

people

ON THE *homefront*

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in this great region. OUR HOMES salutes these successful, enterprising individuals who have great products and information to share.



GINA VASEY

*Proprietor, Dwellings
Rustic and Refined Living,
Craighurst*

Tell us about your beautiful store:

Dwellings is located in the quaint village of Craighurst in one of the community's historic buildings. Renovations to restore the building began in January 2014 and were completed by opening day in November of the same year. Our focus is on "living well" and we carry items from around the globe that will help create a comfortable and pleasing atmosphere in homes. From sofas and chairs to cabinets, bedroom furniture, lighting, linens and tableware... everyone is sure to find a unique item to complement their home.

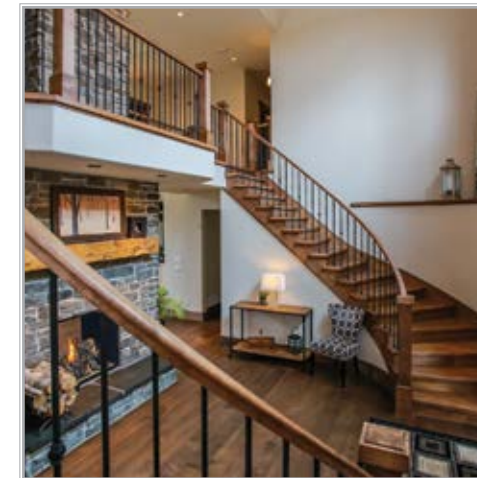
What products are hot for summer?

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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JOHN DECARLI
*DeCarli Contractors,
Midland*

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**

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