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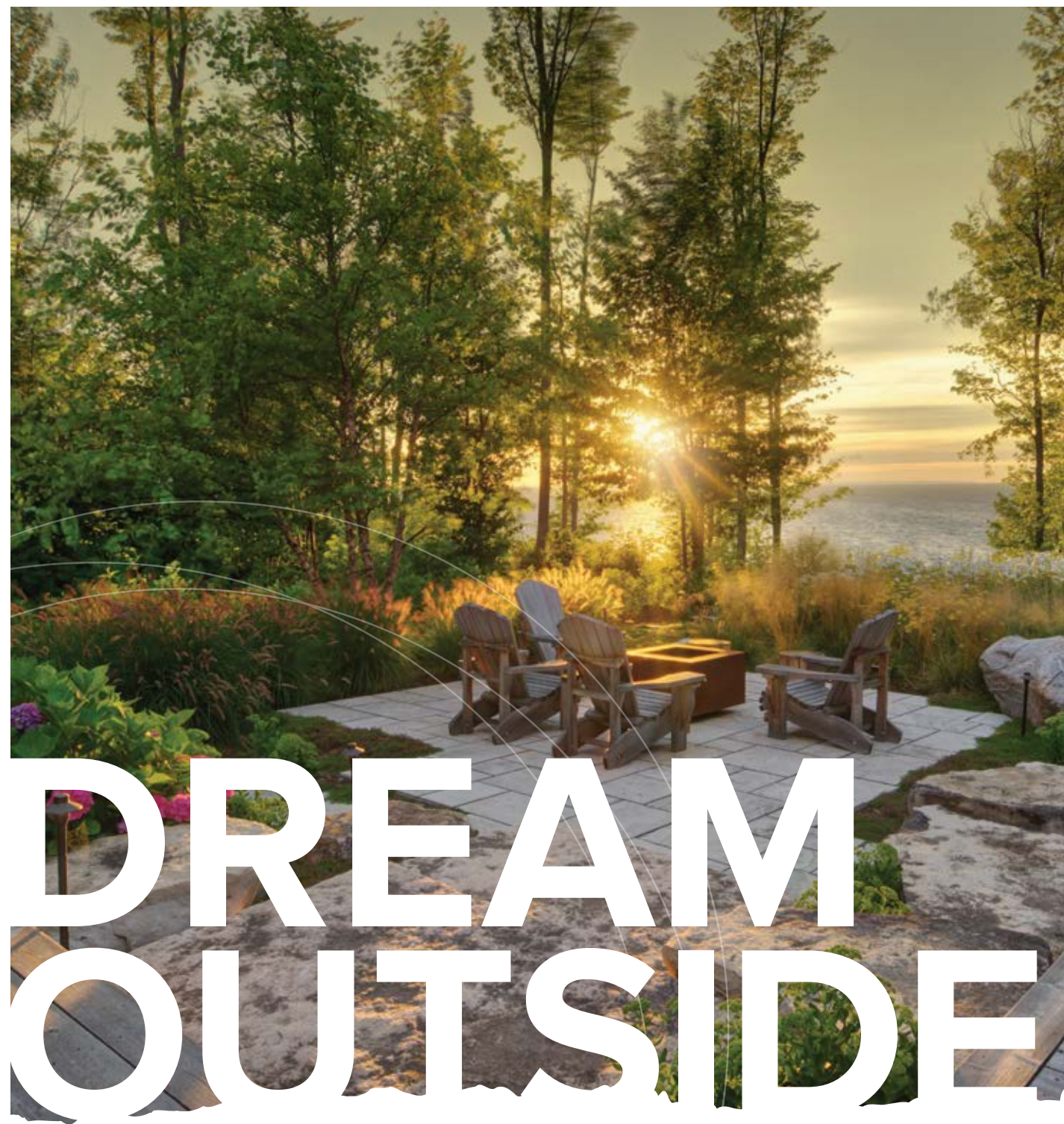
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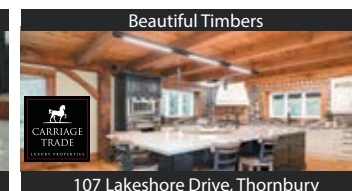
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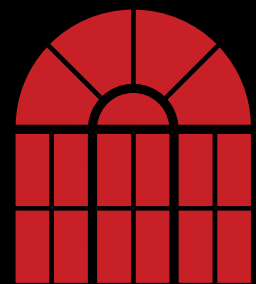
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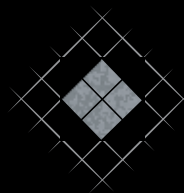


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## editor's note



### THE HOME WHERE I RAISED MY CHILDREN

had a wood stove that was the main source of heat. Every fall, three bush cords of wood were delivered. It kept my little family busy for weeks, moving the wood from the huge pile on the front lawn to the rear of the house, stacking it and then covering it to protect it from rain, sleet and snow. Every night before going to bed, we filled the stove and put some aside for the next day. It was an enjoyable routine that kept our home warm and welcoming.

Our next home had two propane fireplaces that came to life with a flick of a switch. The ease brought complacency and when I built my current home I decided that maybe having a wood-burning stove or fireplace was not something I was too excited to revisit, so I installed a propane fireplace instead.

After seeing so many inviting wood-burning features in the homes we are lucky to feature in these pages, I am ready to add a wood-burning unit to my home.

This time the flames will purely be for sight, sound and a welcoming element to my living space, not essential heat. The wood will come from my property and I won't need three cords.

The team at Chantico Fireplace Gallery – featured in one of our Spotlights this issue (p.88) – helped me find the right product for my home. They patiently answered my many questions and showed me the different options and features that are now available.

Life in your home should make everyone who lives there happy and if a small change can further that happiness, it is well worth exploring. I know my new fireplace will be a beautiful addition for my family to savour.

Enjoy the beauty of our winter wonderland!

*Sara Martin*

Sara Martin, Managing Editor  
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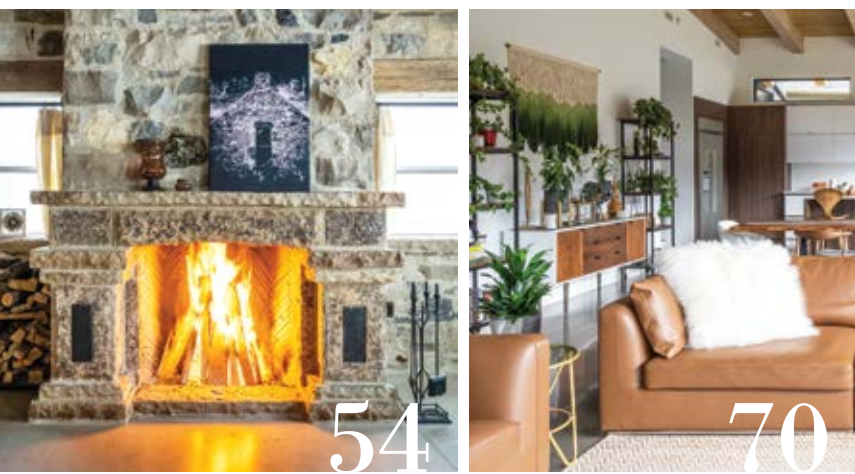
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# CONTENTS

## SKI SEASON 2022



### ON THE COVER

It's only natural for this home to be built with stone.  
Story, page 54. Photography by Sandy MacKay.



### LOCAL FEATURES

- 38 Style Picks** Beautiful local finds for inside and outside your abode.
- 54 Feature Home** A stonemason crafts his family home with an old-world atmosphere and all the modern conveniences.
- 70 Home & Builder** An awe-inspiring panorama surrounds a warm, beautiful and natural home.
- 84 Spotlight** Chantico Fireplace Gallery gets the home fires burning.
- 88 People & Places** Enhance your lifestyle with help from these local experts.
- 110 Home & Builder** Reducing the environmental impact was the objective behind building this thoughtfully planned home.
- 128 Spotlight** Ashton Blinds Draperies Shutters offers lovely window coverings and superb customer service.
- 144 Feature Home** A young family renovates a home with room for all to bloom for years to come.
- 162 At Home With** Renowned Chef David Lee talks food, family and why he lives in Southern Georgian Bay.

38



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# CONTENTS

## SKI SEASON 2022



### DEPARTMENTS

- 26 **Editor's Note**
- 34 **Publisher's Note**
- 36 **Advice** Healthy Building
- 42 **Good Taste** Hot Chocolate
- 44 **Decorating** 2022 Colours
- 48 **Design Ideas** Pet Friendly
- 52 **Double Take** Bathroom Bliss
- 66 **Focus** Go Faux
- 86 **Real Estate** Staged To Sell
- 102 **Focus** Pantone's Very Peri
- 104 **Crafty Ideas** Sweater Blanket
- 122 **Birding** Winter Attractions
- 126 **Gardening** Invasion Tactics
- 136 **Projects** Checkerboard
- 140 **Cooking At Home** Cheesy Comfort
- 156 **Decorating** Room To Grow
- 160 **Home Resource Directory**



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**THIS NEW YEAR BEGINS WITH HOPE** and anticipation for health and better things to come, and they will!

In the meantime, we must stay busy and keep our spirits up. As each new year approaches, my husband Darrin and I start planning our “January Home Reno” DIY. There is always something that needs attention when you live in a 45-year-old Craftsman-style house.

The kitchen was our first big renovation. We love it, but we still bump into each other while unloading the dishwasher. Next, we converted a closet into a main-floor laundry room. We are empty nesters, so where does all this laundry come from? The kitchen and laundry room are now my two favourite places to be.

We went back and forth and finally decided that this year we are going to tackle our en suite, where the shower grout is crumbling, the vanity needs replacing and the floor and backsplash scream 1990. Each night after dinner I begin my research on Instagram, Pinterest and my fav, tear-outs from past and current issues of OUR HOMES. We’ve narrowed down a neutral look that appeals to both of us.

The jackhammer-like noise begins, followed by dump runs with cappuccinos to-go and our dog Beans in tow. We’re taking short road trips throughout the region, visiting the incredible shops and showrooms of our local retailers. We bring home samples and ideas to guide our indecisiveness. How do all those home shows make it look so easy?

This Ski Issue is full of inspiration. We take you on beautifully photographed tours of four local homes and shops, show you products and introduce you to people who can help with your latest home project.

We’ll have a new, on-trend en suite just as our spring issue hits the stands.

Until then, be well and enjoy winter.

*Simone*

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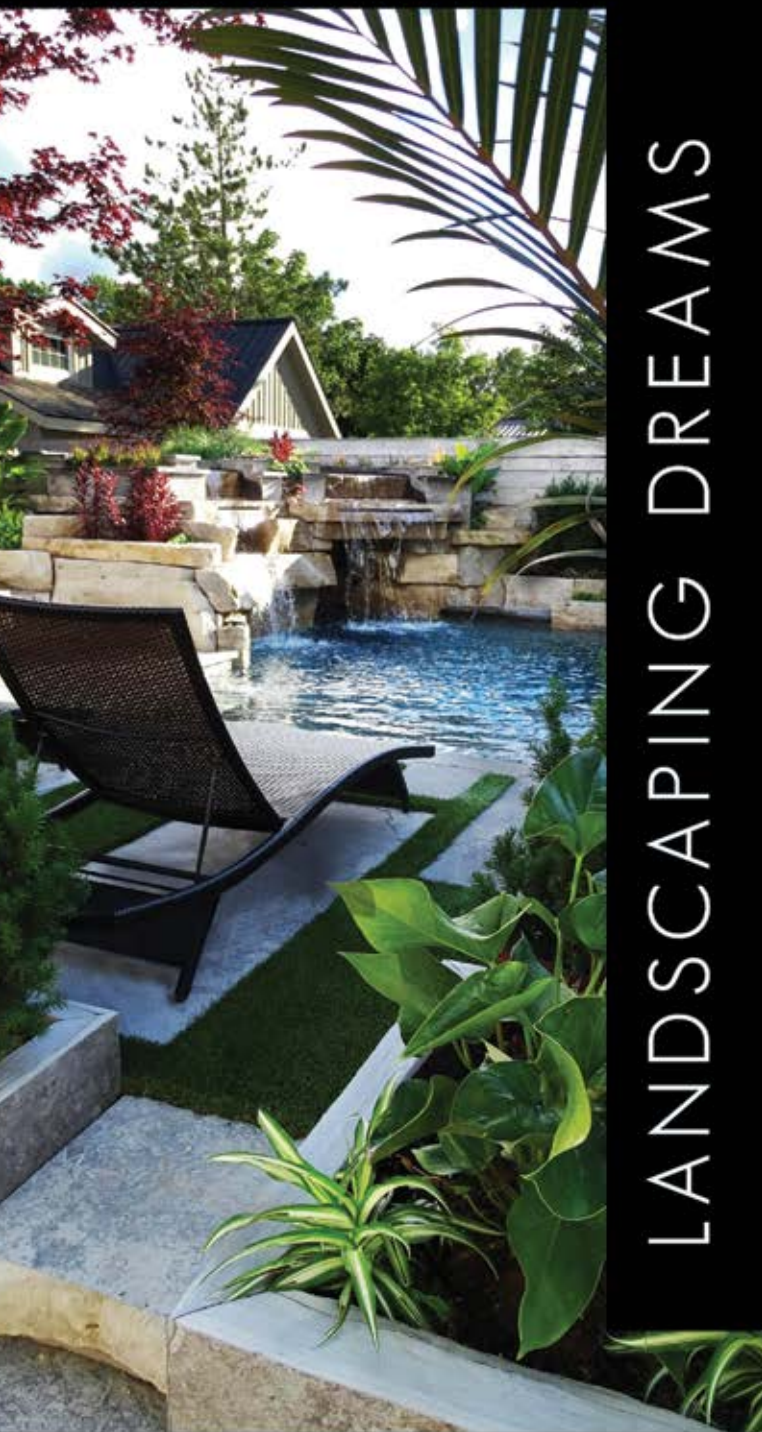
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advice



## building BIOLOGY

Designer **Tamarisk McNalty Stephens** explores the principles of Building Biology.

The discipline of Building Biology focuses on the relationship between the natural and built environments with the goal of creating greater harmony between the two. With nature as the guiding principle, building biologists integrate a holistic approach to the design, build and/or renovation of residential dwellings to provide as little disruption to the surrounding environment as possible — while creating healthy homes.



The principles of Building Biology can be grouped into five main topics:

### SITE AND COMMUNITY DESIGN

The site and the placement of the dwelling should be free of health hazards (naturally occurring or human-made) and ensure occupants are not disturbed by pollution from air, soil, water, noise and electrical. The goal is to position dwellings in communities and developments that provide ample access to nature, sunshine and fresh air for families and individuals of all ages.

### ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION HEALTH



EMF HARMONY: EMF Harmonizer for Home & Office

This is a topic that we've heard more and more about since the widespread introduction of wireless technologies. Many sources of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) exist, some human-made and others naturally occurring.

Examples of sources include: electrical service, power lines, appliances, cell phone technology, synthetic carpeting, drapery and textiles, components in building materials, steel in furnishings and currents in the earth. Building Biology attempts to integrate strategies to minimize exposure generated from inside or outside a building.



Here are some simple and easy things you can do at home to lower exposure: Use a landline and minimize cell phone usage; turn off WiFi when not in use and keep electrical devices away from your bed. Some people put their bedrooms on circuits that can easily be turned off at night.

### INDOOR AIR AND WATER QUALITY

A ventilation strategy is especially important in new construction. Although airtight homes are prized for their energy efficiency, the circulation of fresh air is crucial for a healthy indoor climate. This is achieved through the design and placement of windows and doors for ample natural ventilation as well as by installing a properly sized mechanical ventilation system.

The Building Biology process also aims to ensure moisture content remains low in dwellings. Building Biology strongly recommends a historically derived mass-wall construction method such as earth, clay or straw for their natural ability to allow the flow of vapour molecules through the wall assembly. These natural materials have the innate ability to buffer large amounts of moisture, and the flow-through process is very slow, so accumulation from condensation is insignificant and does not deteriorate the building envelope. Known as "breathable walls," they can provide stable temperature and humidity levels, producing a comfortable living environment. The walls themselves, finished directly with plaster or with wood over furring strips, provide insulation and eliminate the need for many synthetic materials, which can reduce exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

### OCCUPANT WELL-BEING

To improve indoor air quality, consider selecting low-toxin natural materials and finishes. Providing stable and welcoming air and surfaces can be accomplished through radiant heating methods such as passive solar techniques and the use of thermal mass (such as stone surrounding a fireplace that holds heat long after the fire has burned out). Ergonomics of the human body are also important when considering furniture selections, natural light, a colour palette inspired by the surrounding natural environment and acoustics to mitigate unwanted noise.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The final tenet of Building Biology is the selection of materials and construction methods that promote health and well-being from the beginning of the process to the end. Care is taken to avoid materials that deplete natural resources or permit unsustainable harvesting practices along with life cycle costs of materials from an environmental and energy perspective. Buildings are designed in an energy-efficient manner to minimize energy consumption, provide water-saving features and power with renewable energy sources when viable. **OH**

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PHOTOGRAPHY  
SARAH TACOMA

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905.465.5845 | maggieanddix.com
- 3

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519.538.2000 | homehardware.ca
- 5

**CLERKSON'S HOME STORE**  
**Prosecco Glass Set**  
Toast a special occasion using these glass flutes that come with a matching, mouth-blown serving dish and bucket to keep the bubbly cold. Put everything on this serving tray to easily move the celebration outside.  
85 Hurontario St., Collingwood  
705.445.1988 | clerksons.com
- 6

**HAVEN HOME & GIFT**  
**S'more Board**  
This sweet-treat making, four-piece set includes a wooden board to hold the s'more ingredients, wood and metal skewers and a mini-concrete firepit, which uses isopropyl alcohol to fuel the flame. Oh, what fun.  
54 Hurontario St., Collingwood  
705.445.0454 | havencollingwood.com

Continued on page 40





7



8



9

7

**BRIGHTS GALLERY**

**Painting**

This 48 by 48-inch acrylic on canvas by Canadian artist Maya Eventov titled *Spectrum Landscape* will remind you to enjoy the beautiful sunsets after a day on the slopes.

190 Jozo Weider Blvd., Unit 5, Blue Mountains  
705.445.4999 | brightsgallery.com

8

**BESPOKE BY CAROL**

**Side Table**

This side table highlights Fusion Mineral Paint's wintery colour palette. The paint is suitable for outdoors, so move this table outside by the fire to hold nibbles.

46 Sykes St., Meaford  
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# Matcha HOT CHOCOLATE

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

This warm winter drink pairs white chocolate with the delicate taste of matcha tea. It is the perfect winter pick-me-up!



**INGREDIENTS**  
Makes 1 Mug of  
Hot Chocolate

- 2 cups milk (dairy or non-dairy)
- ½ cup white chocolate, chopped
- 1 Tbsp matcha
- 1 Tbsp hot water
- Whipped cream or marshmallows to garnish



**INSTRUCTIONS**

In a pot, heat milk and white chocolate, stirring just until white chocolate melts into simmering milk.

Sift matcha into a small bowl through a fine mesh strainer. Using a matcha whisk, beat matcha and a tablespoon of hot water until matcha is dissolved.

Stir matcha into hot white chocolate mixture until combined.

Pour into mug and garnish with whipped cream or marshmallows. **OH**

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# current MOOD

*It's time to liven up our living spaces after two rather tumultuous years. The major paint companies have selected their colours of the year for 2022, most picking grey-green as the colour to splash on your walls or inspire your new look. We're rolling out the top picks to help with your next decorating adventure.*

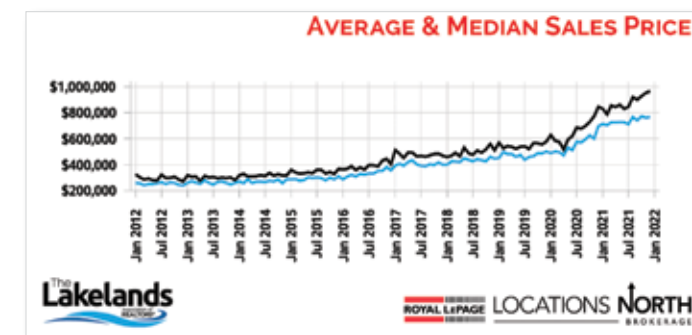
Benjamin Moore selected **October Mist**, a pleasing silver-green that evokes the green stem of a flower. They say it creates a canvas for other colours to blossom and encourages creativity. Try it with Hint of Violet or Wildflower, both new from Benjamin Moore's Colour Trends Palette.

BeautiTone is sending a message with **Warm Hugs**. This Canadian brand says the vibrant red-pink-orange is the comfort we've been missing. It offers hope and solace in one exquisite hue.

PPG selected **Olive Sprig**, a soft organic shade of green reminiscent of a soothing aloe vera plant or velvety sage leaves. It's a green-grey chosen to represent regrowth and the resiliency of nature as we adapt to new ways of living post-pandemic.

Continued on page 46

## REAL ESTATE MARKET SNAPSHOT – 2021 IN REVIEW



Our focus for this snapshot, as usual, will be the three key trading areas and home types with which we have the most expertise: sales of residential condominiums and detached homes in The Blue Mts., Collingwood and Clearview.

Overall, 2021 was a very strong year, with The Blue Mts., Collingwood and Clearview enjoying record volume sales of \$510,216,268, \$487,097,378 and \$264,882,516 respectively. That's up 17%, 30% and 46% from 2020's previous highs. Those gains were largely due to rising prices owing to relatively strong demand: Collingwood had a 79% sales-to-listings ratio and an average sale time 20 days; Clearview had a 74% ratio and averaged 23 days-on-market; and The Blue Mts. had a 73% ratio and averaged 25 days on market. Additionally, Collingwood had only one month of inventory for every month but January, while The Blue Mts. and Clearview both averaged about seven weeks for the year. It will be interesting to see whether that demand carries forward into 2022.

### HIGHS, LOWS & SPECIFICS

#### THE BLUE MOUNTAINS:

Fewer sales overall, shorter sale times - both detached home and condo sales up very nicely.

- The high sale was a 7,780 SF home in Craighleith for \$4,850,000.
- The low sale was a 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 466 SF condo on Jozo Weider Blvd. for \$185,000.
- 187 condo sales (up 34% from 2020's 140); avg of 32 DOM (Days On Market), down 14 days from 2020; avg sale-to-list price ratio of 99.2%, up from 98.3; avg sale price of \$553,160, up 26% from \$437,751.

- 263 single-family home sales (down 18% from 2020's 319); avg DOM of 23, down 31 days; avg sale-to-list-price ratio of 100%, up from 98.3%; and an avg sale price of \$1,546,674, up 32% from \$1,174,436.

#### COLLINGWOOD:

More sales overall, shorter sale times, both detached home and condo values up very nicely.

- The high sale was a 4,287 SF waterfront home for \$3,200,000.
- The low sale was a 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 481 SF condo on Eighth St. for \$249,900.
- 192 condo sales (up 34% from 2020's 143); avg of 28 (DOM), down 4 days from 2020; avg sale-to-list-price ratio of 100%, up from 99%; avg sale price of \$588,002, up 17% from \$502,511.
- 383 single-family home sales (down 3% from 2020's 402); avg DOM of 16, down 23 days; avg sale-to-list-price ratio of 101%, up from 98.7%; and an avg sale price of \$977,026, up 29% from \$756,422.

#### CLEARVIEW:

More sales, shorter sale times, detached home values up very nicely, no condo sales.

- The high sale was a 10,418 SF home in Creemore for \$6,040,000.
- The low sale was a 1 bdrm, 1 bath, 466 SF home on Elm St. in Stayner for \$210,000.
- 278 single-family home sales (up 15% from 2020's 242); avg of 23 DOM, down 36 days from 2020; avg sale-to-list-price ratio of 100%, up from 98.7%; and an avg sale price of \$952,815, up 27% from \$749,829.

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decorating

**Breezeway** is Behr's pick. It's "where the sea meets the sky" – a relaxed and uplifting sea-glass green. Behr says Breezeway naturally harmonizes with shades of white, grey and natural wood tones for effortless style in any room.

Valspar couldn't pick just one colour. Their Colours of The Year include 12 trend-worthy and forward-thinking natural shades that evoke warmth, calm and comfort. We like **Blanched Thyme, Sunset Curtains** and **Subtle Peach**.

Who can say no to **Guacamole**, Glidden's Colour of The Year? Glidden says everyone's favourite dip will look great on any wall or accent piece. It's a spirited yet soothing hue.

Sherwin Williams has unveiled **Evergreen Fog**, calling it a versatile and calming hue – a chameleon colour of gorgeous green-meets-grey, with just a bit of blue. They recommend it for spaces that crave a subtle yet stunning statement shade.



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# Pet-Friendly BY DESIGN

STORY **LOUIS DUNCAN-HE** | PHOTOGRAPHY **HEATHER DUNBAR**

## Dogs

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

*Continued on page 50*



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

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

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



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Cats

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

Birds, Lizards and Fish

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



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



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double take

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PHOTO: KELLY HORKOFF | DESIGNER: NATASHA GAUTHIER OF EDEN TILE-IT



1. **GENERATION LIGHTING**: Southold Medium Lantern in Burnished Brass 2. **OLYMPIA TILE**: White Marble/Grey Diamond Tile 3. **OLYMPIA TILE**: Calacatta Manhattan Tile 4. **VICTORIA + ALBERT**: Tombolo 10 Bathtub Rack in Oak 5. **BOUCLAIR**: Artificial Floor Plant in Wooden Pot 6. **ELK HOME**: Natural Teak Slab Bar Table 7. **VICTORIA + ALBERT**: Toulouse 1500 Freestanding Soaking Bathtub in Gloss White 8. **ROHL**: Eclissi Single Hole Floor Mount Tub Filler in Matte Black 9. **BERNHARDT**: Silhouette 307-549 Side Chair **OH**



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# Storybook STYLE

STORY  
**MADDIE JOHNSON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
**SANDY MACKAY**



Steve Wall, owner  
of Steve's Masonry



Step into Steve and Sarah Wall's Ravenna home and you're immediately transported through time.

Steve is the owner of **Steve's Masonry**, a team of master stonemasons known for their custom and intricate work. His home is no exception. The interior walls of the newly built house are covered in natural stone from floor to ceiling, giving the home an old English feel straight out of the 16th century.

To Steve, stonework is art and his clients' homes are his canvas. Recently, he was able to turn his own house into a masterpiece. Steve and Sarah purchased the nine-acre property six years ago and built their house, together with son Tristin, from the ground up.

"This is something I always wanted to do but never got the chance until we bought this property," says Steve. *Continued on page 56*

Moss-covered boulders were strategically placed around a flagstone patio installed by Zeng Landscaping. ShanRidge Construction Inc. framed the building, installed the roof and metal siding. Dale Ottewell Construction & Logging Ltd. completed the excavation and driveway. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** A stone feature at the road entrance is a testament to Steve and Tristin's skill and artistic vision. Steve and Tristin built every drystone wall on the property. **BOTTOM:** The farm fields and tree rows that surround the home yielded the raw material used in the crafting of the stone features.







Unobtrusive from the outside, the blue, barn-like building sits at the end of a long driveway hidden by trees. “Right from day one, the long meandering driveway was the source of many aspects of our inspiration,” says Steve. “We felt it told a story.”

Stone has long been a popular element in home design, valued throughout history for its durability and visual appeal. Widely used for exteriors, Steve loves clients who want to turn back time and use stone

throughout the inside as well.

Much of Steve’s inspiration comes from the Cotswold region in England, where Cotswold houses are known for their simple use of stone inside and out, which, when done properly, creates a cosy atmosphere.

“Over the years I have suggested using stone on the interior of many of our projects,” he says. “However, I was often met with feedback that it would create a cold atmosphere, but nothing could be further from the truth.”

Continued on page 59



The 10-foot dining table was crafted using wood rescued from another job site. Northern Concrete Refinement and Polishing finished the concrete floor. In-floor heat and plumbing by Shuttleworth Contracting. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Steve’s Tilly hat has been on every project for the past 20 years. Steve says that when the hat wears out, it will be time to stop. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Niches are a unique design detail that the family uses for candles. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Martini the family cat relaxes in front of the fireplace. **RIGHT:** The Rumford fireplace’s shallow sides reflect heat into a room and the streamlined throat draws smoke up the chimney with minimal heat loss. It is a design that Steve enjoys building and stands behind for its superior performance.





**“TO ME, THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO LIVE – SURROUNDED BY NATURAL ELEMENTS.” – Steve Wall**

The large island, covered in polished Algonquin Limestone with a waterfall edge on both sides, anchors the kitchen. The rock-face counter-edge profile replicates the rustic elements of the stone walls. Electrical for the home was completed by Mullens Electric Co.



**LEFT:** The stone’s textural detail can be enjoyed while washing dishes or prepping eggs for breakfast. The open shelving displays mugs, plates and mason jars filled with grains and flours. **RIGHT:** The pantry shelving was made of wood from the farm that Sarah’s father grew up on. Steve’s father John Wall and Steve’s friend Troy Bender helped with the interior painting.



The stone inside Steve and Sarah’s home makes it warm and inviting. “I hope I am having an influence on the mentality that stone isn’t for inside as I welcome many architects, designers and clients through our home,” says Steve. Light radiates through the 1,000 sq. ft. great room that includes the kitchen, living and dining rooms. The warmth emanating from the large 42-inch masonry Rumford fireplace centring the front wall is a metaphor for the atmosphere Steve, Sarah and their son set out to create. Every aspect of the interior has been hand-built or sourced from local suppliers, including the pantry, which Sarah and her father built with ash from the trees on the farm her father grew up on. The kitchen showcases a 1,500-pound stone island sourced from **Owen Sound Ledgerrock**, open upper shelves and a 10-foot dining table made of wood Steve rescued at a job site. Old timber from the existing hunting cabin on the property was also salvaged and used as lintels over the windows and painters’ drop cloths have been crafted into curtains. *Continued on page 60*



This doorway leads to the laundry, powder room, pantry and an entrance to the garage. Steve’s attention to detail is highlighted in the stonework on the top of the frame.





“To me, this is the best way to live – surrounded by natural elements,” says Steve.

Natural elements continue upstairs where scorched-wood doorways and stone accent walls give the three bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home a cosy, homestead feel.

The other half of the building is a combination of workshop, gym and man-cave living space, with more stonework and reclaimed wood throughout.

“The thought that kept recurring all the way through was that we didn’t want anything treated – just raw materials, with nothing on it,” says Steve.

Outside, the drystone walls crafted by Steve and Tristin were built from stone found in the fence rows left by farmers decades ago. Steve also utilized stone found on the property on the walls inside.

“When people come in, they often don’t notice things like the light fixtures or furniture right away, which is a nice compliment because this style of house does not need to be dressed up with extras,” says Steve. “It’s the house itself and the emotions this space evokes that draw people in. When people visit they immediately feel at ease, they feel like they have come home “

*Continued on page 62*

**RIGHT:** Justglass installed the shower enclosure in the primary en suite on the upper level. The scorched finish on the door adds instant age. Tile was sourced and installed by BCK Custom Tile. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** The thin profile of the rebar spindles on the staircase and the open stair treads allows the stone walls to shine. **TOP RIGHT:** Tristin’s bedroom upstairs displays his guitars. The stone on the upper-level walls was halved through its circumference to reduce the weight. New-Line Insulation Ltd. sprayed foam in the walls and attic. **BOTTOM:** Steve constructed a vanity in the powder room on the main level from reclaimed wood. The black vessel sink stands out against the rich colour of the vanity’s wood counter.







***“THAT’S WHAT EVERYBODY SEEMS TO COMMENT ON, THAT IT FEELS LIKE HOME, LIKE SOMEWHERE THEY HAVE BEEN LONG AGO.”***  
– Sarah Wall

Sarah agrees. “That’s what everybody seems to comment on, that it feels like home, like somewhere they have been long ago.”

For anyone who is after an old-world style of home, Steve says he would consider taking on the entire build. “The key to achieving the truly authentic period-piece home is taking it all the way when it comes to the design,” he says. “Too often I have seen this style fail because it didn’t get carried through to the end.” *Continued on page 64*

**LEFT:** The comforting, natural feeling that the home evokes continues in the primary bedroom. Windows for the project were sourced from KV Custom Windows & Doors. Flooring was installed by RW Décor. **BELOW:** The white hexagon tile floor in the family bathroom is a crisp contrast to the stone wall. Drywall was installed by Scott Shear’s Drywall.



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Steve says he's seen a shift in interest in South Georgian Bay as more people are charmed and enchanted by the beauty of the homes from centuries gone by and he's happy to start building these homes for clients.

"Our design plan was to allow the natural beauty of the various elements to speak for themselves," he says. "It all has a story."

Sarah loves her perfectly imperfect home. "We wanted a look that could accommodate knicks and bruises," she says. "It's a less stressful way to live." **OH**

**ABOVE:** Steve, Sarah and Tristin stand on the stairs in the garage that lead to a sitting area where they watch movies and sports. **RIGHT:** The CrossFit gym was a necessity. It keeps Steve and Tristin in shape for the physical and demanding nature of their craft. Tristin enjoys his daily workout.






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Continued on page 68



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# One with NATURE

STORY **LAUREN LONG**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Waking up on a winter morning never felt so peaceful. Looking out of the bedroom window, the sun rises over the escarpment, illuminating the pristine blanket of snow covering the slopes of Georgian Peaks Club. Frosted pine trees signal the chill outside, yet inside, the house remains warm and cosy.



Timo Hotari of  
Modern Homes by Timo

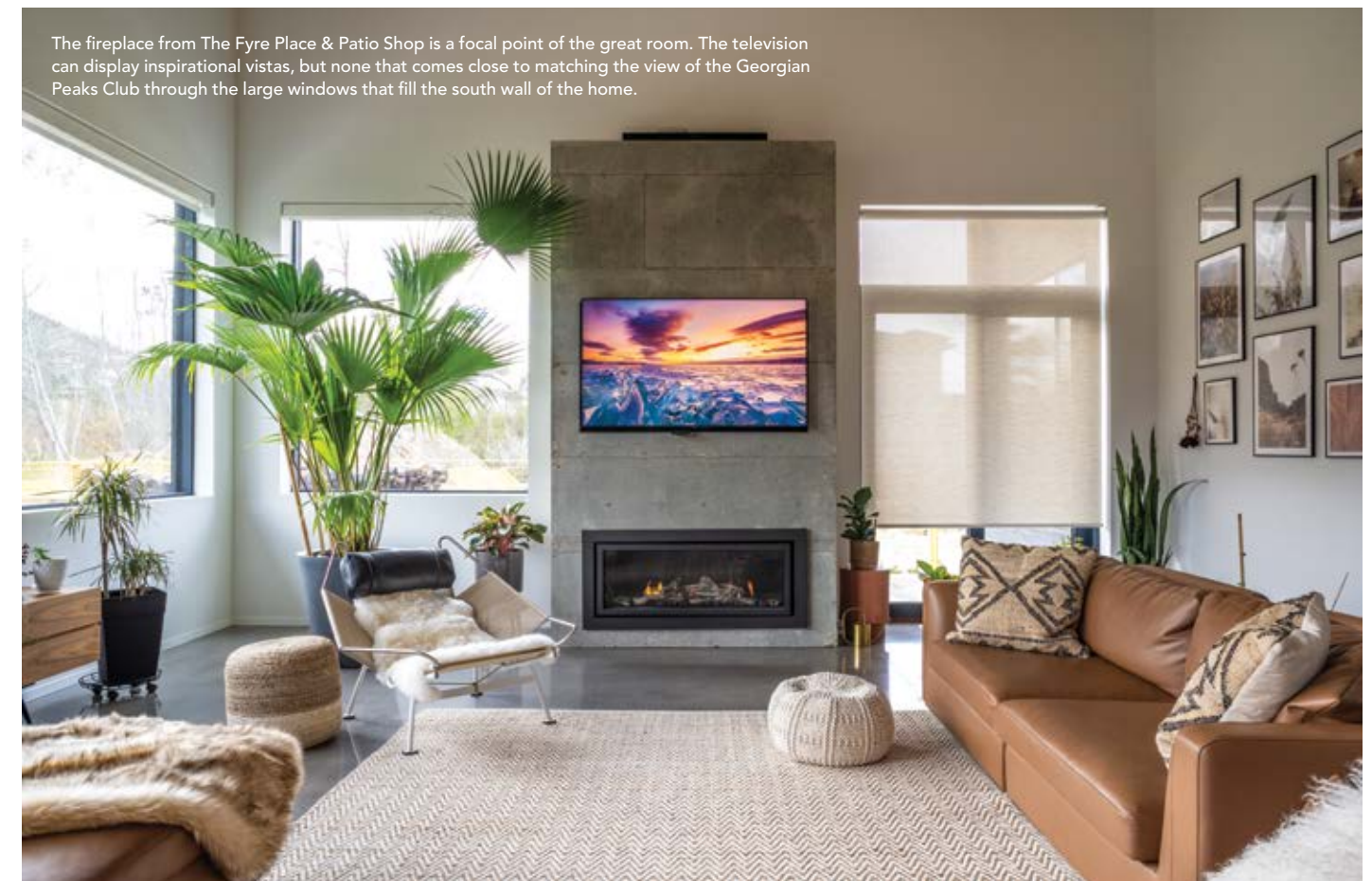
Mark and Marjorie Fisher experience this awe-inspiring panorama and sense of relaxation every winter morning in their home. After spending several summers at their condo in Collingwood, the Fishers decided to retire from city living and build their forever home in Southern Georgian Bay.

They went for drives searching for inspiration – checking out local properties and residential architecture. When they saw a “Scandinavian Home” sign and called the number, they reached **Modern Homes by Timo (Modern HBT)** and Timo Hotari invited them to tour his own home.

Modern HBT is a family-run business with Scandinavian roots that define their unique design style and approach to home building. *Continued on page 75*

**TOP LEFT:** The exterior's clean lines are in sharp contrast to the soaring and inspiring interior. The cedar siding is painted Benjamin Moore Wrought Iron. The garage door was sourced from Cedarport Window & Door Centre Inc. **OPPOSITE:** Mark and Marjorie take time to enjoy the view. Complete Cooling & Heating installed the in-floor heat and forced air furnace.

The fireplace from The Fyre Place & Patio Shop is a focal point of the great room. The television can display inspirational vistas, but none that comes close to matching the view of the Georgian Peaks Club through the large windows that fill the south wall of the home.





Marjorie nurtures the plants throughout the home. The Douglas fir beams and white cedar ceiling complement the butterscotch leather sofas. Aeon Kitchens & Design worked with Marjorie to create her customized kitchen.

**“TRADITIONAL SCANDINAVIAN HOMES INCORPORATE WOOD AND ORGANIC FINISHES AND UTILIZE WINDOWS FOR NATURAL LIGHTING.” – Timo Hotari**



The polished concrete floors reflect sunlight from the windows. The live-edge river dining table's organic shape is another nod to the natural elements in the home. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** The pot filler is a convenient addition to the kitchen. The backsplash is a slab of white quartz, which matches the perimeter counters. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Squash and winter greens for a hearty winter soup sit by the Blanco sink. Walnut custom cabinetry surrounds the side-by-side refrigerator. **RIGHT:** Bentwood bar stools offer stylish seating at the walnut island. The island is topped with Cambria Annicca granite.

***I LOVE THE FAMILIARITY OF EACH PART; I KNOW THE REASONS BEHIND WHY EVERYTHING IS WHERE IT IS. THE HOUSE IS A LIVING, BREATHING ELEMENT OF MY DAILY LIFE.” – Mark Fisher***

“Traditional Scandinavian homes incorporate wood and organic finishes and utilize windows for natural lighting,” explains Timo. “This style of home works well in Southern Georgian Bay as they are very efficient and designed beautifully to handle harsh winter environments.”

Marjorie and Mark fell in love with the contemporary Scandinavian architecture and characteristics of Timo’s house. Also, working with Modern HBT allowed them to be involved from design through to completion.

“Having spent many hours designing the home and drawing every aspect of it, I love the familiarity of each part; I know the reasons behind why everything is where it is,” says Mark proudly. “The house is a living, breathing element of my daily life.”

With the desire to live near the water, Timo advised which locations would work with the specific architecture of the house the Fishers had in mind. They chose a spot situated by the Niagara Escarpment, with views of Georgian Peaks Club and within walking distance to



Georgian Bay. A structural engineer reviewed the roof plans to make sure heavy snowfalls wouldn’t be an issue.

The land was cleared in August 2019 and construction started the following October. After months working directly with Timo, choosing furnishings and fixtures during the pandemic and finessing the interior design, Marjorie and Mark moved into their home in December 2020.

The interior walls are painted **Lace** with decorating accents in caramel with walnut furnishings, creating a dramatic contrast to the Wrought-Iron coloured cedar siding on the exterior.

Cathedral ceilings made from Douglas fir and Ontario white cedar

are a defining feature of the open-concept main room comprising the family room, dining area and kitchen. During cooler months, the Regency Horizon HZ54 fireplace from **The Fyre Place & Patio Shop** is a high-efficiency source of heat and a stunning focal point for the living room, with reflective panels and black crystal increasing its visual impact.

Working with **Aeon Kitchens & Design**, Marjorie was able to customize her kitchen with walnut cabinetry and stunning **Cambria Annicca** white granite countertops. The cupboards and drawers have no handles or decorative panels, giving a contemporary streamlined look that also makes cleaning easier.

*Continued on page 76*





“We love how we were able to be our own designers and change any non-structural aspect of the home as we went,” adds Marjorie.

During construction, Marjorie asked Timo about creative ways to use the large wall space outside the guest bedroom on the ground floor. The result is a unique facility for guests, with counter space and cupboards for all the essentials to make a morning drink or late-night snack without having to go to the kitchen.

The home has five bedrooms, including a primary bedroom with en suite and one bedroom currently being used as an office. Each bedroom was designed with two big windows: one with a view of Georgian Peaks and another looking out towards Georgian Bay.

Each of the three bathrooms provides a contemporary spa-like atmosphere. Marjorie chose the marble patterned tiles and backsplash in the showers, inspired by colours of shale found at nearby Delphi Beach.

*Continued on page 78*



The door to the primary bedroom leads to a hallway with access to the closet and en suite. Walls painted Benjamin Moore Chantilly Lace provide the neutral background for a gallery of photos. The interior solid core doors are made from American poplar. **LEFT:** The black walnut slat accent wall in the primary bedroom serves as the headboard. **TOP LEFT:** A coffee station has snacks for early risers and late-night nibbles.



**ABOVE:** A trio of pendant lights hangs to one side of the soft grey vanity in one of the three bathrooms. **RIGHT:** The vanity doors in the primary en suite mimic the slat accent wall in the bedroom. Pendant lights with brass accents coordinate with the scallop-edged mirror. **BELOW:** For the showers, Marjorie chose tiles that reminded her of the colours in the shale at nearby Delphi Beach. Each of the showers has linear drains, rain shower heads and doorless entries.







The homeowners and the builder chose not to have a basement so the recreational room on the upper level provides an additional lounge and entertainment area complete with a bar and pool table.

In the heart of winter, the home remains warm and cosy. It is fully insulated with added spray foam between the beams and the roof and heated flooring on the ground floor radiates heat to the upper level.

One of the features the Fishers love most is the beautiful scenery they enjoy in every season – luscious green hills in the spring and summer, beautiful colours in the fall and, of course, the magical winter wonderland.

*Continued on page 80*

**LEFT:** This bedroom combines boho chic décor with natural elements and textures. European white oak flooring from Majestic North Floors Inc. are a perfect foil for the soft, muted accent colours in the room. **BELOW:** The main-floor guest bedroom is situated at one end of the home and has a view of the ski hills and the backyard firepit. A faux sheepskin on the bed is a reminder of the season.



**“THE HOME IS A PERFECT REFLECTION OF THE FISHERS THEMSELVES – BEAUTIFUL, NATURAL AND WARM.” – Timo Hotari**

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“The home is a perfect reflection of the Fishers themselves – beautiful, natural and warm,” says Timo. “It was an absolute pleasure and joy working with them.”  
“It is the house that Marge and I built for us and it is now our home with very distinct attributes that will evolve as our tastes dictate,” says Mark. **OH**

**LEFT:** Georgian Stair Company Inc. built the white oak, steel and glass stairs. The floating aspect of the design creates a sheltered seating area underneath. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** From the upper level, the stairwell window appears as a piece of art. The large chandelier illuminates this space at night. A narrow shelf at the landing displays succulents. **BOTTOM MIDDLE:** The Douglas fir roof beams draw the eye down the hallway on the upper level. There are three bedrooms and a laundry room on this level. **BELOW LEFT:** On snowy winter nights, the pool table on the upper level recreation room is a gathering spot for friends and family.

“Looking Up, Spectrum Landscape” by Maya Eventov

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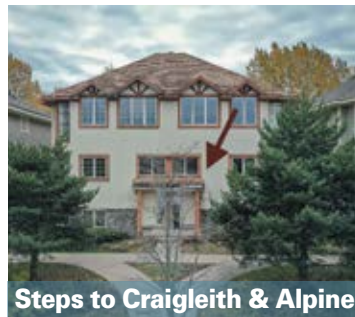
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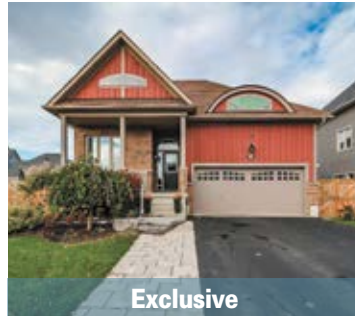
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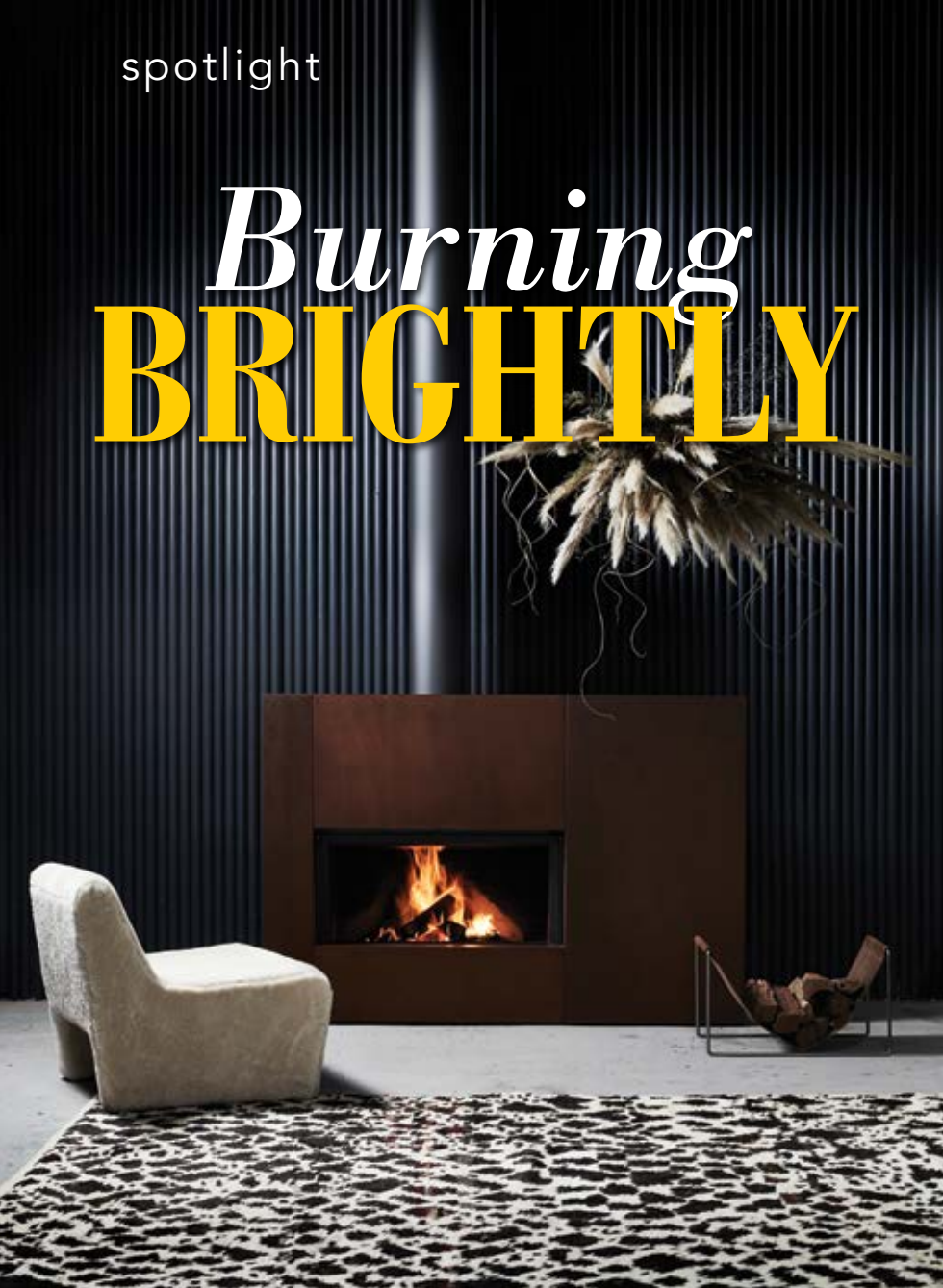
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# Burning BRIGHTLY



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Sam Walker and Mackenzie Kant

PHOTO: SARAH TACOMA

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Chantico offers detailed quotes for one fireplace or multiple fireplaces, eliminating the guesswork for homeowners. It's the first step in the overall experience and accountability that Chantico Fireplace Gallery is known for. **OH**



## WHAT'S NEW

Technology in the industry has progressed from basic gas or wood-burning fireplaces to include multi-sided gas showpieces in many sizes with design options that homeowners have yet to discover. Guillotine glass and screens for wood-burning fireplaces have advanced along with wood stoves that burn at optimum efficiency without manual dampers. Suspended fireplaces are also new and available in both gas and wood burning.



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SELLING? YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO  
**STAGE**  
YOUR HOME

When Allison Ross of Across Ottawa Home Staging started her business a decade ago, staging for resale was a hard sell.

STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH**  
ILLUSTRATIONS **SHEILA BRITTON**

“CLIENTS COULDN'T UNDERSTAND why they would possibly spend money when they were selling, not staying,” she says. “Now, everyone clearly sees the value in home staging and we have been busier than ever.”

It's no secret that most buyers want a move-in-ready home – a home that looks like reveal day after a major renovation on an HGTV show. Homebuyers are smart. They have a list of must-haves and if a seller hasn't bothered to clean, declutter and paint the walls the latest colour, they will move on to the next listing on realtor.ca.

Leasa Wright, staging course instructor at Sheridan College, agrees. “Buyers want to purchase a home turnkey and do as little work as possible to move in,” she says. “If they see a home that looks like it needs any type of work, all they see is money, effort and time spent getting the home the way they want it.”

There's more in it for sellers than just making their homes look good. Home staging also helps to increase the final sale price of a property and reduces the length of time on the market.

Nicole Schenk is the Ottawa chapter president of the Real Estate Staging Association (RESA). She says statistics prove staged homes sell faster and sell over asking price. “In a 2020 study completed by RESA, they found 85 per cent of homes staged sold between five and 23 per cent over list,” says Nicole. “On an average investment of one per cent, 75 per cent of sellers saw a return on investment of between five and 15 per cent over ask.”

Staging today is big business and Leasa has seen an increase in the number of people interested in learning the trade. “Student numbers have substantially increased over this past year,” she says. “The market for buying and selling has been booming and home staging plays a big part of that. There is a much higher emphasis on design and function of space trending in the home market. The fact remains, only a small percentage of us can envision the potential of a home, leaving most unable to imagine what a home could look like if it was cleaned and decluttered.”

The pandemic has changed the way buyers look at homes for sale. Buyers cruise the internet looking for homes that tick all their boxes. First impressions matter and if a home isn't beautiful inside and out, it's not worth an on-site visit.

“COVID has affected the market in unprecedented ways,” says Nicole. “While it has been a sellers' market with homes selling just as soon as they hit the market, staging has had a remarkable effect on the price. Earlier this year a home I staged sold for \$130,000 more than a comparable unstaged listing. Both homes were in the same area, with similar features and same asking price.”

*So what exactly does a stager do? Leasa teaches six essential principles of home staging:*

- **Depersonalize so people can envision themselves in the space**
- **Highlight the home's features and architectural details**
- **Enhance curb appeal to get people in the door**
- **Complete home improvements and repairs, update fixtures**
- **Declutter to create space**
- **Neutralize colour palettes and generalize décor to appeal to more viewers**

“We cover so much in our curriculum from what an ideal floor plan would look like, to what colour palettes work best, how to partner with a trusted team (including trades and real estate agents) and how to budget and build your staging inventory from the ground up,” Leasa explains. **oh**



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## WOVEN HANDMADE

We are a small business based in Collingwood, focused on bringing Canadian-made one-of-a-kind items to your home. I make all of the cotton baskets while curating the rest of the shop with quality goods for thoughtfully-designed spaces.



PHOTOS: SARAH TACOMA

### BUSINESS MILESTONE

Last summer, the baskets were featured in the Summer 2020 issue of the LCBO Food & Drink magazine. It was an incredible experience for a small business and one that made Woven Handmade's year. I have also been able to build my dream studio overlooking my flower and vegetable garden this past fall. It is a little oasis that's perfect for inspiration and creativity.



Amy  
Billingham

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### BASKETS

Cotton baskets can be used for all sorts of things, from housing small items like keys, sunglasses, bread and fruit to larger items like throw blankets, towels, toys and even plants! There is a wide range of sizes available and custom orders can be requested.

Continued on page 90



**Sean Landreth & P.J. Slade with Tilly**



PHOTO: SARAH TACOMA

## PROPERTY VALET

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PHOTO: CHRIS GARDINER

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We offer a broad and robust approach to booking management, including price optimization software integrated with our channel management system, with over 16 channels worldwide. Our guest experience team ensures a positive, responsive and engaged lead-up to the travel and stay for our renters. Our in-house cleaning, maintenance and tradespeople ensure our spaces are attractive, well maintained and clean. We are extremely grateful to have such awesome team members and we look forward to helping renters and clients in 2022.



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## A. SLADE ARCHITECTS, INC.

A. Slade Architects, Inc. is a local Collingwood architecture firm that focuses on delivering concept-inspired homes that reflect your ideas and values, and look good too! We provide all-inclusive start-to-finish design services from planning and site analysis, detailed design and permit drawings, construction review and much more. There is a lot to consider when designing your dream home, cottage or chalet. It is our passion to communicate this process to you and bring your ideas to life in the most sustainable and effective way.



Andrew  
Slade

PHOTO: SARAH TACOMA

### COMMUNICATIONS

Our process always opens with a conversation. The simple act of listening and understanding your needs is essential to the success of every project. From here, the fun begins as we communicate your ideas in the clearest manner through sketching, 3D modelling, providing virtual walk-throughs and whatever else you need to visualize your project before construction begins.

### COLLABORATIONS

We work with many skilled custom homebuilders, trades and professionals in the area to bring you a diverse and comprehensive design experience. It is our philosophy that welcoming this collaboration early in the process allows for a smooth transition into (and throughout) the construction phase while bringing you the highest quality of custom home in the most practical way.



PHOTO: ANDREW SLADE

### CREATE

Connections with nature, our surrounding communities and most importantly, our lasting relationships with you.

Continued on page 94



PHOTO: DEREK TRASK



PHOTO: DEREK TRASK



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## PROJECT SIZE

We are comfortable working on projects that range from small enhancements to larger projects that take months to implement. Large projects can encompass an entire property and totally change how an outdoor space is used and functions. This ranges from creating garden beds to large pool areas with structures designed for your needs.



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY



Matt VanAndel

PHOTO: RACHEL ST. LOUIS

## PLANNING TIMEFRAME

Planning for a successful project can take several weeks. From concept to a complete design plan and including time to organize the project properly are important steps that shouldn't be rushed. A properly planned project will be a success for all parties involved – most importantly, the homeowner!

Continued on page 96



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY



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## PASSION DRIVEN

In the shop, all that we create, curate and sell is inspired by what we love most. It reflects how we design our own personal space and how we live our lives, so the fact that so many of our community members see value in that, connect to it and support it in the way they do is amazing and something we are immensely grateful for.



**Kasia & Adrian Azcurra**



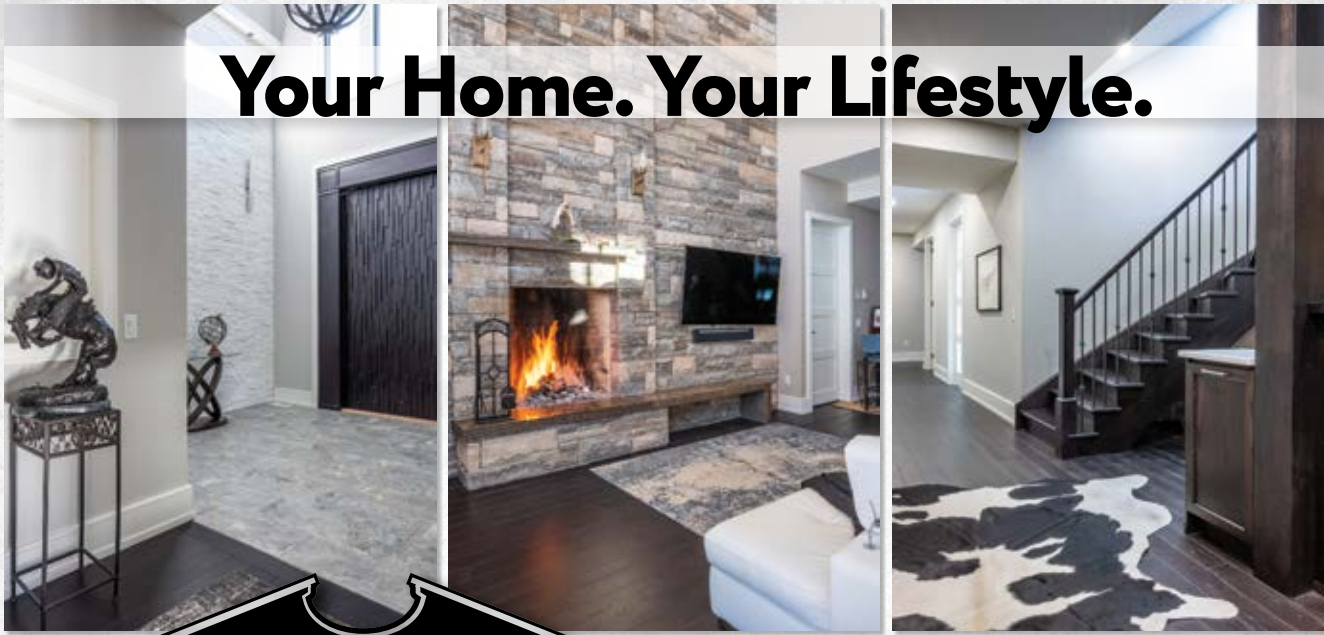
PHOTOS: WHITE HILL HOME

## PERSONAL CONNECTION

Opening the shop has offered the opportunity and privilege to connect with clients on a personal level by assisting them with the interior styling of their homes. Interior styling assistance is an area of focus for the future.

Continued on page 98

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Jayne’s offers a suite of concierge services, such as private chefs, massage therapy and hot tub rentals, which can be booked during a stay.



PHOTOS: WALTER FRANCZYK



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Continued on page 100



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crafty ideas



# Sweater BLANKET

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**

Does your family have a stack of old sweaters no one wears? Upcycle those sweaters into a cosy blanket.



## TOOLS & MATERIALS

(Makes a 40 by 70-inch blanket)

6-8 sweaters  
(amount depends on sweater sizes)

Soft backing fabric at least 42 by 72-inches  
(fleece, minky or chenille)

10 ½ by 10 ½-inch and 5 ½ by 5 ½-inch pieces of card stock or cardboard for cutting templates

Sewing machine

Fabric scissors

Polyester sew-all thread

Sewing pins

Sewing clips (optional but helpful)

Yarn (optional for decorative edging)

Yarn needle (optional for decorative edging)

## HOW-TO

Wash and dry sweaters and backing fabric so your finished blanket won't shrink.

We're making a 40 by 70-inch blanket, made of four 10-inch squares (wide) by seven 10-inch squares (long) – a total of 28 10-inch squares for your blanket. Smaller five-inch squares are sewn together in sets of four to create larger 10-inch squares. You can adjust your blanket to any size you like depending on the number of squares you're able to cut from sweaters, as well as the width of the backing fabric you have available. Our templates are ½-inch larger than the final 10-inch and five-inch sewn squares to accommodate for a ¼-inch seam allowance.



Cut along sweater seams to separate pieces, then flatten to make cutting small squares easier. Place your templates on a sweater piece and begin cutting squares until you have enough to fill the entire blanket. You can cut squares that include loose waistbands, but remove and avoid fitted, tight waistbands. You can cut smaller squares from sleeves once they've been cut open and laid flat.

When you have enough large and small squares combined to make up 28 10-inch squares, lay them out on the floor until you have a design you like. Take a picture of your final design to use as a reference when sewing. *Continued on page 106*



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crafty ideas



Number some paper squares 1 through 7. Begin stacking your cut sweater squares for each row on top of each other from left to right and top with the corresponding row number. Then stack the rows together, with row 7 on the bottom and transfer the stack to your sewing table.

Beginning with row one, start sewing smaller squares together to create larger squares and place them back in the correct order (this is where your reference photo comes in very handy!) Then, place the first two larger squares together, right sides facing in, pin (or clip) and sew along the inside edge. Continue sewing together the remaining squares until the row is complete. Repeat this process until all squares are sewn together into 7 separate rows of four 10-inch squares each.



Once all rows are complete, begin pinning and sewing the rows together with right sides facing in, starting with rows one and two. When all rows are sewn together you will have a complete top layer for your blanket. Helpful hint: When pinning (or clipping) the rows together, start by matching the seams and then pin along the rest, stretching and scrunching a little as needed. Knit sweaters vary in thickness and elasticity, so don't worry if things don't line up perfectly.



Lay your backing fabric on the floor right side facing up. Lay your completed sweater layer face down on top of the backing fabric. You'll want to pin together the layers in a few places around the blanket to hold things in place while trimming your backing fabric to match your top layer. Begin cutting your backing fabric along the edge of your top layer and pin (or clip) along the edges as you go.



Begin sewing the two layers together along the edge of the blanket, leaving a little less than a full square open. Using the opening, turn your blanket right side out.



To finish your blanket you have two choices: You can top-stitch around the entire blanket with your sewing machine, about 1/4 to 3/8 inch in from the edge, closing the opening as you go. Or, (if you have some hours to kill while binge-watching a TV series) you can choose to do a decorative blanket stitch by hand with some yarn and yarn needle. The blanket stitch option is very time consuming but creates a very nice decorative edge on your blanket. There are many blanket stitch tutorial videos online if you've never done this stitch before.



Et voila! You're ready to snuggle up with your new blanket and a good book. **OH**



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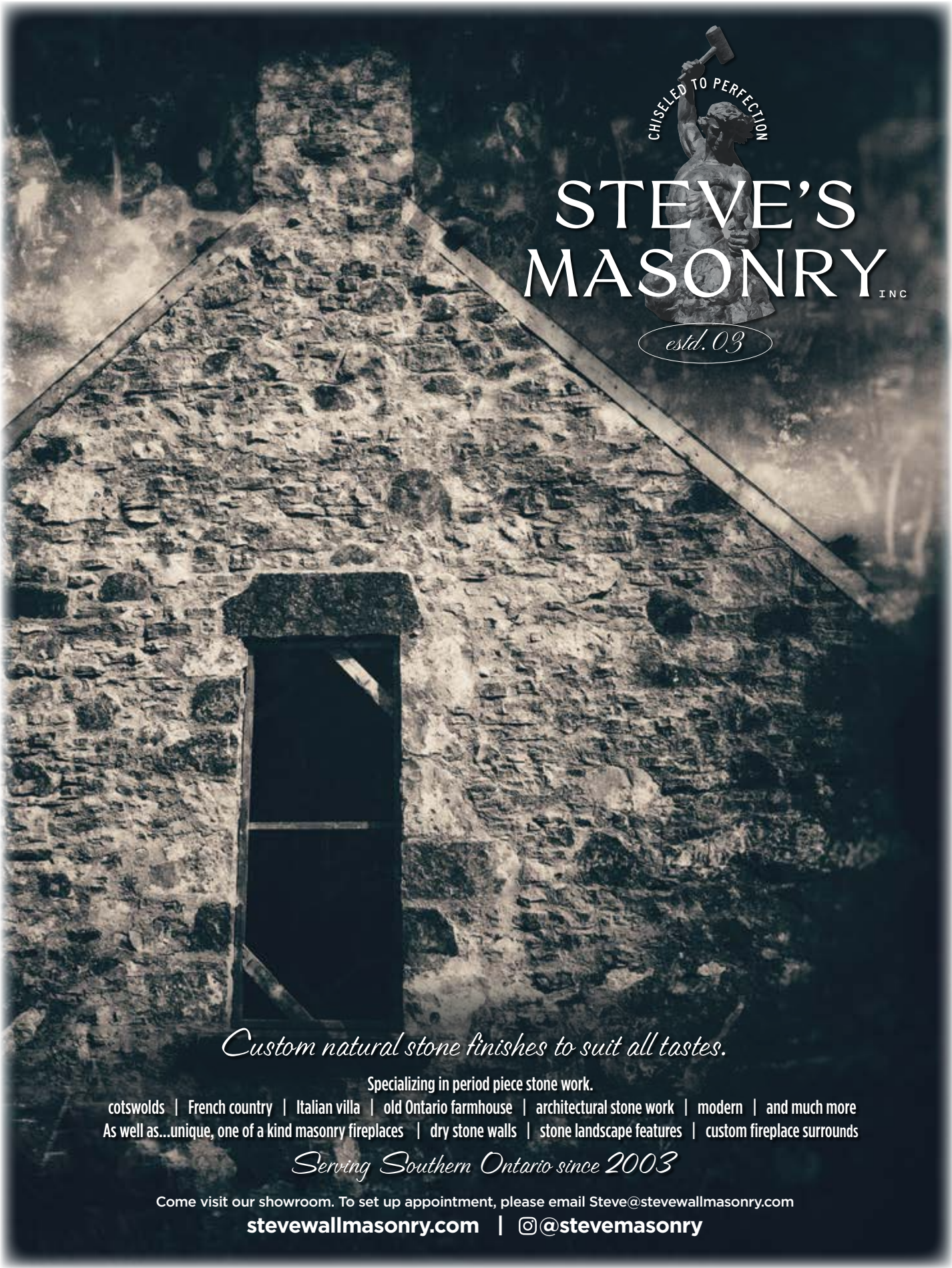
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Colin Grant, project manager and partner at Porter Skelton & Associates Ltd., stands on the steps of the north facing deck. The stonework on the home is reminiscent of barn foundations in the area. **LEFT:** The 2,100 sq. ft. home's position blends with the landscape, offering efficiency and addressing environmental concerns. **BELOW LEFT:** On the south side of the home, the double bank of triple-pane windows takes advantage of the passive solar heat. Black, steel, ridge-roofing was used on the home's two wings and cedar shakes were installed on the stone portion. **BELOW RIGHT:** Homeowner Jim Phillips built the door to the outbuilding, using reclaimed wood. The iron hinges and hardware add integrity and age.

# Ode to the LAND

STORY **RICK SHURMAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

***JIM AND SHERYL PHILLIPS MAINTAINED ONE UNWAVERING OBJECTIVE FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR CHARMING NEW HOME ON THE ESCARPMENT NEAR RAVENNA – TO LIMIT ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.***

*Continued on page 113*







The kitchen island is topped with polished Eramosa stone and supports that mimic the timberframe structure in this part of the home. A prep sink in the island is a thoughtful addition. The perimeter counters are stainless steel, with a subway tile backsplash. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Sheryl chose to add larger windows, so the view to the north can be enjoyed while preparing meals. Lepage Millwork windows were sourced from DeCola Windows & Doors Inc. Open lower shelves display favourite cookbooks. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A warming glass of scotch ends a day of snowshoeing on the land. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Open-faced smoked-salmon sandwiches with pickled red onions and capers sit on a live-edge charcuterie board.

We aren't saying our home is green," says Jim. "That would be greenwashing. It is about giving the environment its due by way of responsible approaches." Jim and Sheryl were determined to lower greenhouse gas emissions through a host of considerations, ranging from material selection and end-of-life examination to energy efficiency, the size and orientation of the building and choosing locally-sourced goods whenever feasible. "They were never just paying lip service to the notion of being environmentally concerned," says **Chris Skelton**, head designer and partner at builder **Porter Skelton & Associates Ltd.** "They walk the walk," he says. "The Phillips put into action the kind of choices that really do make a difference."

"The first step was to have energy modelling executed to optimize the efficiency of the home," explains **Colin Grant**, project manager and also a partner with Porter Skelton. The analysis showed they could avoid having to install air conditioning and it pre-determined the effectiveness of the proposed radiant heating system for the cold season. To take advantage of passive solar heat, the 2,100 sq. ft. house faces south with large picture windows to maximize the sun's effect. "Chris highly recommended this positioning rather than being concerned with curb appeal," adds Jim. "Our natural inclination was to offer a more aesthetically desirable front, facing the road and the valley. We are very grateful for Porter Skelton's advice, as the result has delivered obvious benefits." *Continued on page 114*







“I really love that the house faces south,” says Colin. “As you approach it from the north it blends so comfortably into the landscape. They positioned it for efficiency and environmental concerns, but the home also delivers a wonderful aesthetic.”

“Colin, Chris and the whole crew were so amazing,” says Sheryl. “They were knowledgeable, patient, organized and open to all the alternative approaches.”

Blown cellulose was the chosen insulation throughout the home, as well as recycled blue-jean batts in certain areas. Eco-board, made from 100 per cent recycled wood fibres, was installed as the continuous outside insulating layer. A hydronic in-floor heating system, based on an electric boiler, was chosen as opposed to propane or natural gas. The main-floor surface is a polished, dyed concrete made with higher slag content for decreased CO2 that would otherwise be released in conventional concrete production. *Continued on page 116*



The two-sided stone fireplace contains rock brought by Jim from the couple's property in Arthur. Jim felt it added “some old soul to the new house.” The polished, dyed concrete floor is made with a higher slag content to decrease the release of carbon dioxide. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** A corner pew is conveniently located in the front entry. Natural pine shiplap lines the walls. The mechanical room, which doubles as a mudroom, is located opposite the front door. **TOP RIGHT & BOTTOM:** The nifty charging station has a counter with plugs and drawers for cords. The built-in banquette seating in the dining area of the kitchen surrounds a reclaimed wood-and-metal dining table. The hydronic in-floor heating system is operated by an electric boiler fully run by solar panels on the outbuilding's roof.





**ABOVE:** The sunroom faces south and east over the property's river valley. The stacking window system can be opened during warm weather and fully or partially closed during cooler or inclement weather, extending the use of the room. **LEFT:** A Stressless lounge has the perfect spot by the fireplace with a view of the southern meadow. A luxurious sheepskin adds another layer of comfort. **BELOW:** The white pine interior structure frames the sofa in the living room. Windows are hung lower so the view can be enjoyed when seated. **OPPOSITE:** The steel wire of the stair railing adds an industrial element to the traditional style of the home. The open wood stair treads let light and warmth travel into the room.

The windows throughout the structure are triple pane to improve energy effectiveness and are framed with wood and aluminum, both highly recyclable. Even the two-by-fours and two-by-sixes used for framing are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified. Countertops in the bathrooms, upper-level flooring, windowsills and cladding on the kitchen island are made from reclaimed wood. The list of thoughtful choices extends to every facet of the build. “Jim made a point of setting up crates

for recycling,” adds Colin. “He ended up reducing the number of dumpsters we required by 75 per cent and the waste to landfill by 60 per cent. The Phillips knew what they wanted from an ecological perspective and we were there to basically navigate.” One of the most significant points is that Jim and Sheryl did the research and knew what they didn't want. Both the Phillips and the entire Porter Skelton crew made the effort to exercise the correct decisions from beginning to end.

*Continued on page 118*





“We’ve planned a vegetable garden adjacent to the house and we are also planting native grasses and wildflowers along with thousands of seedlings to regenerate the natural landscape around the property,” Sheryl says. The aim is to create an open meadow effect so that birds like Bobolinks, an endangered species, might return and butterflies and bees might find their way to safe harbour. Jim built a small wooden platform on the side of the outbuilding for barn swallows to nest – another small, but not incidental consideration. *Continued on page 120*



**TOP LEFT:** The upper hallway has a view through the windows on the south facing wall. The stone around the fireplace chimney adds visual interest. **LEFT:** In the primary en suite, a wet room contains the toilet and shower. Tile planks line the walls and tumbled square tiles add traction on the curbless floor. The double vanity has a bank of drawers for additional storage. The window has a view of the river valley. **ABOVE:** A guest bedroom on the upper level has flannel bedding and a faux sheepskin comforter. The sheepskin on the floor is a warm spot for bare feet to land on cold winter mornings.

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Of course, it is not all about conservation and sustainability. This is a home as comfortable and pleasing to the eye as it is functional and responsible. Jim's list also included ensuring that when the primary bedroom windows are open, you can hear the murmur of the creek in the valley below. Sheryl made an inspiring choice by putting larger windows in the kitchen to appreciate the panoramic view to the north while preparing meals and enjoying the gathering place that the kitchen naturally becomes.

Jim took some field stones from an old barn foundation on their farm in Arthur to add to their fireplace surround. "The barn would have been from the late 1800s," says Jim. "Just trying to add some old soul to the new house."

The design of this house is alluring and sympathetic to the rural context of the neighborhood. There is no pretention with this lovely home. It is exactly what it was intended to be – thoughtfully planned, honestly designed and genuinely built. **OH**

**LEFT:** In the primary bedroom, simplicity and minimalist styling offer a pleasing aesthetic geared to a good night's sleep.

**BELOW LEFT:** Sliding doors in the primary bedroom open to a private deck that leads to walking trails. In warmer months, the open windows and door offer a cross breeze and the sound of running water from the creek in the valley.

**BELOW MIDDLE:** The hallway to the primary bedroom also leads to a home office, powder room and laundry room.

**BELOW RIGHT:** The fireplace chimney is reflected in the mirror in the upper-level bathroom. Encaustic tile on the floor is carried into the shower stall with timber trusses overhead.



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birding

# THE Winter Wonderland OF BIRDING

STORY **LYNNE RICHARDSON** | PHOTOGRAPHY **NIGEL EVES**

Looking for something to do on a cold winter day? Go birding! Wait, what? Birding in winter? Will you see anything interesting? Well, yes! You'll be surprised by what is out there in our seemingly barren backyards and snow-covered countrysides.



Blue jays

Cardinal

## Feeder watch

Once winter sets in with a vengeance, you may not necessarily want to venture out. No problem! From the comfort of home, we can do a good bit of birding through our windows. Watching birds at your feeder is a great way to brighten a dreary winter's day. Set up a feeding station in your yard, fill it with quality seed (black-oil sunflower seed, peanuts, nyjer or suet) and cosy up by the window.

## Top ten

So, what will you see? Project FeederWatch – a citizen science project that records birds at feeders throughout the winter – has the answer. That friendly little ball of feathered fluff, the chickadee, is the number-one bird, followed by downy and hairy woodpeckers,

the always gorgeous cardinal, the upside-down nuthatch, the dopey mourning dove, the bossy blue jay, the jaunty junco, and last but not least, the goldfinch, somewhat incognito without its summer golden cloak. Once you've identified these species, your winter bird list is off to a good start.

Getting to know these common, top-10 visitors will also make it easier for you to recognize a new species should one appear at your feeders. That's when it gets exciting. What could it be? Get that field guide off your shelf and crack it open. Flip through, discovering the possibilities and narrow it down by the distinctive identification points – size, shape, colour and markings. Give it your best shot!

## Expect the unexpected

Knowing what unexpected birds to expect, or at least hope for, in the dead of winter also helps. Some years we are treated to an invasion of what ornithologists refer to as winter finches. When the pine and spruce cone crops are low in the north, this family of boreal-forest birds comes south to central and southern Ontario in search of food. They travel in gangs and descend upon our feeders with much enthusiasm. Last year was an irruption year (a sudden surge of birds), and often there is a rebound irruption year of visits, so keep your eyes to the skies and on your feeders for big, beautiful evening and pine grosbeaks, frosty redpolls, squabbling pine siskins, and maybe even colourful, parrot-like red-winged and white-winged crossbills.

## Winter wonderland

There will be days in the midst of winter when the sun is sparkling on the snowbound land, the air is crisp and clear, and you'll feel the call of the great outdoors. Such a day is perfect for a drive, on the lookout for open-country winter birds. If you're lucky you may come across snow buntings flying across fields flashing their white feathers, sprinkling the sky like snowflakes.

You might also notice the bouncing flight pattern of a bunch of beautiful bohemian waxwings flying across the landscape or in your neighbourhood, searching for berry-bearing trees. Living up to their name, they are true nomads and never stay long in one place, so consider yourself lucky if you catch a flock in action.

Or your winter drive may be rewarded with a sighting of one of the big arctic raptors. The rough-legged hawk occasionally comes south in search of small rodents when their arctic supply dwindles. Look for this big bird perched on a branch of a leafless tree out in the open or hovering like a giant hummingbird, surveying the snow for mice.

This same tundra-like habitat just might yield that most coveted of arctic visitors – the snowy owl. A sighting of this bird alone makes the outing worthwhile.

As always, relish the discovery of each new bird, keep your distance and take photos without disturbing their never-ending fight for survival in the depths of winter. **OH**

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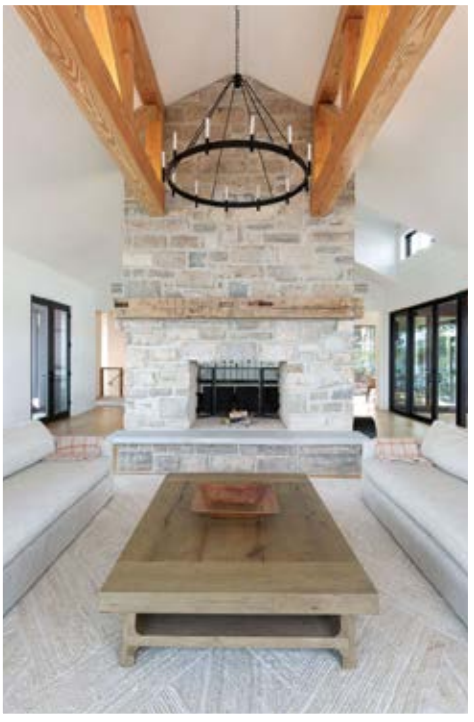
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gardening



# INVASION PREPARATION

STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

Formerly known as the culturally offensive European gypsy moth, the *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD) moth caterpillars devastated forests, backyard trees and even outdoor enjoyment for many this past year. So many times, at a client's outdoor space, we'd be picking fallen caterpillars off each other with caterpillar feces raining down on us from the tree canopy above. Some people even avoided their outdoor spaces completely for fear of an encounter! Next summer may shape up to be another heavy LDD caterpillar year. Read on for facts, history and support.

## WHAT ARE LDD MOTHS?

LDD moths are an invasive species from Europe and Asia introduced to the U.S. near Boston in the 1860s and reaching southern Canada by 1969. Outbreaks hit every decade or so, lasting one to three years. Our current record-breaking eruption began in 2019.

LDD moths need specific weather conditions to thrive and this makes sense considering our present outbreak. They cannot survive below -20 degrees Celsius for long, and they're susceptible to certain fungal infections during wet weather. In recent years we've had warmer winters

followed by dry springs, creating the ideal natural conditions for them to flourish – and flourish they have! The continuing warmer temperature trends are favourable for future LDD moth populations.

Most other moth and butterfly caterpillar species are picky eaters and can only use one or two plants as hosts for their larva, but not LDD moth caterpillars. They have voracious appetites and can eat a wide variety of tree leaves including oak, maple, birch, poplar, willow and more.

## WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

LDD caterpillars are hairy, about six centimetres long with five pairs of blue dots and six pairs of red dots on their backs. The adult male moths are brown and fly around erratically in summer, whereas the females are larger, white and flightless. Their light-brown egg masses resemble the skin of a tennis ball and can be found on tree trunks, under branches and in tree crevices.



## WILL MY TREES DIE?

Many people think that once a tree has been defoliated it's dead. Luckily this isn't true. Trees often have latent buds as a defence mechanism, allowing them to regrow their leaves. But it does take a lot of energy to do this and some trees, like oaks, take longer to regenerate, leaving them weak and more susceptible to pathogens. Add the extra stresses of drought and being defoliated by LDD caterpillars in successive years and this will be too much for some trees to handle. Unfortunately we will see more tree death in upcoming years as a result of this epidemic.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Some municipalities are spraying *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) to control LDD outbreaks, target-spraying "high-value" trees, but many others are just letting nature take its course. Btk has the potential to kill many of our beneficial native caterpillars, so it's not a responsible long-term option. Unfortunately, LDD moths and caterpillars are likely here to stay.

Here's what you can do to mitigate their damage at home.

In fall, inspect all your trees and vertical surfaces around your home as best you can for their light-brown egg masses. Remove them with a paint scraper or butter knife and put them into a bucket of soapy water. This last step must be done or the eggs will still hatch into caterpillars.

In spring, tie a band of burlap at chest height around your trees so that it folds over in half. The LDD caterpillars will be present until the middle of July and they often hide in the shade of the burlap fold. Check the burlap daily and dump any found LDD caterpillars into a bucket of soapy water. They can also be squished, but it's pretty ghastly and the soapy water solution often ensures a quicker, more sanitary and more guaranteed death.

Some birds and other wildlife will eat LDD caterpillars and moths, but not enough to make much of a dent in their population.

Native species balance overpopulation together – if one is doing particularly well, its predators will also do well taking care of the issue. This is why invasive species are so problematic! **OH**

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# WINDOW DRESSING

## THE PLACE

Karen James started working for her aunt Catherine Dalrymple – founder of **Ashtons Blinds Draperies Shutters** – 21 years ago with the understanding that she would be taught every aspect and nuance of this local business. After three years, Karen and her husband Mark purchased the business. Through the years, under Karen's guidance and attention to detail, the business has earned a reputation for perfection, variety, personal service and satisfaction.

*“Our primary goal is to take care of our customers by melding form and function to provide beautiful window coverings for every home. Customer service is key.”*



PHOTO: SARAH TACOMA

PHOTO: STEVE INFANTI

## SEAMLESS SERVICE

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## SAFETY

As of May 1, 2022, the Canadian government has mandated that all new blinds have no exposed cords. This will lead to an industry-wide change in how blinds are manufactured, installed and operated. The team at Ashtons is working with their manufacturers to offer clients safe, functional products that look beautiful. Ashtons carries products that already meet the new requirements.



PHOTOS: SARAH TACOMA

## MOTORIZATION

In order to enjoy the beautiful views of Southern Georgian Bay, homeowners are adding larger windows to their building projects. This, along with the ease and convenience of automation, has resulted in the growth of motorized window coverings. Ashtons will assist with finding the right option and work with builders in a new home or renovation to plan for the correct wiring. Motorized blinds can also be powered by batteries if wiring is not an available option. Motorization allows automatic operation, programming and mobile control. **OH**

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Chef Jordy and Chef Brita met at a Yorkville restaurant in Toronto, and thought Collingwood would be the perfect fit for settling down and showcasing their food talents.

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## VAN ALLAN DESIGN CENTRE

If describing two years of pandemic life by colour, it would probably be grey – a safe neutral. Now emerging are bright, energetic colours – lime green, neon yellow, candy floss pink, grape, repeating what happened after the great recession of 2008. While a hot pink sofa is not for everyone, anyone can toss in a few bright and lively cushions, perhaps with a piece of artwork that tickles the eyeballs.

One trending colour palette easily adopted are earth tones: rich greens, russet, browns and blues. Camel is the new grey – going with every other colour and giving warmth. Benjamin Moore's colour of the year is October Mist – a gently shaded sage green.

Our front desk and office were recently renovated with the surfaces topped in Cambria's gorgeous Sutherland quartz. Faced in tambour, a flexible grooved wooden decorative surfacing material and locally handcrafted, it was sprayed with Benjamin Moore's Mysterious, a dark grey navy. Do stop in and have a look.

Like so many other businesses, supply chains have been challenging. Luckily the majority of our product is from Canadian companies, many within 200 km.

We are looking forward to spring, attending actual trade shows and another small thing – every day from now until summer solstice has two more minutes of daylight!

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*Continued on page 132*





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The passing of time has brought gains to real estate, but it has also brought new customers. Now more than ever people are changing the ways they work and invest. Both home and investments are now matching lifestyles and ethics like never before. There is a great sense of independence with the modern real estate buyer/seller, and because of this a real opportunity for client and agent to learn from one another.

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Located in the heart of downtown Meaford, Ontario at 90 Sykes Street North, **Maggie + Dix** is destination shopping if you are in the Georgian Bay area.

Maggie + Dix launched their online shop March of 2020 and their quaint bricks and mortar store opened its doors in the Spring of 2021.

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Continued on page 138

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projects



TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- 13-½ by 13-½-inch piece of ¾-inch thick wood
- 24 wood 1-⅞-inch checker pieces (ours are from Lee Valley)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- 1.41-inch painter's tape
- Paintbrushes
- Paint in three different shades (we've chosen Country Chic chalk-based paint in Crinoline, Lazy Linen and Pebble Beach)
- Chalk paint wax (we've used Annie Sloan)
- Drill
- 2 cabinet door handles with hardware

HOW-TO

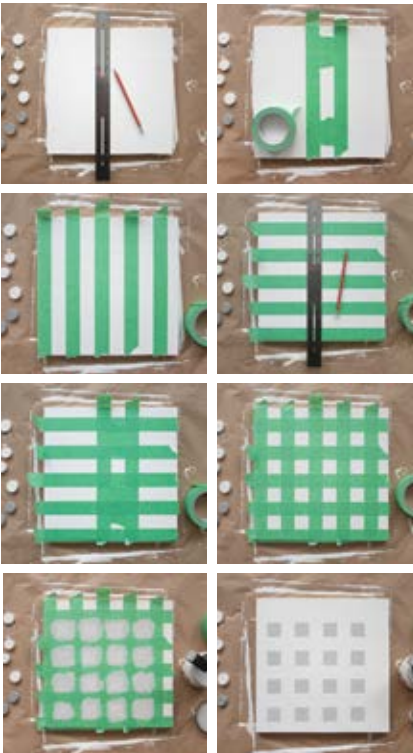
Paint a 13-½ by 13-½-inch piece of wood with your lightest colour and let dry.

Paint half of the checker pieces in your lightest colour and the other half in your darkest colour and let dry. Tip: Paint the top first and let dry, then the bottom and let dry before finishing around the sides.

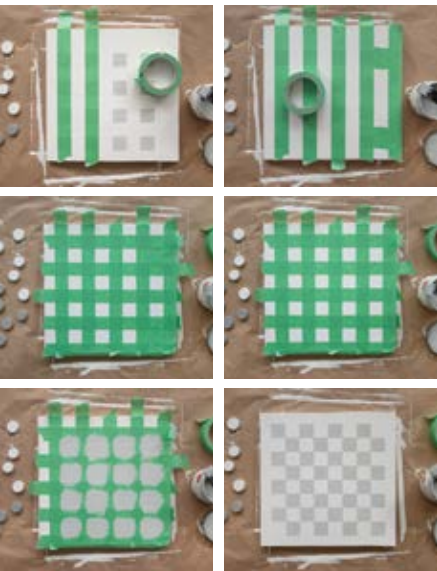


Measure and find the centre of the wood board and draw a light line using a ruler and pencil. Run a strip of painter's tape along the right edge of the pencil line. Using two small pieces of painter's tape as spacers, run another strip of tape parallel to the first strip. Repeat one more time on the right side of the board and then two more times on the left side of the board until you have five parallel strips of tape on the board. Remove spacers. Rotate the board counterclockwise and repeat with five more strips of tape. Remove spacers. Now you have a grid.

Using your medium shade of paint, paint inside the squares you've created. Allow to dry and paint a second coat before removing the tape. Allow to dry completely before moving along to the next step.



Cover your painted squares with more strips of painter's tape, turn the board and repeat until you have another grid pattern with five strips of tape running in both directions. Using your medium shade of paint again, paint two coats inside your taped squares. Remove tape and allow to dry completely. Tip: Chalk-based paint works well for this project because it dries fast and allows you to move along with the taping process quickly.



To create a thin border around your game area, run a strip of tape down the right and left sides of the board, measure ⅛ inch from there and run a parallel strip of tape on each side. Put a small piece of tape at the top and bottom of the parallel strips of tape to ensure the painted lines will not exceed the play area. Paint inside the taped areas with your darkest colour and allow to dry. Remove the tape, turn the board and repeat with the remaining two sides.



Once your board and checker pieces are completely dry, you can coat with chalk paint wax.

Attach your handles along the side, making sure to countersink the screws on the underside so that the board sits flat.

Now you're ready to play! **OH**



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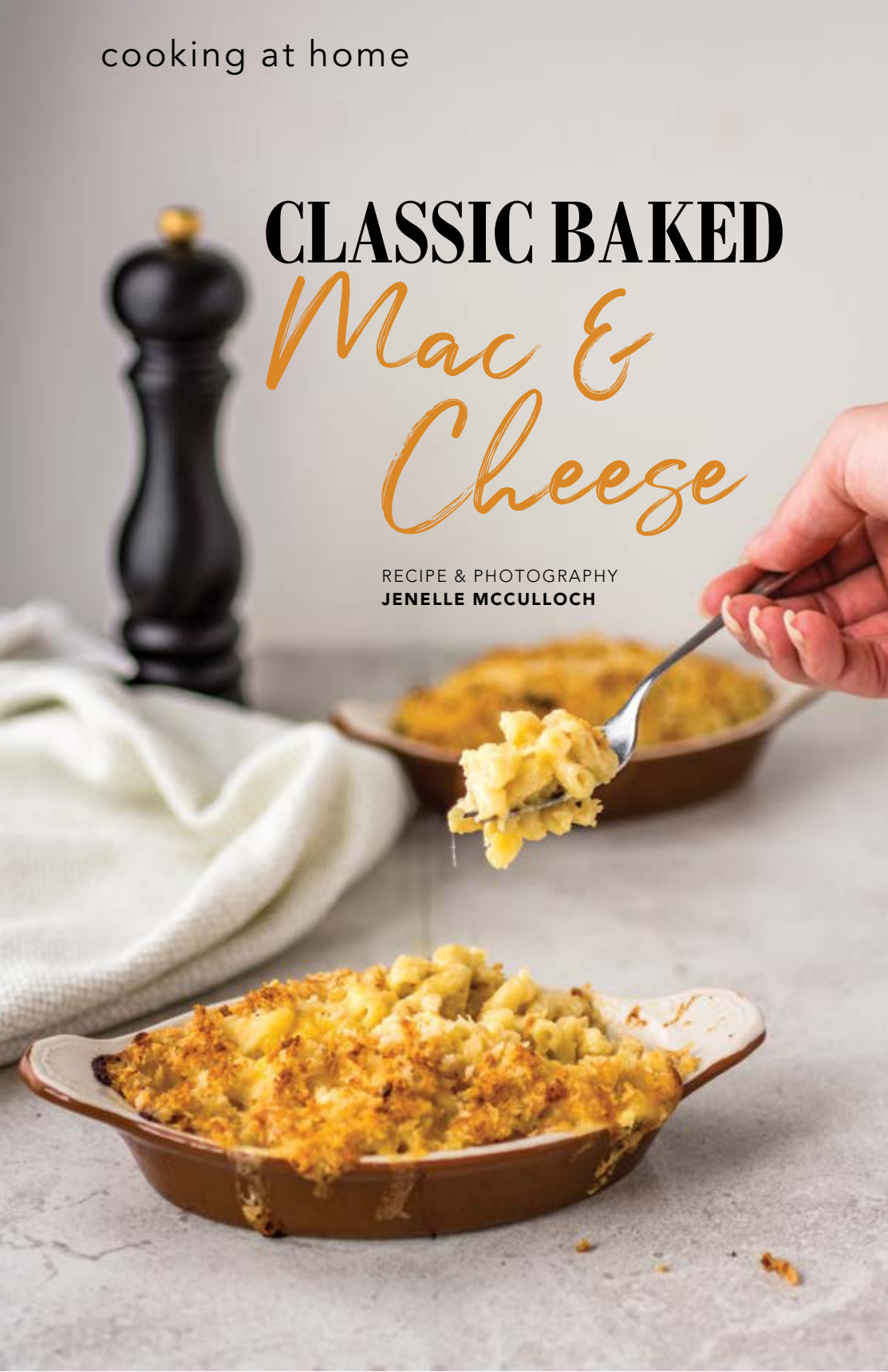


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# CLASSIC BAKED *Mac & Cheese*

RECIPE & PHOTOGRAPHY  
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

## Ingredients

- MACARONI**  
454 g elbow macaroni noodles  
3 Tbsp butter  
¼ cup all-purpose flour  
2 cups milk  
1 cup heavy cream  
2 cups shredded cheese  
(a mix of cheddar and Gruyère is recommended)  
Salt and pepper, to taste

- PANKO TOPPING**  
1 cup panko breadcrumbs  
2 Tbsp melted butter  
¼ cup parmesan cheese,  
finely shredded

## Directions

- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- In a large pot of boiling water, cook macaroni noodles according to package directions.
- In a medium-size pot over medium-high heat, melt butter, then whisk in flour. Cook for 1 minute, whisking constantly.
- Slowly add milk and cream while continuing to whisk. You'll want to add the liquid gradually so it doesn't begin to clump. Continue to whisk until mixture begins to thicken.
- Remove from heat and add shredded cheese. Stir until cheese is melted.
- Prepare the panko crumble topping by mixing all ingredients together.
- In a 9 by 11-inch oven-safe dish (or several smaller dishes), combine the sauce with the noodles.
- Cover with panko crumble and bake for 15-20 minutes until golden and bubbly. **OH**

This is a true classic recipe you can take to your next potluck. Prepare it ahead of time, freeze and bake when needed.

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## HOME

## Improvement

STORY **NICOLE EGAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

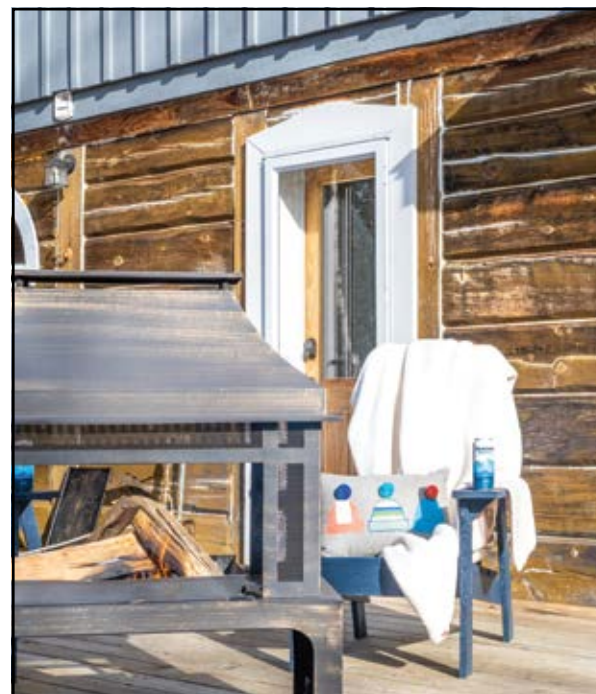


PHOTO: NATALIE KIRBY

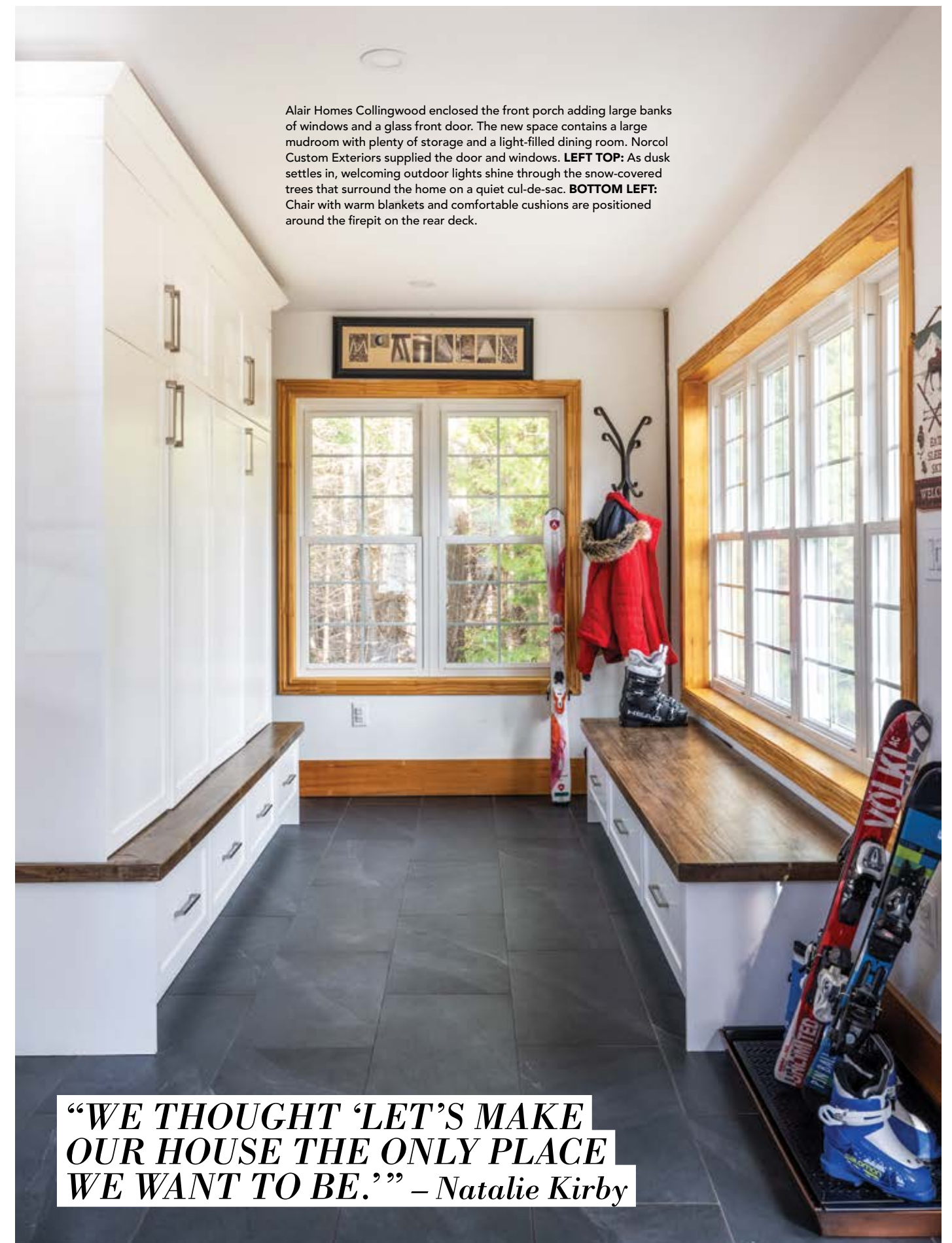
Natalie Kirby and Ben McMillan both moved to Collingwood in 2010, meeting online three years later. “Our first date was at Beaver and Bulldog,” Natalie says. “You might call it love at first sight. We bought this house together five months later, were engaged after seven months and married the next year.”

Their private, unique and rustic property is located at the end of a street off Beachwood Drive not far from the ski hills they adore. “We loved its rural feel while being close to town,” Natalie says.

Natalie and Ben welcomed two sons, Kirby, 5, and Henry, 3, to their family while creating a home to suit their needs and lifestyle. They recently completed their second major renovation. *Continued on page 146*



Alair Homes Collingwood enclosed the front porch adding large banks of windows and a glass front door. The new space contains a large mudroom with plenty of storage and a light-filled dining room. Norcol Custom Exteriors supplied the door and windows. **LEFT TOP:** As dusk settles in, welcoming outdoor lights shine through the snow-covered trees that surround the home on a quiet cul-de-sac. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Chair with warm blankets and comfortable cushions are positioned around the firepit on the rear deck.

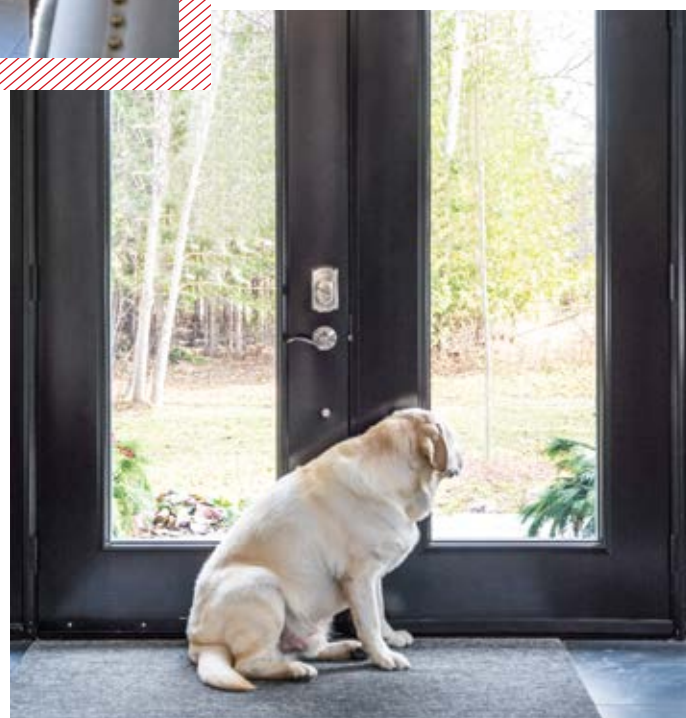


**“WE THOUGHT ‘LET’S MAKE OUR HOUSE THE ONLY PLACE WE WANT TO BE.’” – Natalie Kirby**





**LEFT:** Ben, Natalie, Kirby and Henry enjoy hot chocolate at the dining table after playing outside in the snow. Wood trim on the windows is highlighted by the Benjamin Moore Cloud White walls. **ABOVE:** Three-year-old Henry offers the peace sign. **BELOW:** Baloo sits in his favourite spot, watching for squirrels and arriving guests. **OPPOSITE:** In the dining room an oak barrel has been repurposed as a wine rack. Tile for the heated floor was sourced at Georgian Design Centre. The live-edge dining table was custom made by The Furniture Barn. Chairs are from Home Décor + More.



Phase one happened in 2017 after Kirby was born. **Alair Homes Collingwood** – supported by **Adam Vokes** of **Mountainside Design** and **Jessica Flynn** of **The Flynn Collaboration** – enclosed the front porch and turned it into a mudroom and dining room. “We also expanded the kitchen to include more cabinetry,” says Natalie. “We added a fourth bedroom in the loft with a linen closet and renovated the primary bath with a new vanity and soaker tub.”

When the pandemic hit, Natalie and Ben expanded and improved the outside, adding a new fibreglass pool and guest house last summer.

“We thought ‘let’s make our house the only place we want to be,’” says Natalie. “In the summer, the pool and guest house are exactly where we want to be all the time.” **Glen Hynes** of **Grizzly Landscaping** completed the landscaping with plants and flowers from **Clearview Nursery Ltd.** *Continued on page 149*





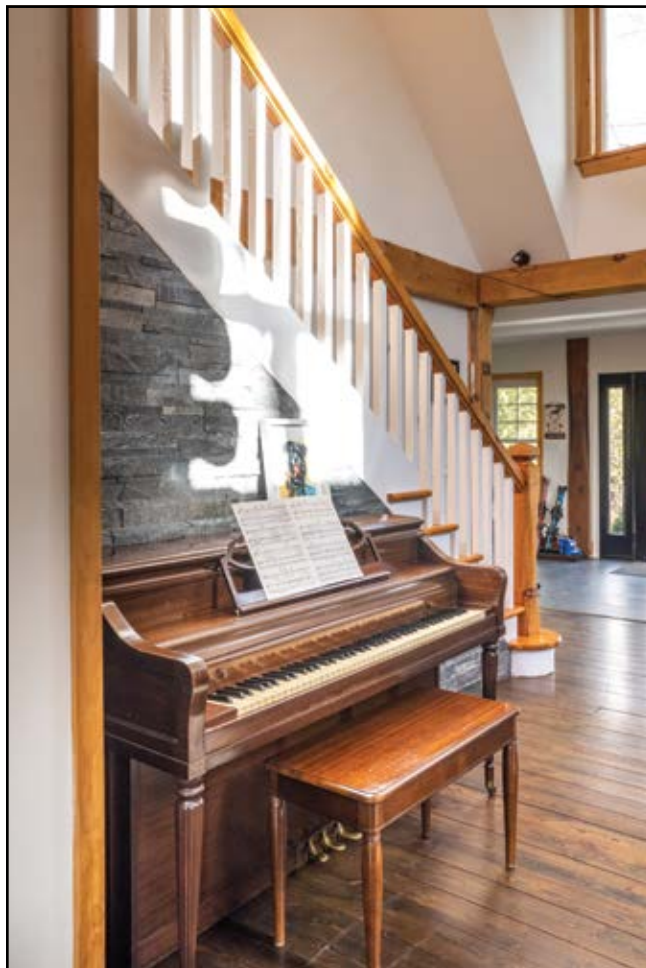
The stone fireplace surround in the living room was installed by Georgian Masonry & Construction Inc. Rena Schafer Consulting selected and ordered the fireplace insert. A leather sectional is large enough for the whole family to gather for movie nights. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The staircase to the bedrooms has custom gates at the top and the bottom to keep the boys safe. The growth chart hangs at the bottom of the stairs and has been personalized with the couple's initials. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Winter evenings are spent playing the piano and singing. The sound resonates in the double-height living room. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Two antique chairs sit by the fire. Two buffalo-check ottomans offer additional seating. The area rug is from Home Décor + More.



Looking back, adding to the front of the house with a six-month-old in tow may have been a little overwhelming at the time. “We were so glad when the work was done,” says Natalie. “However, renovating with a baby is definitely easier than it is with a toddler!” **Norcol Custom Exteriors** supplied windows and the front door, which provides entry to the open plan area that is both spacious and cosy at once. They love sitting in front of their newly finished living room fireplace by **Georgian Masonry & Construction Inc.**

Natalie displays her collection of Rae Dunn pottery in the new kitchen cabinetry by **Infinite Design & Interiors**, which also supplied bathroom counters, vanities and built-ins. The entire house is painted **Benjamin Moore** Cloud White. “We’ve always preferred to decorate with colour and accents versus paint,” says Natalie.

*Continued on page 150*







The rustic beams are counter balanced by the granite-topped contemporary cabinetry. The pine door leads to the rear deck and pool, installed by Pool Products Canada. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The glass cabinet over the coffee bar is filled with Natalie's collection of Rea Dunn pottery. Cabinetry is by Infinite Design & Interiors. **BOTTOM:** The kitchen island does double duty when Ben and Natalie entertain. Chilled wine and charcuterie are ready for guests.



The couple shop local as much as possible. They purchased their window coverings from **Shades & Shutters**, their tile from **Georgian Design Centre** and often find furniture at **Home Décor & More**.

A custom family portrait from **Kayla Gale** sets the stage in the upstairs loft close to a cherished travel map. "I've always loved the map, it's a great reminder of all the places we've been and the memories made along the way," says Natalie.

The boys' bedroom provides Henry and Kirby space to play and grow. They already share their parents' love of skiing and are taking lessons at Toronto Ski Club, thanks to Mom and Dad's membership at the Collingwood Ski Club, which partners with TSC. *Continued on page 152*






The bed in the primary bedroom is custom by The Furniture Barn and dressed in a terry bedspread with matching pillow shams. Blinds were sourced at Shades & Shutters. **ABOVE LEFT:** In the upper landing, a map of the world is highlighted with locations Ben and Natalie have visited and is a reminder of memories made. The most important mark? Home. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** A custom family portrait graces the wall on the landing outside the primary bedroom. **ABOVE RIGHT:** In the primary en suite, the vessel tub sits on original flooring under a window that overlooks the pool. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A dormer in the primary bedroom is the perfect size for the Peloton bike, a pandemic addition.



Natalie and Ben's bedroom is also upstairs. A custom bed from **The Furniture Barn** provides the focal point for rest, while a Peloton pandemic addition supports indoor exercise. There's a new soaker tub in the en suite for Mom to enjoy some "me time."

Next on the couple's wishlist is a completely new kitchen, but that's a few years away. *Continued on page 154*






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Natalie has some advice for other young families embarking on major renovations. “Plan, plan, plan!” she says. “Hire an expert to provide recommendations on how to best use your space. Hire amazing contractors who share your vision. Manage your expectations and plan for setbacks, something will always creep up and it’s important to roll with it to avoid stress and anxiety.” Above all, she says, be prepared for chaos and mess. “We completed our first renovation with a newborn, which was challenging but our second major renovation was with two toddlers, which brings another set of challenges too. Think about what stage your kids will be at and what will work best for your family.” Natalie, Ben and their kids are at the best stage of their lives and enjoying their newly renovated slice of heaven. **OH**

**LEFT:** Kirby and Henry have matching beds that resemble tents. Warm flannel bedding and fluffy quilts entice the boys to bed at night after a busy day on the slopes. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The arched window on the upper landing casts sunlight down into the living room. A Hudson’s Bay blanket hangs on the safety gate. **MIDDLE:** Books in the boys’ room are displayed for ease in picking a bedtime story. **RIGHT:** Linen storage is located behind the sliding barn door. A gooseneck sconce illuminates a map of the world and a poem that tells the boys how much they are loved.



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# ROOM to GROW



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

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



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

Continued on page 158

Picture Yourself...



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

## Blue Heaven

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



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

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

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

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

Have us install a fireplace in your home.

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directory

OUR HOMES attracts the area’s finest businesses to advertise in our pages, and utilize our unparalleled distribution and coffee-table appeal to market their products and services. We’re making it easier for you, our readers, to become educated as you plan your home- and real estate-related purchasing decisions. View these business ads online at [ourhomes.ca](#). The listings below are organized alphabetically by industry.

OUR HOMES is committed to ensuring the businesses above appear under the correct headings. To make a correction, or to have your business listed under more than one heading, please email [simone.steriorisk@ourhomes.ca](mailto:simone.steriorisk@ourhomes.ca). To have your business listed in our Home Resource Directory, call us to advertise at 705.888.1959.

ACCOMMODATIONS/LODGING/  
RENTALS

Via Haus Management, 105

APPLIANCES

Chatterson’s Home Furniture & Appliances, 5  
Macdonalds Furniture & Appliances, 63  
Tom The Dreamer Mattresses  
& Appliances, 19

ARCHITECTS/ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN/  
ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGISTS/  
DRAFTSMEN & DESIGN

A. Slade Architects Inc., 81  
Abbott Design, 101  
Janssen Design, 143

ART/ARTISANS/ART GALLERIES/  
STUDIOS/WORKSHOPS

Brights Gallery, 81  
Woven Handmade, 81

AUDIO VIDEO/HOME AUTOMATION/  
ELECTRONICS/SMART HOME  
TECHNOLOGY

Balaklava, 99  
Red Brick Group, 87

BEDS & BEDDING/MATTRESSES/  
SLEEP PRODUCTS

Tom The Dreamer Mattresses  
& Appliances, 19

BUILDERS

A.M. Contracting, 123  
Absolute Craftsmen Ltd., 47  
Alair Homes, 153  
Ambassador Fine Custom Homes Inc., 11  
Blake Farrow Project Management, 31  
Bob Armstrong Construction, 97  
Coulter Dawe and Associates, 9  
Dutch Quality Contracting, 143  
Evolution Custom Building, 93  
Great Lakes Custom Homes, 131  
JA Custom Homes, 16  
JDC Custom Homes Inc., 157  
JMH Custom Homes, 105  
L. Patten & Sons Ltd., 34  
Legendary Group, 37  
Mazenga Building Group Ltd., 49  
McLean Contracting, 99  
Modern Homes by Timo, 69  
NobleCraft, 28  
PattyMac, 125  
Peak Living, 137

Scot-Build, 95  
Triberg Construction, 107  
Valleyview Construction, 108  
VanderMeer Homes Ltd., 87

BUILDING/LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

13forty Landscape Supplies, 121  
Knights’ Home Building Centre, 121  
Moggie Valley Timber Inc., 137  
United Lumber Home Hardware  
Building Centre, 135

CABINETS & MILLWORK/CARPENTRY/  
FINE WOODWORKING/CUSTOM  
FURNITURE

Corinthian Kitchen & Bath Studio, 93  
Log Furniture & More, 137

CLEANING

Molly Maid, 157

CONCIERGE

WorkHorse Concierge Solutions, 107, 134

CONSIGNMENT

Loved You Madly, 41

COUNTERTOPS

City Stone, 34

ELECTRICAL

Clearlite Electrical, 143  
Red Apple Electric, 153

EXCAVATING/SITE PREP/SEPTIC

Clearlite Excavating & Haulage, 141

EXTERIOR FINISHES/IMPROVEMENTS

JDC Custom Homes Inc., 157

FIREPLACES & STOVES/ACCESSORIES

Chantico Fireplace Gallery, 18  
The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 159

FITNESS/WELLNESS

Mitchell Fitness Centre, 65

FLOORING

Deans Carpet One Floor & Home, 108  
Georgian Design Centre, 22  
Knights’ Home Building Centre, 121  
Moggie Valley Timber Inc., 137  
PR Antique Flooring, 107

FLORAL DESIGN/FLORISTS

Collingwood Flowers & Home Decor, 26  
Kettlewells, 119

FOOD & DRINK/RESTAURANTS/  
CATERING/DELI

Babs & Castles, 130, 141

FURNITURE & HOME DÉCOR/  
ACCENTS/GIFTS/COLLECTIBLES

Aspen & Ivey, by Catherine Staples  
Interiors, 67  
Bespoke by Carol, 105  
Chatterson’s Home Furniture & Appliances, 5  
Clerkson’s Home Store, 79  
Collingwood Flowers & Home Decor, 26  
FAD Inc. (Farrow Arcaro Design), 123  
Haven Home & Gift, 133  
Heirloom142, 65  
Joshua Creek Trading Furniture &  
Home Decor, 23  
Kettlewells, 119  
Lagom142, 65  
Loved You Madly, 41  
Macdonalds Furniture & Appliances, 63  
Maggie + Dix, 95, 132  
The Fyre Place & Patio Shop, 159  
Van Allan Design Centre, 53, 130  
White Hill Home, 3

GARDEN CENTRES/GREENHOUSES/  
NURSERIES

Maxwell Garden Center, 127  
Riverside Greenhouses, 28

GEOTHERMAL

Sandy Hamilton Plumbing  
& Heating Inc., 153

HEATING & COOLING

Affordable Comfort Heating & Cooling, 131  
Sandy Hamilton Plumbing  
& Heating Inc., 153

HOME IMPROVEMENTS/  
RENOVATIONS

A.M. Contracting, 123  
Dutch Quality Contracting, 143  
Great Lakes Custom Homes, 131  
JDC Custom Homes Inc., 157  
Peak Living, 137  
Ready Pine, 153  
Scot-Build, 95  
TDI Construction, 107  
Vaillancourt Design, 105, 132

HOME SECURITY

Red Brick Group, 87

INTERIOR DECORATING/INTERIOR  
DESIGN/HOME STAGING

Aspen & Ivey, by Catherine Staples  
Interiors, 67  
Bespoke by Carol, 105  
Designs by Andrea, 157  
FAD Inc. (Farrow Arcaro Design), 123  
Gillian & Co. Interior Design Inc., 24  
Heirloom142, 65  
Lagom142, 65  
NobleCraft, 28  
TF Interiors, 26, 134  
Vaillancourt Design, 105, 132  
Van Allan Design Centre, 53, 130

KITCHEN & BATH

Aeon Kitchens & Designs, 81  
Collingwood Kitchen & Bath  
Design Centre, 13  
Corinthian Kitchen & Bath Studio, 93  
Downsview Kitchens, 10  
Georgian Design Centre, 22  
Knights’ Home Building Centre, 121  
Lindsay Schultz Kitchens & Cabinetry, 43  
Xtreme Kitchens & Closets Inc., 101, 130

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE/  
LANDSCAPING/LAWN & GARDEN

Automow, 127, 132  
Earth Power Tractors and Equipment, 142  
Heartwood Landscape Companies, 47  
Oasis North Landscapes, 91  
Outdoor Reflections, 35  
The Landmark Group, 2  
Williams Outdoors Inc., 69  
Zeng Landscaping, 36

LANDSCAPE/OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Heartwood Landscape Companies, 47

LIGHTING

Georgian Design Centre, 22  
Van Allan Design Centre, 53, 130

MACHINERY/SMALL EQUIPMENT/  
FARM SUPPLIES

Automow, 127, 132  
Earth Power Tractors and Equipment, 142

MASONRY/STONEWORK

Steve’s Masonry, 109

NEW HOME COMMUNITIES

Braestone, 139

ORGANIZATION/STORAGE

Closets by Design, 155  
Xtreme Kitchens & Closets Inc., 101, 130

OUTDOOR FURNITURE/STRUCTURES

Maxwell Garden Center, 127

PAINTING & DECORATING

Benjamin Moore, 14  
Birch & Benjamin, 14  
Heirloom142, 65  
Knights’ Home Building Centre, 121  
Lagom142, 65  
Robinson’s Paint & Wallpaper, 14  
Stayner Home Hardware, 14  
WOW 1 Day Painting, 157

PAVING/CEMENT/CONCRETE/  
INTERLOCK

Extreme Linings and Coatings, 159  
Road Readie Paving, 133

PEST CONTROL

Environmental Pest Control, 157

PLANNING & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Kristine Loft / Loft Planning Inc., 65

PLUMBING

Sandy Hamilton Plumbing  
& Heating Inc., 153

POOLS/HOT TUBS/SAUNAS/SPAS

ImmerSpa, 51, 134  
Thornbury Clear Choice Pools & Spas, 91

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/  
MAINTENANCE

Property Valet Collingwood, 20

REAL ESTATE

Century 21 Millennium Inc –  
Eva Landreth, 21  
Chestnut Park, 29  
Chestnut Park – Eva Dalton &  
Jennifer O’Brien, 53  
Chestnut Park – The Picot Team, 8  
Clairwood – Rioux Baker  
Real Estate Team, 33  
Clairwood Real Estate Corporation, 82&83

Engel & Völkers – McGregor Hahne  
Group, 15

Forest Hill Realty, 27, 130

Lifestyles North – Steve Simon,  
Marla Simon, 164

RE/MAX Four Seasons Realty Limited –  
Doug Gillis, Maddy Gillis, 137

RE/MAX Four Seasons Realty Limited –  
Janet Piotrowski, 79

RE/MAX Four Seasons Realty Limited –  
Riopelle-Veer Group, 163

Royal LePage Locations North Realty, 6&7

Royal LePage Locations North Realty –  
Heather Garner Real Estate, 119

Royal LePage Locations North Realty –  
Jane Moysey, Lorraine McDonald, 45

Sotheby’s Realty – Apblett Group, 17, 132

Sotheby’s Realty – Gilchrist Group, 25

Sotheby’s Realty – Holly Stone, 41

Sutton Group Incentive Realty | Kay  
on the Bay – Kay Kriston, 97

SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Beaver Valley Outreach, 107

SPECIAL EVENTS

Holiday House Tour, 135

STAIRS/RAILINGS

Barrie Trim & Mouldings, 4

TRIM/MOULDING/CASING

Barrie Trim & Mouldings, 4

VETERINARY SERVICES

Blue Mountain Veterinary, 49

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Ashtons Blinds.Draperies.Shutters, 119  
Deans Carpet One Floor & Home, 108  
Salnek’s Custom Window Treatments, 9

WINDOWS & DOORS

ANIG Window & Door Manufacturing, 141  
Barrie Trim & Mouldings, 4  
Cedarport Window & Door Centre Inc., 12  
Knights’ Home Building Centre, 121  
Marvin Windows & Doors Canada, 124, 134





at home with...

## CHEF DAVID LEE

Chef David Lee is an internationally recognized, award-winning chef and restaurateur currently celebrated for his Planta group of restaurants in Toronto, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and New York City, with a major expansion in the works. He was born in London, England and grew up on the island nation of Mauritius off the east coast of Africa. He returned to England to train in the classic European system of kitchen apprenticeships and cooked for famous clients, including Prince Charles. He moved to Toronto where his first job was at Centro. He later acquired Splendido, then opened and operated Nota Bene for several years. He co-founded Planta with Steven Salm and now focuses on plant-based cuisine. Chef David recently relocated to Thornbury with his realtor wife Jennifer O'Brien, of Chestnut Park Real Estate Ltd., and daughters Indya and Devon, a recent law school graduate. Chef David graciously welcomed OUR HOMES to his newly renovated home in the heart of Thornbury.

STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



### OUR HOMES: What brought you to Thornbury?

**Chef David Lee:** Skiing at The Peaks brought us to the area many years ago. Devon was skiing at the time and we had a farm in Feversham. When Devon stopped skiing we sold the farm and stopped coming to the area until our younger daughter Indya started to ski. We fell in love with Thornbury and bought this house in 2019 just before the lockdown. I was working in Florida, travelling back and forth to my Planta restaurants but also watching my family struggle. We made a big decision to move out of the city and enjoy a better quality of life.

### OH: How has living here changed your lives?

**CDL:** Living here is like therapy for me. I get to decompress. I love cooking outside any time of day regardless of the weather. If I'm lighting a fire or cooking pizzas for the kids, the neighbours will come and we'll share. We're into boating up here too and it's so beautiful. As much as I love Toronto there's something so unique to be in a small community near the ski hills and five minutes away from Georgian Bay. The people are great; it's like everyone around you is family.

### OH: The pandemic brought you to Thornbury but you still have a successful business to run. How's that going?

**CDL:** We've learned to pivot. We've become more efficient

as a business and we're lucky that we're still growing as a plant-based company. It's a little tough right now but people want this to be over, they want to go to restaurants, they want to celebrate and eat plant-based food. Planta also offers nation-wide shipping in Canada and the U.S.

### OH: What are your local favourites?

**CDL:** We support as many local restaurants in and around Thornbury as we can. I start my day off at Good Grief Coffee; it's a daily ritual. We love Bruce Wine Bar, Fabbri, Venti Venti, and Bread & Butter in downtown Thornbury. Blackbird Pie Co. in Heathcote and Hearts in Kimberley are other favourites.

### OH: What inspires your cooking?

**CDL:** I get inspired by many things around me: Travel, my Planta team, the seasons and the availability of produce.

### OH: Your comfort food:

**CDL:** Soup, sautéed rapini and my mother's cooking.

### OH: Your signature dish:

**CDL:** Vegetable hotpot and noodles.

### OH: Favourite kitchen tool:

**CDL:** Pressure cooker. **OH**



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### FEATURED PROPERTIES



### 122 Arrowhead Crescent, Blue Mountains

Ski home from Craigleith & Alpine Ski Clubs. This impressive 6,932 sq.' mountain-side home, with expansive views across Georgian Bay, is perfect for family gatherings or entertaining. 7 beds, 5.5 baths, 5 wood burning fireplaces & 9' and 10' ceilings throughout. Impressive great room & dining room, huge gourmet kitchen, indoor spa area, hot tub, sauna. Designed by renowned Toronto architect, Joe Brennan. A truly remarkable home in this prestigious neighbourhood.

**\$3,499,900**



### 214 Russell Street E, Thornbury

Must-see stunning, very private .9 acre riverside home on a quiet dead-end street, walking distance to downtown Thornbury. This 4192 sq', 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, home has a chalet feel, with soaring ceilings and a saltwater pool with a heated shower in the pool shed. Close to the ski hills, golf courses, Georgian Bay, hiking trails and all the other recreational activities this four-season playground has to offer. Approximately 1 km to the heart of Thornbury and its charming dining and retail offerings.

**\$3,899,000**



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## FEATURE LISTING



## PREMIUM WATERFRONT OFFERED AT \$5,750,000

Harmonious waterfront retreat with 86ft of sandy beach, walking distance to Downtown Thornbury! Built with an exposed steel superstructure and tons of exquisite features inside and out including a heated mahogany bridge leading into the home above a sunken golf green and waterfall.

Views of Georgian Bay can be enjoyed throughout the home with the extensive use of glass and open concept floor plan to maximize the breathtaking water views and natural light.

[GeorgianWaterfront.com](http://GeorgianWaterfront.com)



[LoraBayChalet.com](http://LoraBayChalet.com)

\$2,750,000

Elegant 6 bed home in Lora Bay. Overlooking the 18th hole at the golf course, this spacious model features lots of entertaining space, huge lower level and more.



[PropertyinGrey.com](http://PropertyinGrey.com)

\$1,199,000

Charming century home with pastoral views on nearly 8 acres of land. Just 10 minutes to Meaford and Thornbury and close to the area's private ski clubs.

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