



LIGHTING UP the ages

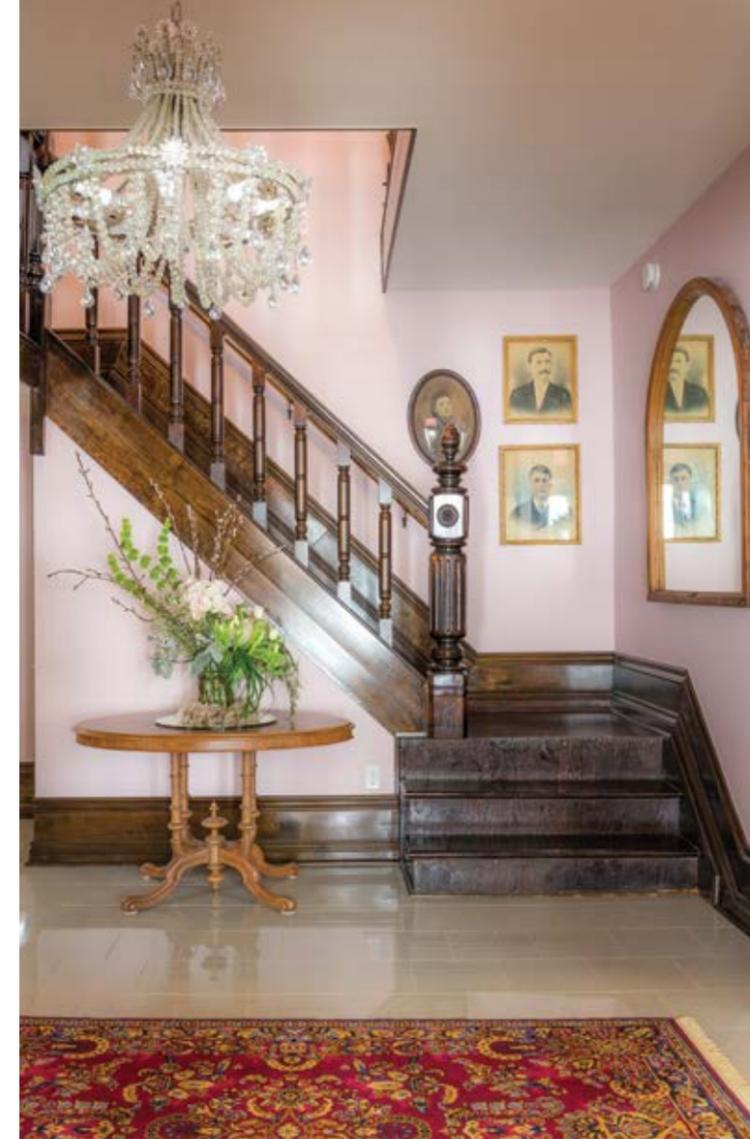
STORY **KATHLEEN DUNCAN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

The waking sun bounces off the verandah's whitewashed pillars to scale the second-floor balcony as it stretches for a peek over the cupola atop the J.T. Payette House, a heritage property designated in 1984.

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OPPOSITE: The sunroom upstairs in the heritage property that once belonged to J.T. Payette, Penetanguishene's first mayor, overlooks the South Basin shore of Penetanguishene Bay. **ABOVE:** The original dining room is full of owner Tiana Jupp's treasures and period furniture. **TOP RIGHT:** The foyer showcases the grand original staircase, photos of the home's builders and a stunning floral arrangement from Arbour's Flower Shoppe. **RIGHT:** Owner Tiana Jupp sits in the ladies' parlour with Sally, her Standard Poodle.





This ceramic horse adorns a table in the ladies' parlour. It's a whimsical collectible discovered at an antique market.

The corresponding shadow down the hill behind the property quickly retreats from the South Basin shore of Penetanguishene Bay, racing up the home's terraced back gardens and brushing by an old stable wall before taking refuge in a cosy corner of the covered back porch.

"I love the view," says Dave Jupp, current co-owner of the classically-styled century mansion. Looking out a kitchen window toward the water, he happily describes the ever-changing vista as sailboats make way for snowmobiles – and back again.

Defying the misconception that Victorian homes are dark with formal, uncomfortable furnishings, the kitchen (and indeed the entire house) is anything but gloomy. Its original maple floors have been restored to a gleaming base for the large, airy space. Penetanguishene's **Marcelville** upcycled floor-to-ceiling cabinetry to include back-lit and glass-fronted cupboards. An open rack displays a collection of milk glass plates. Trim throughout is Benjamin Moore's White Dove, sourced from **Penetang Quality Home Products**.

"Every chair we own has to be comfortable or it's gone," Dave's wife Tiana explains. "People love Victorians, but they don't want to live as Victorians."

Four years ago, the Jupps bought the landmark property as the latest and largest in a series of renovations. Over the last 18 years, they've meticulously restored at least a dozen properties, choosing different styles to exemplify in each: a Toronto condo, a 1970s' A-frame, and a rural log cabin to name a few.

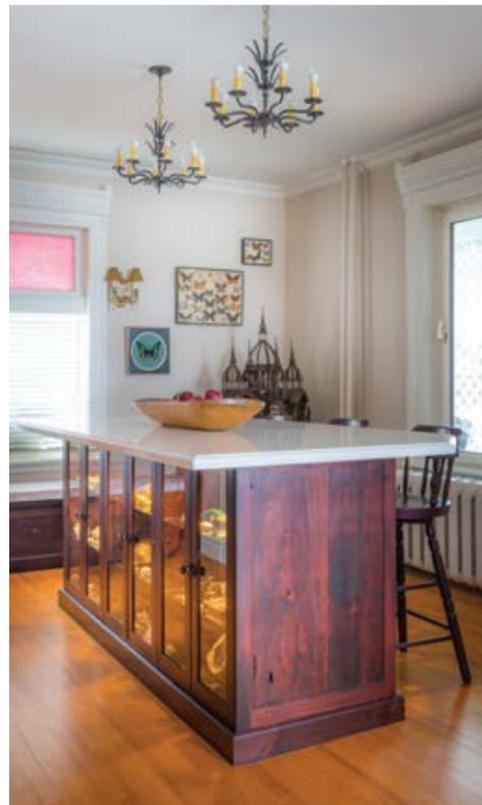
"We also collect houses," Tiana admits with a laugh. "This will be a tough one to let go of." *Continued on page 79*



The new kitchen on the main floor was built on top of original floors. The lavender, quartz-topped island and the glass-front cupboards are filled with vintage serving dishes. The old highchairs serve as stools around the island.



TOP: The fireplace in the ladies' parlour adds a pop of colour to the room. **ABOVE:** The historic home sits high above the shore. **RIGHT:** This room off the kitchen serves as breakfast nook. The island's lower cabinet lights up to display collectibles.



The lighting throughout the home is either original or from the Victorian era.



The main bathroom is now located in what used to be the summer kitchen.



The journey has included a full rewiring (**Georgian Electrical**), replumbing (**J. Plumbing Ltd.**), repointing (Coldwater's **Hobson Masonry**), renewing and re-olting, with many rooms being stripped back to the frame and subfloor. **Wye River Flooring Co. Ltd.** provided new tile and hardwood where necessary. A high ceiling with a hatch to the children's playroom in the attic was discovered in a hallway, hidden behind three or four drop ceilings that had been added over the years. The self-proclaimed perfectionist couple relied on carpenters from **Bremel Enterprises** to get it right.

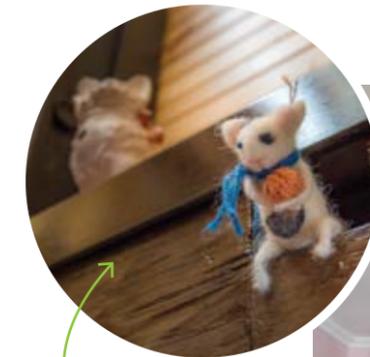
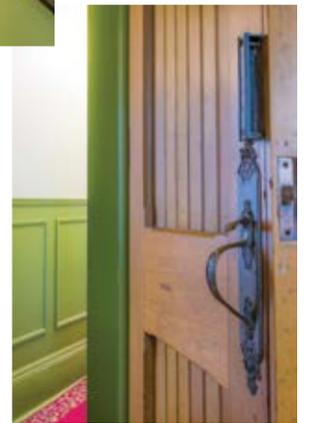
Countering another Victorian stereotype, Tiana insists there are no ghosts. She does, however, acknowledge the house's sense of humour, and perhaps a "lock gremlin," who randomly bolts interior and exterior doors – even if there's no actual mechanism to do so. In replacing a screen door recently, Tiana had a skeleton key installed to ensure the upper hand. *Continued on page 80*



This hallway is lined with a collection of vintage circus photos. The Jupps love the circus.



LEFT: The library upstairs, painted a vibrant green, is a cosy room located in front of the master bedroom. **ABOVE:** The Jupps' vintage toy collection sits on red shelves in an upstairs hallway. **RIGHT:** The Jupps were careful to fix and preserve the original doors throughout the home. **BELOW:** The stairs on the second floor landing lead to the attic playroom, discovered through a secret hatch door.



A cat and mouse greet visitors as they climb the stairs to the attic playroom.





LEFT: The colourful, Asian-inspired master bedroom is furnished with vintage and antique furniture. **BELOW:** Tiana discovered this clock at a garage sale. She was told it was built in the 1900s and came from Sweden. It is a clue on an upcoming charity scavenger hunt the Jupps are organizing. The clue? Time Flies.



“That gremlin is not going to get the best of us!” she smiles. Built in the early 1900s by stone mason Wenceslaus Blanchard of Lafontaine, the house was named after its best-known resident. J.T. Payette, a successful foundry owner and colourful personality, was also Penetanguishene’s first mayor, serving from 1921 to 1924. “It’s always been a working house,” explains Tiana. “After being the mayor’s office and home, it was a doctor’s office, a car lot, a law office, an artist studio and an inn – judging from the knockers on the bedroom doors.” In converting the building back into a single-family dwelling, they looked for ways to improve the flow from room to room. State-of-the-art mod cons were ensured throughout, but preserving history was paramount.

“We want to preserve it for the generations to come,” she adds, having adopted a caretaker attitude – and hanging previous owners’ portraits to prove it. “The house is important to this community, and we’ve been very proud to be able to bring the house back in keeping with its original period.” Semi-retired from full-time employment, she has the time to indulge in her passion for interior design and the opportunity to hone her skills at sourcing perfect accessories. “I consider myself a professional thrift hunter – not only for myself, but friends as well,” she says. “My siblings are also into thrift. We learned it from my grandmother, who taught us to appreciate different things.” *Continued on page 82*

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LEFT: This stunning bathroom has the original pedestal sink. The original clear glass tile was installed way back when on a white painted wall. **BELOW:** The door to the nursery upstairs came from Scotland. **BOTTOM:** A guest room is filled with antiques and an original transom window.



Tiana is in her glory as construction wraps up and she can focus on “putting in the bling.” Adding to her thrift store gems, she found antiques at Marcelville and **Recollections**, chandeliers at St. James Vintage Lighting in Shelburne and worked with Midland’s **Cabin Boy** for new furniture and design consultation.

“You can’t do it by yourself,” she says emphatically. “We use the same team at all our places. It’s an evolution getting the right people. We always ask them to do strange things and they have to be willing to do it.”

For this house, it meant building in hidden doors and puzzles to showcase and ultimately

share the home’s artifacts and secrets discovered as the decades were peeled away.

“We’re planning to host a public scavenger hunt for charity this year that leads from one fun, tricky (but doable) clue to another as players tour the house,” promises Tiana, eyes sparkling. “There’ll be a few clues in there about us as well, because we’re the new owners.”

Although Tiana has so much fun keeping busy with the details, at the end of the day she also takes time to appreciate the big picture delights of her environment.

“The way the house lights up in the evening is so beautiful. I love watching it transform from day to night.” **OH**

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