

Warmth in Winter



editor's note



EVERY TIME I pull out my crystal and china to set a special holiday table I reflect on past dinners and the fun had by all.

Let's face it, putting together a big meal for the holidays takes planning and resources. The host and hostess also face a certain amount of pressure to pull it off and make it look easy. I absolutely love entertaining my family, but this year my big sister gets the honour, mostly because she wants to show off her newly renovated kitchen and great room.

In my family, every celebration is all about the food. Christmas Eve features lobster and crab, salads and homemade perogies. Christmas day is turkey, ham, authentic artisan kielbasa (which is hard to find these days), Mom's cabbage rolls, her Slovak stuffing and all the fixings. Dessert is just as incredible. My mother begins her baking in November. She makes almond crescents, nut rolls, kiefle, the best butter tarts ever and all sorts of other cookies, cakes and pies. Christmas dinner is an all-out feast that takes many days to prepare. And only about an hour to eat. Then it's time to clean up, and that's a whole other story.

This issue is all about family. OUR HOMES team member Kim Smith gives us a sneak peek of her latest custom home (page 28), which will be on this year's May Court Club Homes for the Holidays Christmas Home Tour.

If you've ever considered building your own home, you'll want to read Kathy and Lori's story on page 72. Their home is truly unique. They used a bevy of local trades and served as their own general contractors.

Finally, we visit Joanne and Clark Banman at their new smaller home where they still like to host big family celebrations (page 52).

Enjoy the festivities wherever the holidays take you.

Georgette

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