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IT'S THE SEASON WE'VE ALL BEEN waiting for! Summer is here, and it's time to bask in the warm sunshine and relax and enjoy some much-deserved downtime.

My summer plans include spending as much time as possible with my husband and our two boys. Both boys are away at school most of the year and summer is our time to regroup, have some fun together and reconnect before they fly away again.

It is also an exciting time here at OUR HOMES. We recently launched our new website, [ourhomes.ca](http://ourhomes.ca). Loyal readers tell me all the time that they want to see and read more of the amazing content in our magazine. [ourhomes.ca](http://ourhomes.ca) delivers with additional home features, fresh design and decorating ideas, delicious seasonal recipes and fun do-it-yourself projects.

The content on [ourhomes.ca](http://ourhomes.ca) is always changing, so I encourage you to visit often and reach out to the OUR HOMES community through our social media pages. We have great contests and fun prizes you can win just by entering. [ourhomes.ca](http://ourhomes.ca) complements our magazine and engages our readers until the

next magazine arrives in your neighbourhood.

The focus of this summer issue is entertaining, adding colour to your home and waterside living. We take you to Coldwater and Wyley Gray & Co., a lovely store where you can buy unique home décor items and the ever-popular milk and chalk paints for your home projects. While there I picked up some Fusion mineral paint to upcycle some furniture in my home.

Our Style Picks bring colour back into our lives in a big way. We also visit two incredible couples that may be retired but lead full and busy lives in beautiful surroundings.

So sit back and enjoy some summer reading that will inspire you to celebrate life at home – the OUR HOMES way!

Cheers,

*Georgette*

Georgette McCulloch, Editor-In-Chief  
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We regret that OUR HOMES printed the Bathworks Ajax address in Barrie's spring issue. The correct address in Barrie is 516 Bryne Dr. Our apologies for any confusion this may have caused.

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Sandy MacKay.



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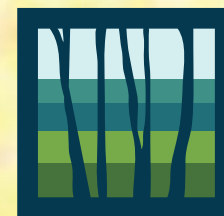
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STORY **STEPHANIE REDMOND**

## SUMMER TRENDS AND QUIRKY COLOUR COMBOS

Much like taste and smell, colour is subjective. What is aesthetically pleasing in one's surroundings may seem dull and joyless to another. The good news is, this year it seems that anything goes, *with anything!* Green is definitely at the forefront. The weirder the green the better, and you can pair it with just about any colour. For 2015, it's back to nature with greens, metals and a handcrafted feel.

Farrow & Ball:  
Pink Ground

Farrow & Ball:  
Pale Powder

Farrow & Ball:  
Teresa's Green



Benjamin  
Moore:  
Caponata

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### PINK + MINT PASTELS

#### Introverted & Soft

I'm a pink lover, and Farrow & Ball has it covered. Pink Ground is an amazing pastel tone that is soothing yet somehow modern. The mood it sets will please the introverted decorators with its gentle feel. They have it paired this season with two greens – Pale Powder and Teresa's Green. You get that Easter egg, spumoni ice cream vibe. This is classic and not trendy. To modernize, hang a mirror with faceted edges. This subtle detail is all the rage but won't overpower the softness of the backdrop.

### COPPER, EMERALD & NAVY

#### Romantic & Daring

I adore copper, but I prefer mine aged with a patina, darkened but not green. Copper was a traditional background piece, like old, too heavy pots hanging above the stove. And for the



Designer  
Stephanie Redmond  
shares her ideas.

country, what could be better? The copper trend, however, is shiny and bright. It's modern and urban. Paired with emerald green it is a definite win. Add navy blue to accentuate this pairing. If you want to add a little copper to your existing palette, try this West Elm side table. It's simple, stylish and looks right at home just about anywhere.

### AUBERGINE, BRASS & GRANNY SMITH

#### Modern & Refined

I'm not quite ready to say goodbye to black forever, but it's time to add a little edge to our moody tones. Deep aubergine is certainly a step in the right direction and cooked is even better! Try Caponata from Benjamin Moore for a regal backdrop. It's lovely paired with brown or deep pink for a serious and refined look. For a contemporary edge, throw in a quirky green accessory like Martha Sturdy's resin flower bowl in granny smith apple. And for a little glamour, try these beautiful aged-brass wall hooks that I found on Etsy. Their clean lines highlight the brass and would be stunning on an aubergine backdrop.

### AZURE, DEEP MAHOGANY & LEAF GREEN

#### Sophisticated & Fresh

Deep mahogany is another tone that will allow us to shift away from black. This rich brown creates a stunning backdrop on a wall or shelving unit. Simple pottery on a shelf disappears on a light background, but a deeper tone allows you to see the lines of each piece. Jewelry is a big inspiration in interior design this season. Take these Lindsay Adelman wall sconces for instance. On a much smaller scale, they would make a lovely pair of earrings! Add a hint of nature with a leafy green through furniture, an area rug or a beautiful ivy plant. Sometimes there is no substitute for the real thing.

I'm going out on a limb, but I think we've become more daring in our decorating, which is a good thing. It's fun. Colour is in, so don't be shy. Even the grey lovers are adding a pop! **OH**

1. Mahogany Stool: BluDot 2. Brass Hook: Golden Biscotti 3. Resin Bowl: Martha Sturdy 4. Wall Sconce: Lindsay Adelman 5. Copper Side Table: West Elm



4



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# Summer INFUSION

STORY **SHELBY HILSON**

“Drink eight glasses of water per day!”

A practice that is preached so often, by so many, it’s generally accepted that eight glasses of pure H<sub>2</sub>O each day is the ultimate hydration goal. We know this, it’s been drilled into our brains, but how many of us are actually drinking enough water?

Not many of us, according to the Angus Reid Forum, which polled 1,234 Canadian adults in nine provinces about their family’s hydration habits. Forty-five per cent of Canadians drink four or more non-water beverages each day, while 55 per cent of the respondents said their children drink only one to three glasses of water a day, and 22 per cent said their child drinks fruit juice the most often.

These numbers are worrisome as proper hydration is key to our overall health. Every organ, tissue and cell in our body is dependent on water, which makes sense since more than half of our bodies are made of it! Dehydration contributes to countless illnesses, as well as obesity and unhealthy food choices.

Now that the hot summer weather has arrived, it’s even more important for us to guzzle our share of the good stuff. Sounds simple, but water can get pretty boring, especially with all the sweet, sparkling options available, and many of us know the challenge of convincing a toddler to make the clear, tasteless choice.

But that’s just it... water doesn’t have to be the clear, tasteless choice to reap the benefits! Try one of these many ideas to uplift your water and your health this summer...

*To Make Flavoured Water:* Layer fruit and herbs with ice in a water pitcher, then add cold water.



## **Mouthwatering Watermelon:**

3-4 slices of watermelon, cubed  
1 handful fresh mint, scrunched in hand  
Ice



## **Strawberry Sunshine:**

5-10 fresh strawberries, sliced  
½ lemon, sliced  
1 handful fresh basil scrunched in hand  
Ice



## **Cool as Cucumber:**

1 cucumber, sliced  
2 limes, sliced  
1 handful fresh mint scrunched in hand  
Ice

## More tips for infusing your water with flavour:

Try just about any fruit, including berries and citrus, to give your water a juicier flavour without any added sugars.

Herbs like basil, mint and lemon balm will help balance the sweetness of fruit and give your water an extra nutritional kick.

Having a fresh jug visible every time you open the fridge will encourage you to drink more water, even if it’s tap water.

Scrunching herbs in your hand and slightly mashing berries before adding to your water will help release the flavours faster.

If you don’t enjoy mouthfuls of fruits and herbs while drinking, try an infuser jug or glass, which holds the solids in a tube while allowing them to infuse the water with flavour. **OH**



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# SPLASH ON COLOUR

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PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**



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real estate

# HOME FOR THE *summer*

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**

A sunny southern exposure, breathtaking views and a sandy beach – alluring delights of a summer home are easy to picture. “We all want the dream,” says realtor Caitlin Hill of Royal LePage. But the joys of summer aren’t always available at a price buyers can afford. “The reality is, that dream is \$500,000 and you may only have \$300,000, so you have to give up something in your dream,” says Fred Aitken, a Royal LePage broker. “We can go out and find the next best thing,” says Hill.

The Lakes of Muskoka realtors expect another strong season of recreational property sales in Ontario’s cottage country. A healthy economy, rising employment and low interest rates have buoyed the residential housing market. Like a rising tide, it has lifted recreational property sales to their highest levels since the financial meltdown of 2008. With house values rising, some people are leveraging equity gains in their urban homes to buy cottages and summer homes all over Ontario.

Typical cottage hunters want a woodland retreat within a two-hour drive of home. Ideally, they want a country house on the water, with cathedral ceilings and windows overlooking the lake – a property where children can play safely, where they can swim, launch a canoe, dock a boat or fish. With many of the six million denizens of southern Ontario cities eager for respite from summer heat and suburban hubbub, demand for summer homes is high, and so are the prices.

Royal LePage’s 2014 Recreational Property Report estimates that cottages on Lake Erie and Lake Huron, within an hour or two-hour drive of London, ranged from \$195,000 to \$2.4 million. In Muskoka, two hours north of Toronto, typical waterfront cottages with road access were selling from \$525,000 to \$650,000. On larger Muskoka lakes, more than 100 waterfront cottages fetched between \$1 million and \$8 million.

There are comparative bargains. In eastern Ontario, in the land of 1,000 islands, waterfront cottages with road access in the Kingston area ranged from \$185,000 to \$325,000. Waterfront properties accessible only by boat cost \$175,000 to \$210,000 while inland sites were \$80,000 to \$110,000.

In the Meaford and Collingwood areas, the average price of a waterfront cottage with land access was estimated at \$345,000. A similar property on the Bruce Peninsula ranged from \$250,000 to \$400,000. In Haliburton, the price averaged \$350,000.

If you’re lucky enough to live in northern Ontario or are willing to drive several hours, you can buy an affordable recreational property and still have money for all the toys to equip it. Up north, they’re usually called camps, not cottages. On St. Joseph Island, a 45-minute drive



southeast of Sault Ste. Marie, cottage owners can watch gigantic lake freighters ply the St. Marys River from waterfront properties that can be bought for an average of \$150,000. Inland camps run about \$100,000.

Near Sudbury, home of Science North, Dynamic Earth and the Big Nickel, waterfront camps and cottages average \$190,000, while a water access only site will run about \$140,000 and an inland property \$100,000 – a bargain if you’re willing to drive four hours from Toronto. Similar prices can be found around Lake Nipissing in the North Bay area.

The three things that most affect the price of the cottage are the size of the lake, size of the cottage and its condition. The proximity of amenities, such as shopping, dining, a movie theatre or golf, is also a factor. The closer the amenities, the more a cottage might cost. Cottages accessible only by boat are less expensive as are those inland without any waterfront.

Rob Serediuk, a salesman with Chestnut Park Real Estate Ltd. Brokerage, estimates that more than half the people he deals with have considered renting their cottage when they’re not using it to help cover expenses. Cottage rental agencies can screen tenants and handle all the administration for a fee. Keeping a cottage, maintenance and repairs, utilities and taxes will cost just as much as a home in the city.

Many people are making more use of their country homes than their parents did a generation ago. The demand for year-round road access and four-season liveability is hot. With the proliferation of reliable Internet service, four-day weekends at the cottage are getting more popular. “People who are working from their house are now working from their cottage,” says Aitken.

More and more buyers view the cottage as more than a summer home. Rob and Jennifer Anderson of Newmarket designed their cottage on Lake of Bays with their three young children in mind. But they also planned years ahead. “It will eventually be where Rob and I will retire,” says Jennifer. “We would be there half the time and hopefully somewhere warm through the hard winter months, when we get to that stage of our life.” **OH**



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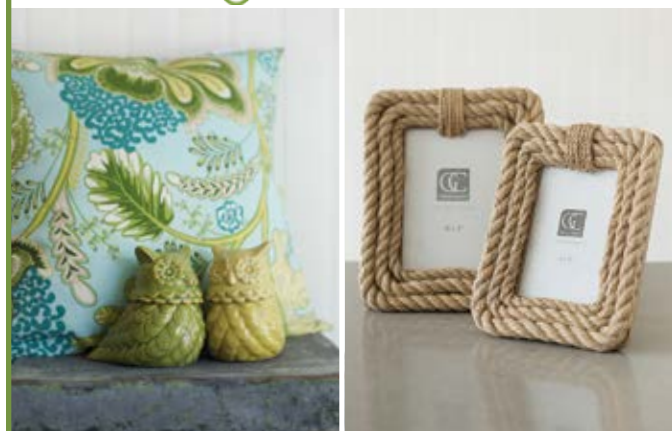
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STORY JENNIFER SCHLEICH

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Food dishes crammed in kitchen corners, leashes hanging haphazardly over benches, raggedy dog beds welcoming guests in the foyer, toys strewn across the floor and kibble scattered under the kitchen table; these are facts of life pet owners learn to live with.

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MURPHY'S PAW DESIGN:  
Andrea Calo Murphy Dog Bed



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## Accessories You Can't Live Without:

The luxury market has become saturated with pet accessories, so there's no excuse for unsightly dog beds and dollar-store leashes. Whether your home's style is modernly minimalist, industrial, coastal, country chic or more traditional, you can find an accessory that matches.

- Food dishes now come in patterned ceramic.
- Climbing structures for the active kitty can be works of art.
- Raised feeding stations are great organization solutions.
- A vintage suitcase cat bed is a fun living room addition.
- Leather storage bins are stylish hideaways for toys.
- Dog leash racks make great DIY projects (check the OUR HOMES Pinterest board)

## Hide The Clutter In Plain Sight:

Even if you replace every pet accessory with a stylish one, you will still have too much stuff. Choosing items with multiple functions can cut down on clutter.

Have you considered solid wood end tables that double as dog crates, or how about a Murphy bed for your pet that folds up into a shelf? Try a cat tree, which on first glance appears to be a corner shelf, or replace your living room console table with a sleek alternative that cleverly conceals a litter box. The options are as endless as your imagination.

## Design Your Home With Furry Friends In Mind:

From the moment you start a build or renovation you should consider every customization that will streamline your life, pets included. From feeding and bathing to storage, a good contractor will be able to offer a well-designed solution.

- Craft a built-in pet feeding station in the kitchen or mudroom.
- Construct a dog shower in the laundry room.
- Hide the pet bed in the space below the kitchen island.
- Convert unused under-stair storage into a mini dog bedroom.
- Install pocket door dog gates.
- Plan for a second slide-out garbage drawer in the kitchen: they make great pet food storage.

## Fabric And Flooring:

Despite common opinion to the contrary, leather is a great option for furniture in a pet-friendly house. It's allergen resistant, easy-to-clean and should resist normal wear from most paws.

If you prefer to go the fabric route, never pick an open weave or textured fabric, which will catch claws and allow hairs to migrate into the fibres. The best options are tight-weave polyester fabrics. Fabric furniture should be vacuumed twice a week to prevent the oils from your pet's fur from penetrating the fabric.

When considering carpet, keep the same tips in mind: tight weaves and short nap will go a long way to eliminating headaches. The Mohawk Group's Lees brand of carpet tiles come with a special pet warranty to protect homeowners from stains.

Though hard-surfaced floors are more popular, even the most durable hardwoods won't withstand the wear and tear from your pets. If you are set on hard-surfaced flooring, consider tile, laminate and the newer vinyl luxury products. **OH**

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# family ties

STORY **KATHLEEN DUNCAN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**  
ARRANGEMENTS **STREET'S FLOWERS**

Gorgeous hydrangeas from Street's Flowers line the elegant, covered front porch of this beautiful custom home by WeatherGuard Construction. **OPPOSITE TOP:** The eyebrow window above the entrance is mirrored at the back, bringing an abundance of sunlight into the home. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The stone from the exterior is used to surround the fireplace in the living room.

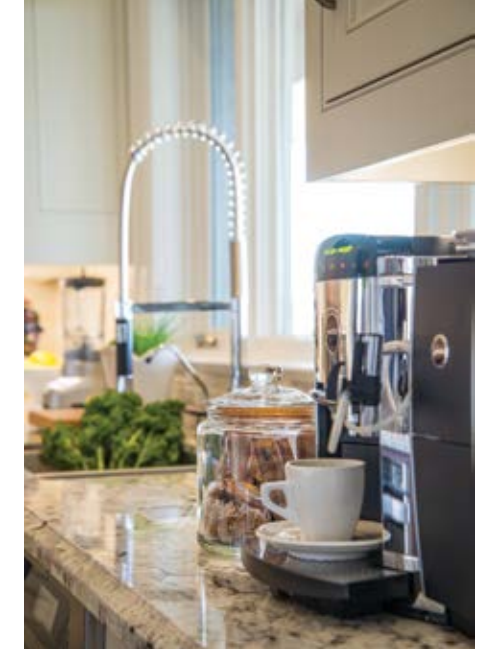
Leaving a home filled with 32-years of family history would be a test for most dry eyes, but it's the new hilltop haven Donna Basic moved into last year with husband Mike that now makes her teary with sentimentality.

*Continued on page 29*





**LEFT:** The kitchen pairs solid light maple cabinets by Bateman Custom Furniture & Cabinetry along the walls with a dark L-shaped island topped with granite from Di Pietra Design. Note the large TV screen above the range. **RIGHT:** The handy coffee station is always ready for guests. **BELOW:** In the summer months, the outside dining area is the ideal place to entertain and gaze upon the spectacular views.



That's because the 7,600 sq. ft. custom house was created by their son Myles, a carpenter, third-generation builder, and owner of [WeatherGuard Construction Ltd.](#)

"When I'm sitting in the kitchen and see something we spoke about – like the tile detail behind the stove, it's a memory, this house is constant memories," Donna smiles, also pointing out the paintings of one daughter (professional artist Michelle Basic Hendry) and the bedroom (with sunset views) reserved for visits from the other. "I couldn't have a more beautiful home."

The two-year project was also special for Myles, who strove to satisfy each personal

preference for his mother (including a mudroom dog shower for the pup she's dreaming of), and to meet the professional standards of his father's commercial-building expertise. Already known for his attention to detail, the younger Basic was on full alert, as exemplified by the meticulously match-booked panels of herringbone firebricks lining the box of his parents' great room fireplace. [Custom Cadd](#) completed the home's drawings.

"This structure is unique in a residential application," Myles explains. "It's a very heavy foundation to support the full in-floor radiant heating system (by [Yanch Heating](#))

*Continued on page 31*





**OPPOSITE:** The dining room is opposite the kitchen at the front of the home. The raw-wood dining table from Restoration Hardware is paired with studded, linen-wrapped chairs. The large lanterns add French flair.

**& Air Conditioning**) built into a suspended concrete slab floor. All balconies are also suspended slab. When we were building it, everyone called it the fortress.”

Even the garage has heated flooring with trench drains for run-off.

To create separate his-and-her spaces, twin master suites anchor the north end of this expansive bungalow, above a full walk-out basement with a second kitchen, three bedrooms and two baths. All plumbing by **Plumbtech Plumbing Inc.**

Mike’s retreat showcases Restoration Hardware furniture and engineered Northern Wide Plank Flooring installed by **D&T Contracting** made from reclaimed boards. His en suite features Hansgrohe fixtures and a richly patterned limestone countertop.

Across the hall, Donna’s sparkly sanctuary contains a mirrored bedside table and a white quartz whirlpool bath surround that shimmers as it reflects the flames of a wall-mounted gas fireplace from **Napoleon Home Comfort**. Overhead, a chrome and crystal chandelier dances its beams across the Rubinet fixtures, a bright Corian countertop and white marble flooring from **The Design Loft** at **Simcoe Building Centre**.

**KL Interior Design** created the colour palette throughout, including in the great room where Myles says the Benjamin Moore Weimaraner wall colour is an exact match for his dog Molly. There, flanking the floor-to-ceiling tumbled limestone Rumford fireplace by **C. Kenney Masonry** (with a barn beam mantel reclaimed from a Springwater farm), are a pair of matching eyebrow windows deeply set into barrel-roll ceilings. One sits 18 feet above the home’s main entrance and is mirrored above wall-to-wall windows overlooking the back garden. *Continued on page 34*



**TOP:** Donna Basic and her artist daughter, Michelle Hendry, visit on the covered porch opposite the living room. **ABOVE & LEFT:** Two of Michelle’s paintings hang prominently in her parent’s home.



The hers master suite is ultra feminine and elegant. KL Interior Design helped Donna select the soft colour palette. The Napoleon fireplace installed in the bath nook is a treat while the walk-in closet and dressing area is a luxurious must.



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“They look simple, but the drywall (**Mark Beattie** of **Marjo & Company**) has to be perfect because every flaw shows,” says Myles, of his biggest project challenge. “And the angles of each layer have to match exactly. It’s more like building furniture.”

As a result, the room is flooded with light, providing a seamless gateway to the natural beauty beyond. A similar effect is reached downstairs where transoms (from Marvin Windows and Doors) line the top of full-scale windows across the basement’s back wall. All soffits, fascia and metal work by **Ken Bruce** of **Bruce Home Improvements**.

“Seasonally, there’s always something to look at,” sighs Donna, turning from a view of Mount St. Louis Ski Resort to gaze down over flagstone landscaping (by **Drysdale’s**) to the environmentally protected bush that hides the headwaters of the Coldwater River and comprises nearly half of the property. “I love looking at the deer and birds as the sun comes up.”

Her husband Mike, also a private pilot, enjoys walking into the back field to look up at his new home, with its strong beams and balconies perched above 106 acres of multi-use land. An additional 40 per cent of the estate continues to grow hay and other field crops, as it has for more than a century. All excavating was completed by **K.J Excavating**.

Although the house is massive in scale, the oversize proportions of each element keep the home’s West Coast-style cosy: ceiling heights are typically 10 feet, doors are eight and hallways are a wide five or

*Continued on page 36*



**ABOVE & TOP:** His suite is masculine with dark wood and a gentleman’s en suite with a vessel sink and river rock in the shower.  
**LEFT:** Mike’s office is down the hall from the master suites and has a walk-out to the covered patio.



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The mudroom and laundry rooms are practical yet beautiful. The laundry room also serves as a wrapping room with a quartz table opposite the washer and dryer. The mudroom has two exits, one to the back and one to the garage. It's located down around the corner from the kitchen and has a handy dog shower.



six feet across. Tall baseboards at floor level, crown moulding at the ceiling and huge light fixtures in between provide warmth along with the wealth of space. Two large fixtures in the living room were custom made by **Northern Iron**.

"I thought it was going to be too small," laughs Donna about the first time she saw the foundation. "But he knew what he was doing. It's perfect and I'm very proud of him."

Myles knows the definition of perfection changes with each homeowner he works with. Although craftsman/contemporary styling seems to be trending now, his approach changes with the needs of each project. What doesn't change is his penchant for quality, durable finishes and materials that minimize maintenance while maximizing budgets.

Spec builds, like two current projects in Moonstone, also allow him the freedom to mix materials and follow his own creative drum.

Ultimately, however, he knows all houses are about the people – and says the kitchen is the new living room, where everyone comes together.

In his Mom's new kitchen, where Appliance Canada products are built in to solid maple cabinets by **Bateman Custom Furniture & Cabinetry**, he watches her boost his young son up to the platter of cheese and crackers on the **Di Pietra Design** granite countertop, and smiles at today's shared moments destined to be tomorrow's memories. **OH**

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## green living

It's a wonderful time of year, even if you aren't able to get away for a holiday. Weekends are filled with barbecues, friends and family, and evenings are spent sitting under the stars on the deck.



# summertime ENTERTAINING

Many of us will be entertaining outdoors. Here are some tips to help make your summer entertaining both environmentally responsible and stylish:

### THE TABLE

Avoid using plastic disposable cutlery and plates. Try using your indoor cutlery, or glam it up with your inherited sterling silver and best dishes. If you don't have enough of one set, mix and match for an eclectic look. If you need to buy more dishes, grab some at your favourite charity shop – the ultimate in recycling.

Another alternative is bamboo. The eco-friendly dishes are inexpensive, reusable and outdoor friendly, and they are from renewable resources, or you can rent cutlery and plates.

If hiring a caterer, using your own dishes and serving platters cuts out another level of disposables and reduces cost.

Use tablecloths. If you don't own any, buy vintage at a consignment shop, thrift store or flea market. Vintage linens, such as Irish linen, will lend elegance to an outdoor meal, and they are perfect for outdoor use. If you can't find vintage napkins, use hankies or cut a tablecloth into napkin-size squares and hem, or use with rough edges for a more rustic look.

Be creative when decorating the table. Use

flowers out of your garden, from a market stall, or branches in a tall vase for a striking display, or try placing small terracotta pots filled with herbs at each place setting.

Burn beeswax or soy candles, or better yet, use LED candles, which are battery operated and reusable.

### THE MENU

As you begin to plan your menu, look for ingredients that are currently in season. This means you won't need to purchase imported goods that travel thousands of miles to get to your table.

### THE CLEAN UP

You've just enjoyed grilled chicken and steak. As delicious as they were, now you're left with loads of dishes and a sticky barbecue. Residue can affect the cooking process of your next grilled meal by sticking to your food and changing the flavour. It can affect cooking time too, but cleaning the grill thoroughly is the way to deal with it. If you clean it right away, then it's easier. Believe it or not, there is a way to get it clean without noxious sprays. Taking care of your grill means it will last for many barbecues, and it will be a healthier grill to cook on.

### HOW TO:

- **Cover it all up!** Close the lid of your barbecue, which will allow the temperature to rise to the maximum, and avoid a loss of heat, a crucial part of the cleaning process.
- **Make it hot, hot, hot!** Turn both propane burners to high. Wait until the maximum temperature has reached the top of the thermometer. If you don't have one, simply wait five minutes for the barbecue to heat up. The high heat will turn the residue into ash. Shut everything off and proceed to clean the grill.
- **Brush it all off!** Use a good wire brush to clear off the ashes of what was the remains of your dinner. A quality wire brush can handle the heat and will not melt or catch fire.
- Alternatively, clean your grill with a barbecue brush and a thick paste of baking soda and water. Or, cut an onion in half and rub it over the rack once it has heated up; then brush a bit of olive oil on over the grill, so the food doesn't stick next time.

With a little planning, your summer get together can be both eco-friendly and stylish. **OH**

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# WARM WELCOME

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

**THE PLACE:** After falling in love with a century home in the quaint village of Coldwater, Connie Archer decided to buy it and pursue her long-time dream of opening her own boutique shop. **Wyley Gray & Company** is filled with antiques, vintage finds, local handcrafted wares, soaps, art, signs and more! An avid painter and folk artist for many years, Connie also enjoys teaching workshops and art classes.

**WORKSHOP/STUDIO:** Attend a workshop and learn how to paint your own furniture. Wyley Gray & Co. carries the full line of Miss Mustard Seed Milk Paint and the recently released Fusion Mineral Paint, featuring the new

Michael Penney Collection. Want to create your own personalized sign? Attend a sign-making class or buy a customized kit to take home and complete on your own.

**WHAT'S INSIDE:** Connie has gathered an eclectic collection of vintage/antique finds, including locally-made soaps and candles as well as a nice selection of home décor items, frames and signs. Toss pillows are plenty and if you're shopping for your waterfront home or cottage, there's an abundance of natural, coastal and beachy finds. Inventory is always changing, making each visit a surprise. A collection of vintage tin toys are new to the shop.



**FAVOURITES:** "Narrowing down a favourite is difficult," says Connie. "The shop is filled with everything that I love." After much consideration, Connie points to vintage lace, tarnished silver teapots used to hold fresh-cut flowers and paint brushes made in Italy. "It is important to me to have items made in Canada and/or locally lining the shelves – down-filled pillows, beeswax candles and Billy Goat Soaps to name a few."

**SERVICES:** Need a piece of furniture painted? As a certified retailer of both the Miss Mustard Seed Milk Paint and Fusion Mineral Paint, you can be sure that your piece will be updated to your satisfaction. "Working with the paint on a daily basis and attending seminars in Toronto and Las Vegas means I am current and knowledgeable on both lines of paint." Connie also hosts painting parties, where a group of friends can all paint together. Connie has completed several "made to order" signs for her customers ensuring a unique one-of-a-kind item. Gift certificates are available.

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Changing cities was a part of life for the Foots, until eight years ago, when they moved into their custom home by Gilkon Construction. Georgian Bay living is easy with access to the outdoor space from both the main or lower level. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The sunroom at the front of the home offers panoramic views and a quiet place to start the day. **BOTTOM:** A well-worn curved boardwalk leads down to the water where the summer fun never ends.

# custom CANVAS

STORY **ANDREW PHILIPS**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

After nearly four decades of riding the rails, Kathy and Neal Foot are happy to settle down.

A long-time Canadian Pacific Railway executive, Neal and his wife of 46 years have lived across Canada and also enjoyed a sojourn stateside.

“We’ve been here for eight years and that’s the longest we’ve ever been in one place,” Kathy explains during a tour of their lovely, two-storey home overlooking the shores of Georgian Bay. “We’ve lived in London, where we met while going to school along with Schreiber, North Bay, Calgary, Revelstoke, Sudbury, Revelstoke again, Burlington, Minneapolis, Saint-Lazare and Calgary again.” But what made a couple who have seen so much of North America decide to settle near Balm Beach in Tiny Township, about 10 minutes down the road from Midland?

“In Saint-Lazare, we had friends who talked about this area,” Kathy explains. “We went to visit (them) one winter and ended up buying a cottage here while still living in Calgary. We liked the idea of being on the beach and being able to walk it.” *Continued on page 48*



## home & builder

While that original cottage is long gone to make room for the Foots' spacious and fully-accessible home, their love for the area they discovered by happenstance has only grown.

Both have become active in the community, Kathy following her creative passion to Quest Art School and Gallery, with Neal relishing his role as chairman of the Georgian Bay General Hospital Board, which actually began after a visit to the Midland hospital's emergency room.

"You get what you give," Kathy says regarding the couple's desire to become active community citizens. "When you live in a bigger centre, you don't get to know people as well."

Neal says he likes the community feel one finds in a smaller place. "You've got to get immersed in the community," says Neal, who is also involved with the local Shrine Club. "You also get to know more people. We hope the friends we're making here are long-term friends."

The Foots, who have four grandchildren, give plenty of credit for creating their dream home to Toronto-based architect Brian Lee of The Ideal Environment, who managed to design everything they wanted on a relatively narrow piece of property.

"He had to fit everything into that footprint," explains Neal. We wanted it to fit in with the landscape."

Both Neal and Kathy also can't say enough about local firm **Gilkon Construction Ltd.** Gilkon brought Lee's drawings to fruition while incorporating many of their own personalized design touches to ensure the home has a number of unique characteristics.

"We're very different people so we each had to have our own space," Kathy says, noting that while Neal can be described as more "straight lines" she is more "abstract."

Adds Neal: "We really relied on Gilkon. We only visited the building site a few times."

**Antero Kontkanen**, who ran Gilkon at the time before passing the reins on to current owner **Chris Bondar**, says the narrow 50-foot-wide lot did present a few issues when beginning construction.

"There were some pretty good challenges," Antero says, noting the Foots were a pleasure to work with during all aspects of the project.

"For the size of the home, it's a narrow lot. And it was tough working in that area, especially when it's so sandy." *Continued on page 51*



**ABOVE:** The open-concept living area includes plenty of room for fine dining off the kitchen.

**LEFT:** Kathy Foot stands between two talented gentlemen, Gilkon Construction's current owner Chris Bondar (left) and Antero Kontkanen, the previous owner who passed on the reins. **OPPOSITE:** The two-storey ceiling in the great room is clad in painted wood panels. Majestic beams appear to float between the upper walls. The windows up high fill the house with light.



The yellow kitchen has curves, a just-the-right-size oblong centre island and chef-quality Viking Appliances. There's no shortage of granite-topped counters for prep and stained-glass inserts by Linda Bennett add an artistic flair to this upcountry kitchen. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Art fills the walls in this home – a testament to Kathy's artistic roots and the couple's appreciation of creative talent.



But with those early challenges successfully addressed, Kontkanen, Bondar and the rest of the Gilkon team never looked back.

Starting from the first floor, one can tell the home has managed to retain a warm cottage feel with plenty of large picture windows that provide stunning views of the bay and the mature trees that were left standing during the building process.

An open-concept living room/dining/kitchen area ensures no one is ever left out of the conversation because, as Kathy notes, "I don't mind working in the kitchen, but I wanted to be part of everything and still see the water."

Throughout the main floor, one finds many special touches from enjoying the glow provided by one of the home's two Town & Country fireplaces to selecting a book to read from the adjoining custom bookcases built by Tiny's **Matthew Whetstone**.

Gilkon also used reclaimed hemlock flooring to give the first level a warm touch along with custom interior beams that provide an airy feel while also allowing extra natural light.

Painted in an inviting Dijon yellow, the spacious kitchen offers plenty of workspace with would-be chefs able to enjoy the high-end appliances purchased from Midland's **Barber & Haskill**.

A really neat room located just off the foyer manages to provide the cosiness of an old-style front porch while offering modern functionality. Its windows can be lowered into a crawl space to provide a screened-in look, a Gilkon signature.

There's also a large mudroom and powder room as well as a master bedroom complete with a large en suite and wonderful views of the bay.

*Continued on page 52*

home & builder

Throughout the home, one finds inviting decorative touches thanks to the inspiration provided by companies like Midland's **Cabin Boy** and **Jann's Custom Window Fashions** in Penetanguishene, which provided colour and décor consulting and draperies and window fashion help, respectively.

The upper level has several guest bedrooms, a three-piece bathroom, a cosy sitting area and what could arguably be considered the home's pièce de résistance... at least for those with an artistic bent.

Kathy's made-to-order art room features cork flooring, more large windows to provide lots of natural light, loads of workspace and enough art supplies in a variety of mediums to make any would-be Alex Colville or Jean Paul Lemieux envious.

"I always kind of dabbled in art," Kathy says. "I used to ski, golf and curl, but when my knees got bad, I really started to paint. I like to paint at night and can play my music as loud as I want."

That love has also led to both Neal and Kathy becoming involved in the local art scene and a chance to meet a number of other artists.

"I still take courses and with lots of artists in the community, I can pick up on their energy," she adds. *Continued on page 54*



A beautiful guest room upstairs awaits a visit from the grandchildren. **BELOW:** Kathy's art studio upstairs is a special place. The views of Georgian Bay inspire her creativity. Kathy says she's always working on "about four things at once."

A photograph of a modern kitchen interior with a large island, bar stools, and open shelving. The Georgian Kitchen Centre logo is in the top right corner.

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An elevator helps Kathy get from one floor to another when she has a knee flare-up. “I also can use it when I’m carrying things up to my studio,” she says.

Taking the elevator down two flights brings one to the basement, which features Neal’s office, or as Kathy refers to it, his “playroom.” It’s stocked with plenty of memorabilia from Neal’s days with Canadian Pacific, including a working train bell he received upon retirement, and custom cabinets designed by Midland’s **Georgian Kitchen Centre**.

There’s also a wonderful family-room for watching TV, reading or playing games. Another enclosed space houses the home’s essential HVAC and water filtration systems installed by Midland’s **Tom Downer Ltd.**

The bay also plays an important role in the basement’s evolution with an entertaining kitchen for those needing a refreshment, a mudroom with plenty of beach towels, another guest room, a beach-inspired bathroom and resilient tile throughout to handle both water and sand.

A large walkout gives guests the chance to enjoy the effective landscaping by **Kelly’s Northern Landscapes Inc.** of Victoria Harbour. Neal added his touch with Kathy as foreman and built a curved boardwalk leading to the beach.

The Foots were so happy with the end product that they hosted a barbecue party catered by nearby **ELM Catering** for all the tradesmen and their wives.

“We can’t say enough about Gilkon,” Neal says. “We can’t say enough about the house. It’s weathered very well.”

And after so many years of staying in one place for only a short period of time, the artist in Kathy says it’s refreshing to not have to worry about eventually being able to sell a home quickly by only painting rooms in neutral shades.

“We don’t have to paint everything beige,” she jokes. “We can put our own stamp on it.” **OH**

**TOP LEFT:** The river-rock fireplace surround on the lower level captures the home’s style and location. **LEFT:** When the Foots are entertaining in the summer, the lower level kitchen comes in handy. It’s a short walk to the lakeside entertaining area. **ABOVE:** Neal’s office is full of memories from his career with the Canadian Pacific Railway.



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# tiny treasures

## THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

I am an avid and all-inclusive bird-lover, and as promised in a previous fowl-related story, it's now time I tell the tale of the glorious pint-sized jewels of the summer sky – the hummingbird. Why not join in all the fun and ready your garden for the hummingbirds this year?



These beloved little creatures are an amazing feat of nature. The tiny seven-to-nine centimeter birds have a heart rate that reaches 1,260 beats per minute and can hover in mid-air as their wings furiously beat 50 times per second! To keep up with this pace, they need to consume their weight in nectar each day and are continually just hours away from starvation at any given time. Although hummingbirds are well known to feed on nectar, they also eat many small insects. This fact makes garden chemical and pesticide use strictly prohibited for a safe hummingbird environment as these can kill both adults and young alike.

Putting up a feeder is a surefire way to entice hummingbirds to your garden, and the best feeders are made from glass or acrylic. It is essential to clean your feeders twice per week to avoid nectar spoilage and accidental fowl fatality. Place the feeder away from windows, ideally near tall plant cover such as a tree or hedge. Home-made food mix is a one-quarter sugar-to-water ratio, and it's best to avoid colouring the fluid for the bird's optimal health. Hummingbirds also love spraying water. Unlike most backyard bird bathers, these birds enjoy flying in and out of a spray of water.

It is in the hummer's nature to forage

constantly, and they only use a feeder for about 20 per cent of their daily nectar consumption. By providing spraying water, trees, a feeder plus their favoured flower-nectar sources in a succession of bloom you will deliver a utopia they may even nest in! But don't be surprised if you don't spot the nesting site. The tiny little cup-shaped nests made with spider silk, thistledown and animal hair often include lichens, which almost completely disguise them. If you happen to see a minute emerald/red bird flying fast in a U-shaped flight pattern, you are witnessing a male's mating dance. After copulation, the petite pair does not raise their young as a couple. The male

*Continued on page 58*

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- ✓ Fuchsia

leaves the female to raise their young unaided.

Contrary to popular belief, Hummingbirds do not feed only on red flowers or feeders. They will feed from any that is rich in nectar, but do have a preference for vivid colours.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrate north much earlier and stay far later than one might assume. Ensure your feeders are full and available mid-April until late fall. It is the strongest males that return first to establish the premium territories, which usually include the all-important feeder. They are also the first to leave, often early August, followed by the females. The new fledglings are last to leave and left behind to accumulate fat stores for

their solitary migration south. Hummingbirds will not stay past their usual fall migration time when feeders are left out.

Our miniature feathered friends feed most actively in the morning and evening, making these the optimal times for viewing. At my home, the acrobatic performances of our resident hummingbirds are the after-dinner entertainment as we sit in the garden surrounded by a multitude of miniature speed-demons whizzing by our heads! The impatient and frustrated little birds are extremely territorial, and I've witnessed many a squabble between rival males. They'll even try to chase away other bird species,

bees and butterflies to defend their terrain. If you ever observe several birds at the feeder together without aggression, they are likely related family. Unfortunately, their small stature leaves them prey to a host of common backyard life such as the (gulp) praying mantis and blue jay.

We'd love to hear your garden stories as well! Join the discussion online at [ourhomes.ca](http://ourhomes.ca) and find me under the subheading OUTDOOR. In the meantime, I encourage you to live, love and landscape. **OH**

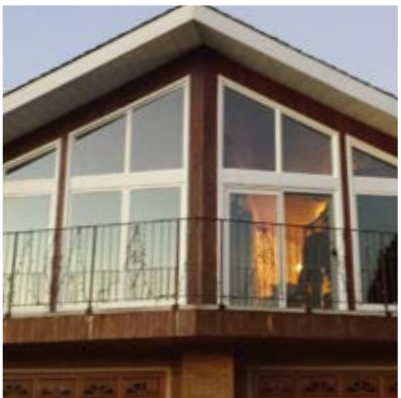
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# MIXED METAL MADNESS

## ADDING GOLD TONES TO YOUR KITCHEN

STORY **YANIC SIMARD**

With summer in the air, you're probably going to want to soak up all the sunshine you can. But don't totally leave your interior in the dark! This is the year to go for gold in your kitchen, and bring a sense of timeless radiance to the room that you can bask in all year round – UV free. Take some inspiration from my own kitchen redesign, and mix a new metal into your space for first-place results. Here's how:

### 1 Bold and Brassy

While warm metals, in general, are seeing a huge resurgence, one humble material in particular is worthy of its newfound time in the spotlight: brass. To add a sunny metallic tone that doesn't feel too opulent, brass is the perfect understated option.

*In my own home kitchen,* I first opted to add brilliant brass handles to my cabinetry. Switching out cabinet hardware is an easy way to update a look, and moving from silvery steel to a warm metal creates a noticeable change instantly. Plus, research has found that copper (a fundamental element of brass) has antimicrobial qualities, for a healthier kitchen along with a beautiful design.



PHOTO BY BRANDON BARRE

### 2 Mix and Don't Match

One reason people may be scared to go golden in the kitchen is the cost of a total overhaul. Fear not: even warm metallics (especially balanced brass) are still very neutral, so there's no pressure to go all-in, even with stainless-steel appliances on display. The hot and cool essences will complement and energize each other, so feel free to mix in a lot or just a little.

*A few simple accessories* can bring a strong feeling of gold to a space even without a hardware change. Look for textural golden accents like the Talis Hammered platter in my Yanic Simard Selected collection, and repeat the material in another zone (in a picture frame, candleholder or cocktail shaker) to make it feel integrated throughout the room. *Continued on page 62*



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### 3 A Big Splash

The future looks bright. A golden faucet makes a big statement, but with long-term potential. Brass has spent a few decades with a bad reputation, but this warm metal has enjoyed centuries of appreciation, so you don't have to worry about an investment in gold growing old any time soon.

*Here in my kitchen,* I upgraded to an Aquabraxx Quinoa faucet with a sleek joystick control. While clean-lined faucets are still not widely available in golden finishes, many companies like Aquabraxx do offer special finish options as a custom order. Alternately, try mixing the ornate details of a traditional faucet with contemporary cabinets and a sleek stone counter to create an elegant transitional style.

### 4 Golden Glow

Lights are a natural place to go gold, as it suits and enhances the radiance they provide, plus it always helps to add a new layer of lighting in any space, especially in a kitchen where balanced lighting is key to ease of work.

*Look for brass-accented sconces* to bring a touch of gold to the walls, and pendant lights to bring some further golden sparkle to your eyeline. Keep it current and understated by choosing styles with metallic bases and glass shades (like the Lander Sconce from Crate and Barrel), for a light and airy jewelry-like effect.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF CRATE AND BARREL)



### 5 Tying the Knot

Wrapping up a shiny new golden look takes just a few finishing touches. Yellow accents will pick up the natural sunny undertones, so add a handful of blossoms, or display a lemon-hued cookbook (or some actual lemons).

*Accents of blue* will make gold pop, so toss in a few pieces of blue-hued dishware, or choose a navy cabinet treatment (like my Benjamin Moore's 2062-20 Gentleman's Grey finish). I contrasted my cabinet handles with cut crystal knobs (which you can also match from my Yanic Simard Selected collection at YSSelected.com), for the perfect mix! **OH**



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cooking at home



# Summer BEAN SOUP

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY PAT CROCKER

online

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

This summer bean medley is just the kind of light summer meal we crave when the oven is the last thing we want to use. It relies on fresh fava beans (canned are ok, but if you can find fresh beans, they add so much extra flavour) and fresh green or yellow wax summer beans. Add a slice of crusty country bread and a wedge of cheddar cheese for a complete meal.

Continued on page 66

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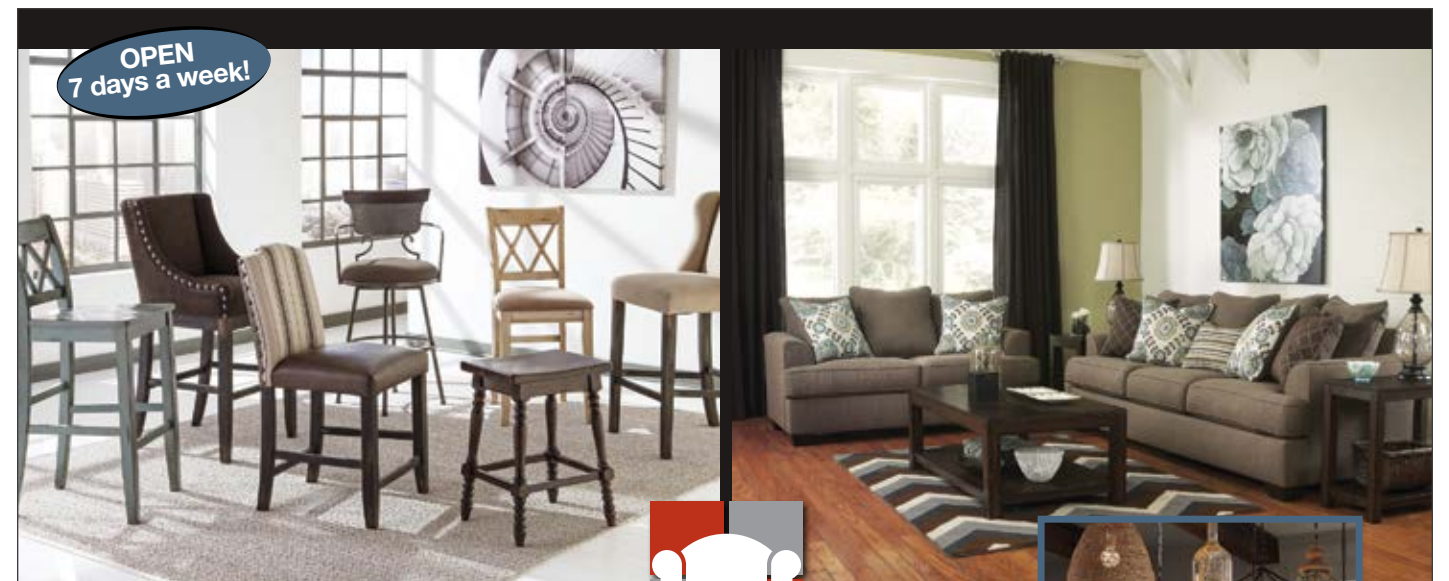
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- 2 tbsp (30 mL) extra virgin olive oil
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  - 2 cloves garlic
  - 3 fresh sprigs rosemary
  - 6 cups (1.5 L) chicken or vegetable broth
  - 2 cups (500 mL) cooked, peeled fava beans (see how-to below)
  - 1 cup (250 mL) 1-inch (2.5 cm) cut fresh green or yellow wax beans
  - 1 cup (250 mL) coarsely chopped carrots
  - 1 cup (250 mL) chopped fresh sorrel or spinach

- In a soup pot or large saucepan, heat oil over medium-high heat. Sauté onion for 4 to 5 minutes or until soft and fragrant.
- Meanwhile, strip rosemary leaves from stems and chop together with garlic. Add to onions and cook, stirring constantly for 1 minute. Add broth, fava beans, green beans, carrots and sorrel. Cook for 15 to 20 minutes or until vegetables are tender.



- COOKING FRESH FAVA BEANS**
- Fresh fava beans (*Vicia faba*), also known as broad beans, are native to north Africa and are used extensively in Mediterranean dishes. They are grown in North America and are available at farmers' markets early in the summer. Their texture is creamy, the flavour is buttery and somewhat nutty and worth the effort to cook them. In this recipe, you can use other fresh beans such as lima beans or edamame (fresh soy beans) in place of the fava beans. We left the beans whole but you can mash them with garlic and oil for an incredible purée to use as a dip for crudités or to act as a base for baked fish or roasted vegetables.
  - To cook fava beans, remove the beans from the pod by squeezing the pod along the lengthwise seams so that it splits open to make it easy to scoop out the beans. Discard the pods.
  - Simmer the shelled beans in boiling salted water for 6 minutes or until tender. Let cool and remove the tough outer skin by squeezing the bean out through the bottom end. Discard the tough skins. **OH**

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PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

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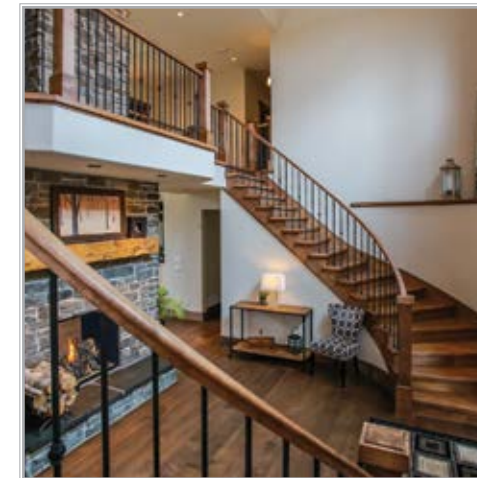
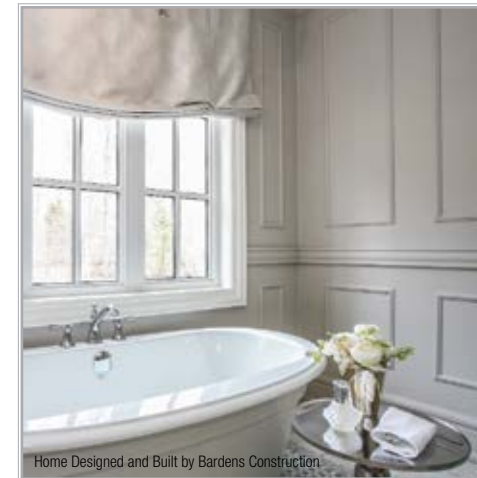
### **What products are hot for summer?**

We are certainly ready for life outdoors. Entertaining outside is one of life's simple pleasures and tableware for the outdoors is a must. Unique linens, including runners and napkins to French-style glassware will grace the table this summer. Creating a comfortable environment where family and friends want to linger for hours is also important. Focus on comfortable chairs and lots of pillows to add both colour and style.

### **Describe your personal decorating style:**

I have long been drawn to a blend of refined, weathered and relaxed looks. I like a serene environment that employs soft neutrals with lots of natural textures. I enjoy mixing both rustic and refined pieces with a mix of vintage and French flair. I also like to add in a pop of colour to keep things fresh. *Continued on page 70*

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**What kind of custom homes do you build and where do you build them?** Our goal is to ensure that the home or cottage we build for you is exactly as you envisioned while being completed on time and on budget. I demand perfection from myself and the people who work with me – from suppliers to tradespeople. Whether you are looking for a small renovation locally or a luxurious new home on Georgian Bay, I treat all of my clients with the same respect and attention to detail.

**Your contract and quote system sets you apart. Tell us why:** I can ensure my clients that we will be completed on time and on budget because of the in-depth and exact quoting system that I use. Every detail of my client’s project is costed and quoted to be accurate. I spend much more time than other builders on the upfront details to ensure my client’s complete satisfaction with no surprises.

**How do you spend your free time in the summer?** My family and I love to spend as much time as possible on Georgian Bay enjoying the beautiful location that we live in. You will often find us on the water, up the shore, or on our sun deck enjoying a family barbecue.



IAN WOODS  
*Sales Representative  
Your Choice Realty Corp.,  
Barrie*

**You specialize in waterfront properties. Why are you an expert in this area?** Last year I helped eight families buy or sell various waterfront properties in southern Ontario, six of which were on Lake Simcoe. Over the 10 years that I’ve been selling real estate, I have bought or sold many more waterfronts for my clients. I am also aware of the restrictions and requirements for waterfront properties in the area.

**Why is living on the water a great lifestyle and a great investment?** Waterfront living opens up a completely new world. Waterfronts appeal to those who have or want an active lifestyle. Big bodies of water have a calming restorative influence. As they say, they aren’t making any more waterfront properties. In most cases, it’s one of the best real estate investments you can make, either as a cottage or a full-time home.

**What is your dream waterfront property?** My dream waterfront property is a log cabin or cottage in Algonquin Park, off the beaten track. It’s a romantic notion that my fiancée and I have had ever since we did a one-week canoe trip through the park in 2004. You know, all the images of Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven? One of these days we hope to find it. *Continued on page 72*



**JULIE BOVILLE**  
*President*  
*Horseshoe Ridge Homes*

**Tell us about Phase 2 of The Towns At Landscape Ridge:** The first phase of Towns was a dream. We wanted to expand the dream of low maintenance, seasonal-use homes to more members of the community. People are drawn to the area for skiing in the winter and golfing in the spring and summer. A turn-key,

low maintenance townhome is the spark for buying a vacation property or downsizing to a more manageable property.

**What makes this area such a wonderful place to live?** Horseshoe Ridge is a hidden gem within reach of Toronto and the amenities of Barrie and Orillia. Craighurst can support all of your immediate needs with a Foodland, LCBO, gas station, breakfast diner, mechanic, hair stylist, home décor and even a chocolatier. It also has an OPP station, fire hall and

ambulance hall as well as a walk-in medical clinic. The exterior activities are the real lure, with hiking, biking and skiing trails, golf and resort-life activities as well.

**What is your favourite summer activity?** Golf is a key pastime for our community. There are three reputable courses within a couple of kilometres of each other. If you are looking to play a round, one of the courses will always be able to accommodate you.



**VALERIE MILLS**  
*Owner*  
*Inspired By ART Gallery, Barrie*

**Tell us about your gallery:** Inspired by Art Gallery is a gallery showcasing over 80 framed originals, fine art reproductions and canvas photography by primarily Canadian artists for the public's enjoyment and inspiration. The on-site sculptor offers more than 30 majestic carvings in both soapstone and alabaster. Art enthusiasts are invited to register with my

gallery for notifications of the twice yearly Meet The Artists art shows.

**Tell us about your framing services:** I am a professional picture framer who has been serving loyal and satisfied customers for 30 years. I assist my customers in choosing the right colours and textures that not only enhance their artwork, but also complement their room, lifestyle and budget. Every valued work of art, treasured photograph, certificate, delicate needlework and unusual object is preserved with conservation framing on site.

**What are your favourite gifts to give?** Our most popular gift is Lampe Berger, a product that improves the quality of indoor air by eliminating bacteria and odour. I love our modestly priced, one-of-a-kind silver jewelry with rare stones and crystals, and elegant scarves. Recently, I launched Celestial Glass Paperweights that are not only beautiful but useful as glowing night lights. **OH**

Please visit our [directory page](#) for all contact information.

# how to GRILL the PERFECT STEAK

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN**

Almost anyone can toss a burger on the barbecue and be happy with how it's cooked. A steak? Not so simple. But with a little prep and some know-how, it can be just as easy to cook a succulent, juicy steak on the grill as anything else.

Jamie Hussey, Executive Chef at Glen Abbey Golf Club in Oakville, Ontario, recommends strip loin or sirloin steaks for the grill. "They have a better flavour, and they are robust," he says.

Ted Reader, the author of *Gastro Grilling*, agrees but adds that he loves rib steak too. "I like my steaks to be cut about one-and-a-half to two-inches thick and weigh about 12 to 16 ounces each, depending on the cut. A thicker steak will cook more evenly and give you a little wiggle room in case you get distracted," he says.

## Prepare your steaks

According to Reader, good quality steaks do not need to be marinated or tenderized – only if you want to add a certain flavour.

On the other hand, if you're using a tougher cut, marinate it for at least a day before grilling. Hussey recommends a base of red wine, garlic and herbs – and always a ratio of two-to-one for oil and vinegar.

Salt your steaks just before grilling. This will give them a nice crust. This is the time to season with herbs and garlic if you like, too. Chef Hussey says chimichurri is his favourite steak finisher of all time.

Bring your steaks to room temperature before placing them on your barbecue.

## Hit the grill

Cook your steaks for a short time at a high temperature. "Six hundred degrees Fahrenheit or higher if you can," says

Reader. Leave your barbecue lid open and resist the temptation to poke your steaks.

Never overfill your grill. Leave at least an inch-and-a-half clearance around each piece of meat.

Cook your steaks to your preferred doneness (see our chart), and then let them rest for 10 minutes before serving, says Chef Hussey. This prevents bleeding onto your plate.

Never cut your meat to check whether it's cooked to your liking. "Cutting the steak lets all the natural juices escape, leaving you with a dry and tasteless piece of meat," says Reader.

## Don't flip out

**Only turn and flip your steaks as necessary. Reader suggests this flip-and-rotate approach:**

- Place steaks on a hot grill on a 45-degree angle at 11 o'clock.
- Grill for two-to-five minutes to sear, depending on the thickness and doneness you want.
- Turn 45 degrees to 2 o'clock, cook for another two-to-five minutes.
- Flip steaks and baste the grilled surface with your favourite baste. Continue to grill for two-to-five minutes on a 45-degree angle.
- Turn 45 degrees and cook for another two-to-five minutes.
- Flip and baste again.

"Now you have that fancy steakhouse diamond pattern!"

Two final pieces of advice from Chef Hussey: "It's always better to undercook a steak than to overcook a steak. And have fun! Buy the best local products you can, have a couple of beers and enjoy it!"

## Pick the perfect steak

**Ted Reader's four rules for picking the best beef:**

1. **Buy the best quality steak you can afford:** "Not all good top cuts (rib eye or strip loin) are always tender. There are many grades of meat." Grade A is the worst quality and AAA is the best.

2. **Dry aging:** "The older a steak is, the more tender it will be." Many butchers dry age beef themselves.
3. **Fat:** "To put it simply, fat equals flavour. Internal fat or marbling is what gives a steak its succulence and juiciness." External fat will also add flavour, but can be cut off after cooking.
4. **Find a good butcher:** Nobody else will be able to answer your questions better, nor cater to all your steak needs. Learn what you like and want and ask for it.



How do you like your steak cooked?

**A meat thermometer is the best way to test doneness. Here's Ted Reader's guide to the steak rainbow:**

**Blue Rare:** A blue rare steak is quickly charred on the outside and barely cooked on the inside. For best results, bring the steak to room temperature before cooking. (130°F)

**Rare:** A rare steak has a cool red centre. (130-140°F)

**Medium-Rare:** A medium-rare steak has a warm red centre. (140-145°F)

**Medium:** A medium steak has a pink centre, and the juices are clear. (145-150°F)

**Medium-Well:** A medium-well steak has a hot pink centre, and the juices are clear. (150-160°F)

**Well-Done:** A well-done steak is grey throughout without any trace of pink and the juices are clear. (160-170°F)

**Super Well Done:** This steak is weighted with a brick until heavily charred on the outside and without any trace of pink and no juices inside. (170°F plus) **or**



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The Discovery Centre sales office will become The Barn, a rustic yet upscale social hub for the entire community. Two beautifully decorated model homes are also on-site.

Visit [Braestone.ca](http://Braestone.ca) to learn more (Please see ad on page 3)

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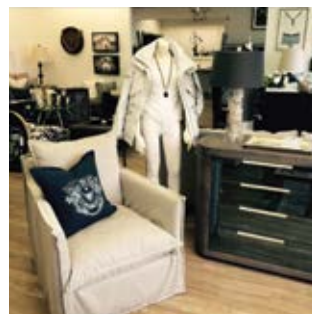
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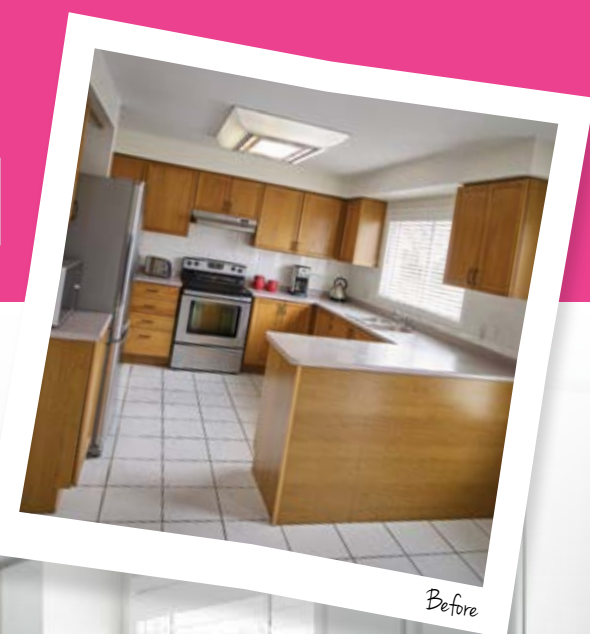
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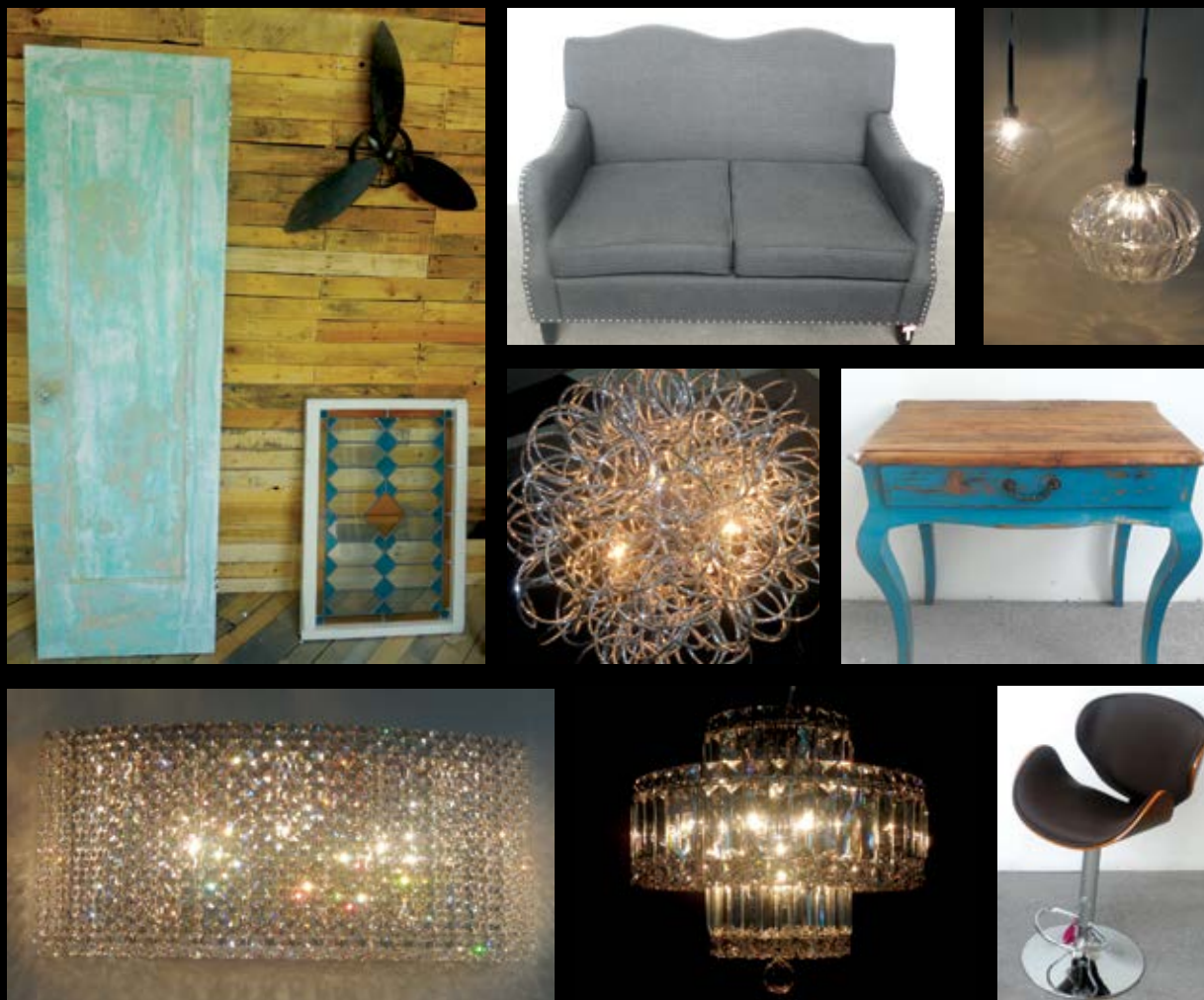
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[Just 7 kms N of Barrie  
on the east side of  
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## finishing touch

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## PHASE II

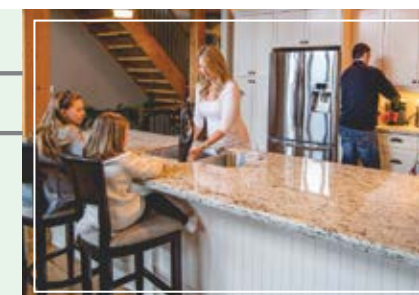
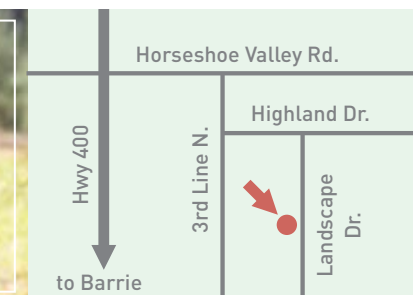
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