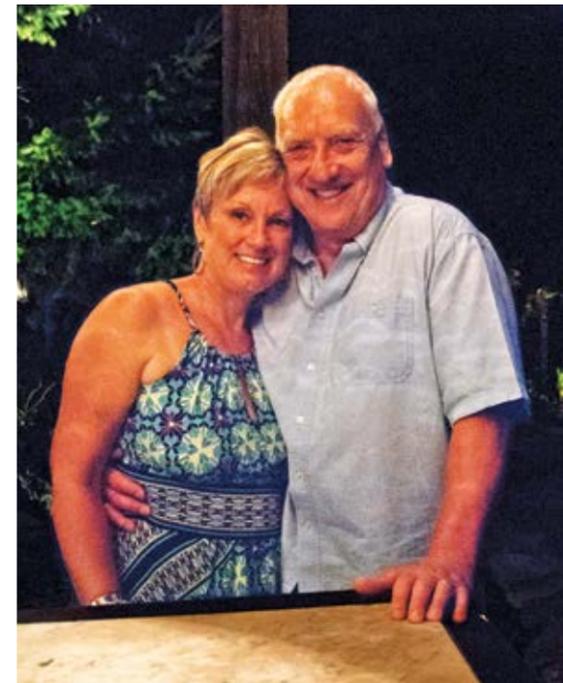




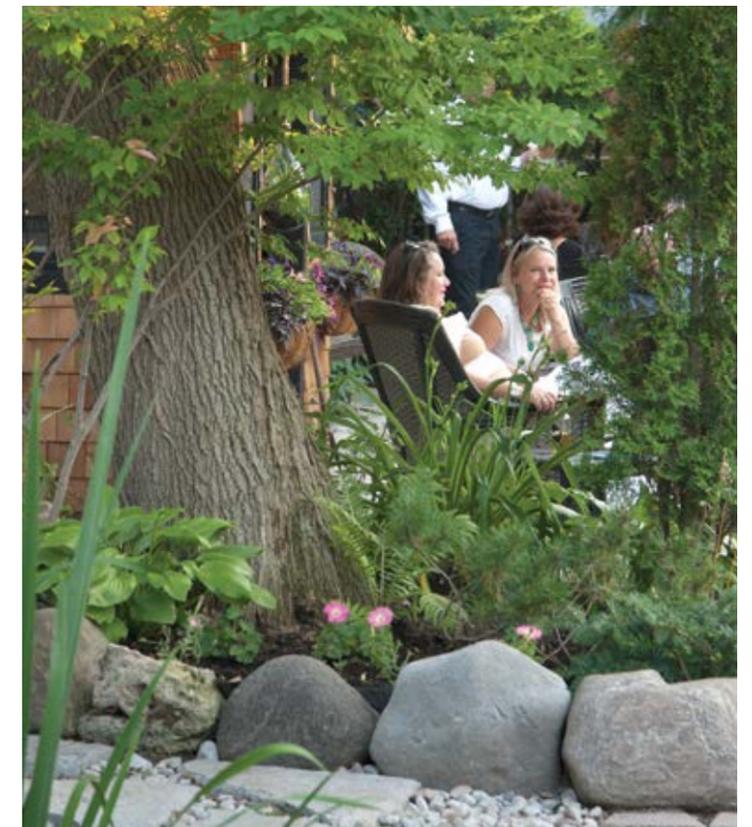
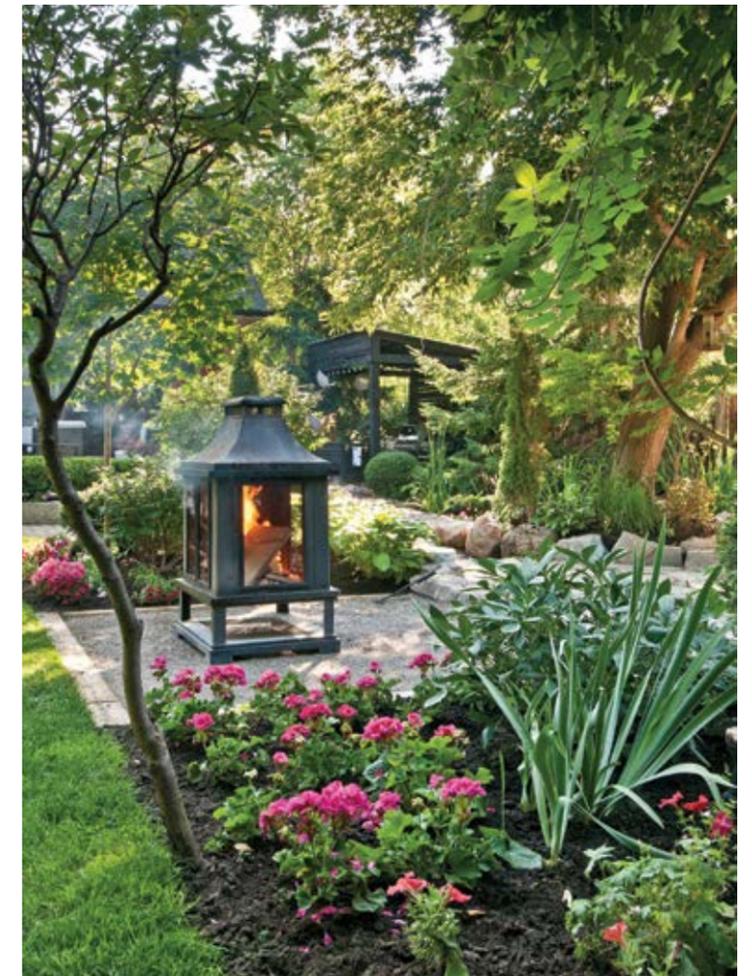
GARDEN *party*

STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Terri and Ken Clark capped off years of backyard renovations with a fabulous garden party on a hot summer night in August.



OPPOSITE: The table is set for the party. Paper lanterns twinkle at dusk. **TOP RIGHT:** A lit fireplace near the potting shed and patio adds ambience and warmth. **RIGHT:** Friends enjoy food and drink in the Clarks' lush backyard, complete with a pond anchored by a large maple tree. **ABOVE:** Terri and Ken Clark love to entertain in every season. Their friends still talk about a winter "Alpine" party that was a huge hit.



feature

Terri, principal of **Terri Clark Interiors Inc.**, and Ken, a former football punter who played 17 years of professional football, welcomed a group of close friends in the relaxed, beautifully landscaped city backyard they created and built themselves.

While Ken watched faithfully over the large roast of beef twirling on a spit on the barbecue in the outdoor kitchen, Terri completed the incredible antipasto bar set up as an edible centrepiece on the long dining table on the patio under the Wisteria-covered pergola.

Terri's friends say she never ceases to amaze them when she entertains, but this time, her antipasto creation took their breath away. "I'm Italian and I've never seen anything like it," nodded Tonelle, as she admired the spread.

"Setting a table," says Terri, "is my favourite thing to do and I'm always looking for something off the radar to create."

It was a Tuscan-themed party and the antipasto bar was the star. Red linens draped the long table set for 15. White Chivari chairs, yellow dinner plates, striped cotton napkins and a rainbow of twinkling paper lanterns added to the charm. All rentals came from **Tiffany Party Rentals Ltd.**



After dinner the ladies gathered in the screened-in gazebo, where a sectional sofa provides a comfortable place to sit and relax. Terri re-stained the floors, the exterior and re-decorated inside.



The raised patio near the home is framed with a boxwood hedge, roses and annuals in full bloom. **BELOW FAR LEFT:** Friends gather for drinks and hors d'oeuvres on the flagstone patio outside the potting shed. **LEFT:** Ken tends to the roast of beef twirling on a spit in the outdoor kitchen.



Before dinner, guests gathered under sunny skies on the flagstone patio near the potting shed converted to a beverage bar for the evening. A summer playlist filled the air.

Terri and Ken's backyard in full bloom was the ideal backdrop for this enchanted summer evening with friends.

The Clarks love a project, and when they purchased the property just minutes from downtown Barrie, they embarked on a journey to design and build their forever home.

The original white cottage was built in 1924 and in 1979, the previous owners added on to the back, creating a back split. Terri and Ken lived in that version of the home until 2010, when they tore down the

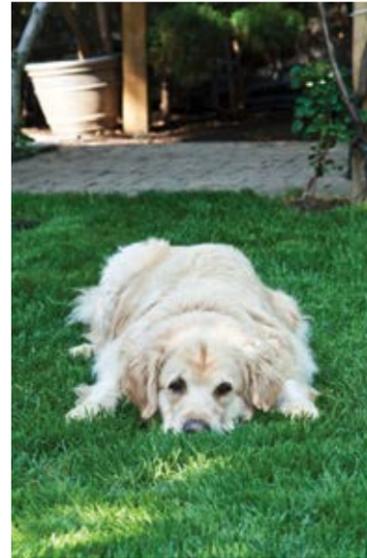
original cottage and built an addition that included a new kitchen, dining room, living room, laundry and powder room. Designer Terri's flair for space planning and selecting just the right finishings and furniture are evident throughout their home. The backyard, however, was in a constant state of renewal.

"When we bought all those years ago the property was a mess," Terri remembers. "There was concrete debris everywhere along with these prickly plum trees. It wasn't pretty. We cleaned it up and every year we'd add something and work on the gardens. A lot of labour and a lot of love have gone into this backyard."

Ken and Terri did the bulk of the work themselves. They built the gazebo and the

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RIGHT: Tucker loves to relax on the lawn. **RIGHT:** The backyard layout has many destinations. Guests gather on the patio and under the pergola on a hot summer's night. The gardens are immaculate. **BELOW:** A peek inside Terri's beloved potting shed.



pergola 10 years ago. Using paving stones salvaged from the original driveway, they created a raised patio and sitting area, plus the covered bar and outdoor kitchen near the rear entrance to the home. Outdoor lighting by [Shawn Belcourt](#).

"It's very much a partnership with Ken and I," Terri says of the huge amount of work they've poured into the double-estate lot. Large trees and now mature landscaping provide a visual barrier and help block the sounds of downtown living. A recently-installed stone waterfall adds to the peaceful ambience.

The potting shed – Terri's must-have – used to be an old dining

shed pulled from another location on the property and given a lovely facelift by Ken. [Absolute Cabinets Inc.](#) crafted the cabinetry inside to Terri's specifications. Next to the potting shed is a storage shed and out front a large flagstone patio provides another destination to gather for a fire or just to relax. A flagstone path meanders past the pond back to the house. A large maple tree provides cover for the pond, which has attracted hungry blue herons.

Gardens are strategically placed around the many destinations in the yard. A boxwood hedge surrounds the raised patio, with pink roses adding colour, making that space a bit more formal.

"I love to garden, but I'm not a gardener who knows what she's doing," laughs Terri. "What I am is a worker and I just love to be busy. I love putting in the effort and seeing the result."

When asked what her favourite part of her transformed yard is, Terri pauses and says, "I love that I can now just sit back with my husband and friends and enjoy it." Their Golden Retriever, Tucker and Great Pyrenees, Harnas, appreciate having a space of their own too!

Their summer garden party was a memorable night for everyone. They dined on Ken's barbecued beef and lasagna, veal cutlets, roasted veggies and salad, all from The Original Mondos Restaurant & Deli.

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Dinner is served under the pergola. Paper lanterns with LEDs sparkle in the night sky. Terri's edible centerpiece is a masterpiece.



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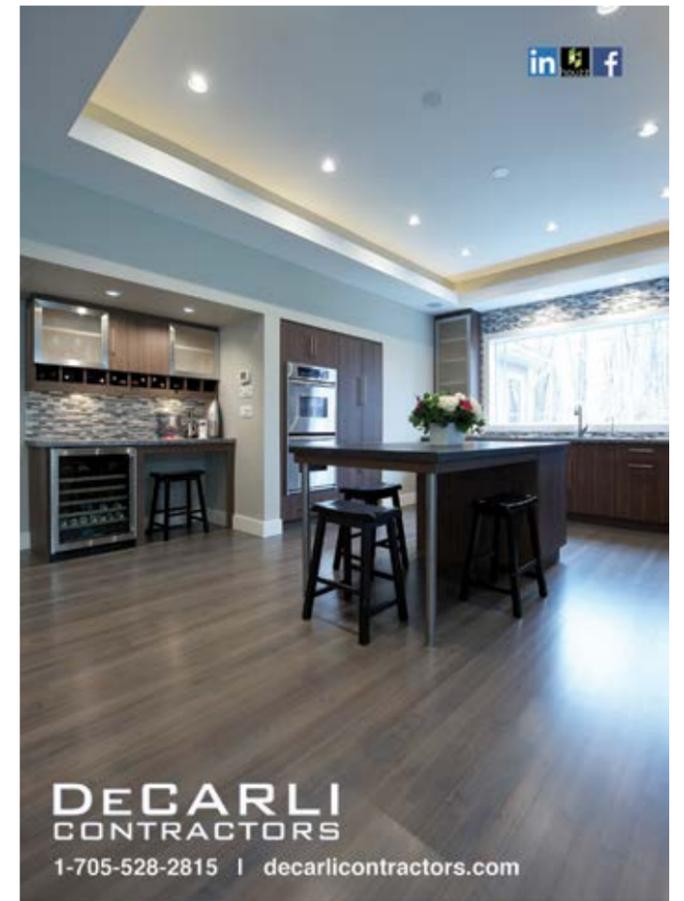
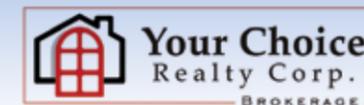
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Friends Dan and Tonelle brought the red wine and the hand-filled manicotti. Everyone chipped in to help serve and prep.

The party lasted into the wee hours of the morning, with the ladies inside the gazebo “with our stories,” says Terri, and “the men at the table enjoying cigars and cognac.”

Almost everyone stayed the night and enjoyed a big breakfast in the morning.

“I just love entertaining because I want people to come, unwind and forget about everything,” Terri says. “Just relax and enjoy.”

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TOP LEFT: The outdoor kitchen is always in use during the spring and summer months. **TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT:** Friends mingle before dinner and then sit and enjoy a Tuscan-inspired dinner.

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Terri's edible centerpiece was the star of a wonderful night.

Create An Antipasto Bar Like Terri's
Antipasto (plural of antipasti) means "before the meal" and is the traditional first course of an Italian meal.

Materials

9 bricks, stacked three high at both ends and in the middle

Long wooden boards 10 inches wide

9 large foil tins

Table linens, two for table, 1 or 2 for raised centre, folded

Serving vessels of varying heights (martini glasses work well)

Various varieties of lettuce and kale

Radishes, tomatoes, artichokes

Grapes (red and green)

Various cheeses

Jarred olives and antipasto

Serving spoons and forks

Sunflowers, cut at base with stems set in floral tubes with water

How-To

"Give yourself a couple hours for preparation so that you can be ready when your guests arrive," says Terri.

- Cover table with linens
- Line bricks down centre of table and top with boards
- Add another neatly folded table cloth on top of board
- Top with foil tins, connected with tape to make a "train"
- Cover with a table cloth and neatly tuck linens.
- Start layering lettuce and kale leaves along both sides until you can no longer see tins.
- Once full, add radishes, tomatoes, artichokes and grapes etc.
- Add vessels to the centre row for antipasto
- Tuck in sunflowers
- Fill vessels with olives and antipasto and place among greens
- Before your guests arrive, fill vessels with antipasto and add chunks of various cheeses and bread within the greens.
- Enjoy! OH

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