

good TIDINGS

STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

This woodland retreat gleams with holiday hospitality. Urns spill over with Carolina sapphire cypress, dogwood and birch branches dappled with red berries and bows for colour; reindeer are watchful on the grass. Pillars are wrapped with lights and the front porch draped with pine and cedar roping.

Homeowners Wendy and Chris Emmett opened the doors on their two-year-old home in the Collingwoodlands to benefit the **Royal LePage Shelter Foundation** during last winter's **Collingwood Holiday House Tour**. Delighted visitors soaked in the hospitality, listening to music from the grand piano and admiring the bright table set for 12. Heathcote greenery designer **Jessica Ladly** of **Riverside Greenhouses** created green and neutral arrangements that brought the home to life. **Christine Pritchard** of **Habitat Interiors Inc.** and **Tamarisk McNalty Stephens** of **Tamarisk Interior Design** styled the gorgeous great room and dining room as well as vignettes throughout the main floor.

With over 7,000 square feet of living space, the six-bedroom home shone on the tour. The couple – Wendy, a Sales Representative on the **Chris Keleher Team** at **Royal LePage Locations North**, and Chris, a technology sales executive – had been weekenders in the region for 10 years, and on the suggestion of their financial planner, **Dean Taylor** of **Assante Capital Management Ltd.**, made the full-time move to Collingwood to build their elegant new home.

Wendy and Chris designed the home's floor plan themselves, with a large dining room in the front, master wing to one side, and a cosy family room beyond the kitchen. The Emmetts secured **Jasper Design** to refine their layout and produce the building plans, giving it a majestic roofline and inviting entrance.

Custom builder JMH Home Solutions completed the bulk of the build, with the Emmetts controlling the finishings and they credit **Clearlite Electrical, Excavating & Haulage, PipeWorx Plumbing, Georgian Design Centre, Blackstock Custom Stairs and Railings** and **Georgian Bay Lawn & Snow** as all going above and beyond for them. As did **Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath** which crafted and installed all custom cabinetry and built-ins.

» A three-sided gas fireplace greets visitors in the foyer. The owners didn't want to compromise on the pleasure and smells of a wood-burning fireplace, so the home features each at opposite ends of the great room.



Burlap sacks customized with their recipient's names (Habitat Interiors) are stuffed and ready under the tree.



Reindeer feed is at the ready for Santa's arrival beside the tree.

» Hundreds of lights twinkle in the tree, while subtle white and red glass ornaments collected over time, fill the branches of the 12-foot tree (Riverside Greenhouses).

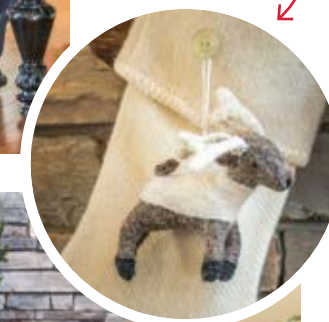
» White stockings are hung by the chimney with care below a **Sue Tupy** painting on the reclaimed timber mantel. Tree silhouettes adorn the hearth (**Shan Home & Gift**) and mini sleds (**Georgian Christmas**) fill the nailhead ottoman.

» Homeowner Wendy Emmett with Chris Keleher of The Chris Keleher Team.

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Each stocking boasts a different decoration for each member of the household; this one a mini reindeer with white antlers.



holiday tour

A cluster of owls from barebirch enlivens the dining room sideboard.



A lavish table is set for 12 with gold-rimmed white plates. Linen and chargers from Happenings Party Rentals.



» Firewood waits in a metal stand by **Desiron** to be transferred to a roaring fireplace.

« A trio of boxwood wreaths hangs from long, gold ribbons in the bright, west-facing dining room windows. Black hoop-back chairs line one side of the table, while cowhide-covered benches provide seating on the other and nailhead-trimmed wing chairs fill the head and foot of the table (Habitat Interiors). Tall candlesticks hold pillar candles high (**Collingwood Home Hardware Building Centre**), while the centrepieces (Riverside Greenhouses) brim with magnolia, pine, seeded cedar, glittered birch and lotus pods.



Each setting on the granite island in the kitchen brandishes a black chalkboard name card atop a birch slice while white milk-bottle glasses hold silverware. The table is strewn with white berries.



» The family room gets a poinsettia and greenery for holiday spirit, along with a trio of gold trees. **OH**



» A pillar coatrack with large, red and black fleur-de-lis hooks displays signs of Christmas in the master bedroom. A sleigh bed is draped with fur and mini trees glow in the corner.

« The galley and vanity in the master en suite is adorned with reindeer, snow globes and trees and the homeowners' collection of Snowbabies.

