

STEP INSIDE

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

It's time to come back inside and complete those projects, big and small. We've got some great advice from local experts who can help you get the job done.



STEPHANIE GOURLIE *Co-owner, Discount Granite Plus*

Tell us about Discount Granite Plus: Discount Granite Plus is a custom stone fabricator that creates a custom experience for every client with every project. We are family-owned and operated and believe in honesty, integrity and creating a positive experience from beginning to end.

How do you ensure excellent customer service? Because we are a small operation, we walk our customers through every step of the way to ensure they completely understand the product and the process. It eliminates any surprises at installation. With such a vested interest in customer service, we are available any time to assist or visit the client's site to ensure total satisfaction.

What activities do you enjoy with your husband Shawn and your two kids during the fall season? Having two small children takes a lot of your time, as you can imagine, and it's great because now they are at an age where they enjoy more activities! We'll take in a baseball game before the end of the season and hockey of course, and we can't wait to get the kids jumping through a pile of leaves in the backyard.



JUSTIN THOMPSON AND MIKE RIBOUT *Partners, Alair Homes*

What's your specialty? At Alair Homes, we specialize in giving shape and structure to the home renovation or commercial project of your imagination. Whether it's your dream house, waterfront cottage or a renovation tailored to the practical demands of your family and lifestyle, you can rely on us to create a space that's perfect for you.

What sets you apart in pricing and transparency? Alair Homes offers a unique construction process, including exclusive proprietary software that gives you complete access to all your project's details, schedules, sub-trade quotes, pricing and selections. You have 24-hour online access and control over every detail. Creating value in everything we do is part of the philosophy and culture at Alair Homes.

What is your favourite fall activity? Boating on Georgian Bay is great in the fall. We both also enjoy the start of the hockey season. *Continued on page 64*



LUIS MENDEZ

*Principle, LM Building Design
With daughters Marina, 9
and Emanuelle, 11*

Tell us about LM Building Design: LM Building Design is a new and creative architectural firm based in Barrie. We are passionate about modern and contemporary architecture and we want to make it accessible and spread beauty. We design homes for people looking for something special and something different, yet simple, where design meets functionality.

From a design perspective, what is the most important room of the house? Definitely the kitchen. Regardless of the type of client, the kitchen is a focal point that connects the major living areas in the house, and the flow through these areas should be effortless. Today's kitchens are social and should be thoughtfully designed to be practical, graceful and convivial.

What kind of a home would you design for yourself? I envision my house to be like an art gallery. Open, uncluttered spaces, an interior courtyard connecting different areas and lots of glass – still and warm and cosy. I will design it simple and practical: truth to materials using concrete, wood and matte black steel among others.



STEVE GAUCI

*Director, HVAC & Retail Operations,
Napoleon Fireplaces and Grills*

What's new at Napoleon Home Comfort? We continue to grow and expand our business into the custom home market with Napoleon's new line of Canadian-made furnaces and now air conditioners. This now allows us to offer builders and customers alike a full-turnkey package consisting of furnaces, air conditioners, fireplaces, grills, water heaters and ductwork. Aside from that, we strive to offer our customers the best customer service in all we do.

Tell us about your sales, services and installation: Napoleon Home Comfort offers complete installation packages on all our products including WETT-certified wood fireplace installations. All of this is backed by 24-hour service.

What do you like most about the fall season? I like the crisp, clean smell in the air infused with a hint of smoke from a burning fireplace. The fall gives us a short window of opportunity to enjoy the outdoors before the harshness of winter sets in. *Continued on page 66*



LEE WHITAKER,
President & Owner
KELLY WHITAKER,
Business Manager
Barrie Trim and Mouldings Inc.

Tell us about your products and services: Being in business for 30 years has allowed us to learn the ins and outs of our products and retain a knowledgeable team to service you. We manufacture, supply and offer installation of quality custom interior finishes including trim, interior doors, stairs and railings. We are able to build an all-in package price for your new home or cottage, renovation or DIY project.

What's new at Barrie Trim? I purchased the business less than two years ago, and we have slowly made some exciting changes. My wife Kelly has joined our team to help improve the customer experience. This starts by investing in our employees and continuously looking at ways to improve our processes.

What's your favourite fall activity? Having two young children, we love visiting a local pumpkin patch this time of year. We have also booked a camping trip this fall, which will be a new activity for us as a family. There's nothing better than a campfire when the weather cools down.

MARTIN PAROL AND SLAWEK PAROL
Owners, Level Home Improvements

Tell us about your business and your services: We are a family-owned and operated general contractor and home renovation company. We design and install solid-wood kitchens in a variety of styles and colours at discount prices. We do complete bathroom overhauls, basement renovations, supply and install windows and doors and design and build custom decks, patios and fences.

Tell us about your specialty, sunrooms: Level Home Improvements is the authorized retailer for 100 per cent Canadian-made flexible polymer sunrooms designed to resist our harsh winters at one-half to one-third the cost of traditional glass alternatives.

How do you spend your free time in the fall? We enjoy spending time with our family and loved ones and we do a whole lot of fishing and golf for as long as Mother Nature will allow.

Continued on page 68





SAMANTHA THOMAS

*Interior Designer & Owner,
Inhabit Interiors & Design*

Tell us about your exciting new location: We've moved to downtown Barrie on Dunlop Street near Mulcaster. We've had an amazing reception from new clients and our loyal customers love coming downtown to see what's new in interior design and home furnishings.

What's new in store for fall? Our boutique retail store is full of new high-quality modern and contemporary furniture, artwork and accessories. We have eco-friendly, responsibly made goods for your home that you'll love.

What should every kitchen have? We specialize in kitchens and custom cabinetry. Every kitchen should have lots of storage and a design that accommodates all your family and entertaining needs.

**RICHARD GERBER, Owner
JOANNA GERBER,
Interior Decorator,
Colour Specialist & Co-Owner,
Gerber Hardwood Flooring**

Tell us about the flooring services you provide: We specialize in dustless hardwood refinishing with environmentally friendly finishes; wood stairs refinishing and painting; and, of course, hardwood, laminate and engineered flooring installation. We also offer décor consultations with an emphasis on stain colours, and finishes to best suit our clients' needs and lifestyle.

How do you care for hardwood to maintain the durability and longevity? Wood is nature's product that will show wear and tear over time. Keep dirt and moisture away – daily sweeping and vacuuming will help. Keep outdoor shoes, large dogs and roller-blades off your wood floors – they will not last otherwise, believe us. Don't overdo the wet cleaning – once a week with a slightly damp cloth will do it. Maintain the right moisture levels in your home.

Describe a perfect day without work: We live in Moonstone, so we try to ski every chance we get. In summer, we ride the trails or do day trips to Muskoka. We enjoy each other's company, so spending free time together is always fun. **OH**

