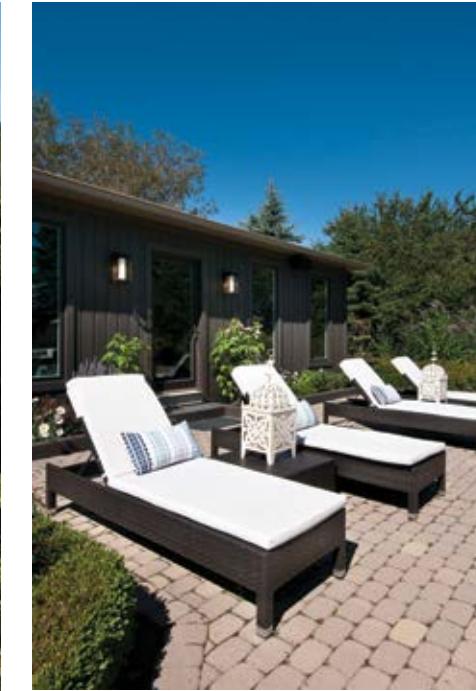


# RIVER *light*

STORY LAUREL FORTIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY



This picturesque and tranquil property, situated on the upper bank of the Beaver River, offers a bird's eye view of the meandering waterway as it winds its way through the surrounding fields and orchards.



**LEFT:** This five-bedroom home, built in the 1980s, was in need of a few modern upgrades. Custom homebuilder, Carter Allen Ltd., re-clad the exterior, installed a new roof and completely changed the face of the home by adding impressive new windows. **BELLOW LEFT:**

Chances are, lounging poolside is where you'll find this family of four on any sunny summer day. **BELLOW:** The homeowners have a fabulous working relationship with builders Scott Carter and Chris Allen. "They have an incredible eye for detail," says one homeowner, "and they do such quality work."

**BOTTOM:** After a long week in the city, the homeowners look forward to entertaining friends and family, and dining al fresco by the pool.



**LEFT:** Carter Allen added a bright and spacious new front foyer to the home. Floral arrangements by Paperwhite Flowers in Thornbury.  
**BELow:** What a difference new windows make! The living room is one of the homeowner's favourite spots to sink into the sofa, read a book and take in the restful river and poolside views.

As the setting sunlight filters through the apple orchard to the west, it dapples the water of the serene Beaver River. This weekend home, with views from the river's upper bank and 21 acres of orchards and fields, is the oasis of calm that the owners were seeking from their busy lives in Toronto.



Symmetrical windows, light fixtures and planters create great curb appeal and a welcoming entry to the home. Gardener Michelle Green worked wonders on the flower gardens.



After a decade or more with a vacation home in Collingwood and memberships at Alpine Ski Club, the homeowners, a professional and a small business owner with two young adult children, sought out a country property where they could enjoy more of what the Southern Georgian Bay area offers.

The couple were swept up at the first sight of a five-bedroom home in the Clarksburg countryside in 2012. Its winding approach up an orchard drive leads to a tidy two-storey home built in the 1980s. Situated at a bend in the river, with frontage to the east side of the home and a pool to the west, plus hiking trails traversing the property, and only a five-minute trip into Thornbury, it was just too good to pass up.

They purchased the home, knowing the windows needed replacing and the décor was due for an upgrade. Once they began pricing out new windows, their creativity flowed. "Our living room looks upstream – you can see about a kilometre – but the two windows facing that view were narrow," says the owner.

The symmetrical home had eight windows on each storey, and four doors, one in the middle of each of its four sides. The owners thought,

why not cut out the bricks between the two living room windows to create a grand 12-foot wide span? Once that was decided, the rest was a domino effect. They also wanted to mirror the window style around the ground floor to create four, wide-spanned windows out of the original eight (sourced at Marvin Windows and Doors of Canada). But to do all this, they needed a designer and contractor.

They approached Thornbury custom homebuilder **Carter Allen Ltd.** "We saw work they did for friends of ours in Thornbury," says the homeowner, "and we loved their clean, contemporary style." Carter Allen became their general contractor, and the company's experienced staff offered excellent design ideas and inspiration.

"Once we opened up the walls, we could then add insulation and new electrical wiring throughout the interior," say the owners. The exterior could be updated as well – the owners chose to re-clad the house with Cape Cod-style wood siding (sourced at **Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre**). While working on the exterior, they added an entrance foyer to the house, with Carter Allen guiding them through the permit process. Due

*Continued on page 49*



A colourful apple painting from the Loft Gallery complements the apple-like bulbs of a contemporary crystal chandelier, which hangs over the dining room table. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** The kitchen also underwent a major overhaul. New windows, two functional work islands, and a large pantry were installed. The owners chose not to impede the lovely views by hanging overhead cabinets. **BELOW RIGHT:** The homeowner describes the style of her abode as contemporary, but with a little edge. "It's a very calming home, with a great relaxing vibe," she says.



to their proximity to the Beaver River, there were restrictions to adhere to in order to preserve the river's banks.

The back of the home (with the river view) was updated with an overhang to create a porch space, but the structure had to be cantilevered from the house due to restrictions about digging near the river. A three-car garage was built as well, but set back from the house, once again, to reduce any impact on the river.

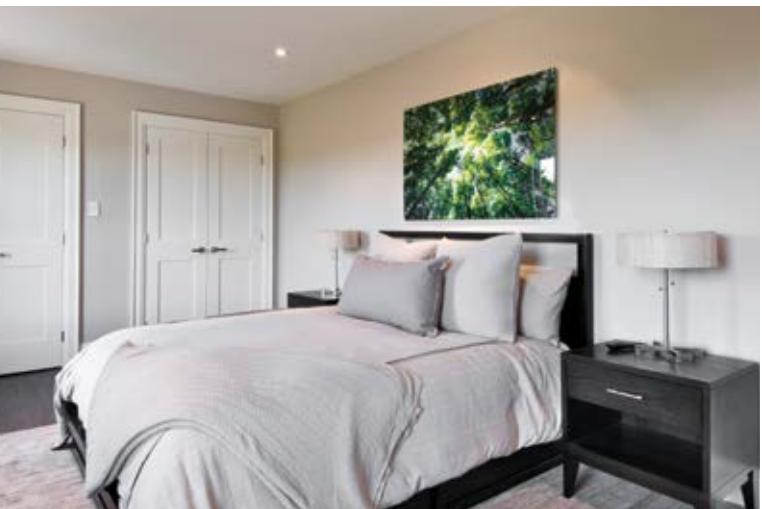
Both outdoor enthusiasts, the owners definitely have an eye for nature and light. One owner's photography hangs throughout the home – a photo documenting the Collingwood terminals hangs in the stairwell, and a gorgeous green stand of maple trees at Metcalfe Rock brightens their son's bedroom. A pair of large photos with beach landscapes in the background epitomizes the contrast between natural and manmade elements that the owners are drawn to – one has a gritty phone booth in the foreground, and the second features a weather-beaten lifeguard stand.

Natural fibres, like linen and cotton, adorn the windows and furniture. Touches of shine reflect from brushed-nickel hardware and fixtures. Glass curtain-rod finials and cupboard knobs add glints of sparkle. A new gas fireplace, installed by **Chantico Fireplace Gallery**, warms the living room, surrounded by custom cabinets built by a Mennonite carpenter sourced by Carter Allen.

All of the home's light fixtures were sourced at the homeowner's store, Universal Lamp in Toronto, with some spectacular finds such

*Continued on page 50*





**ABOVE:** One of the homeowner's many beautiful photographs adds a burst of colour to his son's bedroom, which is decorated in soft, soothing earth tones and natural fibres. **FAR LEFT:** What was once a much darker bedroom is now flooded with light, thanks to the addition of sizeable new windows. **LEFT:** A simple, yet elegant iron fixture featuring Edison bulbs hangs in the stairwell. The home showcases several unique fixtures from Universal Lamp, the homeowner's Toronto store.



as the crystal droplet chandelier in the dining area – a contemporary design that reflects not only light, but the dangling baubles suggest apples hanging in the orchard outside. A gorgeous deer antler chandelier lights the front foyer, which the owner accented with silver paint to lend a modern twist to the rustic style. Above the staircase, an oversize lantern-shaped iron frame is filled with a clear Edison light bulb. The same simple Edison bulbs shine from the fixtures that hang over the kitchen island.

Two lower banks of white cabinetry, designed and built by **Corinthian Kitchen and Bath** in Thornbury, create a wonderful

*Continued on page 52*

**LEFT:** After removing an old wood-burning fireplace from the main level and a second staircase to the basement, the homeowners were able to reconfigure the entire layout of the home, including the stairs leading to the lower level and second floor, which they painted white.

# The Art of Colour

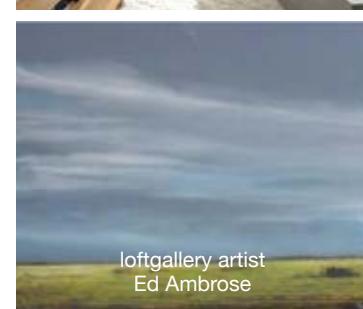
*"The use of colour in your space tells your story. It is a powerful statement of your personal style."*

## loftgallery

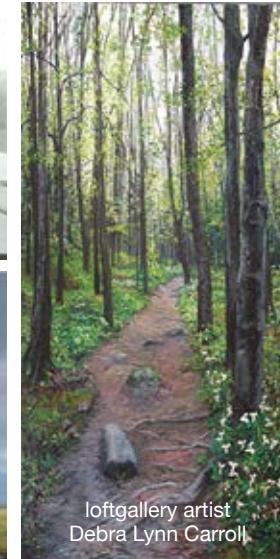
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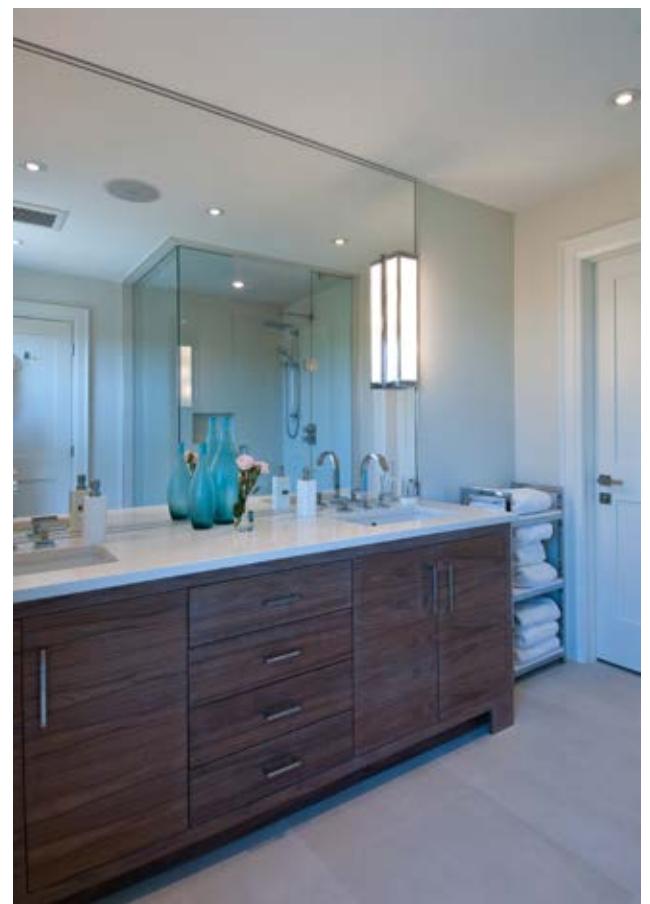
## Artwork

Original artwork adds a unique and personal dose of colour to your space. Choose an incredible piece of artwork first and then pull your colours from the painting. Your artwork should be the inspiration for your whole room. Visit the Loft Gallery and ask about their art colour consulting and choose from over 3,000 sq. ft. of original paintings. Free trials and delivery within 100 mile radius of the Gallery. Loft Gallery also has several artists who will work closely with clients to create customized pieces for specific spaces and colour tones. Gallery Girls Art Classes start this spring.

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**LEFT:** Once a few walls came down, the homeowners made use of the extra space by re-configuring a brand new master en suite with glassed-in shower. **TOP:** The homeowners are thrilled that Chris Allen came up with the brilliant idea to install a huge picture window in the north wall of the master bedroom. **ABOVE:** Before: There was no view from the bed. After: A 10-foot picture window offers a stunning view.

space to prepare meals without upper cabinets to obstruct the sight lines through the home. Soft, grey-coloured Caesarstone quartz counters are durable and easy to care for. Appliances were sourced at **MacDonald's BrandSource Home Furnishings** in Meaford.

A long, salvaged wood trestle dining table (from Restoration Hardware) seats relatives and friends while the family entertains. "It's my favourite spot to sit in the house, watching the river with a cup of morning coffee," says the owner. Two large paintings, purchased at the

*Continued on page 54*



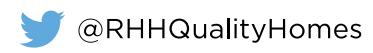
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**Loft Gallery** in Clarksburg, inject colour into the space. A pantry, tucked behind a natural-wood sliding barn door, was added by Carter Allen after the owners removed a second staircase leading to the basement.

The owners also removed a massive wood-burning fireplace from the centre of the home, allowing them to modify the layout on all three floors. The main floor was opened up between the living room and dining room; the basement gained a laundry room and the upper level gained a glassed-in shower in the master en suite.

Natural colours and materials continue upstairs with glass and brushed-nickel fixtures and hardware. Large sand-coloured porcelain tiles finish both the main and master showers, with unique rectangular

shower drains allowing the large tiles to also be used on the shower floors. Straight-line nickel handles fit each door, and the children's rooms also echo the natural fibres and tones. The home's original narrow-planked oak flooring on the second floor was refinished with a grey stain to complement the overall style, and to match the colour of the new, wide-plank wood flooring installed throughout the main floor.

The master bedroom was enhanced by cutting a 10-foot-wide window in the north wall to open up the view across the acreage. From this window, the owners spot wolves, deer and foxes in the fields and orchards below. But it will forever be the river and its dramatic four-season changes that continue to draw the couple to the spectacular views from their serene country getaway. **OH**

## SOURCE GUIDE

Scott Carter & Chris Allen of Carter Allen Ltd., Chantico Fireplace Gallery, Corinthian Kitchen & Bath Studio, Michelle Green of Green Arts, Huronia Alarms, Loft Gallery, MacDonald's Brandsource Furniture & Appliances, Paperwhite Flowers, Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre



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