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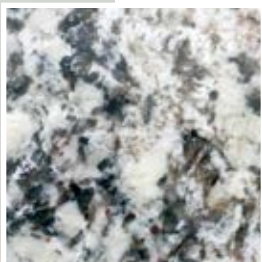
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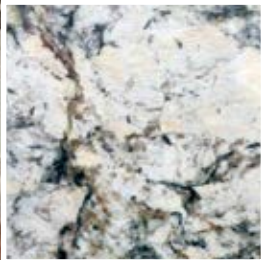
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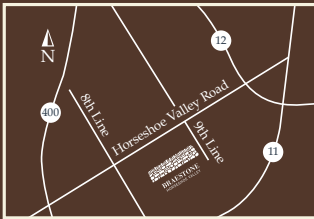
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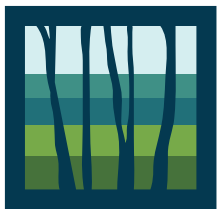
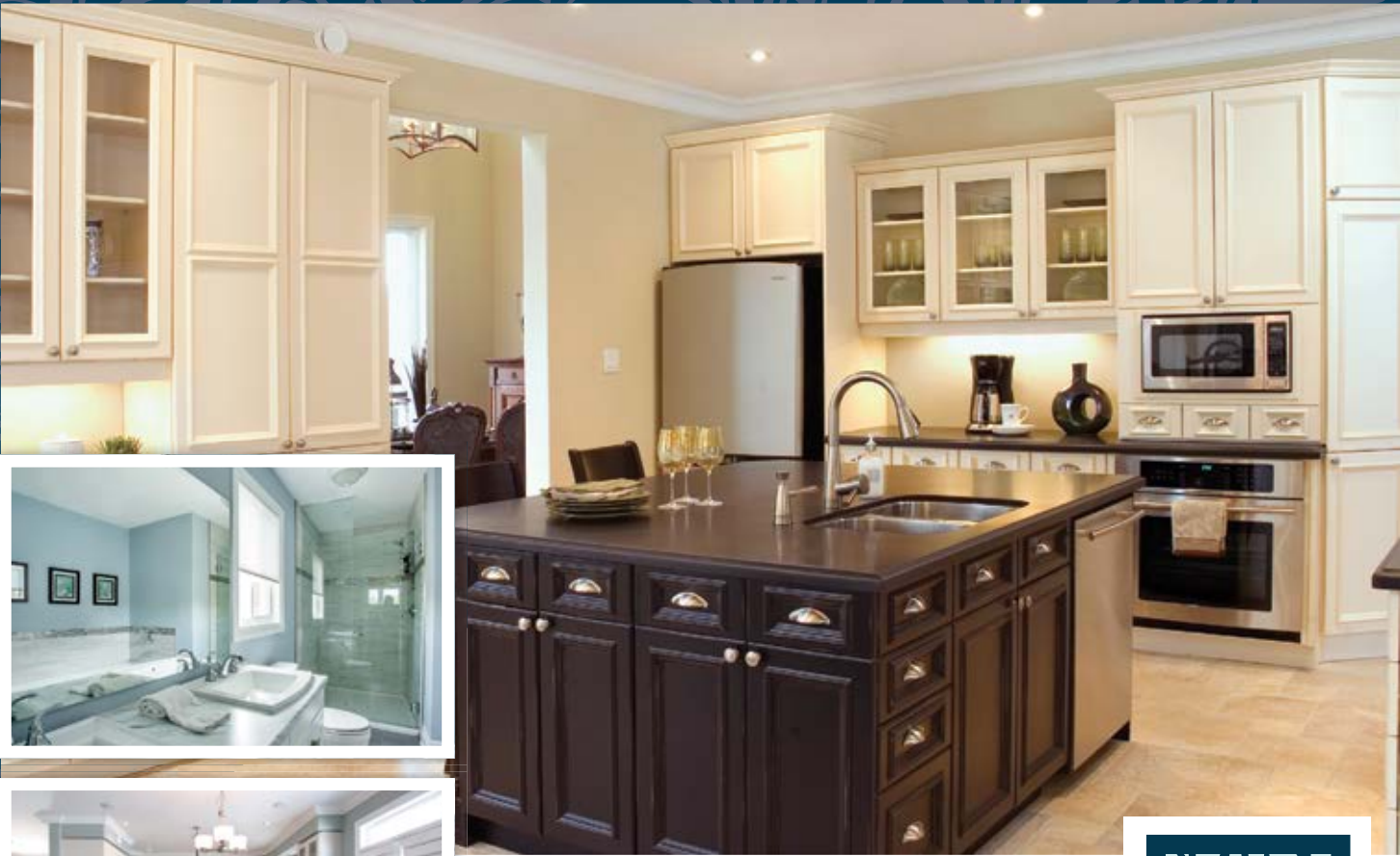
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I'VE BEEN SIFTING THROUGH PILES OF INFORMATION both in print and online about decorating trends for the year ahead. It's both exciting and confusing, especially if you've either just finished a home project or are planning a new one.

Colour is a huge consideration when decorating a new room or purchasing anything for your home, especially big-ticket items like sofas, tiles or flooring that stays in a home for the foreseeable future. Pretty much every paint company comes out with a Colour of the Year; a hue you can embrace wholeheartedly or add to your home in small, inexpensive ways.

I visit and attend photo shoots in a lot of homes and what I do know is that grey has almost universally overtaken beige as the colour of choice for interior walls. It's taken some years but most homeowners have embraced the move away from heavy browns and beiges to lighter, brighter greys.

Another trend that has staying power is what used to be called upcycling. The new term is *rescue* and it encompasses everything from incorporating salvaged items to vintage finds into your home. It can be as simple as repainting or reupholstering tired or outdated home furnishings.

Appliance finishes have also taken a turn. Both my fridge and stove died this year and we purchased new ones, both in black stainless steel. I have to say that I love the look and how easy it is to keep clean and streak-free.

There's also a buzz that the current open-concept design of new homes is waning. Private rooms fill a desire to escape from today's steady diet of technology; a quiet area to relax, preferably in a velvet, feather-filled sofa in a jewel tone in front of a fire with a cup of tea and a great hardcover novel or a beloved periodical.

I have my favourite colours and decorating style. As you plan your next big project in the coming year, always remember to live with what you love.

Happy Holidays,

*Georgette*

Georgette McCulloch, *Editor-In-Chief*  
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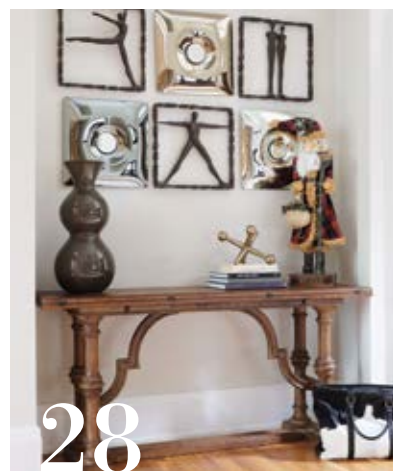


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Happy Holidays



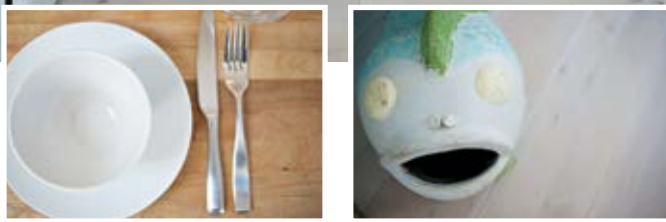
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## advice

Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.



## LET THERE BE LIGHT

It's been a long time since the first statement lighting fixture in the universe was created with a bang.

Back here on earth and in our homes, we mortals have been trying to replicate the same wow factor ever since.

Entranceways, bedrooms, kitchens and even bathrooms can use lights that make a statement. More often than not, we love to use chandeliers for this purpose. They are grand. They command attention. And, most definitely, they are striking.

Traditionally, chandeliers with tiny lights were gathered up into one large fixture and were central to the décor of a room, in most cases the dining room. Distinguished homes had Schonbek chandeliers with Swarovski crystals. We would also see fanciful, sweeping shapes of colourful glass from Murano and Venice, Italy – much like a grand dame in her wonderful gown attending La Scala Opera.

Over the past 10 years, traditional chandeliers have become objects of desire once again, evoking an era of glamour and style. Sleekly styled teardrops, without the faceted cuts, are the updated version of crystals, creating modern styling in a traditional fixture, such as the Crawford by Hudson Valley Lighting.

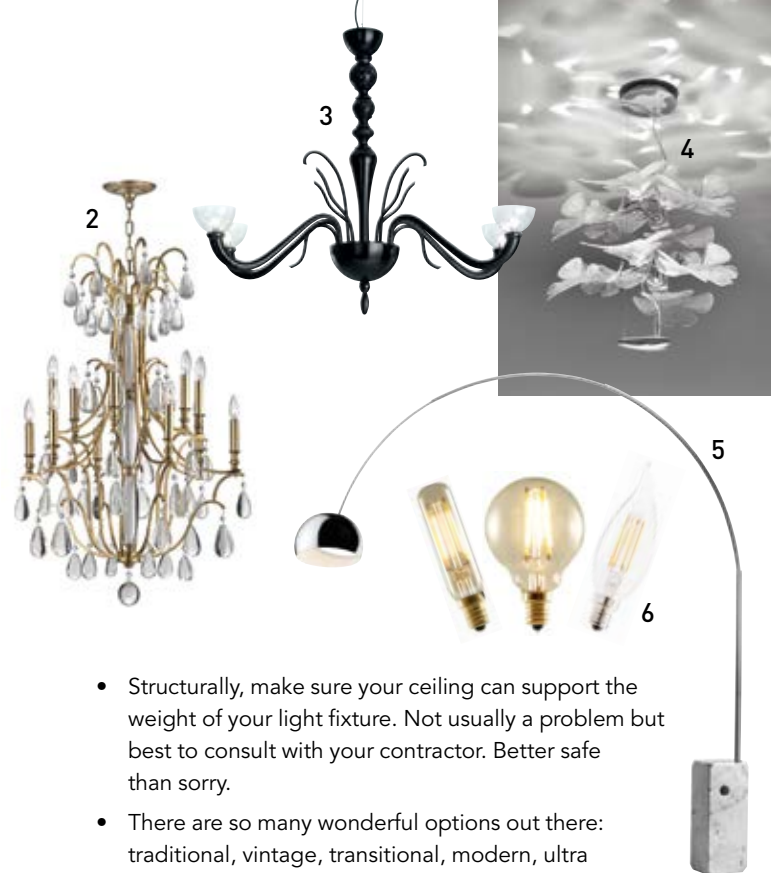
Today, lighting statements come in twos, threes or in clusters. Some are floating sculptures. Modern technology allows us to be more creative with different shapes and materials.

Artemide, one of the world's most progressive and grooviest lighting manufacturers, from Italy, regularly creates fantastical pieces that provide a lifetime of beauty and joy. One of their latest pieces, Chlorophilia, designed by Ross Lovegrove, cleverly up-lights a series of petals that act as prisms, producing light and shadows with the help of LEDs, creating a delicate, space-expanding effect.

Sometimes a statement chandelier is not a chandelier at all, but a large lamp that arcs overhead, such as the Arco, by Italian manufacturer Flos. It is considered an ageless classic suitable for any décor or function.

### Light It Up

- Think of your chandelier as a stunning investment in visually-beautiful eye candy that will make an impression both by night and by day.
- In open-plan spaces, while your chandelier is the focus, it's good to mix sizes and type of fixtures that are flexible to your needs. The other fixtures don't have to match, but they do need to coordinate.



- Structurally, make sure your ceiling can support the weight of your light fixture. Not usually a problem but best to consult with your contractor. Better safe than sorry.
- There are so many wonderful options out there: traditional, vintage, transitional, modern, ultra modern, suspended, ceiling-hugger, colourful, clear, metal, glass, wood. No matter your tastes there's something to suit your personality and style.

### Turn it On

- Buy quality bulbs with a colour temperature of 2700 K to 3000 K. The lower the number the warmer and cosier the atmosphere. Different lighting and colour temperatures will bring out different shades in your wall colours, fabrics and carpets.
- Dimmers set the mood and provide as much light as required when needed. Dimmers can also be calibrated to preset light settings to provide the atmosphere and the timing of your choice.
- Incandescent filament bulbs are still the best for that warm fiery glow. They are the softest and most flattering bulbs available.
- Halogens are crisp and warm and make objects look sensuous and rounder.
- Fluorescents make objects and colours look flat, despite the colour temperature.
- LED lights are efficient and can be warm providing that you choose a warm colour temperature. Beware of pointy hot spots – make sure that you have a diffuser to soften the light source.
- If you're feeling nostalgic and you want to see a clear bulb, Bulbrite produces bulbs that replicate the exposed filaments of clear bulbs through LED technology.

Although lighting's primary function is to see and be seen, it's important to think of your empty ceilings and walls like a canvas to create your personal statement. Now all you have to ask yourself is: How will I light up my universe and make my statement? **OH**

1. SWAROVSKI LIGHTING: Valterri Chandelier 2. HUDSON VALLEY LIGHTING: Crawford Chandelier 3. VESOI: Infedele Suspension Light 4. ARTEMIDE: Chlorophilia 5. FLOS: Arco Floor Lamp 6. BULBRITE: LED Filament Bulbs



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style picks



SIMPLE PLEASURES

There’s no shortage of great finds around the region. Our shopping trip uncovered some of our favourites.

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**



1 BENJAMIN MOORE PAINTS

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Benjamin Moore has selected Shadow (2117-30), a rich, royal amethyst, as its Colour of the Year for 2017. It’s paired here with two new hues, Guacamole (2144-10) and Pink Bliss (2093-70).

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- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup ice cold water
- 3 packages gelatin
- ½ cup water
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1-½ cups granulated sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Line a 9x9 square baking pan with two sheets of parchment paper, allowing the paper to extend over each edge. Brush the parchment paper with light cooking oil, such as canola, and set aside.
- In a small bowl, combine icing sugar and cornstarch. Set aside.
- In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine ½ cup of ice cold water and gelatin. Let this mixture sit to “bloom,” or thicken, the gelatin. Place the bowl on the stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment – but don’t turn it on just yet!
- In a small saucepan, combine ½ cup water, corn syrup, granulated sugar and salt, cover and heat over medium for 3 to 4 minutes. Do not stir, the sugar will dissolve completely and come to a boil.
- Once boiling, remove the lid and place a candy thermometer to the side of the saucepan. Continue heating until the mixture reaches 240°F, the soft-ball stage. Turn off heat.
- At your stand mixer with the gelatin mix, turn the mixer on medium speed and slowly pour the syrup mixture down the side of the bowl to incorporate with the gelatin. Once incorporated, turn the mixer on high and beat for 10-15 minutes until the mixture becomes thick and looks a bit like soft-serve ice cream. Add vanilla extract during the last minute of mixing.
- Pour mixture in the prepared pan and flatten with a well-oiled spatula.
- Dust the marshmallows with half of the cornstarch-sugar powder. Fold the sides of the parchment paper over the mixture. Let sit for at least four hours or overnight.
- To cut the marshmallows, turn the pan over onto a board dusted with more sugar-cornstarch powder and cut using a pizza cutter or sharp knife. Dust each marshmallow in more of the sugar-cornstarch powder and serve. Store in an airtight container. **OH**

RECIPE AND PHOTOS **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

Hot chocolate warms short days and chilly nights. Our version not only spikes and spices it up, but homemade marshmallows make it an extra-special, personal treat.

## SPICED HOT CHOCOLATE

**Serves 2**

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 ounce semisweet chocolate
- 2 cups milk
- 2 Tbsp cocoa powder
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- pinch of cayenne
- pinch of salt
- 1 ounce orange liqueur, optional

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Melt chocolate over low heat in a saucepan.
- Add milk, cocoa, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, cayenne and salt and heat on medium-high, whisking constantly until the mixture is smooth and combined.
- Remove from heat.
- As an option for adults, add 1 ounce of orange liqueur before serving.
- Pour into two mugs, top with homemade marshmallows (recipe follows) and brown with a kitchen torch until golden!

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**MATERIALS**

- Clear glass vases (I sourced my collection from a dollar store)
- Drop cloth or plastic sheet
- Disposable gloves
- Lint-free rags
- Krud-Kutter Concentrated Cleaner
- 1/3 cup white vinegar
- 1/3 cup water
- Spray bottle (with mist setting)
- Rust-Oleum Mirror Effect spray paint in gold or silver (gold was used for this project)
- Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch 2X Ultra Cover in Clear Matte

*DIY*  
**MERCURY GLASS**

STORY AND PHOTOS **LEIGH-ANN ALLAIRE PERRAULT**

From rose gold and copper to aged bronze and muted gold patinas, mixed metallics have been adding shine and glitz in both fashion and interior design this year.

But if you've been hesitant to test drive the latest metal trends, here is a simple and affordable do-it-yourself way to create luxe-for-less mercury glass and bring shine to the festive season ahead.

From a collection of vases on a mantel, to an assortment of glass votives to mark each dining table place setting, you can easily transform any old or inexpensive glassware into a bespoke holiday showpiece.

**PREPARATION**

- Using a lint-free rag and Krud Kutter cleaner, thoroughly clean, rinse and dry the glass surface to ensure that any sticky labels, dust or dirt are removed.
- Fill the spray bottle with one-part water to one-part white vinegar and gently shake to mix.
- In a well-ventilated area, lay a drop cloth on a flat surface and place the first glass item upside down in the centre of the cloth.
- Put on your disposable gloves and shake the can of Mirror Effect spray paint well for about two minutes.

**PAINTING**

- Holding the Mirror Effect can approximately eight inches away from the glass, apply a light coat of the paint around all glass surfaces.
- As soon as the glass is well coated and while still wet, lightly mist the painted surface with the vinegar and water solution. The mixture will react with the paint to create a speckled, mercury-glass patina.
- Repeat on each of the remaining glass pieces and allow all to dry for approximately 10 minutes.
- To protect the mercury-glass paint finish, apply a light coating of 2X Ultra Cover to all of the glass, allowing it to dry, before placing on display. **OH**



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# *holiday* STAPLES

STORY **M. CAROLYN BLACK**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **CANDICE MANASTERSKY**



**Catherine Staples Interiors** provides high-quality design advice year-round, but what potential clients may not know is that the company also offers a holiday decorating service for your home, cottage or chalet that can be tailored to your budget.

*Continued on page 30*





“We shop for (our clients), bring it all in and set it up for them,” Catherine Staples says. The interior design-build firm can source everything from ornaments to table settings but during the initial consultation they will also see what the homeowner already has so they can incorporate those items as well. Catherine adds that the finished product “depends on the décor of the home. We like simplicity so we bring in more natural elements but it also depends on the interest of the homeowner.”

For homeowners who want to tackle holiday decorating themselves, Catherine says, “I’m a firm advocate of Pinterest.” She has a huge variety of home décor collections on Pinterest with everything from paint colours to entertaining – you can find her under Catherine Staples Interiors – but of particular interest during the winter season is her Holiday Décor board. It includes all things

festive but also has seasonal ideas, like front door wreaths and porch planter items, which you can continue to display long after the Christmas stockings have been tucked away.

Catherine says freshening up your own holiday décor might be as simple as buying new placemats or even utilizing free natural items like pine cones or tiny evergreen boughs tied to nametags. Her holiday board includes do-it-yourself potpourri with items you may already have, like oranges, rosemary and cranberries, or using raffia ribbon to wrap cinnamon sticks around older pillar candles to give them a new look.

’Tis also the season when she directs attention to her own home, nestled in scenic Horseshoe Valley. The 6,500 sq. ft., five-bedroom home was custom designed and built by Catherine and her husband 10 years ago. The family of five enjoys many outside winter activities, particularly downhill skiing – four-

legged family members Rossi, a shih tzu, and Picabo, a golden doodle, are named after skis and a skier, respectively – but transforming the home into a cosy holiday abode also puts the focus on the inside.

Many homeowners choose a holiday theme; some go all-white, some stay with traditional reds and greens and some have recurring elements featured throughout. In the Staples home, the theme is nutcrackers. “I’m a big collector of nutcrackers,” admits Catherine. “The ceiling in the great room is 22-feet high and we have a large custom bookcase so the nutcrackers are displayed on those shelves.”

A signature factor in Catherine’s holiday décor is subtlety; in fact, her slogan is “simple elegance.” This extends to the dining room, with hurricane candle holders filled with assorted nuts and simple candles plus hits of green from oversize ornaments placed on the table. *Continued on page 33*



Add nuts and a pillar candle to a hurricane lantern.

**ABOVE:** A festive, elegant dining table has at its centre tall silver trees in three different heights. **OPPOSITE:** Outside, urns filled with greens, large silver orbs and birch branches provide a holiday welcome to the Staples home.





Holiday hints are sprinkled throughout the living room, where luxe neutral furnishings get a boost from colourful accessories.

Catherine loves to decorate her home during the holiday season with her collection of nutcrackers.



Glass snowmen fill a silver tray on a side table.



While most of the holiday décor is focused on the foyer, great room and dining room, Catherine says, “I like to have little touches of holiday in each of the bedrooms.” The nutcracker theme extends into her daughter Maddie’s bedroom, where a feminine version dwells each holiday season. Her teen sons Matt and Graydon have family heirloom pieces, like advent or musical Christmas bears and snow globes, in their rooms as a connection to Christmases past. Catherine says, “It brings their history back because they’ve grown up with them.” In the master suite, Catherine places seasonal rather than festive items, like fur toss pillows and a faux throw.

Catherine says, because children often rely on traditions each holiday season, “Don’t throw away the old ornaments. Maybe keep a few that mean something, like the clear glass ornaments where you can put a photo inside of your child, perhaps on Santa’s knee, and you collect these over the years and they see their history in the tree.”

The large fireplace mantel is strewn with natural elements like feathers, feathered

ornaments and evergreen boughs with splashes of silver pine cones throughout. She likes a neutral colour scheme so the holiday décor doesn’t compete with the pale interior walls or the view of the treed exterior landscape. Catherine also displays a lot of original artwork so the low-key approach to festive accoutrements means the focus stays on the art.

The Christmas tree itself might sit near a sprawling stairwell one year, other years it nestles in the great room but every year Catherine places the tree into a pot, which gives it nearly three extra feet in height, perfect for the high ceiling.

On the exterior, she loves doing something different with the two large plaster planters that flank her front walkway steps each year and she often works with Orillia florist Robert Street to find a fresh new look. This year they’ll use sticks from the surrounding forest sprayed white and wound with strings of lights. A hint of red comes from large ornamental balls nestled among a variety of evergreens and pine cones. *Continued on page 34*



A young woman dressed for the season stands tall on the nightstand in this bedroom.



**LEFT:** Studded, grey upholstered head and foot boards hold a beautifully dressed bed. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The master en suite has a granite-topped vanity with undermount sinks. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A touch of fur is an easy way to enhance the look for the winter season in the master bedroom.

“Again, we’re keeping it simple because of the surrounding area,” Catherine says. “I love a wreath that is simple, maybe raffia with a few bells hanging down on the front door.” She places large spotlights at the base of larger trees to shine upward, “because the trees themselves are the ornaments.”

Her ideal holiday evening is Christmas Eve lingering over a great dinner with family, talking about Christmases past and looking forward to what’s happening in the upcoming year. She says, “Even though it’s not New Year’s Eve – everyone might have their own plans on New Year’s Eve – I love it, everything just slows down. I’m always hoping for a big snowstorm so everyone has to stay in the house, we’ve got a fire going and we watch *The Polar Express* every year.”

Let it snow, indeed. **OH**



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decorating



# 3 holiday styles

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2. **ABBOTT:** Small Ski & Poles
3. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** Snow Buddies Ornament
4. **ABBOTT:** Skates Pair Ornament
5. **TRANSPAC:** Galvanized Metal Christmas Banner
6. **ABBOTT:** Large Pine Branch with Antler Wreath
7. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** 3 Floral Sprigs on Wood Block
8. **LUVCAN IMPORTS INC:** Birch Garland - 3.2" Star
9. **BRUNELLI:** Chevreuril Cushion
10. **BRUNELLI:** Coyote Cushion
11. **BRUNELLI:** Jingle Bells Sham & Throw
12. **VILLEROY & BOCH:** Naif Christmas Dinnerware
13. **ABBOTT:** Enamel Look Mug in Red
14. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** Bird Figurines With Hats
15. **BALSAM HILL:** Galvanized Tree Collar

Continued on page 40

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decorating



1. **ABBOTT:** Spouting Whale Ornament  
 2. **BIRCHLANE:** Driftwood Star 3. **TRANSPAC:** Driftwood Starfish Ornament 4. **TRANSPAC:** Res Silver Coastal Ornament 5. **LUVCAN IMPORTS INC:** Birch Bark Wrapped Ball 6. **EASTERN ACCENTS:** Studio 773 Horsey Spa Stocking 7. **ABBOTT:** Medium Reindeer Head Planter 8. **PAVILION GIFT:** Holiday Door Stopper 9. **DIMOND-HOME:** Natural Driftwood Garland 10. **LENOX:** Brian Gluckstein Clara Aqua Dinnerware 11. **ZODAX:** Decorative Shell Trees 12. **ABBOTT:** Large Natural Twig Display Tree 13. **JAIPUR LIVING:** Seabreeze Throw in Mineral Blue & Birch 14. **PARK DESIGNS:** Noel Printed 16" Pillow Cover 15. **ONE BELLA CASA:** Let It Mix & Match Holiday - Ivory Ice Blue Throw Pillows 16. **ABBOTT:** Large "For Elf Use" Gift Sack 17. **EASTERN ACCENTS:** Studio 773 Treasure Coast Tree Skirt

Continued on page 42

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## MODERN



1. **TRANSPAC:** Feather Garland 2. **ZODAX:** Decorative Star Ornament in Silver 3. **TRANSPAC:** Metal Cutout Tree Ornaments 4. **ABBOTT:** Knit Deer Wall Decor 5. **ALLMODERN:** Vickerman 24" Shatterproof Ball Ornament Christmas Wreath 6. **ZODAX:** Reindeer with Golden Antlers 7. **ZODAX:** Silver Plated Ceramic Stemmed Christmas Trees 8. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** Gold Monogram Mugs 9. **EASTERN ACCENTS:** Studio 773 Wishing Stocking 10. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** Reindeer Glasses 11. **BRUNELLI:** Yogi Throw 12. **GRASSLANDS ROAD:** Peace and Joy Pillows 13. **SARO LIFESTYLE:** Jelena Placemat 14. **CANVAS HOME:** Dauville Dinnerware in Gold and Platinum 15. **ABBOTT:** Large "Do Not Shake..." Gift Sack 16. **EASTERN ACCENTS:** Studio 773 Believing Tree Skirt **OH**



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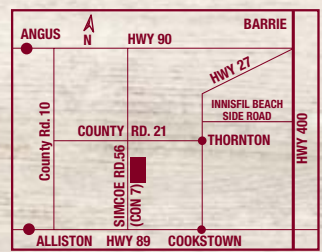
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in the kitchen

# Whisk-y BUSINESS

STORY **KIM MASIN**

A whisk is a staple tool for any chef or baker, but which whisk is the right one for the task at hand?

The variations, shapes and uses are many. Our guide will fix the mix-ups so your sauce is thicker, your cream is creamier and your egg whites reach the thickest peaks.

The most popular material for a whisk is wire, however, there are wooden whisks and silicone-coated variations in different shapes and forms, each serving a specific function. Silicone-coated whisks are made of wire coated with heatproof silicone, perfect for non-stick pans.

## Balloon Whisk

Dubbed the balloon due to its shape, this is one of the most popular types of whisks. Amazingly, the balloon is made from eight or more flexible wires joined at the ends and attached to a handle. It comes in a number of sizes, from tiny to quite large. Wide uses for this type of whisk make it the most sought after for beating eggs, creating meringues and whipping cream into a thick delight.

**SHOWN HERE**  
**TOVOLO:** Stainless Steel 11" Whip Whisk



## French Whisk

This whisk is similar to the balloon, however its shape is longer and more cylindrical and the series of flexible wires overlap each other to then join together at the handle. Chefs prefer this tool for mixing sauces or for combining ingredients in a deeper pan to access the sides and edges. The flexible wires are preferred when cooking with liquids to create thicker sauces and custards

**SHOWN HERE**  
**BEST MANUFACTURERS, INC.:**  
10" French Whip with Red Wood Handle



## Flat Whisk

Also commonly called a roux whisk, used when cooking flour and fat to thicken sauces. There are fewer loops than you'd expect in a whisk, but they lie flat, rendering the orientation uniquely suited to stirring in shallow pans to create sauces and rid the creation of any unwanted lumps.

**SHOWN HERE**  
**OXO:** Good Grips Flat Whisk



## Spiral Whisk

This type of coil whisk with a slightly angled head is a bit of a luxury purchase, but was specifically designed to make constant contact in a pan or bowl to ensure even mixing and prevent scorching or lumps. This is the perfect tool for smooth vinaigrettes, or for incorporating liquids into a roux.

**SHOWN HERE**  
**RÖSLE:** Spiral Whisk



## Ball Whisk

Fans of the ball whisk claim the lack of the typical whisk loops makes it easier to clean, and allows for quicker and better aeration. The quick aeration makes it a preferred choice for whipping egg whites into the ultimate meringue. Pastry chefs also use this to make elaborate spun-sugar decorations for dessert toppings.

**SHOWN HERE**  
**WMF:** Flexi Whisk Profi Plus 27 cm



## Coil Whisk

This type of whisk is characterized by its one single wire, which spirals into a round shape. Unlike other whisks, which are stirred around the bowl to aerate liquids, this type remains stationary in the bowl, and is pumped up and down. Not to confuse things, but sometimes this is also called a spiral whisk, too. Used to incorporate liquid ingredients, especially in a deep vessel.

**SHOWN HERE**  
**WMF:** Twirl Whisk Profi Plus 25 cm



## Dough Whisk

The strange triple-loop shape and strength of this whisk is best used to lightly blend mixtures like batters, fruit fillings and muffin batters without overworking the mixture or breaking down the fruit. It can also be used to bring together yeasted pizza dough without all of that sticky mess on a spoon or spatula. **OH**

**SHOWN HERE**  
**HIC, HAROLD IMPORT CO.:**  
Mrs. Anderson's 12" Baking Dough Whisk



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real estate

# FIRST HOUSE LAST HOUSE

STORY **MEHREEN SHAHID**  
ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

A recent survey by CIBC shows 86 per cent of millennials view home ownership as important even though 42 per cent of them are renting and 21 per cent live with their parents. What about their baby-boomer parents? Will they downsize or stay put? OUR HOMES spoke to two millennials and two boomers about their next move in this hot housing market.

## FIRST PURCHASE

First homes for millennials and a house to retire in for boomers may have more in common than we think.

“I imagine myself in a suburb setting, in a single-detached home,” says Renée Chaperon, a 32-year-old millennial from Orillia. “I don’t want to be downtown. I like to be on the outskirts of a city but still on a serviced lot with easy access to all of the amenities.”

Chaperon would like her first home to have an open-concept living space, a large kitchen with a tucked-in eating space and a large entertainment area. “Inside, I like modern, upgraded countertops and cabinetry and a separation of living space versus private space, meaning the bedrooms have to be completely separate from the living space,” says Chaperon, whose ideal house size would be 2,000 square feet. Her other must-haves are enough backyard space for barbecues and parking for guests.

Millennial Jordan Milks shares a similar vision. “I like doing dinners, so I’d like a modern large-sized kitchen and living room,” says the 22-year-old, who lives in downtown Toronto. “I definitely want to do a kitchen island, something stationary, with modern cabinets, either stainless steel or cherry wood.” But Milks doesn’t see himself buying his first home in his current neighbourhood. “It would ideally be a detached or semi-detached house, one or two bedrooms, in a place that will begin to gentrify so that property values will go up in a few years,” he adds. The suburbs would also give Milks another must-have: a view overlooking green space.

## FINAL LIVING SPACE

Greg Ioannou, a boomer with a love for downtown Toronto, wants many of the above features but right in the heart of the city. “I can’t stand gardening, so definitely a condo or co-op,” says the 62-year-old. “I want to be near restaurants, theatres, grocery stores and the library, so as central as possible.”

Ioannou’s must-haves include indoor parking for two cars, a dishwasher, decent laundry, a dining room big enough to entertain a dozen guests, a house wired with high-speed Internet plus a good sound system.

“Good soundproofing is a must, too,” he says. “I don’t want to have to keep my music quiet or have to listen to the neighbour’s hip-hop.”

Peace and quiet are also important for 66-year-old Linda White. “I would prefer a two-bedroom bungalow, all one level, without stairs, for easy maintenance inside the house,” says the Ramara Township resident. “I still enjoy a yard, so a condo would sort of be my last choice.”

Despite being afraid of losing mobility as she and her husband age, White says they like the idea of being in a close-knit community-living-style development with other boomers so they don’t have to go far to connect and socialize. Alternatively, they’d rather be in the suburbs so they can enjoy a walk outdoors but still be a short drive or bus ride away from downtown.



## SIMILAR WANTS

Both generations seem to agree on the necessity of incorporating green practices in their ideal homes.

“I’d like lots of windows and skylights,” says millennial Chaperon. “I’d also like a rooftop garden, just to be more self-sustaining and because green roofs help reflect more heat and keep indoors cool and help with water runoff.”

Boomer Ioannou would only opt for green practices that serve a practical rather than ideological purpose, including such features as insulation that cut down heating and cooling costs or solar energy for reducing energy costs.

Millennial Milks, who already leans toward using energy-efficient methods, such as using LED bulbs, would like to incorporate some tech-savvy factors in his first home. “I would look into using technology at home to monitor energy usage remotely,” he says. Other green methods would have to stand the test of time before he, like boomer White, would consider using them.

She agrees with Milks and says she would only go for installing proven methods of energy saving and cost cutting, otherwise, it’s difficult to splurge on trying out items on a fixed income.

Both groups are eager about energy-saving methods, green spaces, good-sized kitchens and closeness to city amenities. **OH**





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# AR IN ONE PLACE

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

**THE PLACE:** Alex and Ashley Wagenaar noticed an opportunity and seized the moment when opening **Simply Home Furnishings Inc.**, Midland's newest and largest furniture store. Ashley's parents Brent and Yvonne Howell own Simply Country, located downtown, where Ashley is still involved in buying. "So many people love Simply Country, but I felt more furniture options were needed," explains Ashley from her gorgeous new showroom. Both stores are working together to offer clients various furniture and home décor options, in over 12,000 square feet of retail space.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ASHLEY FURNITURE



**STYLE:** Simply Home is a furniture store that caters to everyone's style and comfort needs. The showroom is chock full of an eclectic mix of furniture for every room of your home. Do you love rustic country? Coastal or cottage? Traditional or modern? You'll discover what you're looking for here. Canadian furniture brands are plenty, including SuperStyle, Trend-Line, Brentwood Classics and Palliser, along with American favourite Ashley Furniture. If it's not on the floor, they will order what you want right from the manufacturer.

**THE PRODUCTS:** Simply Home features bedrooms, dining rooms, sofas, sectionals, chairs, coffee, end and sofa tables, wall art, table art and durable upholstery fabrics. Room vignettes will inspire. Dining chairs and bar stools have their own multi-tiered display. Mix and match dining chairs with a new kitchen or dining table. Pick from a selection of performance fabrics, which eliminate the worry of stains on upholstery for sectionals and sofas.

**FAVOURITES:** Sectional sofas are very popular. Simply Home can help you find the right sectional for any room, large or small, and aid in the selection of a fabric that will fit your family. Sectionals are perfect for family movie nights, watching sports or playing video games with friends. Long dining tables with bench seating are also trending. Wall art with words, canoe paddles and large iron clocks are in demand and provide that finishing touch.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ASHLEY FURNITURE



**THE SERVICES:** When you shop at Simply Home Furnishings you're buying from a local business invested in the community. Ashley, Alex and their professionally-trained staff offer one-on-one consultations, answering all questions and helping with decisions, budgets, size and styles. Your furniture will be delivered to your home or cottage with care, offering full assembly!

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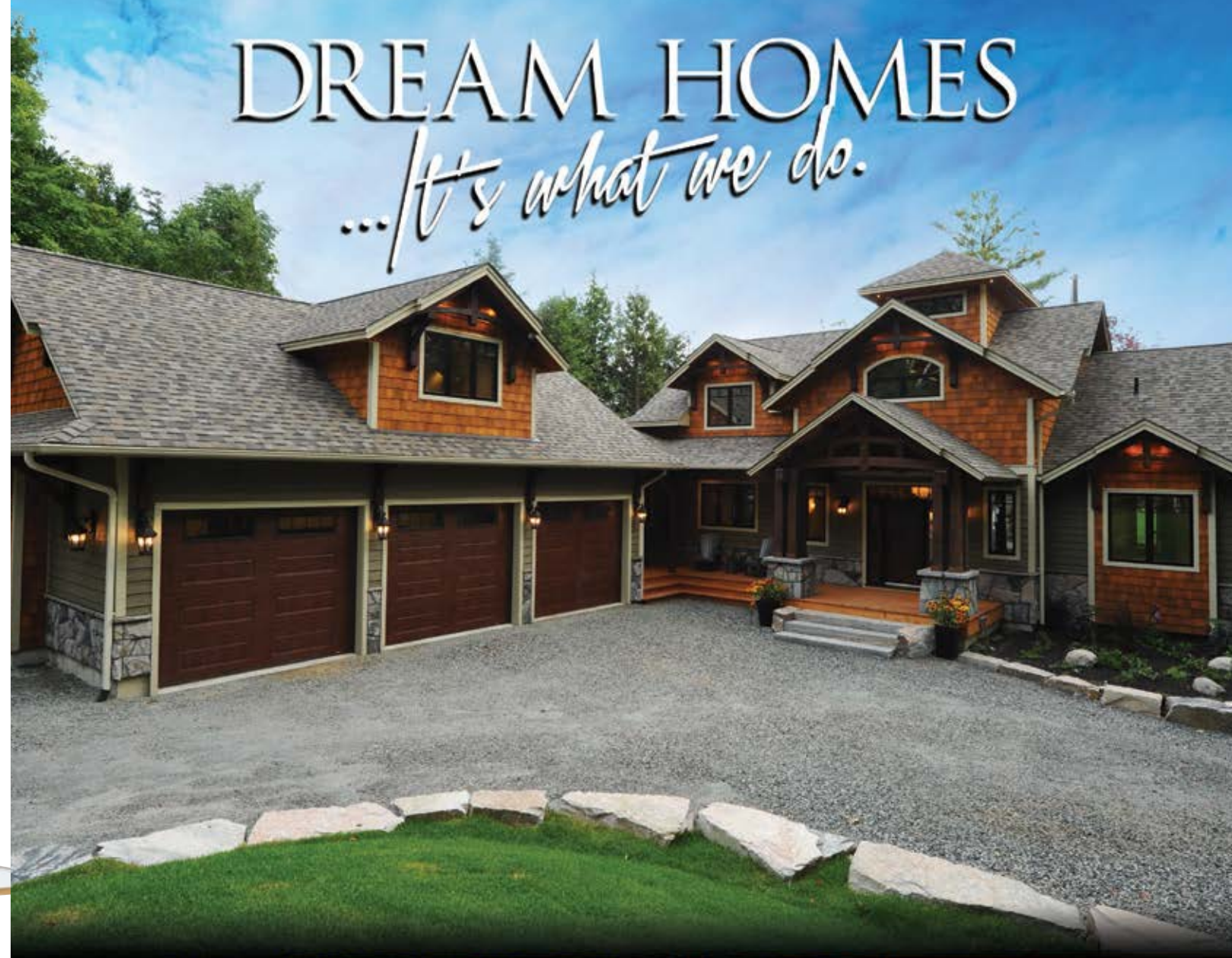
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PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

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- 3. **RENWIL:** Stardust Table Lamp
- 4. **ZODAX:** Kyoto Glass Hurricane
- 5. **CYAN DESIGN:** Hopscotch Filler Ball
- 6. **ZODAX:** Equestrian Leather, Glass and Brass Hurricane
- 7. **CYAN DESIGN:** Mirage Tray
- 8. **SAFAVIEH:** Antwan Gold Coffee Table
- 9. **COLE & SON:** Folie Parterre Wallpaper in Charcoal
- 10. **VANGUARD FURNITURE:** Whitaker Sofa
- 11. **NOURISON:** Prairie Area Rug in Silver
- 12. **WILLIAMS-SONOMA HOME:** Woven Leather Hide Pillow Cover in Tan **OH**



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# DECK THE HALLS

STORY **KATHLEEN DUNCAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**



Foraged wild mushrooms shared under a wood-beam ceiling may conjure up images of off-the-gridders in a country cabin, but the appeal of forest harvesting and natural building materials has also found its way to the well-appointed suburban kitchens of health-conscious families.



Santa welcomes guests to Sel and Tanya Vespera's Barrie home, built three years ago. **BELOW:** Sel's pride and joy, a '69 Chevrolet Chevelle Malibu convertible. **OPPOSITE:** A rustic cabinet in a hallway is tufted with greens and Christmas cheer for the May Court Club of Barrie's Homes For The Holidays Tour.



Early-retirees Sel and Tanya Vespera built their 3,800 sq. ft. home by **Normerica Timber Homes & Cottages** (with **Greg Ballantyne** of **GB Enterprize Ltd.**) on Barrie's eastern perimeter three years ago. Tanya sought an upscale country look, mixing rustic materials with fine finishes. Sel, a former landscaper, wanted garage space to protect his truck, snowmobile trailer, boat, riding mower, and '69 Chevrolet Chevelle Malibu convertible (complete with fuzzy dice and a crucifix hanging from the rear-view mirror). "A joke from my son," he smiles.

A shared philosophy of hard work and smart investing allowed these first-generation Canadians to get both – although Lucy, their seven-year-old "very spoiled" English Bulldog, acts like the house was custom-built for her. *Continued on page 57*



**RIGHT:** Glass railings surround the staircase leading to the lower level. A glass table and bench fit nicely in the space. **FAR RIGHT:** Barrie's Garden Centre provided all the flowers and greens for the home. **BELOW:** The great room is where the family gathers to enjoy the fire and the big screen television.



**LEFT:** This powder room is unique with its stone vessel sink and L-shaped custom vanity with open storage. **BELOW:** The sleek Jøtul fireplace warms the reading nook off the kitchen. **BOTTOM:** Greens, giant pine cones and elevated candles grace a windowsill.



“I love my fridge, it’s huge!” laughs Tanya as she describes the imported-from-Germany Leicht kitchen with Miele appliances. With no upper cabinetry to block the view to the adjacent great room’s 20-foot peak, the spacious, square room is a favourite. “You can have hors d’oeuvres on one side, and someone can still cook.”

Just off the dining room, and leading out to the Trex-clad deck and six bays of garage space is a cosy reading room with leather chairs, a sofa and a slim, sleek Jøtul fireplace with a three-sided view of the flames.

“We have breakfast there nearly every day,” says Sel, who enjoys this intimate nook that also leads up to a home gym and guest suite loft.

But when there’s a larger crowd, the great

room is the go-to destination, with a massive floor-to-ceiling tiled fireplace providing an elegant focal point. A high-tech glass guillotine screen descends to contain the wood-burning firebox and demonstrate the beauty and practicality of rustic and refined elements. The juxtaposition is echoed with modern furniture made of iron and stone, antler art and brass accents to warm things up.

Amid the décor sourced from Pottery Barn and Restoration Hardware are one-off treasures given new life by Tanya.

“There’s a lot of work before you get to the fun stuff – the decorating,” she acknowledges of the building process. “I find some interesting things in thrift stores and vintage shops. I’m in deep mourning over the passing of Goodwill.” *Continued on page 59*





Lucy the English Bulldog believes the home was built just for her, says Tanya.

The modern Leicht kitchen is surrounded by timbers. There are no upper cabinets to block the view to the adjacent great room. All appliances are from Miele, including Tanya's huge refrigerator, concealed by cabinetry. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The dining room has a spectacular view of the outdoors. The chandelier is a showstopper. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The quartz kitchen counters have room for a festive display for the holidays. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Even the laundry room behind the kitchen receives a festive touch.



An imported ocean stone that looks like petrified wood also caught her attention. It's now an eye-catching vessel sink in the powder room off her laundry, which she designed with the help of Pinterest and the custom millwork of Muskoka Custom Cabinets.

Stevenson Plumbing & Electric and heating contractor **Charlie McCallion** of **A Few Degrees More Inc.** were also instrumental in the construction.

Last year, when the Vespera home was featured on the **May Court Club** of Barrie's annual Homes for the Holidays fall tour, guests entered through its 10-foot front door and under the transom by **DeCola Windows & Doors**. They stepped across a foyer floor by **Desert Tile** onto hand-scraped Austrian oak boards from Northern Wide Plank that continue through most of the three-bedroom bungalow.

"In-floor radiant heating runs through the entire floor – as well as the basement (which contains a 1,200 sq. ft. self-contained apartment), garage and loft," explains Sel. "We put in a forced air furnace as backup, but we've never needed it."

This year, as heating systems warm up, the May Court tour will feature five very different houses – from an artistic haven to a Bass Lake B & B. All homes will showcase the talents of local decorators and florists who donate their work and supplies to support the tour's fundraising efforts. *Continued on page 60*





feature

**RIGHT:** This bedroom is warm and cosy. Faux fur bedding tops a majestic bed. **BELOW:** A very wide hallway leading to the sleeping quarters is graced with art with impact. **BOTTOM:** This grey and white en suite has pops of pink. All the floors are heated.



“Every penny we make goes right back into the community,” says Sharon Fitzsimmons, Homes for the Holidays 2016 convenor. “I think that’s a selling point for this tour. We’re helping those in our community who need our help. That’s why I became a member. I really believe in the philosophy.”

In 2015, more than 1,400 people came through the tour’s tea room. This year, major sponsor **Salnek’s Custom Window Treatments** will be in attendance all weekend.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the

Homes for the Holidays event, a few silver anniversary bonuses have been added. For example, in addition to the five scheduled homes, the Waterford Retirement Residence on Edgehill Drive is opening its Christmas-themed lobby to the tour for the first time.

In the tea room, a surprise sweet will be added to the menu, while fashion shows by Janet Kemp and Garden Gallery entertain and inspire. The popular unique boutique and gourmet section will return with hand-made delights from May Court members and friends. *Continued on page 62*

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A heavy throw is like icing on this bed with its tufted upholstered headboard. **RIGHT:** The en suite's walk-in shower has a pebble stone floor. **FAR RIGHT:** A vessel tub is surrounded by floor-to-ceiling tile.



“I recommend anyone attending to go there first because things go fast,” warns Fitzsimmons.

Homes for the Holidays 2016 runs November 19 and 20, with tickets available at the **May Court Shop** on Maple Avenue and, for the first time, online at [barriemaycourtclub.ca](http://barriemaycourtclub.ca).

With tour duties finished and work days behind them, the Vesperas are free to do as they please. Especially now that daughter Katie’s recent move has left them empty nesters. They’ve considered travelling to California, New York City, Italy and heading out in an RV. But then MacKenzie, their environmentalist son, drops by to share his freshly harvested chicken-of-the-woods mushrooms from a nearby forest and they’re in no hurry to leave. **OH**

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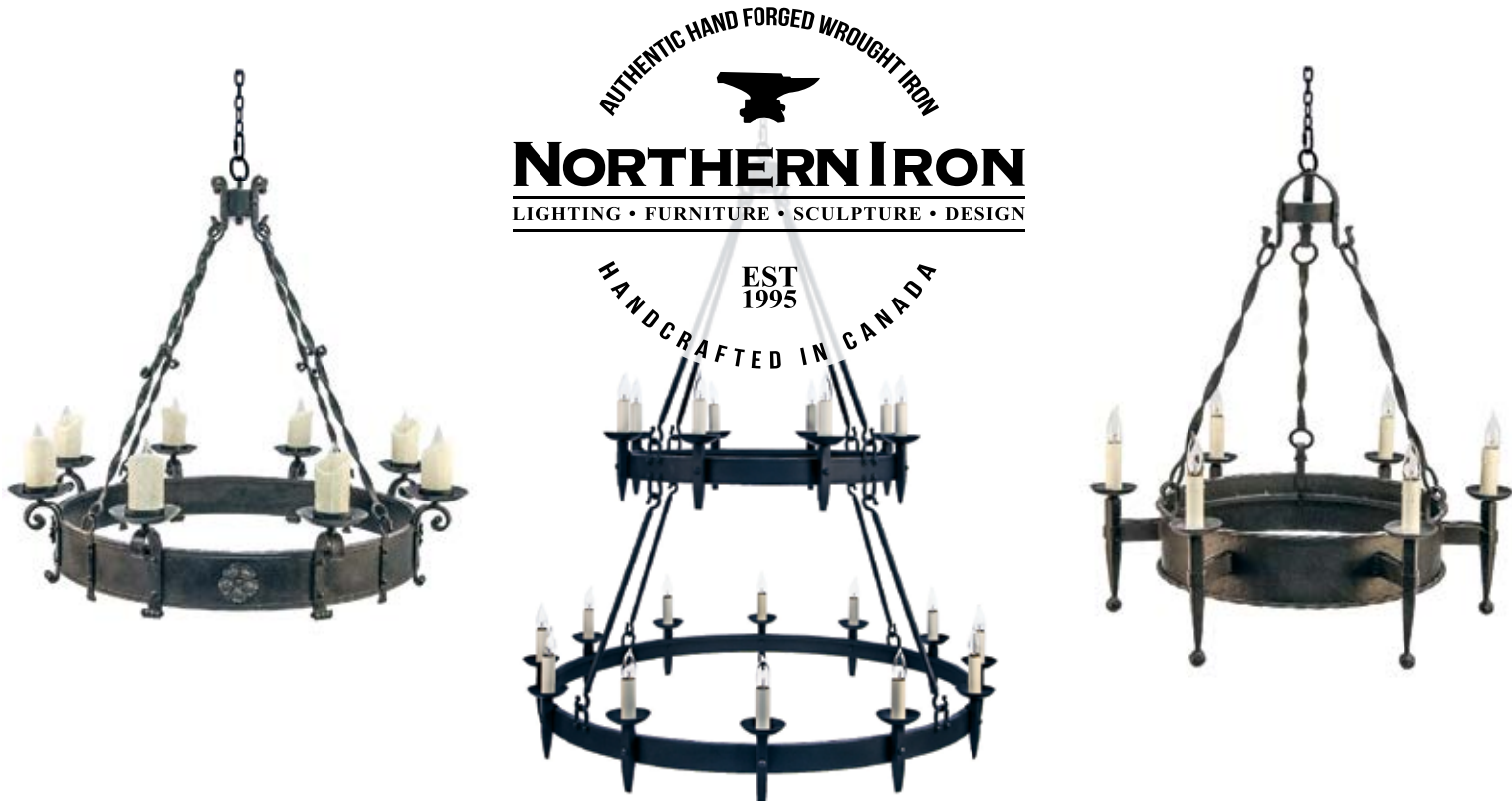


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# BUSINESS MILESTONES

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

Hard work, fine products and top-notch service all lead to success. These local businesses are taking it to the next level as they look forward to the year ahead.



**GALE WELSH**  
*Retail Sales & Operations*  
**STEPHANIE GOURLIE**  
*Owner*  
*The Tile Bar & Design Co., Barrie*

**Tell us about your company:** The Tile Bar & Design Co. aspires to capture all of your unique design goals and dreams in not only tile, but through an understanding of your design inspiration. Gale, our boutique manager, and our team of reliable contractors work to ensure that your home, cottage or office is enhanced in a way that truly reflects your style and touches your highest senses.

**How does this complement your other products?** I started Discount Granite Plus with my business partner five years ago. Our clients value our experiences in the field of granite, quartz and marble fabrication as well as our knowledge of colour and stone trends because they want to create a look that is not only trending, but timeless and economical. The Tile Bar & Design Co. takes it to the next level. We specialize in interior style and décor tips and custom tile solutions for your backsplash, shower and flooring. We provide turnkey installation and renovations and offer help for DIY clients.

**What is your favourite Christmas gift to give and get?** I love the holidays, who doesn't? For me, the best gift is being able to share the day with family and watching my kids light up over the gifts Santa brought.



**MARCIA WHAN**  
*Manager*  
**DENISE TUCKER**  
*Owner*  
*Barrie Olive Oil Co., Barrie*

**Tell us about your company's expansion:** We have expanded our staff from three to a team of 14 in 18 months, and from one downtown location to a second in the south end and a third temporary location at Georgian Mall. We have more than 5,400 clients in our database. Our customers regularly share their experiences with us, whether a tasting or recipe, and engage with us on social media. We collaborate with local businesses to develop special product lines and/or introduce local products and we support local charitable initiatives whenever we can.

**Why are your products so popular?** Our products are delicious, healthy and easy to use. Two simple ingredients – oil and balsamic – can make anything taste amazing: marinades, dressings, dessert toppings or a complex meal. People are looking for a natural, pure product and staying away from processed meals and snacks. Food tastes amazing without any added sugars or artificial ingredients and our oils and balsamics fit perfectly because they are all natural.

**What is your favourite holiday treat?**  
**Marcia:** An amazing charcuterie board topped with the sharpest cheddar, creamiest brie, a crunchy warm artisan bread, dried cured meats and of course my favorite 18-year-old Traditional Balsamic and a November Crush olive oil accompanied by a robust bottle of red.  
**Denise:** I would agree with Marcia on the charcuterie board but would change up the oil to Persian Lime and the balsamic to Espresso. *Continued on page 66*





**GINI STRINGER, Owner**  
*Sunshine Carpet & Flooring, Orillia*

**Tell us about your company:** Sunshine Carpet & Flooring is a family owned and operated business celebrating 25 years in Orillia in 2016. My husband Trevor and I have 40 years of experience in the flooring business. Our daughters Jessica and Lee Ann, along with sales staff Rob and Kirsten, provide excellent customer service at Sunshine Carpet and all have exceptional product knowledge. We have the best flooring selection north of Toronto and offer professional installation. We are

flooring specialists – that’s all we do.

**What’s new and trending in flooring for homes?** Hardwood is still *the* product clients are looking for, specifically engineered, rustic wide-plank hardwood flooring. Engineered hardwood offers more variety in wood visuals and widths. Vinyl plank flooring is becoming more popular than laminate and carpet is making a comeback. We carry carpets that are pet-proof, stain-proof and waterproof. We

always have great sales at Sunshine Carpet and offer our customers the very best value for the products they purchase.

**What is your wish for the holidays ahead?** My wish is for everyone in our community to have a happy and safe holiday season and that means helping those less fortunate in any way possible. I’m also looking forward to celebrating the season with family, our staff and our customers. It’s been a great year.

*Continued on page 68*

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DAVE TEMPLETON, *Owner  
Templeton Windows & Doors, Midland*

**Tell us about your company:** Templeton Windows & Doors is celebrating 25 years in business. That's how long our family-owned business has been selling and installing the best products in the area. We are proud to carry an extensive line of windows and doors that are manufactured here in Canada. My Dad, Dave Sr., is semi-retired, turning day-to-day operations over to me and my brother Jamie.

**What other products and services do you offer?** It's not just windows. Templeton also sells and installs awnings and glass frameless showers. Everything we do is super customized and we carry only the very best products. We reach homeowners in Midland, Penetanguishine, Muskoka, Collingwood, Barrie and Orillia. Our cottage owners even ask us to install our products at their homes in Toronto.

**What's a Templeton family Christmas like?** It's a day full of games and gifts and lots of food and drinks. It's all about celebrating with family. *Continued on page 70*





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people

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Owners  
Northern Iron, Barrie

Tell us about your company:

Established in 1995, Northern Iron is a family-run business specializing in authentic wrought iron and design. Company founder, Artist/Blacksmith Lino Barbosa and son Andy Barbosa are highly-skilled craftsmen who have a passion for creating handcrafted pieces for clients to enjoy in their homes, cottages and gardens. Wife and business partner Maria Barbosa fulfills all the duties associated with wiring, finishing and accounting. Daughter and Interior Decorator Sonya Barbosa welcomes you to visit their 2,000 sq. ft. showroom where she can consult with you about your lighting or furniture design project. Pictures and measurements are always a great starting point.

Tell us about what you

**make and how:** Our focus is on producing artisan lighting, furniture and art. Each piece is handmade one at a time by using traditional blacksmithing techniques in order to achieve the desired look and authenticity of wrought iron.

What are your special holiday

**plans?** We're looking forward to the festivities of the season and enjoying some time off with family and friends after a very busy year. **OH**



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# INDOOR escape

STORY **YANIC SIMARD**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
**GILLIAN JACKSON**

With winter arriving, you may find yourself wanting to spend a lot more time indoors – why not spend this time unwinding in an elegant, spa-like bathroom? Borrow some of my favourite design tips from a recent renovation and create your own retreat.



**DESIGN TIP:** Tucking functional details like the electrical outlet or toilet roll holder between the toilet and vanity puts them effectively out of sight from most viewing angles, for an austere look.



PHOTO: BRANDON BARRE

## Mirror Magic

As you enter this room, you pass a custom mirrored sliding door (located next to the tub/shower), hiding a stacked washer and dryer combo. This puts the laundry centre in a functional spot, but without taking away from the aesthetic elegance of the bathroom – in fact, large mirrors can help a space feel more expansive.

## Open Eyelines

Other features help give the room a larger feel: glass doors are used for the shower and on the tall custom storage compartment to keep sight lines open. The airy material and colour palette emphasize pale tones and subtle textures, adding interest while maintaining a breezy feel. Using the same inviting wood to create the floating vanity shelves and the sliding door frame adds consistency and a touch of visual warmth.

## Bringing the Heat

Two hidden features keep this room feeling cosy all year. A heated floor system (a perfect complement to cool, crisp tile) radiates warmth – a smart way to make a relatively compact space feel ultra-luxe. To top it off, the stylish wall-mounted towel bar is also heated, for that fresh-out-of-the-dryer feeling any time. *Continued on page 74*



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design ideas

Niche Appeal

Often, one or more of the walls inside a shower will have a large open cavity, free of pipes – space that can be “borrowed” to add a little extra room to the shower via a wall niche. Placing a niche at elbow height will give you a handy place to store essential products and open up the feel of the space just that little bit more, making it a worthwhile upgrade during renovation.

Featured Selections

Although most of the tile in this bathroom is a classic white 12-by-24-inch porcelain plank (which creates a large, almost seamless look), an accent tile was used to make a statement in the shower. This tile was then repeated as the sink backsplash (run wall-to-wall for a sharp look), for a feeling of continuity. Repeating materials at least once is a good way to make any room appear more harmonious.

**DESIGN TIP:** Bordering an accent tile with an outline of plank tiles (as done in this shower) frames it like artwork and visually connects the materials, rather than taking the accent wall-to-wall. It's a contemporary twist that makes a sophisticated statement.

Bright Answers

Keeping the lighting scheme richly layered is important in any space, even a smaller one like a bathroom. Here, pot lights are used in the shower area (an often overlooked spot for lighting), but the long vanity wall is actually lit with a subtle LED strip tucked into the ceiling. This gives efficient, even lighting in a soft ethereal glow, for a real sense of brightness despite the lack of a window. Thin accent lights flank the medicine cabinet, adding a little task lighting.

Highs & Lows

Not everything has to be a budget buster. Here, a simple and sleek big-box-store vanity serves perfectly, acting as the quiet anchor in a moody grey. Adding an interesting faucet gives it a unique twist, and picks up on the other glass accents in the room. Remember: saving on some pieces and splurging on others always creates more drama than spending moderately across the board.

**DESIGN TIP:** One of the easiest ways to style your bathroom is to remove clutter, and then store essentials in minimalist containers like glass jars or white boxes. Just be sure to add at least one purely decorative accent like a fresh blossom!



Create your own escape at home with these picks.



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# divine DESIGN

STORY **KIM MASIN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Cheryl Krismer and John Korzeniewski figure living in the former Anglican church in Hawkestone was meant to be, especially since they found the listing the day it became an official listing on MLS.

Cheryl explains, “We came and looked at it three days later. The real estate agent said the Anglican church is taking offers in two days,” adding, “By the way you can’t make it into a house because there isn’t enough land to install a septic because the property is tiny.”

The property is a small triangle. “We had three days to figure out how to make it work so we started doing research,” says Cheryl. “We came across a septic system that is a vertical system.” *Continued on page 79*



Cheryl and John sit on the porch of their home with Axel, their Border Collie and Lee, their Greyhound.





**LEFT:** The kitchen sits on what used to be the altar. The original stained-glass window inspired the chartreuse cabinetry. **OPPOSITE:** The vastness and history of the open space called for furniture true to the provenance, era and spirit of the building. Cheryl and John purchased the display hutch and chairs at auction, while the dining room table was custom built.



Cheryl is an Interior Designer and owner of Crayon Design Co., a Toronto firm in business for 35 years and counting. As a veteran in the field of interior design, she finds solutions to obstacles. John is a furniture maker and carpenter, so together they envisioned the potential in this stunning historical church. They took possession 11 years ago on the August long weekend and enjoyed Christmas in their new ethereal space. “We lucked out on a few things with timing and worked with all local trades,” says Cheryl. “We also had an aggressive timeline.”

“The first weekend we had it, we probably had 10 people stop in to ask about the pews.” They decided to sell them Sunday morning. “It was crazy,” she remembers. “Suddenly people got word and at 8:30 a.m. people were knocking on the doors.” Within three hours all the pews were gone.

John says, “One of the coolest things was when the pews were all out we could see the floors. There were worn areas in the back rows. I guess they were the popular seats.” They discovered the floors were built with varying types of wood. Believed to be built in 1906, Cheryl imagines a local barn-raising type of day where locals came together and created the structure that now houses their eclectic home.

The church was transformed based on the idea that this was going to be a cottage. “The kids were cross country skiing and racing at a high level, provincial and also at national level so when they went into high school we sat them down and asked if they wanted to go to high school in Orillia or Toronto, and they picked Orillia.” John’s workshop is here and Cheryl commutes to Toronto. *Continued on page 81*

*“I would never let my clients use marble. But it’s part of the character, chips and all,” says Cheryl.*





Cheryl built the fireplace herself, cutting, grinding and placing each stone, creating a dry-stack look on the frame by John. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Cheryl has spent a lot of time at auctions and in antique shops. She discovered this stunning piece to store books and items she uses for interior design projects.

They immediately had **Sherwood Contracting & Excavating** waterproof all of the weeping tiles on the exterior of the building.

The basement was also one of the first areas they conquered. "It was a disaster, the floor was heaved and cracking and there was mud and water," John remembers. "The windows were rotted out and the walls were covered in concrete and old wood panelling." Lava stone hydronic flooring from Ciot was installed to help with heating and new high performance Loewen windows, from **Orillia Glass & Mirror Ltd.**, were installed to assist with insulation.

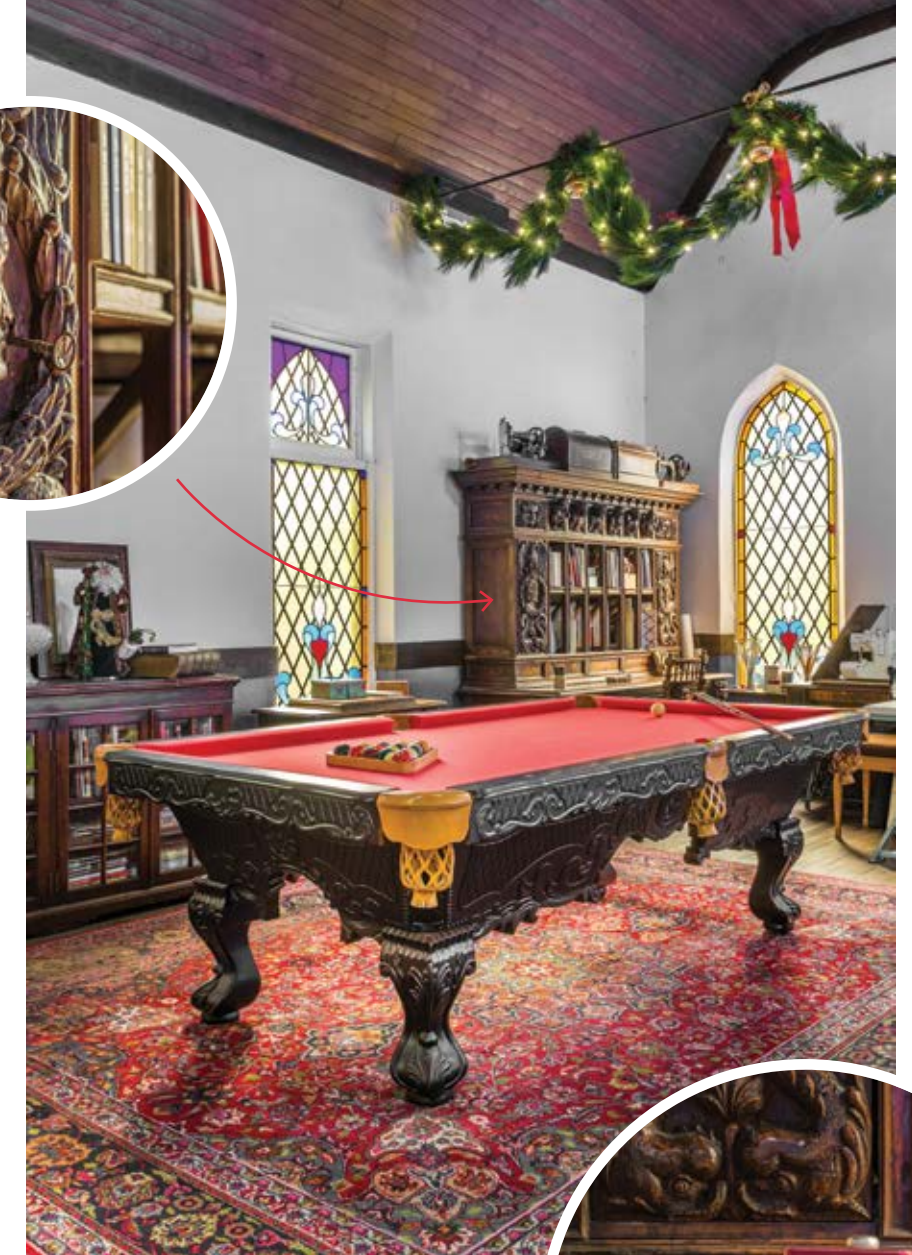
The lower level now boasts four bedrooms and the main bathroom. After some very creative thought and hard labour, the bedrooms are reminiscent of cosy cottage rooms. Half-log pine siding by **Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc.** on the walls completes the earthy feel. All walls were painted with organic milk paint in white. The "Holy, Holy, Holy" bookshelf hanging over the guest bedroom came from the church's altar while the headboard is the choir railing.

The spa-like bathroom with a walk-in shower (tiles from Olympia Tile and Ciot, and doors from Orillia Glass & Mirror Ltd.) has a seamless floor, all due to Cheryl's planning. Marble tops adorn vanities and eclectic lights create a soothing atmosphere.

There was no septic, water, heat or gas when they purchased the old church, just a small electrical system and an old oil furnace. **Total Generator** installed the home generator. Cheryl insists, "I would never do another place in the country without a home generator, so why not plan it from the start?"

On the main floor, the 16-foot original elm ceilings create a celestial setting. The raised kitchen, built where the altar used to sit, looks down onto the living area. Separate areas are created with ensembles of very specific furniture choices.

Cheryl confesses, "This is not my preferred design style but we wanted to do something that was appropriate, keeping the essence of the building, so we looked for items gothic in character, richer in colour and a brighter palette. We wanted to do right by the building." *Continued on page 82*



John and Cheryl's home is full of thoughtful and appropriate accessories.







**Bateman Design Centre** built the kitchen cabinets and John installed them. The marble slab from Ciot is one large piece. “It was one of those things, it’s what they used to make tombstones from,” says Cheryl. “I would never let my clients use marble. But it’s part of the character, chips and all.”

All appliances are Sub Zero and Wolf with the fridge concealed behind beautiful wood coverings. Adding gothic colours, like the large inset Kohler sink in orange and the orange KitchenAid small appliances add a dramatic touch. The amazing contrasting paint on the cupboards is Para Paint in Bitter Lemon.

John built the two rooms off the kitchen, creating a powder room and laundry room.

The opulent dinner table built by Bateman Design Centre creates a rich setting for dining. Chairs were found at an auction and Cheryl picked the luxurious fabrics and had them reupholstered. Areas around the room are segregated by furniture clusters, providing separate dimensions to the space.

The magnificent fireplace sets the stage for cosy lounging. Cheryl built the fireplace herself. John created the framing and Cheryl cut, grinded and placed each stone into the surround, creating a dry-stack look. “I counted how many days it took – 17 full days,” says Cheryl. *Continued on page 84*



**ABOVE:** John custom builds guitars in his workshop downstairs. **TOP LEFT:** John built the powder room off the kitchen, using mirrors to enhance the space. **LEFT:** Downstairs in a guest room, the bookshelf above the bed comes from the church’s altar.



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**LEFT:** The stone walls in the basement are original. Lee relaxes in the master bedroom.  
**BELOW:** The lower-level bathroom is a triumph, considering the basement had dirt floors when they took possession.



Insulating the attic was a challenge for the couple. “We got a quote for spray foam, we have three-inch wood slats and we asked for a guarantee that they wouldn’t damage the ceiling with the force of the spray gun,” says John. “They couldn’t. The problem is the angles. The solution was tarp paper and insulation.”

The 30-foot roof had to be redone in the first year and was replaced with long-lasting cedar shakes by Cedar Roof Ontario. “With the steep pitch on the roof it’s the perfect insulation.”

The deck addition on the side of the building came the second year, built by Moonstone Timber Frame. The ornate railings were found at an auction and refit and painted for the deck. “We will do a door to the house from the deck, eventually,” says Cheryl. “It

just hasn’t happened yet while we figure out how to deal with the windows and not change the look. So it’s down on the priority list a long way.”

John and Cheryl scoured antique shops and spent hours at auctions to find exquisite and appropriate furniture for the church. They’ve made the church their home and love where they live.

“We do a fair amount of work up here now,” says Cheryl. “Part of my hope within the next couple of years is to do a bit of a sideways move and do something different. It’s been 30 years so that’s why we’re looking to do something else here.”

John and Cheryl both chime in, “There are so many cool buildings around.” **OH**

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STORY AND PHOTO BY MELANIE REKOLA

# VEGGIE upcycling

I'm often amazed at life's tenacity. Dandelion roots can grow more than a metre to find water; without water, many sedum succulent plants can effortlessly survive a month; and the humble daylily can be uprooted from the ground to sit upside down for a whole fall and winter and still poke out some leaves the following spring.

The point is, life wants to keep living. A common example is garlic, onions and potatoes that sprout roots or leaves before you've had time to consume them. Tremendous life force is just waiting to be regrown again and again in your kitchen scraps. Grow edibles in winter? Yes you can.

Much easier than nursing a veggie plant from seed, regrowing most vegetables is an easy task – no green thumb required. Most begin regrowing in just water! And as world food costs steadily increase, you'll have a source of vegetables and herbs in regular supply at essentially no extra cost than the original purchase. Sound good?

There are numerous edibles that can be regrown with various degrees of difficulty, but who wants to wait three years for a pineapple to grow indoors? Here is my list of easy-peasy, fail-proof and fast veggies to try your hand at regrowing.

## Herbs

It's a well-known fact that all dishes are greatly enhanced by the addition of fresh herbs. Many herbs such as basil, mint, and cilantro will easily regrow. Simply place fresh-cut herb stems in a glass of water with the bottom third of its leaves removed. New leaves will form and roots will grow. After the roots are about two inches long, they can be relocated to a pot with soil. Rosemary also re-propagates in this manner, except the cuttings need to be taken from the top two or three inches of the plant.

## Lettuce

Luscious lettuce in winter is, for many, a dream come true. Romaine, leaf-type lettuces and even bok choy will all regrow so long as their stump is intact. Place the stump upright in a bowl, covering the base of the stump with water. When new leaves regrow, the stump can be planted in soil.

## Onions

Such a useful flavouring, green onions and leeks are likely the easiest veggies to propagate. Cut the stalks about one to two inches from the root and place the root in water and they will quickly grow. They can then be transferred to a soil-filled pot or planted directly in soil from the start. Red and yellow onions can also be regrown into lovely green onions. Next time you chop onions, save the base with about one to two inches of bulb. Place the base in a bowl of water. Once leaves grow, transfer to soil.

## Garlic

If you find your culinary garlic is already sprouting, just place the clove in a bit of water. Shoots will grow and can be harvested and used raw, much like chives, or the cloves can be planted directly in soil.

## Celery

Crunchy celery is a healthy and satisfying winter snack and hinders high-carb, comfort eating. Leave about five inches of celery stalk base. Place in a bowl of water and new leaves will grow from the middle. In about a week it can be moved to a soil-filled planter.

## Carrots

Did you know that carrot leaves are edible? They're perhaps a bit bitter in taste but your household culinary genius will likely find a use for them. Cut the carrot top with one-inch base and place in a plate of water and the leaves will sprout from the top. After the leaves are about two inches, plant in soil and harvest as needed.

Whichever veggie you plan to regrow indoors, a few rules of thumb apply. All plants, whether placed in water or soil, need ample sunlight from a sunny window. Always change the liquid from a plant's growing water every two days. For earth-bound plantings, choose the appropriate nutrient-rich potting soil and water accordingly. Never harvest all of the leaves at one time, as the plant needs some foliage to continue the process of photosynthesis.

Perhaps when you picture a bunch of food items growing indoors it doesn't sound very aesthetic, but depending on the arrangement and the vessels chosen, they can be a beautiful statement. Imagine your glassware filled with green stems along your dining table or a collection of beautiful pots bursting with edibles placed by a sunlit window. Beauty is always in the eye of the beholder, so get creative with this cool and edible version of upcycling. **OH**

*Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.*

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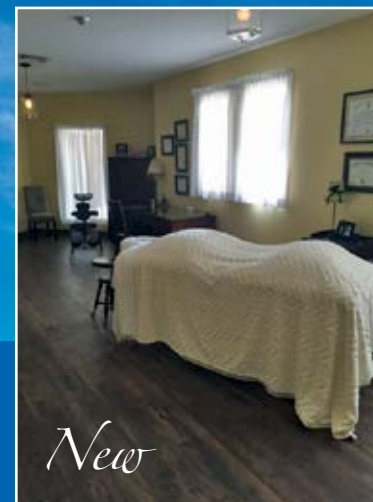
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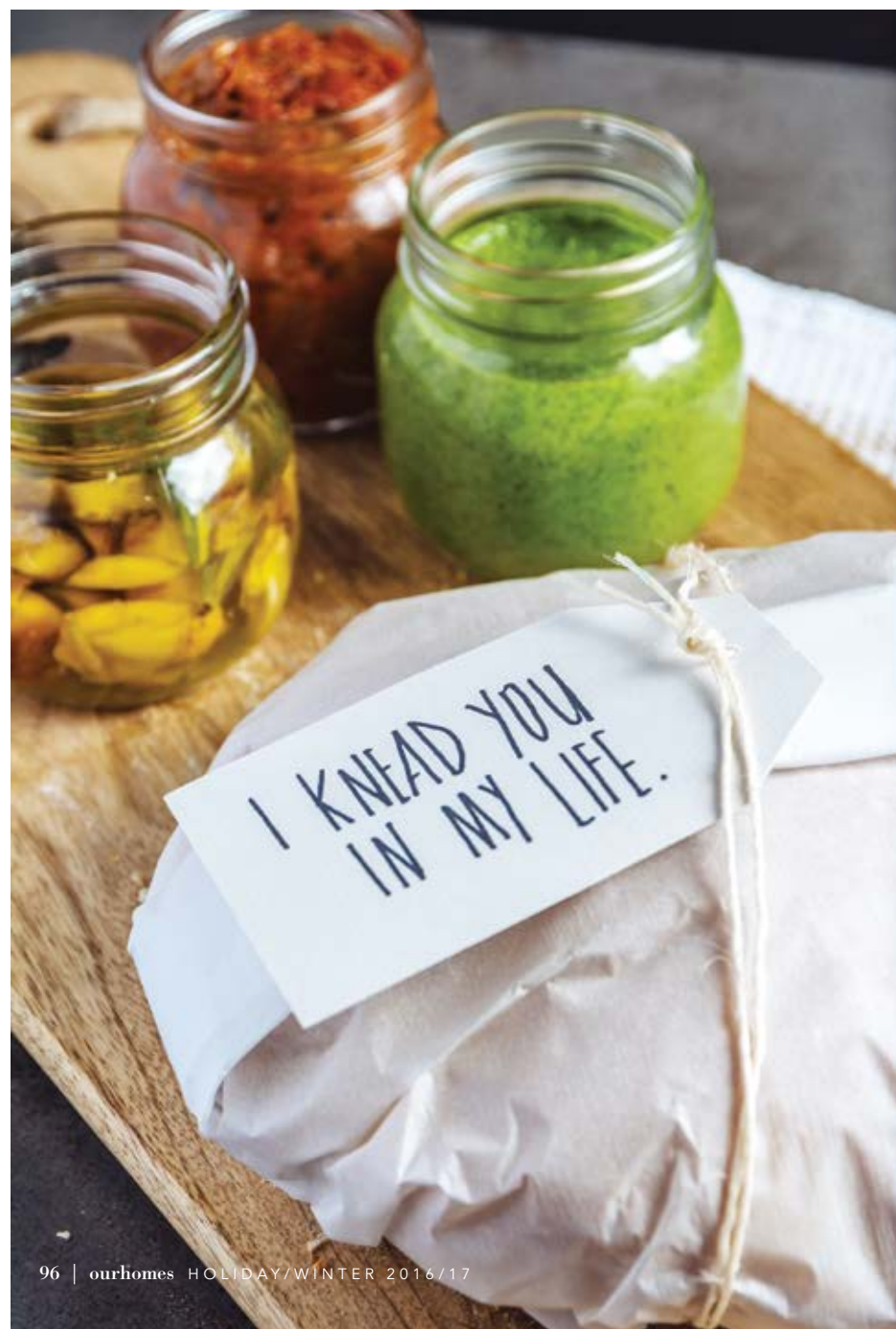


cooking at home

# NO-KNEAD BREAD and spreads

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## no-knead bread

### INGREDIENTS

3 cups all-purpose flour

½ tsp instant yeast

1½ tsp salt

1½ cups water

- In a large bowl, mix together flour, yeast and salt. Add water and stir with a wooden spoon until combined. The dough will be wet and shaggy looking – this is ok.
- Cover with plastic wrap and let sit for 12 to 18 hours or overnight to rise at room temperature. The risen dough is bubbly and double in size.
- Set oven to 450°F and place a cast-iron pot with lid in the oven to preheat for 30 minutes.
- Meanwhile, turn dough onto a well-floured board and shape into a ball.
- Transfer the dough to a sheet of parchment paper, dust with more flour, cover with plastic wrap and let rise for another 30 minutes.
- Transfer the ball and the parchment paper to the preheated cast iron pot, cover and bake for 30 minutes.
- Remove lid and bake an additional 10 to 15 minutes or until golden brown.
- Remove from oven and allow to cool. Remove from pot, peel parchment and serve.

online

Get more recipes at  
[ourhomes.ca/mag/cook](http://ourhomes.ca/mag/cook)

## spreads

### SAVOURY TOMATO BACON JAM

#### INGREDIENTS

(Makes 3 half-pint jars)

1 pound bacon, chopped

1 large white onion,  
finely chopped

1 pound roma  
tomatoes, chopped

¼ cup brown sugar

1 tsp paprika

¼ tsp chili flakes

1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar

Salt and pepper to taste

- Cook bacon over medium heat in a large pot until brown.
- Transfer bacon to a bowl lined with paper towel.
- Discard all but three tablespoons of oil from pot.
- Add onions and cook until translucent, about 4 to 6 minutes.
- Add bacon and the remaining ingredients back to the pot.
- Increase heat slightly and bring to a boil, then lower to simmer and cook for approximately 1 hour or until spread is the consistency of jam.
- Cool, spoon into sterilized jars and close with sterilized lids. Refrigerate and use within one week or preserve by canning. Go to [bernardin.ca/stepbystep.htm](http://bernardin.ca/stepbystep.htm) for instructions.



### SPINACH & WALNUT PESTO

#### INGREDIENTS

(Makes 1 half-pint jar)

About 3 cups of spinach

¼ cup walnuts

2 cloves garlic

¼ cup grated  
parmesan cheese

¼ cup olive oil

- In a food processor, add spinach, walnuts, garlic and cheese. Pulse to chop and incorporate all ingredients.
- With the food processor running, slowly drizzle in olive oil.
- Spoon spread into sterilized jar with lid. Refrigerate and consume within one week.

### ROASTED GARLIC OIL

#### INGREDIENTS

(Makes 1 half-pint jar)

2 whole garlic bulbs

¼ cup olive oil

Fresh rosemary and thyme

Salt and pepper

- Preheat oven to 400°F.
- Slice off the narrow top of the garlic bulb to expose the cloves of garlic inside.
- Place on tinfoil, drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Wrap garlic in foil and roast for 20 to 25 minutes until soft.
- Remove from oven and let cool completely. Peel away the skin of the garlic to expose the cloves or squeeze the bulb to push the cloves out.
- Add the roasted garlic, herbs, salt and pepper to a small sterilized jar, cover with olive oil and close with a lid.
- To serve, place a clove on a slice of bread, mash and spread.
- Consume immediately and do not refrigerate.



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