

A huge old door, hiding in the basement of the century home, was given a distressed-look finish then hung as a slider between the front foyer and the kitchen. A comfy chair from Austin & Taylor Home Furnishings Inc. makes a pleasing nook in the bright and spacious entryway. **OPPOSITE:** Laurie Battersby of Decor Resource was the design lead on the fabulous new kitchen in this forever home.



Loving Home ALL OVER AGAIN

STORY **NICOLE LAIDLER** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

After 14 years in their Old North home, one London couple thought it might be time to move. The old-fashioned layout was no longer functional for a family with three growing boys and a large Bernedoodle dog.

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Laurie Battersby of Decor Resource made close friends with family pooch, Murphy, during her work on the house.

“It was a maze to get through to the family room. We were bumping into each other,” the homeowner says. In addition, the kitchen lacked ventilation and the floors on the main level were worn beyond repair.

A quick survey of suburban new-builds prompted a change of heart. “We love this neighbourhood and have always been drawn to older homes,” notes the homeowner. “Once we started looking, we realized we couldn’t duplicate what we loved about living here.”

They decided to stay put and called in **Laurie Battersby** of **Decor Resource** for help. Her task? To transform the outdated kitchen, small dining room and a previous family room addition into a spacious great room while respecting the integrity of the century home.

The family relocated while Laurie’s contractor, **Right Waigh Renovations Inc.**, got to work. “Our biggest challenge was making sure we could remove the wall between the kitchen and the addition,” says Laurie. **Simon Coles** of **Blueline Design** was consulted to assess the structure and ensure structural integrity when the wall came down.

“The engineering was dicey,” she explains. “On the day the bricks came down we had 12 to 14 support poles holding up the second floor.

The new opening that was created was framed with custom trim supplied by **North Pole Trim & Supplies Ltd.**

The wall separating the kitchen and dining room was also removed and both rooms were stripped back to the studs to facilitate the new open-concept layout. The family wanted to retain the family room’s stone fireplace and its surrounding built-in shelving, so Laurie used these elements as the inspiration for her kitchen design.

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The new kitchen’s aesthetic befits the home’s vintage charm. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM:** The walnut bar stools were found at Dale’s Antique Market & Mennonite Furniture in Grand Bend. A new window (Cameron Window & Door Inc.) allows for further natural light.



The dining table is made of wood reclaimed from the former Kingsmill's department store.

The kitchen cabinets, by **GCW Custom Kitchens & Cabinetry Inc.**, feature a wear-through finish that creates a warm, vintage feel. The slightly burnished look is a practical choice for a busy family, Laurie notes, as it hides fingerprints and is easy to clean.

A custom oven hood, also by GCW, provides much-needed ventilation for the six-burner Wolf range from **Goemans Appliances**. The range's red knobs add a playful pop of colour, while three floating walnut shelves located adjacent to the kitchen's offset window provide additional visual interest.

A new sink from **The Ensuite Bath & Kitchen Showroom** and a subway tile backsplash from **Centura London** complement the kitchen's understated elegance.

Extra storage space was created by the addition of a walk-in pantry, and in the clever design of a large centre island (GCW) that features pull-out shelving on both sides. "I didn't have a centre island before," the homeowner says. Topped with Caesarstone from **Bernardo Group Ltd.**, the new island offers ample workspace and a comfortable spot for casual gatherings. *Continued on page 46*



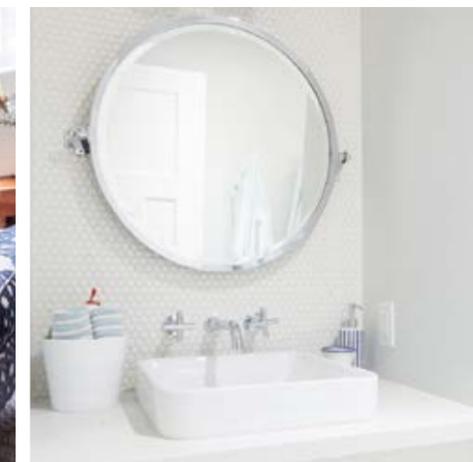
ABOVE: Laurie's redesign started with the existing fireplace and surrounding built-ins. Knocking down walls transformed the space into a sunny, inviting family room. **RIGHT:** A computer and office space with room for an easy chair was tucked into one side of the family room overlooking the back porch. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The dining room's panelled ceiling adds to the home's charm. **BOTTOM:** The renovated part of the house opens to the pre-existing mudroom, now decorated with the kids' artwork.



The music room opens from the front foyer. It doubles as a spot for quiet conversation away from family mayhem.



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Simple black-and-white art and accessories (Austin & Taylor Home Furnishings), quietly complement bold architectural features such as the windows and mouldings.

Maintaining an area for sit-down meals was important to this family. A reclaimed wood table from **Miller & Co. Wood Studio** anchors the dining space. A custom sideboard (GCW) is tucked neatly against one wall.

Laurie finished the kitchen/dining room ceiling with white tongue-and-groove panelling. Inspired by her own cottage, it adds subtle texture to the space, she explains. Sleek cast-iron pendulum lighting from **Guildwood Lighting & Fireside** provides the perfect finishing touch.

A dedicated office space was also on this family's wish list. "I wanted something large enough for two chairs, and I wanted to be able to keep an eye on the computer," the homeowner says. The family room addition was large enough to accommodate a custom desk by GCW, which fulfills both requirements, as well as a comfortable sitting area. A custom sectional and settee provides plenty of space for the entire family.

Floors throughout the ground floor were replaced with engineered hickory from **Karl Moore Flooring**, and walls painted Cosmopolitan by **Benjamin Moore**. "This paint colour has a bit of warmth to it and works beautifully in an older house," notes Laurie.

The front music room was refreshed with a stylish coat of Coachman's Cape (Benjamin Moore).

"This is a family that really lives in their house," Laurie says. And thanks to her clever redesign, they can enjoy a modern lifestyle in their century home for many years to come. **OH**

The wall colour in the music room is Benjamin Moore's Coachman's Cape.



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