

STORY **SARAH SLOAN** | PHOTOS **SANDY MACKAY**

WOODLAND WARMTH & WONDER



A pair of trees trimmed in white and silver amongst a collection of miniature birch trees creates a casually elegant feel and looks right at home with the forest view through the window. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT:** A grapevine snowman welcomes guests on the tour. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Caitlin and Mark Bayard with their two children, Victoria and Joseph, and Caitlin's mom Cindy McMullin of Décor Design. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The natural simplicity of green garland, grapevine and burlap on the railing creates a relaxed woodland look.

When Owen Sound natives Caitlin and Mark Bayard moved into their new house in Georgian Bluffs in September 2016, the last thing on their minds was how to decorate for the holidays. But with Caitlin's mother having a keen eye for design and looking to give back to her community, the new space was the perfect blank canvas to transform into a winter wonderland for the **Owen Sound Holiday Tour of Homes.** *Continued on page 77*



Tufted upholstered chairs at the ends of the table adds a layer of formality and comfort to the festive tablescape.

RIGHT: A classic place setting of white on white is accented with natural greens, burlap and a glimmer of silver. **TOP RIGHT:** Cindy and her son-in-law Mark with Belle, the family Yorkie. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** The holiday cheer extends all the way to the mailbox and offers guests a glimpse of what's to come inside. **BELOW:** A stunning white orchid in full bloom is a natural complement to Cindy's overall décor scheme.



Caitlin and Mark moved into the house ([Snyder Development](#)) at the same time Caitlin was coming off of her second maternity leave and heading back to work when her mom, [Cindy McMullin](#) of [Décor Design](#) in Owen Sound, suggested they take part in the tour. While, for most, this would not be an ideal situation, the couple took it in stride knowing monies raised would be going toward the fundraising efforts of the [Chapman House Residential Hospice of Grey Bruce Inc.](#) The family packed their bags and moved out so Cindy could come in and work some Christmas magic. “There was just no way you could do it with two kids running around,” Cindy says. When it came to decorating the 2,000 sq. ft. living space, Cindy didn't have to look far for inspiration. The home sits on a beautiful wooded lot from which she borrowed her ideas both literally and figuratively, bringing the outdoors in. *Continued on page 78*

holiday home

Like looking into a snow globe, the large picture window in the great room captures the beauty of the home’s surroundings and is the definite focal point when you step in the front door.

“I wanted that to be the wow factor when people walked in,” Cindy says, referring to the two Christmas trees she staggered in front of the window to mimic the outdoors.

Atop the trees sat magnificent snow white peacocks, which set the tone for the trimmings on the tree. Feathers, silver sparkly spray and icy coloured ornaments were nestled among the branches. Birch branches

illuminated with white lights were the backdrop to the impressive trees and perfectly-placed burlap skirted the display.

Further décor throughout the room, such as the cedar trimmings draped across the timber shelves, looked as though they had been touched by frost. Like sun-kissed ice, decorative crystal garland and grapevines were woven through the greenery and along the mantelpiece. Three white, coned trees sat on the top of the shelving and nearby, staggered chrome hurricane candle holders added to the wintry theme.



FAR LEFT: Green garland frosted with crystal accents is a seasonal touch that can remain even after the holidays end. **LEFT:** An elf looking slightly mischievous. **BELOW:** Two trees creates a suitably scaled arrangement in front of the large arch top window. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** Santa delivering a classic Christmas train set in Joseph’s room. **TOP RIGHT:** The large window grouping anchors the family gathering space and connects the indoors with nature outside. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The entrance console appears as though it is under a light layer of frost.



No detail was spared in the kitchen or dining room either as the wintry theme made its way to the beautifully set dining room table. A silver table runner made way for more crystal garland, which weaved amongst the white dinner service. Silver Christmas baubles were strategically placed in the glass stemware and glistened in the natural light cascading from windows that envelop the space.

Simple touches such as snow-dusted pine cones, silver vases and accessories could be found on top of the server and on the home’s impressive kitchen island. Cindy incorporated more white trees of different

shapes and sizes as well as faux furs and woodland creatures in every room. She even included the bathroom and laundry room on the Tour of Homes, but it was the master bedroom that stole the hearts of the near 800 people who passed through. “People just wanted to stay in there,” Cindy says.

The master was embellished with a white chenille bedspread and silver and white euro-shams. Grey felt cushions with deer heads and birch branch arrangements in the master bath were reminders of the home’s woodland setting while Christmas pictures adorned the walls. Exceeding all expectations was the covered outdoor hot tub, from

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holiday home



A textural coverlet adds warmth for the winter season.

LEFT: The principal bedroom is a cosy retreat dressed in white and grey. **BELOW:** The covered outdoor hot tub takes in the natural splendour.



dedication to detail

which you could imagine sipping on a festive cocktail all while taking in the winter splendour of the Bayards' property.

And like the snow melting around the steamy hot tub, so too did the hearts of those who toured the children's rooms. Like *Babes in Toyland*, they took in the magic setting Cindy had created with a toy train and track, teddy bears and Christmas books. A large Santa figurine and faux-fur blankets and cushions created a cosy retreat for 13-month-old Joseph.

Next door, you could imagine the bewilderment of three-year-old Victoria, whose room was transformed with little elves who resided on her dresser next to a ceramic Christmas tree that had been created by her great-grandmother. The elves matched the coral and grey décor and linens in the room, accented by sheer white lace.

For Cindy, what made the house stand out from others was her ability to incorporate both rustic and modern using both burlap and bling to set the stage.

"I always try to do something different," she says. "Christmas is my favourite time of year, so I always look forward to decorating."

"It actually wasn't as over the top as I thought it would be," Caitlin laughs, referring to her mom's traditional way of decorating for the holidays.

Items used to decorate the home for the Tour were sourced from Cindy's interior design and staging business in downtown Owen Sound. In addition to supporting a great local cause, participating in the Tour of Homes provided exposure for Décor Design, which Cindy launched in 2002 as a home business and expanded over the years into a

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ABOVE: A pair of red knit pillows and a single large silver snowflake create a holiday vibe in Victoria's bedroom. **RIGHT:** The draped cedar greens are contrasted by a silver vase, frosty twigs and natural hued florals. **FAR RIGHT:** A large white and silver bow with an ornamental pair of crystalized figure skates adds a seasonal element to an everyday rocker.

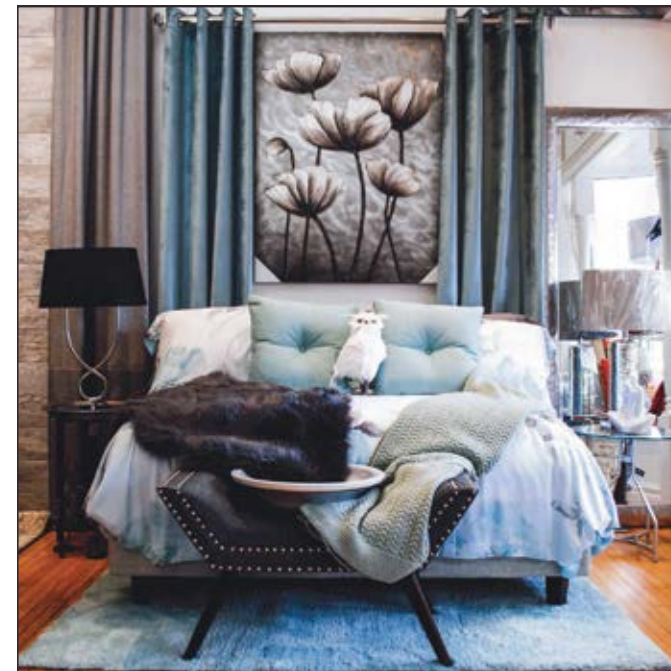


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- Matt's Masonry • Saugeen Valley Carpet and Tile • Shouldice Designer Stone • Snyder Development
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design studio in 2013, where she sells window coverings, accessories, wallpaper, custom bedding and area rugs as well as providing home installation services.

For Caitlin, the added bonus of having her home on the Christmas Tour of Homes was how nice it was to come home to a decorated house, one that soon entertained 16 family members over the holidays. **OH**



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