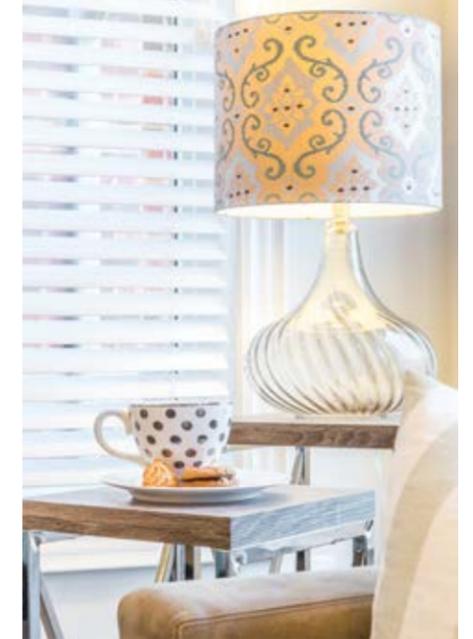


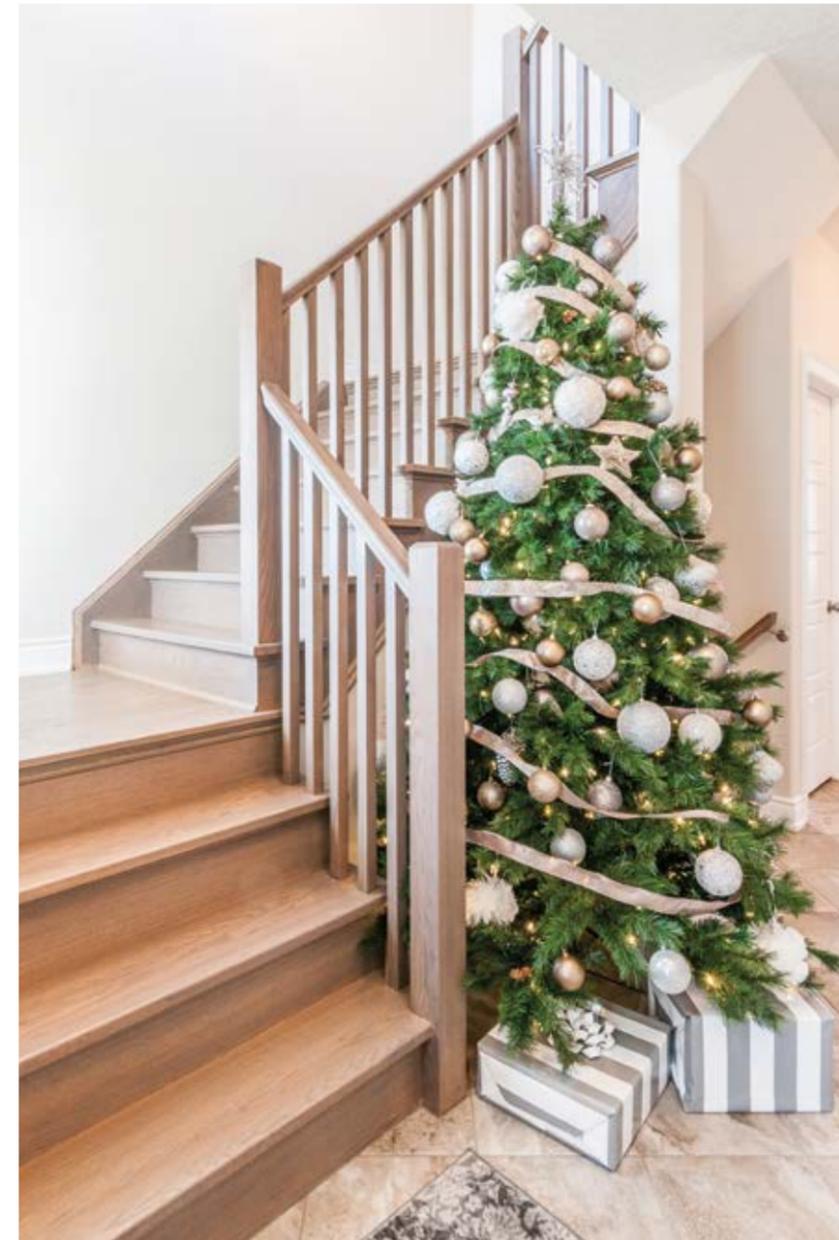


STORY **M. CAROLYN BLACK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

The past year has been a whirlwind for the Banman family, a tight-knit clan in south Barrie. Joanne Banman says, "Within the last year we moved here, my daughter had a baby and my son got engaged; everything all at once." Good thing her new home by **Grandview Homes** in Barrie is an oasis of calm.



PERFECTLY HAPPY



The open-concept home is decorated in earth tones, something Joanne says adds a comfortable feeling. "We just needed something that was smaller but open so we could entertain and have everybody here." Joanne has worked at the Design Centre of Grandview Homes for years and loves her job, helping buyers choose exterior colour packages and browse interior selections.

Joanne and husband Clark love to host large family functions, so they turned to their designer daughter Kristylynn Leibel to help make the proper scale adjustments in the new, smaller home. "Their other house had a formal living room and a large dining room, so with downsizing, my mom's concern was losing her dining area," says Kristylynn, owner of **KL Interior Design**.

The new home has an open-concept kitchen, dining and living room, so Kristylynn suggested a new, smaller dining table that can expand to accommodate guests. Bar stools are tucked under the kitchen counter for yet more seating. "It really functions well for the two of them but when there's a large gathering there always seems to be enough seats," says Kristylynn. *Continued on page 55*

LEFT: The holidays are extra special this year for the Banman family. **OPPOSITE TOP LEFT:** The Banmans gather at Joanne and Clark's new home. Left to right: Kristylynn Leibel, Joanne holding her grandson, husband Clark and Krystle Beattie with fiancé Cam Banman. **BOTTOM:** Joanne and Clark Banman may have downsized but they did not give up modern amenities or style in their new Grandview home.



A memory and photo wall is a lovely focal point in the family room. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The living room is spacious, calm and comfortable with a flat screen over the gas fireplace. **BOTTOM:** The main bathroom has a large vanity with lots of storage.

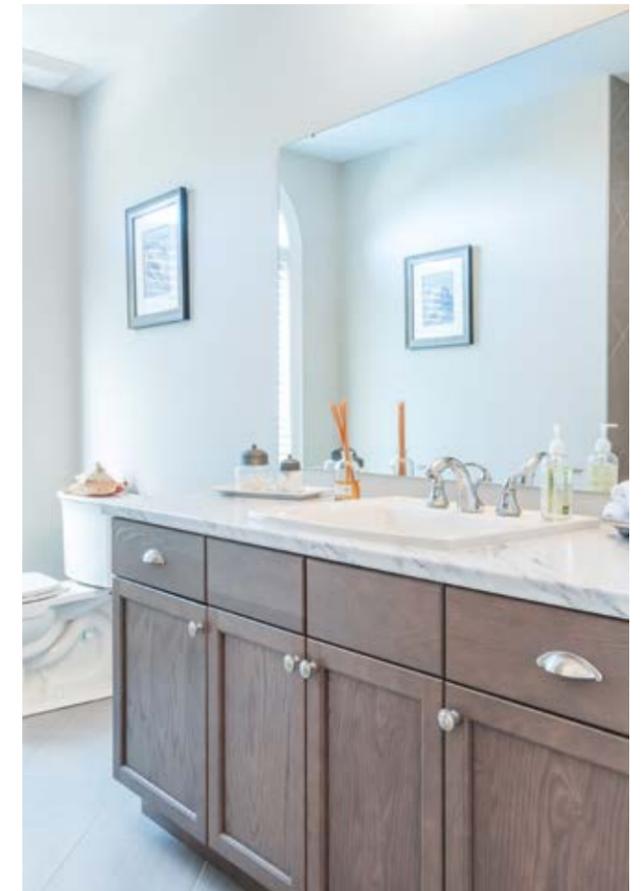


Joanne also wondered what to do with her china cabinet in the smaller space. Kristyllynn suggested a built-in cabinet with glass doors, and it works beautifully, functioning as both display and storage. Kristyllynn says, “The standard model of this home wouldn’t have the kitchen extending into the dining room but because she was losing her dining room, that was one of the things we wanted to add. We wanted to make the kitchen as functional as possible while maximizing the storage.” Besides the built-ins, the wall features a blackboard for welcome notes to guests, dimmable lights and a coffee bar. The kitchen is by **James Jubenvill of Infinite Design and Interiors**.

Joanne says James installed other custom features, like open shelving at the end of the kitchen island for storage and extra-deep uppers over the fridge. He relocated the sink and dishwasher to a spot that worked better for entertaining and Joanne says she really appreciates how easy the white thermofoil upper cabinets are to clean and maintain. The lower cabinets contrast nicely in a dark grey that ties in with the brown-grey flooring by **Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home**. The drawers all feature dovetail joints and soft-close mechanisms.

A unique pair of pendant lights above the kitchen island from **Glass Lighting Gallery** resemble headlights. **Carol Taylor of TA Appliances and Barbecues** helped Joanne pick out the all-important kitchen appliances. The additional trim detail on the kitchen pillar is just one part of the home where Kristyllynn suggested punching up the design factor, but Grandview Homes does offer special standard features like extra-wide baseboard trim by **Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc.** and high-quality Kohler bathroom fixtures. Most of the lights are on dimmers to amp up the cosy factor during early winter evenings.

Continued on page 56





Joanne says, “When people are over, you have your jazz music on, your glass of wine and it’s nice to tone the lights down a little bit.”

The double garage is a welcome feature, especially in winter. With an indoor entry and automatic door opener they don’t mind venturing out into Barrie’s snowy streets quite as much. Joanne says, “It’s such a treat for us.” The garage opens to a mudroom/laundry room and Clark fitted a piece of clear acrylic over the

laundry sink to provide extra counter space for keys, purses and groceries.

Originally a four-bedroom home, the couple turned one of the bedrooms into a walk-in closet, leaving a master bedroom, guest bedroom plus an office that Joanne and Clark share. Joanne loves having a separate glassed-in shower in the master bath and the double sinks are something she admits with a grin she “can never live without again.”

Grandview Homes is one subdivision builder that lives up to its name; the view from the south-end home is grand indeed. Joanne says, “I can actually see right across the lake to downtown Barrie. It’s absolutely beautiful.” Clark plans to build a backyard deck from the kitchen walkout and Joanne says they’ve “hit the neighbour jackpot” so spending time outdoors is something they both enjoy. *Continued on page 58*

The kitchen sparkles with white shaker upper cabinets and dark lowers. Granite counters help tie in the light and dark elements. Joanne and Clark’s designer daughter Kristylynn Leibel was instrumental in creating a calm, bright, comfortable vibe for her parents. Kristylynn suggested the built-in cabinets, which hold Joanne’s treasures and china.

home & builder

The living area is bright, with its many windows and nine-foot ceilings, yet cozy in the winter with a gas fireplace from **Napoleon Home Comfort**. Joanne says the high ceilings give a really spacious feel to even a smaller home and adds, "I like the modern, clean, very simple look; I don't like a lot of clutter and I like things to be very organized, but I also like things to be warm, inviting and comfortable. Having lots of space to entertain was really important to me when downsizing."

Since family is the most important thing to the Banmans, they have a family photo wall in a prominent place in the living room so they can see far-away family, like American granddaughters Kylie, Katie and Kenzie, and revisit family weddings anytime they like. This year Joanne will host Christmas breakfast, a fun annual tradition that begins early on Christmas Eve with everyone opening a gift containing matching pyjama pants to wear the next morning while eating and opening gifts. The Christmas tree will be tucked into an alcove beside the staircase in the foyer, visible from the living areas as well as the street. What could be a better welcome for family than twinkling tree lights in a festive foyer? 'Tis the season. **OH**

The master bedroom is the ultimate hideaway. The room is beautifully decorated in white with grey accents. The en suite is equally relaxing, yet perfect for two, with a dual-sink vanity.



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