



# HOPE FOR THE *Holidays*

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The snow wasn't yet falling, but the days were growing short, the nights frosty and the Ceaser house on the outskirts of Owen Sound was already bedecked for Christmas on a cool weekend last November. Thanks to a little holiday magic courtesy of home décor boutique **barebirch**, Brian and Tedra Ceaser were ready to open their front door to the troves of Christmas curious pouring in from across the region. *Continued on page 30*



**ABOVE:** The table décor is set for a Christmas party, and comes complete with tree branch candle holders, stonewashed linens, and burlap bows. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Lots of greenery enlivens the front door of the Ceaser house for the Holiday Tour of Homes. **TOP RIGHT:** A set of vintage-look skis and a reindeer toss cushion lend a sense of winter wonder to the foyer. **BOTTOM:** Jacqueline Furtner of Barebirch with homeowner Tedra Ceaser and tour organizer Rob Dinsmore.



Small glass balls filled with faux snow, twine and twigs make pretty DIY ornaments.



It was the **Holiday Tour of Homes** weekend, an annual charity event in Grey County that raises money for local organizations by issuing tickets to locals and visitors to visit a series of homes decked out in holiday décor. The Holiday Tour of Homes usually raises money in support of Second Chance Kids and Quota International of Owen Sound, the latter funnels resources into the community to help the deaf, hard of hearing and speech-impaired, as well as disadvantaged women and children. Through Quota, funds raised during the Holiday Tour of Homes have also gone to support the Owen Sound Police Services' KIDS Program and the Special Olympics Torch Run. The money raised at this year's event went to the Chapman House Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce.

"It has really become an annual community event, with not only local people attending, but people from all over Ontario. We pride ourselves on the high calibre of décor we are able to showcase on the tour each year," explains event planner Rob Dinsmore,



**LEFT:** It's okay to have two Christmas trees in one home; the large tree adorns the lower level, while a more compact version brought shine to the living room. **ABOVE:** The mason jar vanity light was a DIY rehab project. **RIGHT:** A cedar chest filled with winter toss cushions and a wool throw becomes a Christmas décor vignette with the help of some greenery. **BELOW:** The minimalist twine wreath hanging in the living room window plays up the burlap accents in the adjacent dining area.



This DIY lamp was made by Tedra and Brian from a salvaged barn beam.



who has been participating in the tour as a decorator for over 20 years. "This was Tedra's first year on the tour and we try very much to offer different homes every year to keep the event fresh and exciting."

Participating designers on last year's tour included **Memorable Designs, Then & Now Consignment & Home Décor**, barebirch, **Flower Expressions, Four Seasons Party Rentals**, and **Wilma's Flower Shoppe Designs and Décor**. The 2016 designers include some from last year and also **Décor Design**.

Having the Ceasers' home decorated for Christmas by barebirch was a natural choice, as Tedra's sense of personal style aligns with the neutral and natural

*Continued on page 32*

feature

An antique pulley and mason jars make for a fun light fixture. →



A three season sun room lets the family enjoy the pastoral view in comfort.

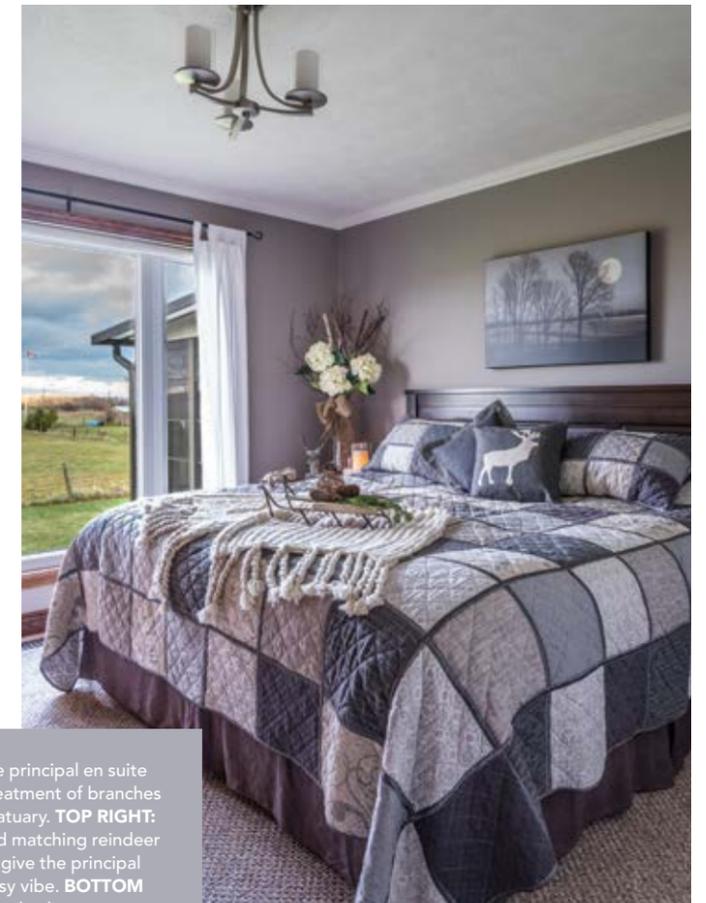
aesthetic of the downtown Owen Sound boutique, owned and operated by designer **Jacqueline Furtner** and her husband **Simon**. Tedra has amassed her own small collection of barebirch goods set against the right background palette (paint from **Grey Bruce Paint & Décor**) for the store's aesthetic to really shine.

"Last year I was talking to Rob [Dinsmore] about the tour and he asked if I would be interested in participating, and I told him only if barebirch would do it because they are my favourite store," says Tedra. Jacqueline Furtner adds, "I knew that we had the same taste and I've seen how she has it decorated throughout the year with woody and natural tones. Her style made it very easy to infuse Christmas décor that still maintained a cohesive look and kept things simple."

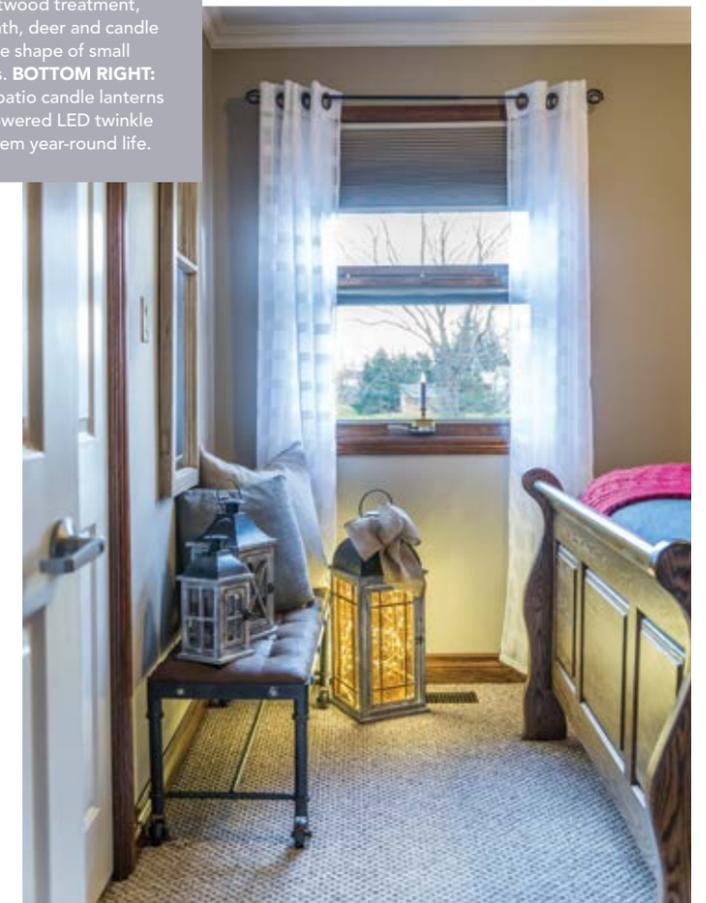
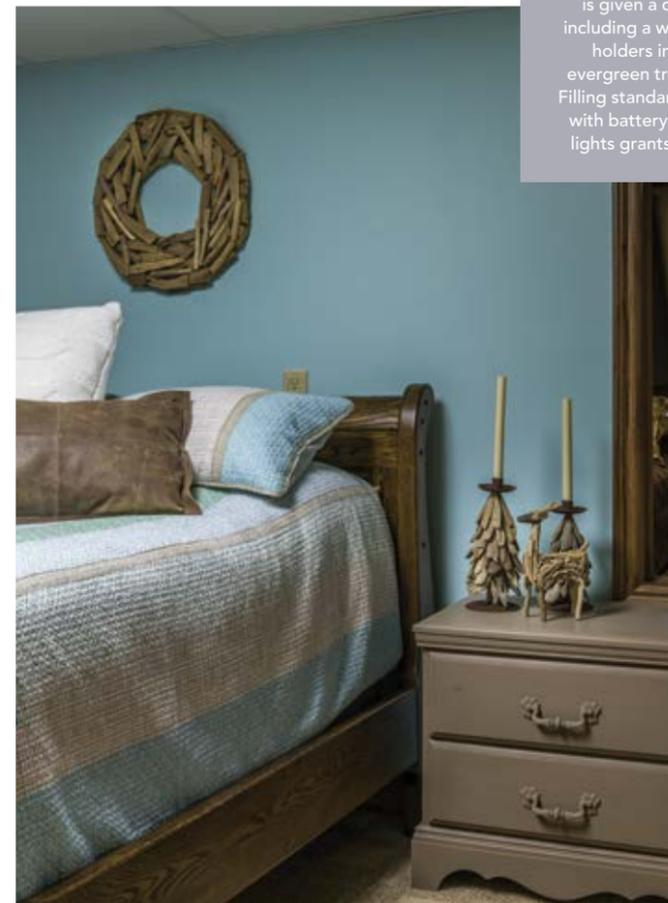
Jacqueline was inspired by the country vista sprawling beyond the home's windows (**McGregor Window & Door**), and thought it was a wonderful idea to bring that rural atmosphere inside during the

winter. Her inspiration is particularly evocative in the three-season sunroom, constructed by **Grey Bruce Patio Enclosures**, where Tedra's own rustic pieces meet with barebirch's décor – natural greenery and lights for a cosy winter atmosphere. The sunroom, which features windows that can be fully opened in the summer, is heated with a gas stove (**Smith & Hladil Home Hardware Building Centre**) and sits adjacent to the home's deck (Lumberock Premium Decking). The engineered hardwood (**McNabb Flooring Solutions**) covers an insulated subfloor for added warmth in the cooler months.

"In our sunroom there's a couple of special items made with salvaged wood that we snatched up when Brian's brother's Cape Chin barn blew down," explains Tedra. "Some Mennonites came out to look at buying the wood, but they said it wasn't salvageable, so we pulled out a number of beams and other items with the hope of incorporating them into our house." *Continued on page 34*



**TOP LEFT:** The principal en suite gets a festive treatment of branches and reindeer statuary. **TOP RIGHT:** A warm quilt and matching reindeer toss cushions give the principal bedroom a cosy vibe. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The guest bedroom space is given a driftwood treatment, including a wreath, deer and candle holders in the shape of small evergreen trees. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Filling standard patio candle lanterns with battery powered LED twinkle lights grants them year-round life.



feature

*Make your own driftwood tree with some hot glue and a styrofoam cone.*



Tedra and Brian spend a good deal of time crafting together in the garage, which is how they came up with the idea to use the salvaged wood to create a live-edge coffee table, two end tables, a mason jar light on the antique pulley in the sun room and a number of barn-beam floor lamps throughout the house.

“I grew up in the country in Pike Bay on the water, and our house was all barn board cupboards, wagon wheel chandeliers and fur rugs. As a kid I thought it was all horrible, but now I love that type of décor!” says Tedra, who likes to hunt around locally for the right pieces for her home. “There are so many cool stores you don’t find in big cities that are all around here. I go to Collingwood, Meaford, everywhere I can, and I don’t always buy things, sometimes it’s just trips for style inspiration.”

Jacqueline focused a lot on greenery when decorating the Ceaser home, including a number of Christmas trees with different themed ornaments, and draped garlands across many surfaces. The show-stopping trees are adorned in beautiful ornamentation that reflects the woody, natural and rural vibe that Jacqueline was channelling from Tedra’s home.

All in all, the home exudes more of a sense of cosy winter charm than it does glitzy traditional Christmas. The antique sets of skis and snowshoes, the little wooden sleds, the tree branch candle holders, fur throws, winter-themed accent cushions, and smatterings of burlap, twine and driftwood help create a holiday look that will last from November to March with only a little tweaking (perhaps the Christmas trees may come down some time after New Year’s Day). **OH**



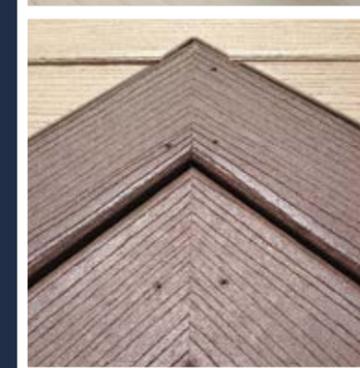
**ABOVE:** Jacqueline Furtner of barebirch wrapped a number of Christmas balls in coordinating fabrics for a fun country-chic look. **LEFT:** Stockings, greenery, and fur throws complete the winter woody Christmas in the Ceaser home.

### SOURCE GUIDE

- Air-Tech Mechanical • barebirch
- Baycrest Distribution • Décor Design
- Exquisite Wood Designs • Grey Bruce Paint & Décor • Grey Bruce Patio Enclosures • McDonald’s Brand Source Furniture & Appliances • McGregor Window & Door • McNabb Flooring Solutions • The Old Barn • Peninsula Overhead Doors • Westside Nurseries

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