

comfort zone



Rusty Star employee Brandon Storz

# RUSTIC AND RECLAIMED

STORY **JENNIFER SCHLEICH** | PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

**THE PLACE:** It's been eight years since **The Rusty Star** first opened its doors in Maxwell under the ownership of Tina and Paul Lisanti. Once a little shop sharing space with Maxwell Farm Service, it has grown up and out into a building of its own that attracts tourists and locals to a tiny little dot on the map of Grey Highlands. "We decided we needed to build a larger facility to showcase the growing popularity of solid wood Mennonite and craftsperson-produced furniture, as well as country-themed décor," says Tina.

**THE STYLE:** The 13,000 sq. ft. furniture and décor store has become a trove of rustic and vintage-style pieces, both true reclaimed constructions and stylish primitive reproductions. From bedrooms to dining sets, linens to rugs, jewelry to fashion accessories, outdoor cedar furniture to garden accents, the Rusty Star outdoes itself each season. "The predominant themes in our store are rustic, primitive and country," adds Tina.



**WHAT'S HOT:** Reclaimed barn doors are in demand. A new in-store display has been attracting a lot of attention from customers since it first appeared, owing to the wildly popular look barn doors bring to a home. "Barn doors are really trending right now," explains Tina. "They can be custom made to fit any space, with a choice of wood and stain." Reclaimed wood is also popular. According to Tina, their most popular bed is a king frame constructed from barn beams.

**FAVOURITES:** The sheer amount of wood behind the glass doors creates an atmosphere that must be experienced. "Our store is very interactive," says Tina. "You are invited to sit on our oversize red lawn chair, solve the Mennonite-made horseshoe puzzle, and we also have a play area for children." Stock is constantly changing but tried and true items include: glittering Christmas decorations and tree baubles, fuzzy wool caps, gloves and scarves, elegant wrought-iron door hardware and hooks, and a selection of beds that would make Goldilocks drool. "We know our job is done when customers leave with smiles on their faces, and when we see them returning to visit the Rusty Star on a regular basis," notes Tina.

**GET THERE:** 408065 Grey Rd. 4, Maxwell 519.922.2010 | [therustystar.ca](http://therustystar.ca) **OH**

