SEE OUR DIRECTORY FOR ALL CONTACT INFORMATION.



### SUPPORT THE CAUSE

It costs \$15 dollars per week to provide a balanced food supply for each child participating in the program. Donations from the community and volunteer participation are always needed. This weekend, far too many children will go home to empty cupboards and with the uncertainty of where their next meal will come from. We can't let that happen. No child in our community should ever have to go hungry. **OH**




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# WARM ROASTED ROOT-VEGGIE

## Salad

RECIPE AND  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
JENELLE  
MCCULLOCH



**online** Get more recipes at [ourhomes.ca/blogrecipes](https://ourhomes.ca/blogrecipes)

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



### INGREDIENTS

Serves 4

#### SALAD

Root vegetables such as beets, carrots, radishes and onions

Olive oil

1 Tbsp allspice

1 cup farro

Feta cheese, to garnish

Pumpkin seeds, to garnish

#### DRESSING

¼ cup olive oil

2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar

2 Tbsp honey

½ tsp each salt and pepper

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Clean vegetables and cut into similar sizes.

Toss with olive oil, allspice, salt and pepper.

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

Meanwhile, cook farro to package directions.

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

Top with warm roasted vegetables and remaining dressing.

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

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# wonderful wicker

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- 4. **SURYA:** Manning Pendant
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- 12. **ABBOTT:** Rattan Handle Cheese Knives
- 13. **IKEA:** Snidad Basket
- 14. **MADE GOODS:** Sariah Coffee Table
- 15. **MERCANA:** Leona Natural Wicker Woven Mirrored Base Nesting Trays
- 16. **BOUCLAIR:** Ficus in Rattan Pot **OH**



## Looking for your Dream Home?

Born and raised in Niagara with extensive knowledge of the local demographic, coupled with my honest and reliable approach, I take care of my clients like family.



**Eli Milenkoff**, Real Estate Broker  
**PEAK PERFORMERS REALTY INC**  
 165 Hwy 20 W, Suite 5, Fonhill  
 289.820.9309  
 eli@propertyniagara.com  
 propertyniagara.com



## Looking for Property or Rental Management?

Our philosophy emphasizes the importance of thorough tenant screening and relations, cutting-edge software and maintenance coordination. Working together with tenants and owners creating balanced relationships. Trusted and reliable service throughout the Niagara Peninsula.

**Eli and Kelly Milenkoff**, Owners / Operators  
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 289.820.6175 | brickproperties.ca  
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## Looking for Interior Design Services?

Having an enthusiastic passion for design combined with a persona full of creativity, I can assist builders, renovators, and current home owners by tailoring each home to be distinctive and unique.

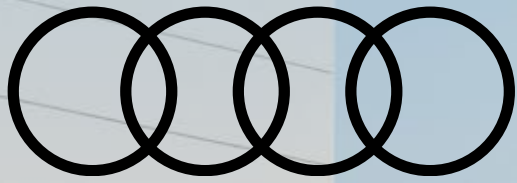


**PERSONAL DESIGN VIRTUOSOS & HOME DÉCOR ASSISTANCE**

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