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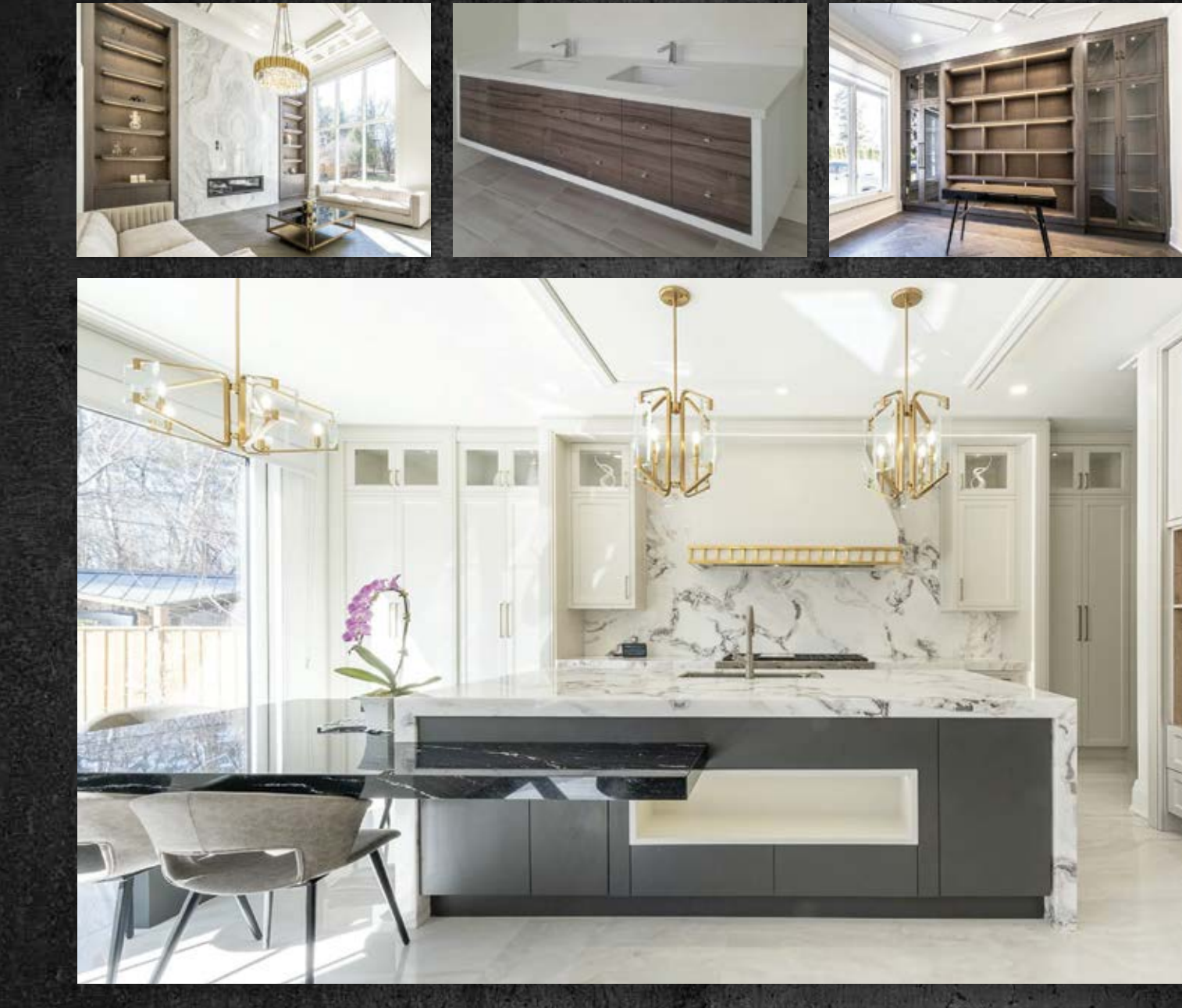
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## editor's note



**CAN YOU FEEL IT?** The frost has melted and the last of winter is finally fading away. As the days grow warmer, I'm reflecting on what I'll miss (playing in the snow with the kids), what I'll gladly say goodbye to (so long winter gear!) and what I'll hold onto a bit longer.

Last winter, deep in a pandemic lockdown, my husband and I began a new tradition: in-house date night. After many meals from culinary magician Chef Daniele Palanca (of Ambassador Golf Club), we were in the mood for creating some magic of our own. Every Saturday, we'd select a recipe and spend the afternoon bringing it to life. A few weeks in, we fell into a rhythm. I played sous chef, arranging ingredients into a meticulous mise en place. My husband did the finessing, pulling everything into a delicious spread. We loved those afternoons chatting and cooking together. So we brought the tradition back this winter, and will carry it into the warmer months.

We learn a lot about food on these Saturdays, each time mastering techniques and discovering new flavours. And through conversations with Chef Dan, we've discovered that a great meal begins with one simple thing: the freshest ingredients possible. He takes pride in using local fare and inspires us to do the same.

So we planted a small garden. This year, my husband wants to build it bigger and better. We're looking forward to getting the kids out there, shovels in hand. I can't wait to dig in the dirt with them and feel the soil between our fingers. And I'm so excited to add some sunshine to date night – firing up the barbecue, dining al fresco, and soon, picking herbs and veggies right outside the back door.

If winter is about hunkering down in our homes then this is surely the season for migrating outside. I have no doubt that the stunning outdoor spaces and local businesses featured in this issue will inspire you to do just that!

Have a bright and happy spring.

Donna Luangmany, Managing Editor  
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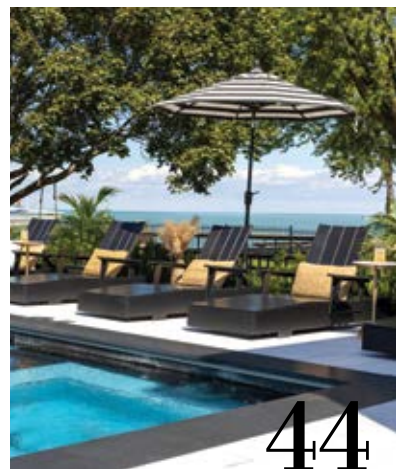
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Fresh whites and warm wood tones come together in this stunning pool house. Story, page 26. Photography by Devon Pastorius.



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# FURNISH *Your First Home* SUSTAINABLY

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

You're a millennial who has just entered the housing market. Now that you have a place, you need to furnish the space. But how can you make it sustainable and eco-friendly?

## Where to begin?

The desire to have a space that feels finished the moment you move in is understandable. However, we must move away from instant gratification and towards playing the long game. The reality is that making environmentally-conscious choices takes time and energy – and that's okay. Plus, curating a space over time will create a finished product that is much more personal and reflective of your unique style.

## FURNITURE

One of the easiest and simplest ways to be more sustainable at home is to purchase fewer items.

Before buying, ask yourself: Is this a "need to have" or a "nice to have"?

You can hunt antique markets, local second-hand and vintage shops, estate sales and online e-commerce sites for furnishings. Investing in pre-loved pieces is a great way to contribute to the circular economy.

You can often find high-quality pieces in good shape and for a great price! Antique and vintage pieces provide the opportunity for you to express your style with character, charm and uniqueness that homogeneous,

run-of-the-mill, mass-produced furnishings simply cannot.

Use your creativity to reimagine a piece of furniture by giving it new life with a fresh coat of paint, learn how to refinish wood or experiment with basic reupholstery.



MY BACK SHED:  
Refurbished Furniture



STYLUS: Ramos Sofa

And when you do buy new, invest in quality, locally-made pieces that will stand the test of time. The life cycle of fast furniture is often short and it will need to be replaced in five to 10 years. More product equals more resources – and there's nothing sustainable about utilizing more raw materials and consuming more energy.

Purchase goods that you can envision loving long-term and avoid trends. Buy for style and longevity.

## APPLIANCES



MIELE: 30 inch  
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Reduced energy consumption is only one element to consider when purchasing appliances.

Support companies that prioritize environmental initiatives, such as

manufacturing durable products, utilizing metals that can be easily recycled, restricting hazardous materials during manufacturing and providing a recycling program at the end of the product's useful life.

You can often find second-hand appliances that function perfectly well and are in great shape. Also, peruse the scratch-and-dent section of local stores – you can find quality-made appliances with minimal aesthetic damage. You can always put a grocery list or piece of art over top of a small scratch on a



GRAHAM AND BROOKS  
SALVAGE: Salvaged Lighting

## ACCESSORIES

Accessorizing your home is where you can let your resourcefulness shine. There are so many second-hand accessories available for you to upcycle, recycle and reimagine. See how creative you can be!

Vintage rugs are worth the investment and no one will have the same one. They have already been around for many years and with proper care they will last for many more. Plus, they are often made of wool and other natural materials and will biodegrade more easily than carpets made from synthetic materials.

Support local artists and artisans by purchasing a unique piece of art for the walls or everyday utilitarian items, such as hand-thrown coffee mugs. Buying local isn't just sustainable, handcrafted items add a different energy to your home.

Another way to instantly accessorize your home is to introduce houseplants – it is one of the simplest and most affordable ways to add texture, interest and colour to a space. **OH**



RUG & WEAVE: Antique  
Persian Hamadan Wool Rug



GRAHAM AND BROOKS  
SALVAGE: Dough Bowls

fridge. If you don't like the colour or finish, research how to paint appliances to suit your desired aesthetic.

Finally, learn how to fix things (or be willing to pay someone who can). The cost of goods has become so affordable that instead of repairing something we replace it. That mentality is simply not sustainable.

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# Spring FORWARD

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PHOTOGRAPHY **TED KLOSKE**



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Water feature at Cavana Ridge.

# Ponds AND WATER FEATURES

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY **MELANIE REKOLA**

With staycations becoming more popular, creating a beautiful backyard to escape to is a worthy investment. No backyard paradise is quite complete without the soothing sounds of water to make you feel cool, even when temperatures are blazing.

Adding a dreamy backyard water feature can be simple, extravagant or somewhere in between. There are options for every taste and budget.

## WATER BOWLS

These large, watertight bowls are an easy addition, fitting any space. They have a bubbler/small filtering system and most are deep enough to add a variety of water plants. Imagine having water bowls instead of planters on a backyard patio – you would never have to worry about watering again!

## WATER FOUNTAINS

Another quick way to add a tranquil trickle of water to your backyard oasis is through a prefabricated fountain. Many styles and sizes are available in a ready-to-use kit format. Weight needs to be considered as some of the hefty ones require a concrete footing. *Continued on page 22*



LaSalle Project, 2017

## Paradise by the Backyard Lights

Enjoying good times with family and friends shouldn't end when the sun goes down. We create amazing backyard living spaces that are meant to be enjoyed both day and night – with outdoor lighting that is not only functional, but enhances the natural beauty and elegant features of your backyard paradise. So you can let the good times roll – all night long!



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PONDS

Ponds, streams and waterfalls let you take creativity to the extreme in your landscape design. As these are custom made, you can design anything imaginable, from a cool modern vibe to something Mother Nature designed herself – as long as you have the right budget in place as these can be costly.

Shelves of different depths within a pond interior can be created for certain water plants, as each has its own specific requirements. Shallow areas also act as escape routes in the event a pet or wildlife accidentally falls in.

Ponds need to be at least four feet deep (preferably deeper) if you'd like to overwinter frogs and fish successfully. UV filters and pumps need to be carefully planned and calculated for the amount of water present and if you decide to include fish, you will need an extensive filtering system.

Pond accessories are fun and exciting! There is nothing quite like the feeling of walking on water where a cool, floating step is present. Other fun features include architecturally designed, artisan metal spout scuppers, spillways and mounted spill-bowls that replace traditional waterfall weirs. You can even include a floating island filled with plants; you'd be surprised how many traditional garden plants do well in these environments and they look quite natural once the plantings fill in and spill over the edges.



Melanie's Pond Plant Picks

The world of water gardening is extensive. Here are a few favourite, hardy, native-to-Ontario perennials to get you started.



**Water Lily / *Nymphaea odorata*** – Likely the first water plant that comes to mind, lovely lily is a wonderful, free-flowering plant for any pond. Perfect, glistening white flowers with yellow centres are formed throughout the summer months. It prefers still waters though, so always plant this beauty far away from waterfalls.



**Pickerelweed / *Pontederia cordata*** – A carefree-growth habit and lovely lavender blooms make this a colourful addition to any pond.



**Marsh Marigold / *Caltha palustris*** – Sunny buttercup blooms arrive in early spring, but only for a brief time. However, it's still a worthy water garden addition for its pretty leaves.



**Horsetail Rush / *Equisetum hyemale*** – Wonderful stiff upright stems resemble a tiny bamboo forest – perfect for pond margins. It can spread aggressively so it's best planted in a contained area.

POND MAINTENANCE

Ponds do take work and most need to be shut down in fall and opened in spring, just like a swimming pool. Most of the work happens in spring and mucking out a pond is dirty business. Hip waders help! The rest of the year is much easier, as long as you keep up a good maintenance program. An ideal healthy maintenance schedule requires an occasional filter cleaning, replacing 20 per cent of the water with fresh water weekly and adding beneficial bacteria when needed. This is even more important for smaller features as their balance gets disrupted easily. The larger the pond, the easier it is to maintain and if it's large enough, it will mostly take care of itself. Don't forget to consider the ongoing electricity and pump/filter replacement costs too.

The best part of including a water feature in your oasis is all the birds and wildlife it will attract! What outdoor retreat would be truly complete without them? **OH**

Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.

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COVE

STORY **DONNA LUANGMANY**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **DEVON PASTORIUS**  
STYLING **RICHARD PURSEL & MELISSA WOODROW**

*Some places were made for a good time. When you pull up to Lighthouse Cove, you can feel your worries melt away. Situated at the mouth of the Thames River, this spot draws boaters and fishermen from all over the province. Previously home to the Lighthouse Inn restaurant, it was once a popular place for perch dinners, too. The homeowners of this story dined there for years.*

*Continued on page 28*

A bright and spacious great room combines traditional, rustic, and modern pieces. The mix of décor styles creates a fun and youthful feeling.

# “We brought

our kids to eat here every week, even when they were babies,” they recall. “There was one waitress who would walk them to the water to watch the ducks while we had our coffee.”

Many Tilbury residents enjoyed similar experiences until the restaurant closed in 2016. With no offers to continue its legacy, the property was ready for a new era. The homeowners were too. Their kids now grown, it was time to enjoy the slower pace of retirement. With its breathtaking views and a dock for their boat, Lighthouse Cove was calling. They bought the property, tore down the restaurant and built their forever home.

Longtime design enthusiasts, the homeowners had a very clear vision. “We wanted something casual and homey. A little traditional but not too traditional,” she tells us. To bring this vision to life, they assembled a team of experts, including custom residential designer **Phil Fernandes** of **Philip Fernandes Designs**, builder **Gino Piccioni** of **Timberland Homes** and designers **Richard Pursel** and **Melissa Woodrow** of **Lionheart Home Collection**.

Phil designed a shingle-style house with flared walls and sweeping roofs. The dramatic lines give the home a commanding presence. But soft cedar shakes keep the building from being too stuffy. “This is a fun house,” comments Phil. “It’s relaxed and comfortable – perfect for the location.”

The home is 4,200 sq. ft., but size is irrelevant. “Square footage is the least important feature,” Gino says of the house he built. “This is such a special project. It was an honour to be part of it, I couldn’t have asked for a better family to work for. The details in this house are incredible. They make the home what it is.” What it is, is an extraordinary building with exquisite touches throughout.

Some details are grand, like the built-ins by **Frank Cremasco Fine Cabinetry** in the great room and the herringbone floor in the foyer. Others are smaller, but no less impressive. Custom vent covers blend perfectly with the floor, and rain chains are a smart alternative to downspouts. “The flared walls made it difficult to get eavestroughs tied in,” Gino reports. “The rain chains are such a cool alternative. They’re beautiful and unique. You don’t see them much around here.”

*Continued on page 30*

**TOP LEFT:** The foyer features floors laid in a herringbone pattern and custom millwork. Views of the water can be seen from the front door. **LEFT:** The chandelier adds a touch of elegance to the dining area, with a black iron frame and frosted seeded glass.



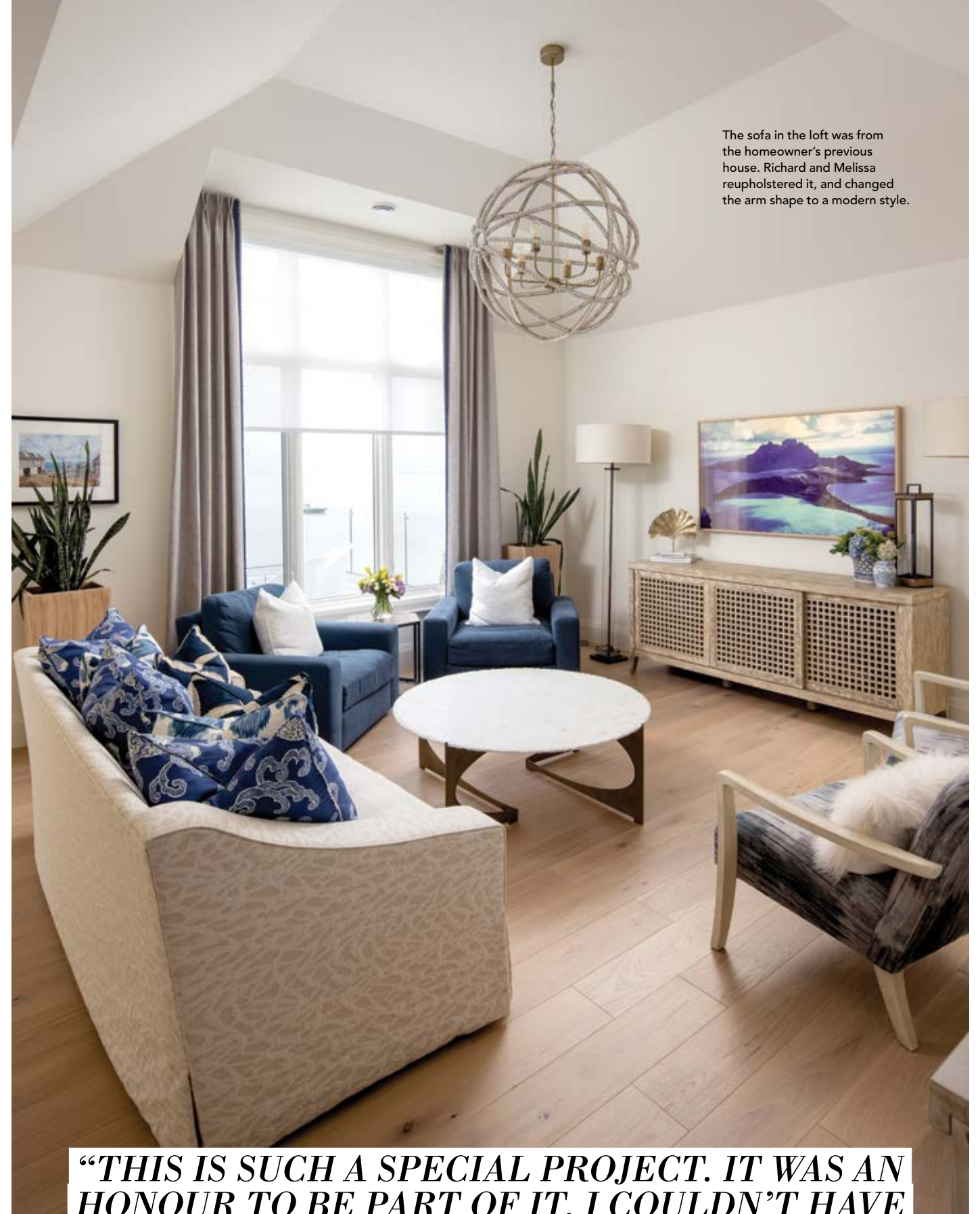
**ABOVE:** A 12-foot sofa and accent chairs offer plenty of seating in the great room. Floor-to-ceiling windows bathe the space in natural light. **LEFT:** Designer Richard Pursel, custom residential designer Phil Fernandes and designer Melissa Woodrow. **BELOW:** Oversize lighting is a repeated theme in this house. Black pendants in the kitchen make a dramatic statement.





The spacious main floor is a masterclass in contemporary coastal décor. Richard and Melissa outfitted the great room in a crisp neutral palette. Floor-to-ceiling windows ([Pella Windows & Doors](#)) are surrounded by white walls and bleached oak floors from [Rose City Tile](#). The Lionheart duo paired plush white furniture with woven seagrass accents, creating a classic Cape Cod-style look. But the addition of modern pieces keeps the space fresh and youthful. The dining table (Lionheart Home Collection), for example, features a white oak top that would fit in any coastal abode. But its lucite legs are a surprising, contemporary twist.

Of all the home's details, the lighting steals the show. "Lighting is a real key feature in this house," says Richard. "Most of it is modern, a little oversized. And it's all spectacular." *Continued on page 32*



The sofa in the loft was from the homeowner's previous house. Richard and Melissa reupholstered it, and changed the arm shape to a modern style.

**ABOVE:** A graphic floral pattern creates drama in a moody powder room. The round mirror is an antique. **TOP RIGHT:** Swinging teardrop-shaped porch chairs are the perfect place to enjoy views of the Thames River. **RIGHT:** The outdoor space features a pool and multiple seating areas. The outdoor kitchen has a fryer for cooking fish caught on boating expeditions.



***"THIS IS SUCH A SPECIAL PROJECT. IT WAS AN HONOUR TO BE PART OF IT, I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER FAMILY TO WORK FOR. THE DETAILS IN THIS HOUSE ARE INCREDIBLE. THEY MAKE THE HOME WHAT IT IS." – Gino Piccioni***



**ABOVE:** The powder room is the perfect place for bold design. This one features Cole & Son's iconic Aquario wallpaper. **TOP RIGHT:** The interior doors are painted Benjamin Moore Lead Gray. This one leads into the monochromatic laundry room. **RIGHT:** The stairwell is a beloved space. It features herringbone wallpaper and a sculptural light fixture.



Knowing that lighting is the jewel of any room, the homeowner worked closely with Richard and Melissa to select fixtures. Among her favourite splurges are a pair of oversize matte black pendants (Lionheart Home Collection) above the kitchen island. Their hammered texture pops in the fresh white kitchen, while a gold leaf inlay casts a warm glow against the quartz counters from **Roma Tile**.

The Lionheart designers were sure to inject fun and drama into the home. They clad the powder rooms in graphic wallpaper, including a bold fish pattern – a whimsical nod to the homeowners' love of the water.

Other spaces are more subtle. The stairwell pops with a deep blue herringbone wallpaper that runs to the ceiling. Built-in shelves flank an upholstered bench and a glass pendant fixture adds a touch of sparkle. This space could have easily been overlooked, but clever design has turned it into a cosy reading nook. The homeowners love to curl up here with their grandchildren. *Continued on page 34*



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The living space isn't confined indoors. An expansive terrace with a built-in kitchen and fish fryer allows the family to make the most of their amazing location. "It's like a second family room," Gino says of the outdoor space. With remote-controlled screens and heated floors, the family can enjoy it in the cooler weather. In fact, it's where they spend much of their time, lounging after a dip in the pool or just watching the boats on the water.

Above the terrace, a balcony boasts unobstructed views of the water. On the exterior wall, lights salvaged from the demolition of the restaurant pay homage to a former community staple that many people once enjoyed. The Lighthouse Inn is no longer here, but this property will continue to be a place of happy memories for many years to come. **OH**



Polished nickel faucets and lighting are an elegant touch in the primary en suite. The room also features arabesque tiles in a marble mosaic. **LEFT:** Bunk beds in the guest room were custom built to fit the space. **BELOW LEFT:** The guest room was designed for the homeowners' grandchildren. **BELOW:** The homeowner selected luxurious fabrics for the primary bedroom. The drapery and bedding are custom made by Lionheart Home Collection. All window treatments in this room are motorized.



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PHOTOGRAPHY TED KLOSKE

## THE PLACE

Patio season is here and there’s no better time to spruce up your outdoor space. Whether you need a total backyard makeover or the perfect finishing touch, **Creative Homescapes** has you covered. This design and build company specializes in all things backyard-related. They offer pool installations, custom fences, decks and patios. Already have an oasis you love? The retail store is an absolute must-see. With a large selection of products, it’s no wonder Creative Homescapes stays open for business all year long.

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Creative Homescapes opened in 1987 as a deck and fence builder. Thirty-five years later, it’s become a one-stop destination for building and furnishing a backyard paradise. From planning and installation to landscaping, they cover the entire process. Plus, the company carries innovative materials like vinyl fencing and composite decking. Thanks to maintenance-free products like these, all you need to do is kick back and enjoy the sunshine.



## THE WARES

The sheer selection is sure to impress. DIYers and contractors can check out material samples and the store is full of retail products like grill utensils and spices from Meat Church. But the real fun is out back. The outdoor showrooms display everything from stylish patio furniture to hot tubs. What’s more, you’ll find a full stock of charcoal and smoker pellets, pool chemicals and even cookbooks. Creative Homescapes truly is the store for all things backyard-related.



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Outdoor cooking never goes out of style. So be sure to check out Alfa outdoor ovens and Big Green Egg smokers in a variety of sizes. Creative Homescapes is an exclusive dealer of Louisiana Grills, and their premium Black Label Series is worth a look. In the market for a hot tub? There’s no better option than Bullfrog Spas. Pools continue to be in high demand and you’ll find fibreglass models that are perfect for the Windsor climate. If you’ve already got a pool, an automatic cleaner is the best investment you’ll make. Polaris robotic cleaners are quick, efficient, and oh so cool. **oh**



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# WAIVING CONDITIONS

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

**IT REMAINS A SELLER'S MARKET ACROSS  
ONTARIO WHERE HOME PRICES CONTINUE TO  
RISE AND INVENTORY REMAINS LOW.**

RE/MAX Canada expects a 9.2 per cent increase in average residential sale prices across Canada this year. In Ontario, relocating from one region to another continues to drive housing activity. City dwellers are cashing in and moving to more scenic areas, where their purchasing power gets them a house that suits their preferred lifestyle. With mortgage rates expected to creep up, demand for homes far outstrips supply, leaving house hunters facing multiple offers for the home they want.

So, what's a buyer to do? They could do what home sellers find irresistible – waive all conditions and warranties.

Laura and Chris Walker weren't fooling around when they finally found their ideal condo in Collingwood.

"We had been looking on and off but when the pandemic hit we got serious," says Laura. "When this three-bedroom at Lighthouse Point came up we jumped on it." The couple had lost out on other properties and vowed not to let this one slip away. They went in with a clear offer with no conditions or warranties and a two-week closing. "They were not taking offers until the following Monday and we didn't want to wait and lose it," she says. "So we put in a bully offer over asking. They came back once and that was it – bought and sold." The condo was fully renovated and they've had no issues.

Waiving conditions and warranties in residential real estate transactions is the new winning strategy for many homebuyers. But

it's not for the faint of heart or those without the means to cover costs if there's an issue with the property or home.

Typical conditions in a purchase and sale agreement include financing, property inspections, state of title, legal review and appraisal. Buyers can add their own conditions and condo owners generally add a request and review of the status certificate, which ensures the condo corporation and its board are stable.

But the current housing market is anything but typical and buyers are increasingly willing to take risks to win the home they covet.

Dr. Parham Davoudpour, an attending emergency physician in Toronto, is suffering from buyer fatigue after waiving conditions and still losing two bids on homes in the Collingwood area.

"Both homes were sold substantially higher than asking price – over 50 per cent higher than asking," he says. "One of my offers was 45 per cent over asking and I still lost. "I call these high-risk transactions because you're pressured to make a decision that involves a lot of money and you don't have enough time for due diligence. It's literally like working in a hospital emergency department where you are always under pressure and you make decisions on the limited amount of information that you have."

Parham is still looking but his experience has left him less motivated.

David Oikle, president of The Ontario

Real Estate Association, blames supply and demand for the current state of housing in the province. "We're in this pickle that buyers are competing in such a way because we don't have enough homes to buy," David explains. "OREA's been spending a ton of time advocating for increasing supply at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. There isn't enough product to buy and we need to address that."

Janine (she didn't want us to use her full name) and her husband looked at eight homes in The Blue Mountains last year. "We lost out on two because our bids just weren't high enough," she says. They waived conditions in both bids, but it didn't help. "It was just a crap shoot," she says. "For one of them, there were about 13 offers. The vendors came back to us, told us they wanted to look at the top three bids 'so give us your very best offer.' We did and we lost out by \$1,000." They finally found and won a home they moved into last May, again waiving conditions and warranties. In hindsight, Janine says she wishes she had more time to investigate the planned developments on wetlands around them. "We love the neighbourhood, we love the house but the main issue now is the development that is supposed to go in beside us. I knew about the potential development, but I honestly thought our government would protect the environment, safety of citizens and our homes. I was wrong."

David says the key to a happy purchase is education, risk management and knowing your limits. He says a local realtor can help buyers mitigate risks. **OH**



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**Andrea and Everett**



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DESIGN & STYLING  
**JODI MASON &  
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# POOL

# party

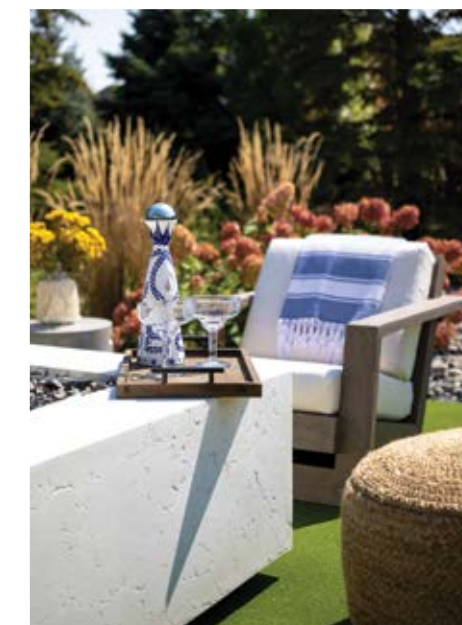
Whether family-friendly or sophisticated luxury, the pool house is having a moment. According to designer **Jodi Mason** of **Urbanhome Windsor**, the pandemic accelerated an already robust trend. "Creating a resort-feel in your backyard is a great way to feel like you're on vacation without leaving home," she says. Having recently helped with the design and décor of two very distinct spaces, Jodi has wise advice for creating a pool house that meets all your needs.

**ABOVE:** There's no better way to spend a hot day than lounging poolside. The vibrant yellow accessories are from Urbanhome. **RIGHT:** The chairs closest to the hot tub swivel so guests can chat no matter where they are in the outdoor family room. **FAR RIGHT:** Seating around the firepit creates the perfect place for conversation and a casual drink.



## Chic & Family-Friendly

The homeowners behind this space considered moving – not once, but twice. When they first came to a crossroads with their home, they chose to renovate and enlisted Jodi Mason to transform their kitchen and great room into a stylish, contemporary living space to enjoy for the long term (Lived-In Luxury, OH Fall, 2019). But once COVID made travel impossible, they began to reconsider. An unfinished outdoor space fired their imagination. After looking around they decided to stay. They loved their location, the interior renovation (which had expanded to include the basement, primary bedroom, dining room and home office) and they couldn't find a new home that suited their needs as much as their current one. Once again, Jodi was called in to help bring their ideas to life.



**OUR HOMES:** What did these homeowners want to accomplish with this backyard makeover?

**JODI MASON:** Family-friendly, yet chic. They craved a fun outdoor space they could enjoy with their children, where they could also entertain in style. *Continued on page 46*

**OH:** How did you come up with a design to meet their desires?

**JM:** By balancing form and function. The homeowner and her landscape designer, **Kari Renaud (lilydesign)**, planned seating and activity areas that appeal to both adults and children. These areas included a really fantastic firepit (**Touchstone Architectural Products**) and a putting green. The pool house (**Gray Development Group**) incorporates luxuries like a hot tub, covered family room with remote-controlled screens and a beautiful, open-flame fireplace. Furniture selection was key. The large harvest table (Urbanhome) with benches is casual and accommodates kids well. Hard-wearing flooring, fabrics and accessories make the upkeep worry-free and style forward.

**RIGHT:** Jodi decorated the covered family room with a combination of classic rattan, rustic stone and warm wood.



Wood accents like the hood fan and the harvest table add warmth to the white pool house.

**OH:** The tiles and backsplash are gorgeous. How did you decide on this look?

**JM:** The homeowner came across the old-world tile with a fresh feeling and fell in love with it. We created a Moroccan look working with a colour palette of soft cream, blue and beige. The floor looks like hardwood, but it's tile, so it's very functional (**Marquis Tile**). A big X pattern creates an interesting look. The backsplash is unexpectedly bold. We were originally only going to install it over the serving area, but the homeowner loved it so much we carried it around the entire perimeter of the kitchen, creating a huge impact.

**OH:** There are so many appealing design features in the pool house. Let's talk about some of the choices.

**JM:** The large, industrial white drum pendants over the island worked out well. Then there's shiplap on the front of the bar, the ceiling and in the powder room, which creates a pool-house vibe. One of the touches I really like is adding warm wood in some key (and



surprising) places in the kitchen (**Frank Cremasco Fine Cabinetry**), such as the hood fan and the interior of a white display cabinet.

**OH:** Any last words?

**JM:** Get the professionals involved. When the landscaper, the builder and designer work together, the results are spectacular.

*Continued on page 48*

**LEFT:** Designers Philip Chouinard and Jodi Mason from Urbanhome. **BELOW:** The Moroccan-style tile from Marquis Tile was the jumping off point for the design.



# LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Certified Landscape Designer **Kari Renaud** of **lilydesign** was originally engaged by the homeowners to help design an extension to the original pool house location and provide an overall plan to accommodate a resort-style backyard to enhance the existing pool. "In working through the design process, the original pool house location with the proposed extension was not fitting the space," Kari says. "So I proposed a new location and orientation to help anchor the yard as an entertainment hub and to house the new raised spa at a convenient and central location."

"The other built elements include an outdoor kitchen area with a barbecue and smoker, a gas firepit lounge area, a stone feature wall with custom fire bowls, a putting green and a collection of large scale pots for anchoring the open dining space with annual plantings. I love the fact that there is an entertainment space for everyone in the family, while having a clean and classic look that won't date itself over time."

The project, Kari says, was a fun one. "The client was open minded, a good listener, easy to work with and extremely good at making decisions. The team the homeowner put together worked very well together."



An outdoor table and chairs offer seating in the backyard. **BELOW:** The floor tiles were laid in an X pattern to create visual interest.



Continued on page 50

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GLAMOUR

Resort-Style Luxury

These homeowners created a pool house and outdoor living area that defines high-end, resort-style luxury. They live on the lake and wanted their outdoor living area to embrace and embellish the gorgeous setting. **T. Fischer Design** created and built their oasis, but when it came to the finishing touches, **Jodi Mason** of **Urbanhome** added the glitz to their glamour.

**OUR HOMES:** This is a stunning space. What were your design challenges?

**JODI MASON:** The existing pool is contemporary with imported

limestone tiles and black granite. One of the biggest challenges was finding the right furniture. We needed something heavy because the wind can be quite strong off the water. These contemporary-style Muskoka chairs and pool loungers in a heavy black resin are the perfect solution. They will never be washed away!

**OH:** How did you create such a luxurious feel?

**JM:** It comes down to the details. The daybeds with white linen curtains are an unmistakable nod to the glamour you see in places like the French Riviera. *Continued on page 52*



**ABOVE:** Black furniture and accents give this backyard a sleek and contemporary look. Luxurious white linens on the daybeds provide shelter from the sun. **LEFT:** This backyard has many distinct eating and lounging areas.



**OH:** This must have been a really fun project to work on. What were some of the highlights?

**JM:** There are so many. Some of the most memorable features are the two dining areas in the pool house. There's a conversation area on the lower level near the water and firepit, and a two-level bar with a swim-up area. The stools are built right into the pool. Gas lanterns and fire bowls flank the pool on two sides. Disco lighting and a sound system (**FAS Group**) make this the ultimate place for a sophisticated summer soirée.



Modern loungers are heavy and durable enough to withstand strong winds off the water.



**OH:** Final Words?

**JM:** Pool houses are more than an indulgence. They offer a staycation second to none and optimize the use of your home. They increase your home's value and most importantly, they are an investment in the pleasure you derive from your home – and that is impossible to calculate. **OH**

**TOP LEFT:** The poolside bar has stools built right into the pool. **LEFT:** The two-level bar allows for easy entertaining.

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Palm Warbler

# wonderful world of WARBLERS

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

## HIDDEN GEMS

Spring is in the air. Literally. Birds, those welcome harbingers of spring, are on the wing in the skies above us on their annual migration mission to Canadian breeding grounds. Hundreds of species are returning and tucked among them are a lesser-known family of birds that are most coveted by birders. They're a range of brightly coloured species often referred to as the "jewels" of the bird world – the fabulous family of warblers.

## A WARBLER PRIMER

Warblers, or Wood-Warblers according to their official taxonomic classification, are colourful songbirds unique to the Americas. Over 30 species occur or breed in Ontario. Some of them are among the most abundant species of birds in our vast forests. They tend to come in waves as they migrate together in tight mixed flocks. But for all their numbers, they are not commonly seen. There are good reasons why not. Despite their bright colours, warblers are tiny (smaller than a chickadee). They're easily

camouflaged by branches and leaves. They often forage tucked up high in the treetops. They don't stay still long enough for a good, identification-worthy look. They keep moving ever onwards in a quest to reach their nesting territories. And finally, by the end of May, the warbler show is over. The waves of warblers have now dispersed widely across the province, each pair ensconced in their own specific nesting-niche territories. With all this, it can very much be a case of "if you blink you will miss them."

## A BOUQUET OF WARBLERS

Warblers, like most birds, migrate at night under the protection and cover of darkness. Come morning, they seek rest and food wherever they may be in their journey north. While the backyards of our homes are not their preferred habitat, they just may drop by after a long night on the wing, to fuel up for the next leg of their migration. So, as we look out the windows of our homes to enjoy the emerging signs of spring, we may be lucky enough to see our backyard trees and shrubs adorned with a "bouquet of warblers" – the collective noun for a group of these birds. Grab your binoculars and check them out for a morning of discovering these little gems.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

So how do you sort out one wee warbler from another? There are so many species, and they don't stop and pose for you! It can be challenging, but that's where the fun is. Thankfully, each species does have its own distinctive field marks that distinguish it



PHOTO: ROBIN JOWETT

Black-throated Blue Warbler



Magnolia Warbler

from its warbler cousins. A number of species even provide clues by virtue of their descriptive names. Notice a black-and-white striped warbler? Well, it's a Black-and-White Warbler. Completely yellow? It's a Yellow Warbler. Black throat and blue back? Black-throated Blue Warbler. Gold wing patches? Golden-winged Warbler. The names alone evoke visions of brightness and beauty. But wait until you actually spot one!

And their songs! There is such a range that birders often use mnemonics to sort them out. For instance, the mnemonics for the Yellow Warbler are, "sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet." Don't you agree?

On the other hand, there's a group of warblers with decidedly unhelpful names. Tennessee, Cape May and Nashville Warblers, for instance, are denizens of the northern boreal forests, not their namesake

locations. Magnolia and Palm Warblers were simply named after the plants they were first discovered in. So don't rely on those names for identification hints, and don't think you won't see them in your backyard.



PHOTO: CAROL HAMILTON

American Redstart

## WARBLER NECK

With a little patience and practice, discerning one warbler from another eventually gets easier, not to mention very rewarding. It is rightly a bit of a personal achievement to positively identify your first Blackburnian Warbler, your first American Redstart – the list goes on and on. Take up the challenge! But be prepared to wind up with a bout of what seasoned birders refer to as "warbler neck." It's that tight kink in your neck resulting from scanning high into the treetops for lengths of time, hoping to discover a few hidden bejeweled treasures. At the end of the day, the kink is just a reminder of time well spent in a quest for your new favourite warbler. A few gentle stretches and you're good to go again the next day.

## SPARK BIRD

It is not uncommon for birders to have what is referred to as a "spark bird" – a sighting of a particular species that sparked or triggered their interest in birds and birding. For many, this spark is often a warbler (mine was the oh-so-handsome Bay-breasted Warbler). A good, crisp look through your binoculars at any one of these bright little beauties is often enough to give you that spark and awaken your senses to the wonderful world of warblers. Enjoy! **OH**



Golden-winged Warbler



Black-and-White Warbler



Yellow Warbler

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(Please see ad on pg 38&39)



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Great landscapes happen when there is a well-managed balance between creativity and practical problem-solving knowledge. lilydesign provides both!

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"The absolute most talented and most professional landscape architect I have ever worked with. She listened to what I wanted, then made it a reality. Some incredibly unique and beautiful designs that perfectly complemented my home and the surroundings. Perhaps most importantly she was trustworthy and transparent in all our interactions." — E.M.

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(Please see ad on pg 49)

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# A LIST



PHOTOGRAPHY **TED KLOSKE**

From building and restoration to maintenance, these local pros are at your service.

## THE ROOM AT COULTERS

Meet Paulette Nicodemo and Cindy Catton. Along with Robby Lynn Young (based in Toronto), they form The Room at Coulters, an award-winning design trio. They’ve got a flair for creating gorgeous interiors, but that’s just part of their package. Having enlisted the best trades in the industry, they’ve created a dream team that delivers best-in-class results.

### BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

As we move into a more exuberant design era, Paulette and Cindy expect richly-hued palettes to take centre stage. Layers of colour and texture, and a mix of vintage pieces with new furniture, are right on trend. It’s all about glitz and glamour right down to the smallest details. We’ll see decorative trim and sophisticated hardware working overtime to add wow factor to a room.

*“No matter your budget, entrust a professional design team to avoid costly mistakes.”*



**Paulette Nicodemo  
& Cindy Catton**



### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

With a second office in Toronto, this full-service design firm is always on the pulse of the hottest trends. Of course, there’s plenty of great style in Windsor, too. Their location above the expansive showroom at Coulter’s Furniture has great benefits. The latest collections and pieces, like this capiz shell console from Hooker Furniture, are just steps away.

*Continued on page 62*

# BUNGALOW GROUP

Since 1994, Bungalow Group has been committed to building the best homes in Windsor, Essex County and beyond. Led by president Nicole Ciarrocchi, this award-winning design and build firm has constructed everything from custom homes to commercial builds. Over the years, they’ve earned a reputation for integrity, diversity, and meticulous attention to detail.

## PEOPLE FIRST

Nicole takes pride in her beautiful homes. But her favourite part of the business is the relationships she develops with clients. Together with sales representative Joe Fallea, they provide unparalleled support through the sale and build of each home. From accommodating special requests to assisting with the purchasing process, Nicole and her team are here every step of the way.

*“Great homes start with a vision and the drive and determination to bring that vision to life.”*



*Joe Fallea and Nicole Ciarrocchi*



## THE BUNGALOW DIFFERENCE

In 25 years, Bungalow Group has built over 700 housing units, including two-storey homes, ranches and even condos. Working with the best trades and suppliers in the business, they construct high-quality homes backed by a Tarion guarantee. Plus, each project is unique in layout and personality. Nicole and her assistant Lisa Reichardt really enjoy the design process and select individual finishes for each home. No two are ever alike!



*Michael Piccioni*

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Continued on page 64

# SERGIO BERTUCCI CUSTOM DESIGN/BUILD

Whether building luxury homes or renovating, Sergio Bertucci Custom Design/Build gets it done right. This design-and-build firm offers a wide range of services, including eco-friendly design, landscaping, shotcrete pools, renovations and new builds. Their focus on their clients makes every project the most important one.

## WORDS OF ADVICE

There are many factors to consider when building your dream home. Budget, timeline and architectural style are important details. But lifestyle and long-term family needs will shape the design of your home. Working with these elements in mind, you'll end up with a home you'll love for many years to come.



## OLD SCHOOL WITH MODERN KNOWLEDGE

Sergio Bertucci Custom Design/Build offers luxury custom-home building and complete landscape services, including distinctive concrete swimming pools. Now imagine your homebuilding experience with an owner and project manager who are both old-school skilled craftsmen and hold master's degrees in architecture. This old-school mentality is fostered through our skilled-trades team to produce the highest quality custom projects available.

Continued on page 66

*"Experience the Sergio Bertucci difference with modern designs and old-world craftsmanship."*



**Odette Bertucci,**  
VP of Sales



# The Legal Edge Team

"Thank you for everything that you have done for us Donna. You have kept us on the straight and narrow throughout the process. I shared with Mary how impressed we have been with the level of service received from everyone involved. And you, Ms. Donna, have been a steady, reliable source of comfort when my anxiety kicked in about appointments. Mary and I are very grateful for your service, and the chuckles shared."

Jimmy and Mary

**Donna Eugeni,**  
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Val Savka & Igor Savka

# PROFESSIONAL STONE RESTORATION

If your stone has seen better days, give Professional Stone Restoration a call. This family-owned company specializes in repairing and refinishing granite, marble, slate and more. From fixing countertops to reconditioning floors, walls, showers and cemetery tombs, no job is too big or too small.

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Leading Windsor and Essex County in stone restoration and maintenance, Professional Stone Restoration completes each job with pride. Working with great care, they’ll have your stone looking better than ever. Their recipe for a job well done? Cutting-edge tools and materials, and a dedication to their craft.

## REFRESH, DON’T REPLACE

Instead of tearing out tired floors or counters, consider giving them a lift. Professional Stone Restoration are experts in repairing scratches, cracks and stains. Repolishing can restore your stone to its former lustre, and don’t forget about your grout! Deep cleaning and resealing this small detail brings major impact. There’s no better way to revitalize your home without the cost and mess of a major renovation.

Continued on page 68



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# WINDSOR VACUUM

Step up your spring cleaning with Windsor Vacuum. This south Windsor shop has been a community staple since 1939. Behind its doors you'll find a wide array of affordable vacuums and floor cleaners. The impressive selection is matched with deep industry knowledge and a commitment to customer service that's second to none.



*"Your clean and healthy home store"*



## PRODUCTS & SERVICES

From central vacs to portable canister units, Windsor Vacuum has it all. In fact, the shop carries high-quality mops, air filters and cleaning products, too. Already have a vacuum you love? Bring it in for a tune-up. Windsor Vacuum offers servicing and repairs for units purchased in store and elsewhere.



*Jon Zakoor*

## HOT SELLERS

Customers can't get enough of Miele vacuums and there are many great models available. For something lightweight and sleek, consider a Roidmi cordless stick vac. Housework has never been more fun! The pandemic has made us all aware of air quality and purifiers are on everyone's wish list. Be sure to check out Sonos Home Entertainment gear, or the Cyclo UV air purifier. **OH**



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cooking at home



# BERRY COBBLER

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

This cobbler is reminiscent of a sweet, soft southern-style drop biscuit. You can use whatever summer fruit you have on hand. We used blueberries and blackberries.

## INGREDIENTS

(Serves 6 )

### FILLING

- 4 cups blueberries and blackberries\*
- 1 Tbsp flour
- 1 Tbsp granulated sugar

### COBBLER TOPPING

- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp baking powder
- 3 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 stick butter, cold
- ¼ - ½ cup boiling water

## INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a baking dish, combine all filling ingredients and set aside.

For the topping, combine flour, sugars, baking powder and cinnamon in a bowl. With a pastry cutter or two knives, cut butter into dry ingredients until the mixture resembles wet sand. Stir in ¼ cup of boiling water and stir until combined (add in more water – 1 Tbsp at a time, if needed, to achieve a drop biscuit texture).

Spoon the topping over the berries. Don't worry about the topping covering the whole dish, it will spread as it bakes!

Bake for 30-45 minutes\* until golden brown.

### Notes:

\*Feel free to substitute any berries or fruit.

\*Adjust baking time depending on size of the pan. If using a smaller pan and the topping is thicker add 5-10 minutes to baking time. **OH**



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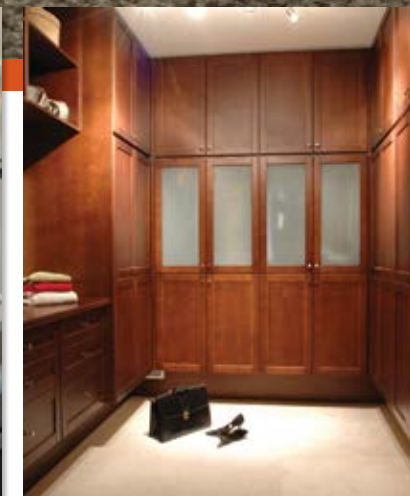
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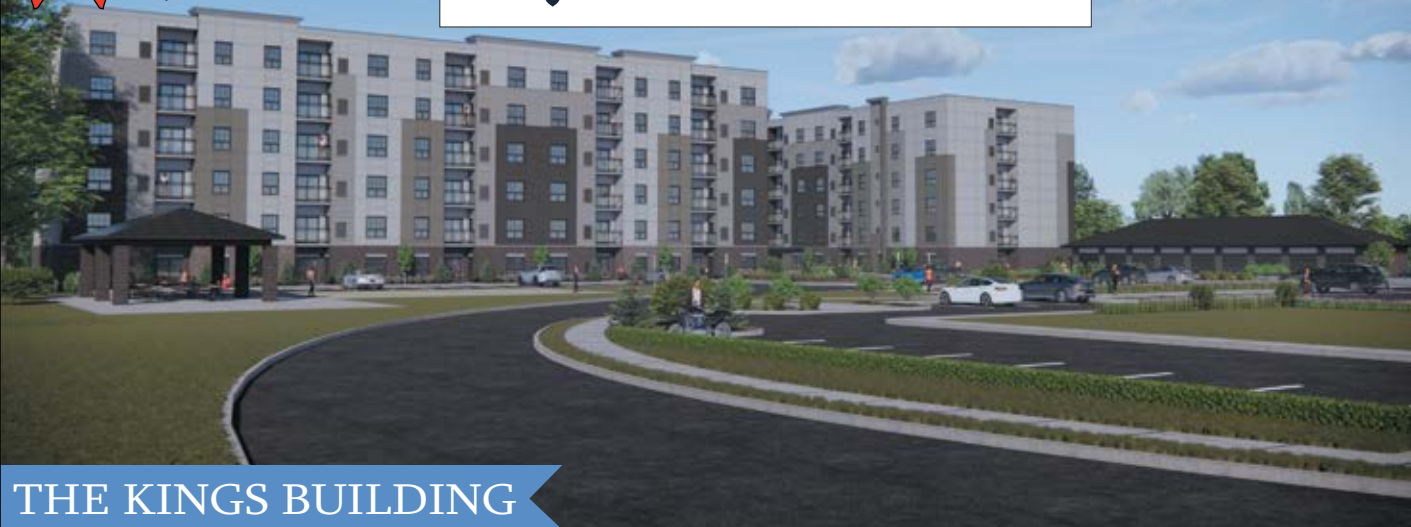


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