

# Unwrap the Magic

STORY **SARAH SLOAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



Like a scene from a holiday movie, the tree stands at the bottom of the staircase for little ones to find all that awaits on Christmas morning.



The tree is trimmed in classic red, silver and white. **RIGHT:** Natural pine and cedar boughs with LED white Christmas ornaments make a simple centerpiece out of a vintage tool box.

When Steve and Kristen Biederman started their family, they knew it was time to move from city living to a quieter setting. With Steve having grown up in Port Elgin, they decided it was the right place to raise their two boys, Andy and Alex, in a beautiful home. *Continued on page 81*



A family of felt reindeer dressed for the winter weather.





Battery operated lanterns are a safe way to add ambience.



Homeowners Steve and Kristen Biederman along with decorator Kerri Hardman-McLean of Interior Motives and Co. at the base of the garland wrapped staircase that greeted guests on the tour. **TOP LEFT:** A vintage child's sleigh awaits the snow. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Welcoming lanterns, natural greens and red accents set the tone of the Christmas feeling on the inside of the home.



Casual holiday décor in the traditional red and green of the season transformed the sitting room for the Cham-bette's Christmas Tour of Homes.

The new-to-them home was larger than their previous home in St. Catharines and while they brought much of their belongings with them, the larger house provided ample space to redecorate. "It was a beautifully maintained home,"

Kristen says of the 1990s build. "It has a great flow and a perfect family layout."

Plenty of natural light cascades from large North Star windows from Window and Door Centre installed throughout the unique figure-eight shape of the main floor.

"As soon as we walked in we thought 'wow!'" remembers Kristen.

Cathedral ceilings, a large oak staircase and newly installed hardwood flooring from **South Bruce Flooring** all create a grand entrance. *Continued on page 82*



The cosy sectional in the family room is a great spot to watch holiday movies. **RIGHT, TOP:** Grapevine wreaths, accents of red and natural pine boughs are an easy way to add festive flair. **MIDDLE:** Festive gingerbread and sugar cookies are cohesive with the overall red and green colour scheme. **BOTTOM:** Snowmen add an element of childhood fun to the holiday décor.



The advent tree is a fun way for kids to count down the days until Santa's arrival.



**RIGHT:** The décor in the family room is inspired by the holiday magic that kids bring to the holidays. **BELOW:** Decorated miniature Christmas trees are on display in the bay window, which overlooks the backyard.



Kerri worked with the home's farmhouse feel to decorate for the holidays. "The theme was warm, rustic and casual," Kerri explains.

They created a more formal feel in the living/dining room area for Christmas entertaining. The foyer chandelier and sconces light the way (House Rules Design Shop). This is where the Christmas tree lives, enhanced with live greenery on the reclaimed-shelving and chalk painted tables (**The Timeless Materials Co., Southampton Market, Habitat for Humanity Port Elgin Restore**).

Red and white pillows and throws add comfort to the space. The elegant table is set for company coming.

"I personally love using old vintage/antique pieces and mixing with new items," Kerri explains. "One of my favourites is the dining table centerpiece. It was an old antique toolbox that we put some pine and cedar boughs in and mixed in some beautiful large LED glass balls."

The colour theme continues throughout the rest of the home.

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Red knit pillows and a red and green family quilt add a dash of the season to Steve and Kristen's bedroom. **RIGHT:** A comfy reading nook in the principal bedroom. **BOTTOM:** Kristen updated the kids' bathroom with some paint, mirrors and lighting – and a whole lot of DIY!



On the opposite side of the foyer, the sunken family room is geared towards the children. The room is a cosy retreat with a fireplace donned in jute stockings and signs for the North Pole, the perfect setting for children to play with new toys on Christmas morning. Additional vintage signage and a wooden rocking horse enhance the space while advent calendars and burlap wreaths add to the rustic theme.

More family fun awaits in the kitchen where a hot chocolate station and fun Christmas decorations keep the magic of Christmas alive and well in the Biederman home.

Santas of all shapes and sizes, along with reindeer in the large bay windows of the eat-in kitchen overlook the ravine of the Rail Trail near Mill Creek – a beautifully treed, natural setting in Port Elgin.

No detail is left undone, as more rustic décor lines the walls and shelves as well as the counters in the home's bathrooms.

Sweeping along the rails of the newly painted oak staircase (**Warren Dunlop** of **Saugeen Painters**) is garland laced with small wooden presents as well as a large piece of art created from an old pallet.

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# feature

On the second floor, the magic continues in the boys' rooms. In the nursery, an Elf-on-the-Shelf watches over then one-year-old Alex while a Christmas-themed lava lamp illuminates the room. Christmas books line his dresser.

In Andy's room, painted Stratosphere by Beautitone from **Port Elgin Home Hardware Building Centre**, a bench made from his great-grandparents' bed is adorned with more festive pillows, a tin and buffalo check sign. A red rocking chair sits next to his bed with a reindeer toy Kerri bought for the youngster.

"He could barely keep his hands off the vintage toy truck," says Kristen. "The boys had quite a few sleepovers at Grandma and Grandpa's while the house was staged for the tour."

The most memorable room on the tour however was Kristen and Steve's principal bedroom and en suite. Complete with chalk painted pieces of furniture, including the king-size headboard (**Meaford Factory Outlet**) and Kristen's grandmother's nightstand, it stood out from the rest. A beautiful quilt, handmade by her mother in reds and greens, swept across a chest at the base of the bed,

while more live greenery and holiday-themed figurines on the vanity finished off the space.

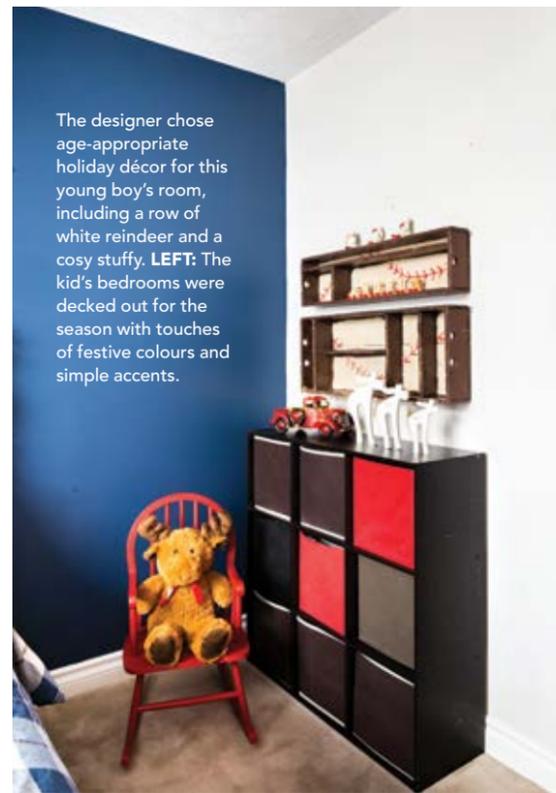
As for the process, Kristen enjoyed opening her doors up to the public.

"Christmas is a big deal," she says. "It's a fun holiday. It was so special and cute, and we are able to relive our childhoods too."

Working with Kerri was the icing on the cake. "I loved sharing ideas and talking to Kerri about the process," she says. "And having people come through our doors is like having extended neighbours over. It's such a nice small town." **OH**



The infamous Elf-on-the-Shelf keeps an eye to report back to Santa.



The designer chose age-appropriate holiday décor for this young boy's room, including a row of white reindeer and a cosy stuffy. **LEFT:** The kid's bedrooms were decked out for the season with touches of festive colours and simple accents.

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