

editor's note



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MY IRON BROKE. It happened the night before we were leaving on a family vacation, and I was in the midst of ironing everyone's clothes before they were packed into suitcases.

Off to the store I went, settling for a basic iron so I could get the job done.

The iron I had was a beauty – a heavy duty Reliant Velocity. It was

the swivel cord that sparked and crapped out after many years of use. I loved that iron.

Most of my friends think I'm crazy. I iron pretty much everything. My mother spent hours pressing our clothes (and sheets and linens). There were five of us, so you can only imagine what a task that was. As soon as we were old enough to handle the appliance, we were responsible for pressing our own clothes.

In his book *Outliers*, Canadian author Malcolm Gladwell wrote that "ten thousand hours is the magic number of greatness." As a result of starting young and lots and lots of practice, I consider myself pretty good at ironing and it really is something I enjoy.

Laundry is a task that never goes away. Sort, wash, dry, iron, put away... repeat. It certainly becomes easier, and cheaper, in the warmer months. Clothes are lighter and you can hang them outside to dry in the fresh air. When you have the right tools, every chore is easier.

I had so much fun putting together this issue. All three homes we feature are either on or near the water – two cottages and a heritage home with passionate, creative homeowners.

Our Spotlight shines on the Barbosa-family-owned Northern Iron, where they design and handcraft beautiful iron works, mostly lighting.

We have decorating advice, an easy DIY to spruce up your closet and delicious recipes to try.

Find your sense of accomplishment in all those spring cleaning tasks.

Until summer,

Georgette

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