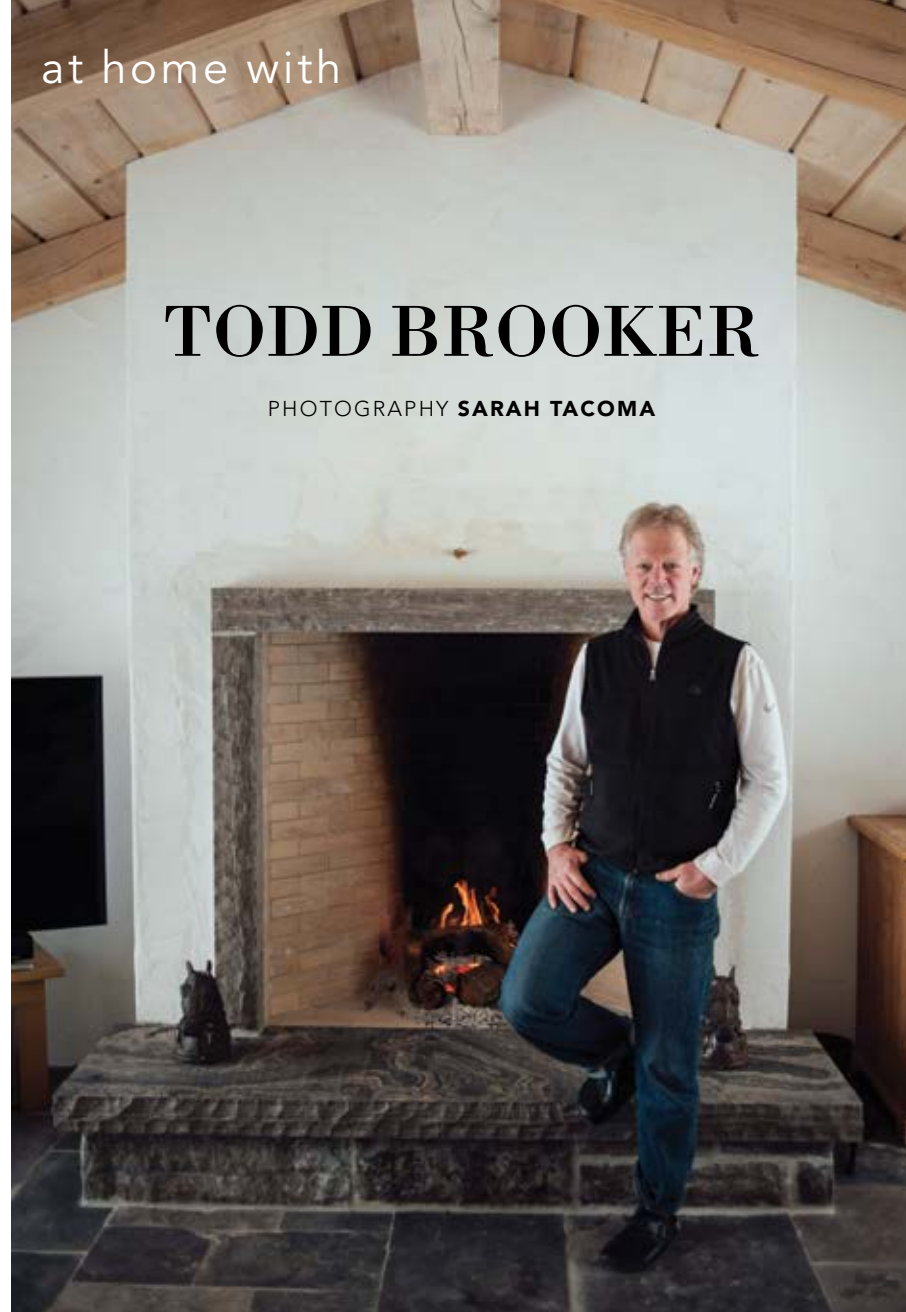


at home with

TODD BROOKER

PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA



Canadian alpine ski champion Todd Brooker invited us – on the week he moved, no less – to tour the 250-acre farm he and wife Lisa just renovated outside Meaford. The Waterloo native spent his preschool years in Austria, and returned to Canada developing his passion for skiing at Blue Mountain. After a thrilling decade on the World Cup and Olympic downhill circuit, he retired from competition in 1987 but continues to work as a commentator on World Cup and Olympic alpine ski broadcasts.



OUR HOMES Tell us about your recent move to Meaford:

TODD BROOKER We've scaled down the house but not the lifestyle! Lisa and I have lived in the Blue Mountains full time since 1987. In 1996 we built a 6,000 sq. ft. house for us and our three daughters on a 100-acre hillside west of Thornbury. But when the girls left home, the house was too much work. We gave town life a try in Thornbury for a while, and while very convenient, it wasn't for us. We found 250 acres west of Meaford, and in December, after a full year of major renovations, we finally moved into the house we'd been working on – a 1,700 sq. ft. bungalow.

OH Tell us about the renovation:

TB I now understand what my clients go through! I'm a broker at RE/Max Four Seasons Realty, but the past few years of downsizing, living in town and now renovating have given me a better appreciation for getting the timing right on a move and making sure a home is right for you. It's a big decision! Living in less square footage also allowed us to use more high-end finishes and get the features we wanted, like plaster walls and ceilings, heated flagstone flooring throughout, a large Rumford fireplace, custom cabinets and built-ins. Wooden ceilings, plaster walls and stone floors is a look I came to love during my years in Austria. I love that simple look. So our colours are simply the colours of those natural materials.



OH What activities keep you busy now?

TB For Lisa and I, having the property was just as important as a house. Some of the land is pasture for grazing 80 Black Angus cattle, some is hay and some organic cash crops. The rest is forest, rivers and hills, perfect for hiking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing with Archie, our Schappendoe (Dutch Sheepdog). My next big project is a total knee replacement operation that will keep me active and working longer! **OH**



Smitty's
FINE
FURNITURE



For the LOVE of
CANADIAN
FURNITURE

HANOVER SHOWROOM 170-3rd Street 519-364-3800 KITCHENER SHOWROOM 170 Gateway Park Drive 519-658-9313