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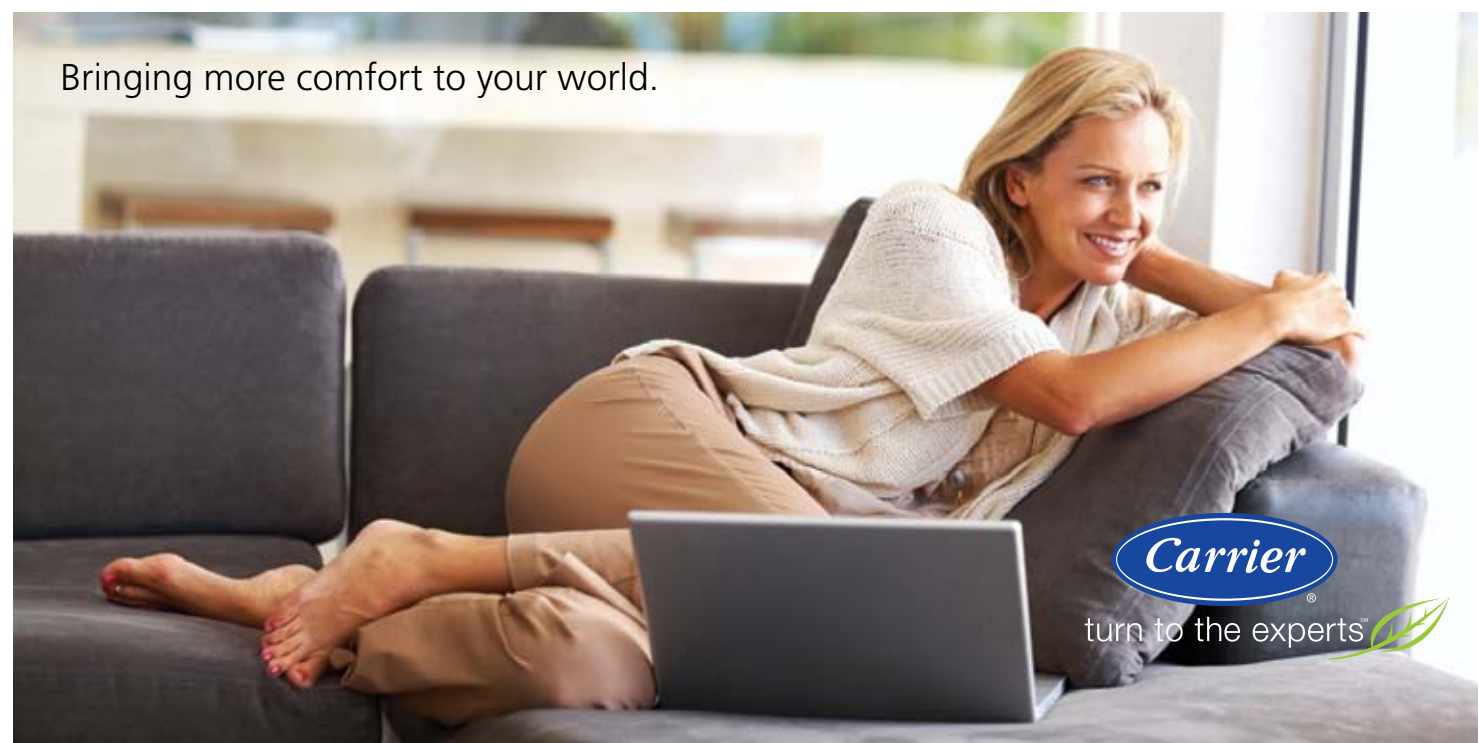
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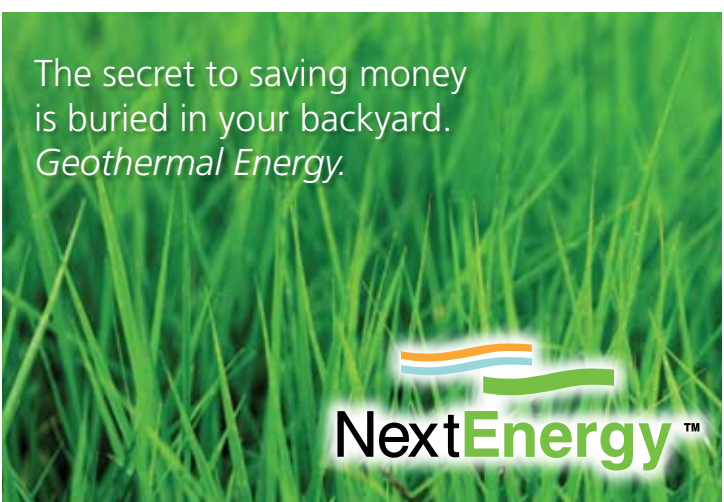
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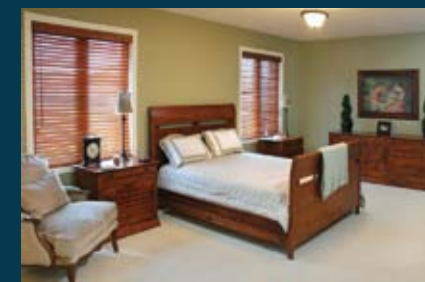
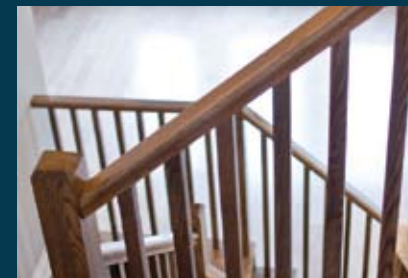
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## editor's note



IT'S ONE OF THE FIRST WARM DAYS of summer, and as I write this, I am sitting on my deck enjoying the feel of a gentle breeze ruffling through my hair. Beyond the quiet buzzing of insects is the constant crash of waves against the shore.

These are the moments when I appreciate having a home on Lake Huron. We all live in a beautiful pair of counties. People flock here every summer like we flock to warmer climates when the chill of winter sets in. All around me are cottages; empty buildings for most of the year, they are just now undergoing the transformation into summer homes. For the next few months my neighbourhood will be buzzing with cottagers, not just insects.

Summer residents aren't the only ones opening their homes for the season. I think all of our houses undergo a little transformation. Our windows are suddenly cracked open all day long, we begin using our screen doors instead of our storm doors, our house plants wander out on to the patio and we find ourselves wandering out on to the patio as well.

Speaking of sitting outside, it's also at this moment, when I am adding the final touches to our summer issue, that I appreciate my new job. After all the little stumbles and bumps along the road, it's nice to sit back and contemplate the families I've met, the contractors and trades people I've had the chance to work with, and the homes I've had the pleasure of touring.

I thought I was familiar with Bruce and Grey, but after just one issue I've already been to several rural communities I'd never heard of along the quiet concessions. There I found, not just small-town atmosphere and kind inhabitants, but reassurance that I could not have a home in a more wonderful place.

I look forward to many years as Managing Editor of OUR HOMES Grey Bruce. If anyone is interested in speaking with me, I invite you to send me an email.

*Jennifer Schleich*

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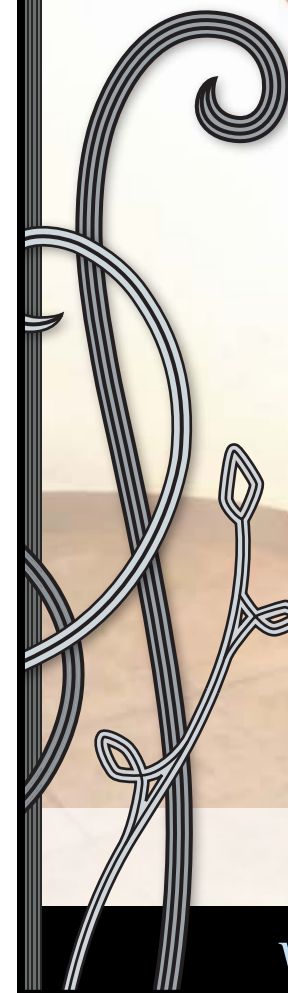


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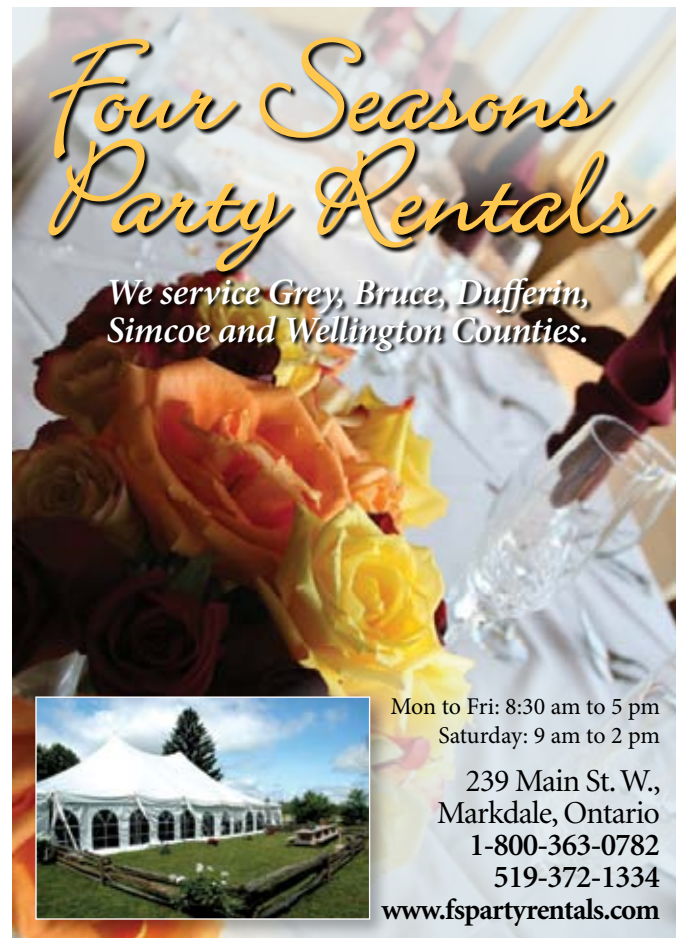
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Designer Stephanie Redmond shares her ideas.

## SUMMER ENTERTAINING *outside* DÉCOR

Every year when summer rolls around I stare out at the deck and start amassing large scale plans for vegetable beds and new furniture, sunshades and fire pits. The season closes and alas, we have usually accomplished one or two of those items. Sun kissed and relaxed, I normally care less about the surroundings and more about the summer experience – family, friends and being outdoors.

But let's face it, as a designer, or as anyone who looks at Houzz, reads decorating magazines like *OUR HOMES*, goes shopping or surfs the net, we are inundated with ideas – there's always a desire for change. Here are a few ideas to modernize your outdoor entertaining space and a few others that will make life that much easier:

**LIGHTING:** You can't depend on candles and a still night when entertaining outdoors. Make sure you have adequate lighting. I love the pendant light by Davey Lighting. It's industrial, classic and modern all at the same time. Hang one off to the side as a subtle design feature or over your side entry.

**SHADE:** As an alternative to a patio umbrella or a built-in pergola, a shade sail is a fun way to stay protected from the sun. The waterproof polyester material comes in great colours, like rust or royal blue, adding a pop of colour to your space. It also protects you from UV rays. They look modern and they're budget-friendly.

**FIRE PIT:** Not a new concept, but this tells me that it's a good investment! No one gets tired of having a wood burning fire close by and one that's enclosed is a safe choice for a terrace. What a wonderful thing to cuddle up by on a cool summer evening.

**GREENERY:** Create a living wall with beautiful greenery and set up a drip irrigation system to feed it (you can even do this off of a rain barrel for the most eco-friendly approach). There are several do-it-yourself kits available on the market that can be set up on a timer for the ultimate hands-free gardening experience. The living wall becomes a lush backdrop to your outdoor space – modern, lovely and useful too.

**EXTRA SEATS:** If you entertain for larger groups, then be prepared. Have an extra bench or two around to cram a few little ones onto or to pull up for extra seating around a pool. I love a mix of white weave with teak for these pieces. The simple design will collaborate well with existing pieces.

**PORCH SWING:** You can't go wrong with Dedon. If I could break into someone else's bank account, then their new Swingrest may be my first purchase. For a more budget-friendly approach, consider a simple, classic wood swing hanging from chains on your outdoor porch. You know what makes this design decision work best? A hot day and some lemonade!



DANIEL POUZET SWINGREST, DEDON FURNITURE

**SHATTERPROOF GLASSES:** If you're going to entertain outside, then you may want to leave the crystal inside. There are tons of amazing plastic-type glasses on the market that look just like glass. You can find a few great ideas from Govino on the Wine Enthusiast's website. My favorites are stemless with a cute notch-out for your finger.

**FABRICS:** If your loungers are looking a little tired, then try reupholstering the cushions in one of the new Sunbrella fabrics. They look like interior fabrics, not something that can last through summers of outdoor use. Look at Canvas Granite for a cool linen-looking grey. With pets and kids around, it would be a clever choice for indoor use as well.

**FAKE GRASS:** The new faux grass is truly impressive. With an under-layer of what appears to be dried grass, you would be hard pressed to tell the difference. It no longer looks like Astroturf. And the best part? No dandelions. If you have an area that doesn't get a lot of light or you're short on time to care for your lawn, then try it! You won't be disappointed. (...and you don't have to tell!) **OH**



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Continued on page 20



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# OUTDOOR *living*

The quiet town of Mildmay, surrounded by rolling hills and sweeping fields of corn and grain, is a charming place to raise a family. Just beyond Otter Creek sits a collection of cul-de-sacs, which form the neighbourhood the Donnelly family calls home.

*Continued on page 24*

BY JENNIFER SCHLEICH  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG  
EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY LAURIE SCHAUS



The Donnellys enjoy resort-style relaxation in the comfort of their backyard thanks to Ground Effects Landscapes. An outdoor bar and sitting area complement a pool, cabana and stone patio. The space is complete with a bubbling fountain, hot tub, outdoor TV and fireplace.





When Nora and Dave first settled in Mildmay, Nora was working as a French teacher and Dave was in insurance and financial planning. Today, Nora still teaches French and Dave works long hours as a lawyer with his own practice in Hanover.

Since then, the couple have added four members to their rank: Jillian (now in Grade 11), Graeme (who has returned from his first year studying marine biology at Dalhousie University), Rex the dog and Brandy the cat. With two children in tow, they were quickly outgrowing their first home but couldn't bear to leave the neighbourhood. They relocated in 2005 to a home around the corner. The current residence offers increased space and "great bones," says Nora.

"We love to entertain and with two kids we needed a lot more space," she says. Although their new home, originally built by **Ruetz Contracting**, was spacious, it still needed customization to meet the needs of the family. "We blew out a wall in the kitchen to open up the room," explains Nora, which brought the eating and cooking areas together and exposed a series of large windows along the west wall.



**TOP:** The entranceway to the home welcomes guests into an open-concept style living area. **MIDDLE:** The kitchen and eating area were designed with help from Heidesigns. Every cupboard and drawer is positioned for maximum function. **ABOVE:** A small tile backsplash draws the eye above the kitchen's glass cooktop, filling the space where a traditional oven would sit. **RIGHT:** Diners at the kitchen table have a gorgeous view of the Donnelly's property.



**LEFT:** The crystal adorning the table was a gift for the couple's wedding. **ABOVE:** The home's original living room offers comfortable seating, a gas fireplace and stunning views of the backyard. Perched on the ottoman is a keepsake photo album of the family's most recent trip to Ireland.

The kitchen was renovated in co-operation with renovations project manager **Heidi Schaus** of **Heidesigns**. It boasts granite countertops and modern cabinetry by Johnson Woodworks, with oak hardwood from **JD's Flooring Centre**.

"Heidi has been instrumental in the design of this house," says Nora. "She is great at using what you already have and seeing how your family functions. If I wanted to buy something and it didn't have functionality she told me 'no'." The family enjoys cooking together in the kitchen so two sinks were a must, as was a microwave that doubles as a second convection oven. Function is everywhere and appears in the most unexpected places, including a nifty stepladder disguised as a bottom drawer.

The real centerpiece of the Donnelly home, however, is the backyard oasis, designed (with help from Heidesigns) and constructed by **Ground Effects Landscapes** in Hanover.

What was once a steep yard backing onto a forested river is now a smoothly landscaped space suited for entertaining. "I used to make the kids wear helmets and they would race down the hill on their toboggans," recalls Nora. Aside from winter play, the backyard was simply non-functional, and function is what it's all about for the Donnellys.

Completely transformed with natural stone, the backyard revolves around a sparkling pool from SanJaun Fiberglass Pools. The hot tub, with custom jets installed by Ground Effects, sits in proximity to the patio doors, looking across to the bar area and outdoor TV. On the opposite side

*Continued on page 26*



## feature

**RIGHT:** Vibrant purple décor brings Jillian's bedroom to life, while small boxes of chalkboard paint allow for self-expression. **BELOW:** A turquoise stool from Temptations in Hanover creates a small vanity area in the main bathroom. **BOTTOM:** A tasteful marble backsplash highlights the pedestal-style bathtub and floral artwork under a modern glass chandelier.



of the pool is a large cabana built by **Kraemer Construction**, complete with patio furniture from Sherri's Living Large, and featuring a custom built wood-burning fireplace. The backyard is surrounded by a sleek fence from **Modern Fencing** in Chesley.

"When Dave and I get in the hot tub in the middle of winter and the snow is falling all around and we put on the fire and turn on the TV, that's the best," she says.

The unique outdoor SunBriteTV is built to withstand a minus-40 degree winter, rain, snow, wind and sun – basically anything Bruce County can throw its way. The audio and TV in the backyard were installed by **Mark Pinder** at **Balaklava Audio**, who also brought hardwired audio into most of the home. Music is often heard softly piping through the rooms, which the Donnellys find great for entertaining their many guests. *Continued on page 28*

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**ABOVE:** A gift from Dave's uncle Maurice, a large green antique glass vase, is a focal point of the downstairs sitting area. **RIGHT:** Stools from Home Hardware wrap around the family's downstairs bar, which is equipped with a full kitchen. An ice barrel all the way from Derry, Ireland sits on the left corner of the countertop.

## SOURCE GUIDE

Balaklava Audio, Bruton's Decorating, DJ's Handcrafted Solid Wood Furniture, Double D Co., Goemans Appliances, Ground Effects Landscapes, Dave Hagedorn, Heidesigns, Home Hardware, JD's Flooring Centre, JSW Heating Cooling & Refrigeration, Karen's Custom Decorating, Kraemer Construction, LITES, Modern Fencing, Royal Oak Kitchens, Ruetz Contracting, Sears, Smitty's Fine Furniture, Temptations Gifts and Home Décor, The Top Shop, Wilken Roofing & Sheet Metal

Dave works long days in a windowless office and the backyard transformation was a way of coaxing the family outside. "The backyard forces my husband outside as soon as he gets home from work. It's the de-stressor our family needed," says Nora. It's now a common sight to find Dave outdoors barbecuing dinner.

Step over the threshold into the Donnelly's walk-out basement and you'll find another bar area equipped with a full kitchen, installed by **Royal Oak Kitchens**, a cosy gas fireplace to warm up by after an evening dip in the pool and a pub-style eating area. The basement also hosts a pool table (**Double D Co.** in Walkerton) and ping-pong table, and is usually packed with Jillian and Graeme's friends.

"The basement is beautiful and really bright," says Nora. "It's great for when we have large groups for family dinners."

Dave hails from nearby Pinkerton and at least once a month the family

of 16-20 gathers at the Donnelly residence. Nora's family also visits from Quebec and the Maritimes, requiring enough space to host guests for days at a time.

Despite the renovations, Nora's favourite part of the home remains its most unchanged space: the sunken living room where the original hardwood survives. "Every morning Dave and I read the newspaper and have our coffee in there, it's where we connect before we start the day and it's where we meet at the end of the day," she says while sitting at the family's kitchen table (sourced from **DJ's Handcrafted Solid Wood Furniture**) and looking out the window into the backyard.

Tonight when the sun sets on Mildmay you'll likely find the Donnelly family united around their outdoor fireplace, as they sit back and enjoy the view from high above Otter Creek. **OH**

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# CHIC IN THE SHADE

BY JENNIFER SCHLEICH // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX



**THE PLACE:** Décor Design finally has a home to call its own in one of downtown Owen Sound's historic buildings. It's an ideal location for the interior design company, which began in 2002 and specializes in window coverings. The move has been an exciting one for owner Cindy Gardiner, who recalls first falling in love with interior design at the age of 18. "I've always had a passion for it," she says. However, it wasn't until she retired that she was able to give it her full attention. Décor Design originally started out of Cindy's home and has grown into a thriving business, which required more space, over the past decade. The relaxing and cosy showroom Cindy designed allows customers to leisurely explore an abundance of designer fabrics and products with expert guidance.

**THE STYLE:** With the recent expansion of several bedding lines, wallpaper and paint consultation, Cindy is able to offer complete transformations of any space. "My main focus is on window coverings but I've branched out to help people pull it all together," she says. Stylish and functional, a whole line of Hunter Douglas products is available at the shop, as well as custom shades, blinds and drapery, to give any room a classic look.

**WHAT'S HOT:** Platinum technology by Hunter Douglas can get you out of the dark ages this summer with a series of motorized window fashions. "The PowerRise, PowerGlide and PowerTilt



systems raise, lower, traverse and tilt window coverings," says Cindy. "Powered by batteries or a DC power supply, you can operate them individually or in groups from a remote, wireless wall switch, or even a mobile device."

**FAVOURITES:** "I love turning my vision into reality with my favourite designers and the blessing of my clients," says Cindy about a recent bedroom she revamped from floor to ceiling. Her go-to styles for the space included custom embroidered linen, Hunter Douglas Silhouette shades, full length reversed pleat drapery panels, flat valences with box pleats, stainless steel rods and banister finials with a ring of bling.

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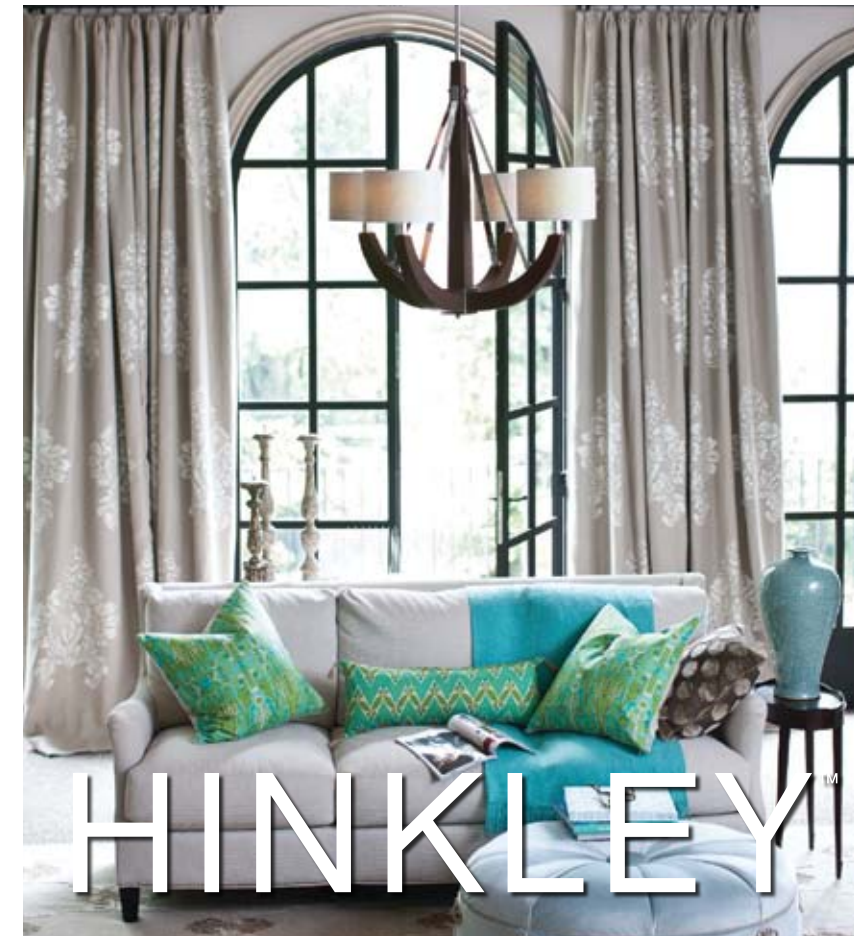
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# SUMMER IS HERE, LET'S LEARN ABOUT BEER

One of the prerequisites to becoming a sommelier is a great love and understanding of wine, and I have been having a full-blown affair with the beloved drink for many years now. So this is why I always feel a tinge of guilt when I openly praise the many delightful virtues of beer drinking. Beer is brilliant on so many levels, and I have to admit, it sometimes brings me more joy than wine.

*Continued on page 36*



**On The Stage**  
Brian Roman *swinging pop*  
June 16 *Father's Day*

**The Sound of "Meow-sic"**  
Cat Shelter Fundraiser June 22

**Irish Rovers**  
*folk* July 21

**Miss Caledonia**  
*live professional theatre*  
August 9 & 10

**Catherine MacLellan**  
*Indie/folk/acoustic* August 15

**MIFF: Meaford**  
*International Film Festival*  
August 29 - September 1

**The Abrams Brothers**  
*bluegrass/roots* September 12

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I have to start by saying that I'm not talking about the mass-market lagers that are pretty much all the same beer housed in different packaging. Instead, I am talking about beers that are made to be distinctive, interesting and typical to the styles that they represent – beers that command a moment to acknowledge what's in the glass. On the topic of glasses, if you're drinking a quality beer, pour it into a glass to maximize your enjoyment, it allows all the wonderful aromas to be enjoyed. The experience is similar to how wine's volatile aromas travel up and out from the open mouth of a wine glass.

Many of the interesting beers on the market (but not all) will be found in individual bottles, or perhaps in a case of six and many are produced by microbreweries or craft brewers.

I find most of my beer at the local wine store. One of the great things about trying new beers is that you can try two or more beer styles in one sitting. For under \$10 you can experience some real taste sensations. Great beer, like great wine has wonderful aromatics and flavours but is enjoyed for a fraction of the price. You can also indulge more because the alcohol content is almost always lower than that of wine.

Let's have a quick beer-making lesson to understand why beers taste as they do.

#### BEER IS MADE OF FOUR THINGS:

**1. Water**, which eventually becomes the beer

**2. Malted Barley or Malt**, which is produced by soaking barley grains and then letting them germinate (or sprout). They are

then dried and ready to be toasted. The level of toasting will dictate the eventual colour and flavour of the beer. For example, a lightly toasted malt could be for a pilsner and a dark-roasted malt (which is almost black) will give a stout or porter its desired rich, dark colour and distinguishing mocha aroma.

**3. Yeast**, which ferments the malt's sugar into alcohol.

**4. Hops**, which are the flower buds from a climbing vine, and have been used for centuries to impart aroma, flavour and bitterness to beer. The hops are added to the beer to give the desired qualities to the end product. For example, an India Pale Ale (IPA) will traditionally be higher in hop flavours (thus more bitter) than an Abbey Ale, which is rounded and soft. There are many different varieties of hops, and brewers will choose their favourites depending on the style they are trying to create.

Simply put, the water is boiled with the malt so that the malt imparts colour and flavour. The liquid is then strained from the solids. The yeast and hops are then added to the liquid (or wort). The fermentation process begins and alcohol and bubbles are created. This is an oversimplified description but you get the idea.

All beers are one of two styles – either ales or lagers, which is determined by the yeast that make them. Ale yeasts are used in warmer conditions, and tend to create beers with more aromatics. Lager yeasts are allowed to ferment under cooler conditions, which produce a crisper, fresher style of beer.

Now, here's a beer primer to get you started to a summer full of great taste experiences involving a handful of my favourite beer styles and beers.

#### Weissbeir or Wheat Beer:

McAuslan St-Ambroise Apricot Wheat Ale (QC), Bayerische Staatsbrauerei Weißenstephan Hefeweissbier (Germany), Hoegaarden Original (Belgium)

#### IPA's (India Pale Ales):

Muskoka Brewery Mad Tom IPA (ON), Shipyard Pugsley's Signature Series XXXX IPA (USA), Wells and Young Ltd. Wells IPA (UK)

#### Porter:

Mill Street Coffee Porter (ON), Shipyard Pugsley's Signature Series Imperial Porter (USA), Harviestoun Old Dubh 12 Special Reserve (Scotland)

#### Stouts:

Samuel Smith Oatmeal Stout (UK), McAuslan St. Ambroise Oatmeal Stout (QC), Southern Tier Mokah Stout (NY)

#### Abbey-style or Trappist:

Brouwerij Westmalle (Belgium), Microbrasserie Charlevoix Dominus Vobiscum Double (QC), Tree Brewing Co. Thirsty Beaver Amber Ale (BC)

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# BACK ON THE *Bluffs*

BY LAUREL FORTIN  
INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY  
EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEN HUTTEN

The Hatchers were long ready for a backyard retreat.

Their one acre ravine lot nestled in Georgian Bluffs, on the edge of Owen Sound, had served as an adventure park for their three growing sons for over a decade. When it was time to fix the retaining wall, which secured their 38-foot pool in place, Sheri and Dave Hatcher knew it was also time to re-imagine the space into something the maturing family could continue to enjoy for years to come.

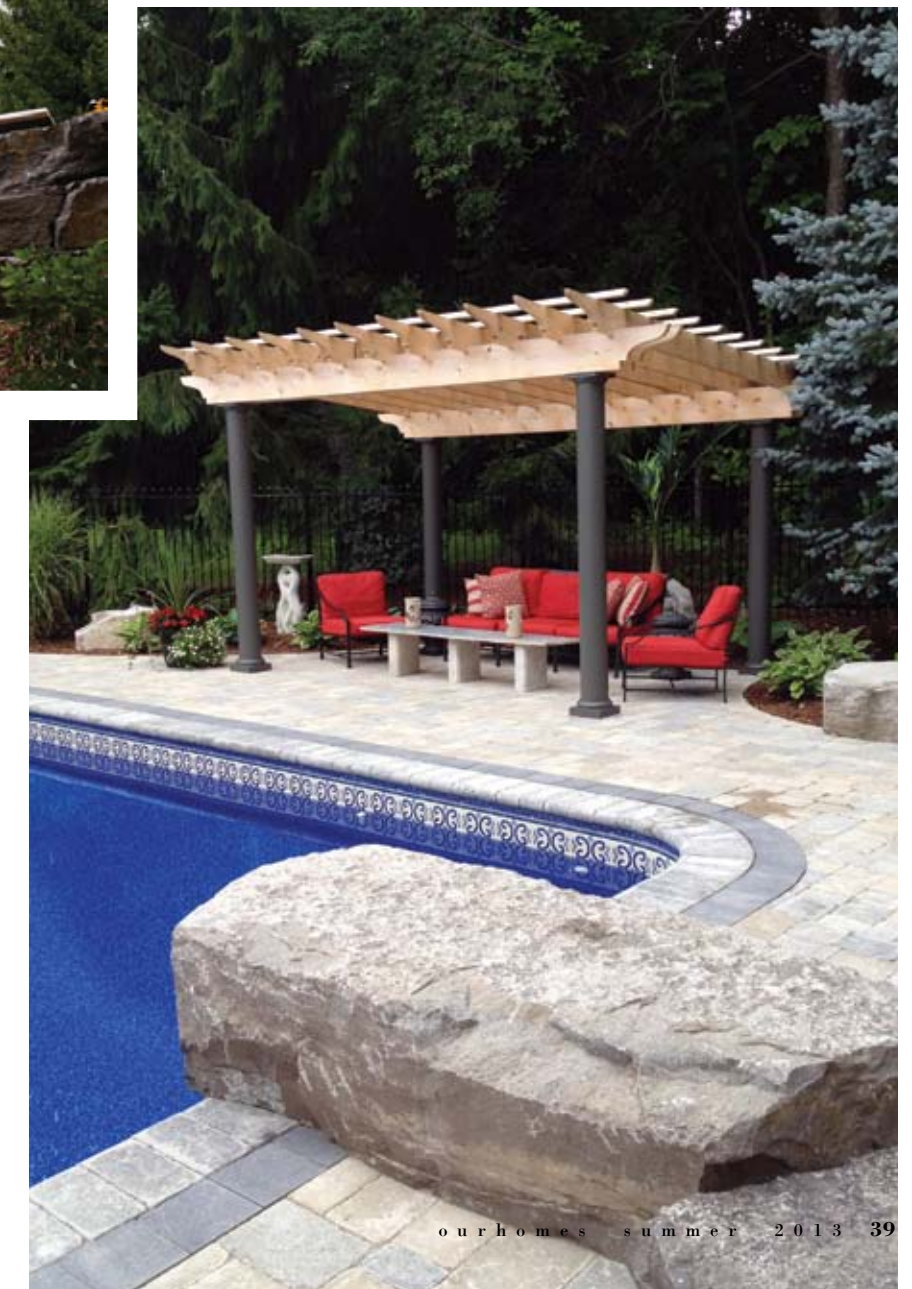
Sheri and Dave consulted with Mark and Ken Hutten of **Hutten & Co. Landscaping** in Owen Sound. The Huttens presented such tempting ideas that the couple had them begin work as soon as the snow melted in the spring of 2012.

Inspired by the local landscape, the transformation is stunning. “Sheri and I have always been into the outdoors and canoeing in Algonquin Park, so we tried to make everything as natural as we could,” notes Dave. The pair worked with Hutten to enhance the natural features of the ravine, such as using glass deck railings without a top rail, to create an unimpeded view, and laying a diving rock alongside the pool instead of a plastic board.

Hutten brought in armour stone to replace the aging wooden retaining wall and created a larger patio around the pool. Pavers, supplied by **Shouldice Designer Stone** in Shallow Lake, in a soft-yellow tone, blend nicely with the colour of the house. The patio connects to decking off the backdoor that hosts the family’s large outdoor dining area (decking sourced at **Moggie Valley Timber Inc.** in Holland Centre). A bridge leads off the deck, across a dry pebble stream bed below and a basement walkout (stone supplied by **Owen Sound Ledgerock Ltd.**). *Continued on page 40*



**TOP:** Ken and Mark Hutten admire the basalt fountain, which they installed. **TOP RIGHT:** The Hatcher's home is nestled in the heart of Georgian Bluffs, just minutes, but a world away from the bustle of Owen Sound. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A comfortable pergola overlooks the diving rock, chosen to match the natural theme of the property. **MIDDLE:** A view from the dry riverbed showcases the new stone retaining wall. **ABOVE:** A pool house, flanked by a pair of Muskoka chairs, sits off to the side.







The central feature, a fountain rock brought from Washington State, stands seven feet high off the pool patio. It's a striking three-tonne basalt volcanic rock, which had to be lifted by crane over the house. Hutten & Co. built a tank underground to feed the water, with a cement pedestal to support the rock itself. Water burbles from the top of the rock, changing it from rust to grey to black as it trickles down the sides. Dramatic night lighting draws attention to its soothing sounds around the clock.

Lighting was a major focus of the project. While updating the plumbing in the swimming pool, the Hatchers took the opportunity to add underwater lights ([Clark Pools and Spas](#)). Lights were added to the hot tub and Hutten installed softly glowing feature lights into the trees and plantings around the property, to enhance the nightscape for entertaining. Fixtures were sourced at [Living Lighting](#).

At the rear of the property, a fire pit draws the boys and their friends. The pit has been well used this spring thanks to the sugar maples dotting the ravine. Dave and his sons boiled 250 litres of sap over a single weekend, after tapping countless maple trees on the property. Together they bottled five litres of maple syrup for the family to savour throughout the year.

Entering the house through a heavy glass and metal patio door, sourced at [Grey Bruce Patio Enclosures Inc.](#), the Hatchers step onto a painted mat commissioned from local artist [Carolyn Skene](#) with a Tom Thompson-Group of Seven-style forest sunset scene. The home reflects Sheri and Dave's devotion to their children.

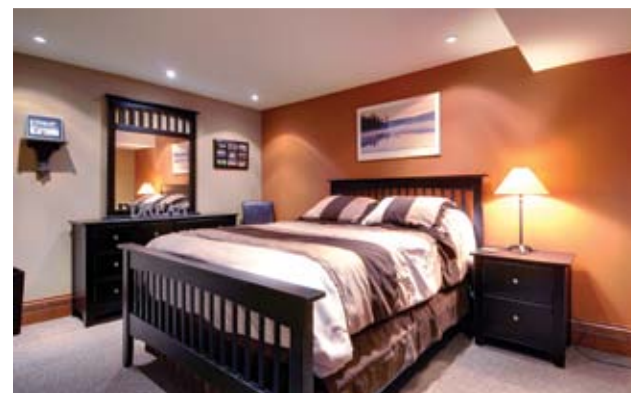
In the mid-2000s, they hired [Jesco Builders](#) to renovate the main floor and kitchen (birch cabinets by [Hanover Kitchen & Bath Gallery](#)). Sheri wanted the household cook to have a vantage point of the family room and through to the front yard, where the boys played or caught the school bus. More recently, they replaced the kitchen flooring with Brazilian cherry sourced at [Greyfair Flooring and Furniture](#) in Owen Sound and installed by [Winmar](#). They converted a fourth garage bay at the front of the house into a spacious office, containing a desk and computer for each family member. Family photos adorn nearly every wall in the home, including a portrait by local photographer [James Masters](#). Their front yard converts into a hockey rink in winter where Dave and the boys play shinny.

*Continued on page 42*



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** (1) Early morning light streams through the front door into the Hatcher's entrance. A soaring skylight above brings in natural light during the afternoon. (2) The study, previously extra space in the garage, looks out over the front yard. (3) Warm wood features dominate the home and are complemented in the dining area by a solid wood table from Country Charm. (4) The open concept kitchen welcomes breakfast diners to a spacious curved island and eating area. (5) The basement rec room houses a pool table and sitting area, warmed by a gas fireplace insert. (6) Upstairs, just off the kitchen, is the much-loved mudroom, complete with cubbyholes and an extra fridge. (7) The central piece of the living room is an antique cart converted into a table from Restoration Hardware.





The comfortable master bedroom is a "wonderful place to be" for the couple. **TOP RIGHT:** A compromise between mother and son, one bright green wall adds a splash of colour to the teenager's bedroom. **RIGHT:** Making excellent use of a long basement, a wooden room divider creates a cosy guest sleeping space off of the rec room.

Sheri's favourite room is the envy of many parents – the mudroom. "It's my organized madness. I love that room," she says. Jesco designed large cubbies for the family to hang coats and stash shoes, plus a full wall of storage cabinets for all their gear.

It's a testament to the quality of the neighbourhood that 15 years later, Sheri and Dave remain in their first home in Owen Sound. The couple moved to Georgian Bluffs after meeting in Thunder Bay once Dave completed his studies. One of the first renovations they undertook in their new home was to breathe life into the front foyer. They hired **Gabrielle Phillips Designs** to open up the ceiling above the stairs into the attic with skylights. They welcome visitors through an impressive front door from **Georgian Bay Window and Door Ltd.**, adorned with new windows on either side. They also enjoyed working with **Northern Heating & Ventilation**.

"It's a fantastic neighbourhood; at one point there were 34 kids living on this street," says Dave. The family can walk to the Bruce Trail nearby and explore the never-ending escarpment. With their new backyard escape, says Dave, "We're planning to stay here at least until the children have moved on – and after they leave Owen Sound this could give them a reason to come back."

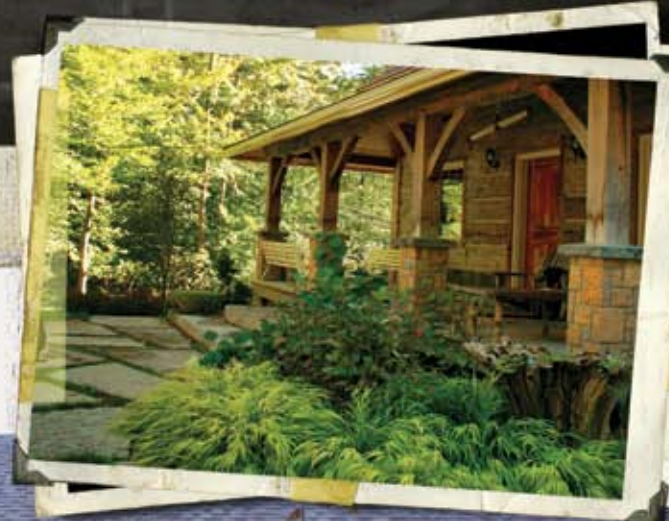
Out back, beyond the new pool deck, a zip line and tree fort from the boys' formative years is preserved – a beautiful space blending old and new memories for both parents and sons. **OH**

## SOURCE GUIDE

Carolyn Skene, Clark Pools and Spas, Country Charm Mennonite Furniture, McNabb Edward Roofing, Folmer Landscaping and Garden Centre, Fulfords Hardware, Gabrielle Phillips Designs, Grey-Bruce Patio Enclosures, Greyfair Flooring and Furniture, Hanover Kitchen & Bath Gallery, Hutten & Co. Landscaping, Inside Ideas, John Price Painting and Decorating, Ledgerrock, Legates Fine Furniture, Living Lighting, MacDonald's BrandSource Furniture and Appliances, Martin's Home Hardware, Moggie Valley Timber Inc., Natural Path Stone and Garden, Northern Heating & Ventilation, Owen Sound Ledgerrock Ltd., Russell Fencing & Decks, Shouldice Designer Stone, Winmar


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## A BREATH OF FRESH AIR: CONSIDER YOUR FLOORING

BY JENNIFER BRAMWELL  
ILLUSTRATION BY SHEILA BRITTON



Living in a house with two- and four-legged occupants means a soup of familiar smells that a resident nose can easily identify. Like a wine sommelier, my nose can sense many smells in a regular day: the smell of nice cologne that follows my husband to work in the morning, the three-sport-a-day scent of my teenage daughter before a shower, and the garlic and onions hanging in the air at dinnertime.

While some of these sources are innocuous to our environment, others we need to get educated about to breathe easier and be healthier. The floor, ceiling, walls and furniture can emit invisible pollutants that can degrade the air we breathe. The scientific name Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) we hear bandied about in eco-speak is also known as off-gassing.

### What causes indoor air problems?

The Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC estimates that Canadians spend an average of 90 per cent of their time indoors, where levels of pollutants may be two-to-five times (and occasionally more than 100 times) higher than outdoor levels. We spend a lot of time in a sealed

environment, dependent on mechanical ventilation systems like Heat Recovery Ventilation (HRV) systems to circulate indoor and outdoor air. Good indoor air quality (IAQ) involves reducing and diluting pollutants with adequate fresh air. You could open a window, but a balance must be struck between additional fresh air, and the hydro meter spinning wildly as your furnace chugs along to heat or cool that air.

According to Susan M. Winchip, Professor Emerita of Interior and Environmental Design at Illinois State University and author of *Sustainable Design for Interior Environments, 2nd Edition*, major contributors to VOCs in building materials include: adhesives and sealants, paints and coatings, carpet, composite wood products, furniture and seating.

Professionally, specifying materials is a large part of what we do as sustainable designers. Unbiased third party websites, like [www.greenguard.org](http://www.greenguard.org), provide a database to help consumers find building materials with low chemical emissions. The Greenguard Certification Program tests for VOCs, as well as other pollutants in a product, and reports the emission levels. Flooring is a good place to start, because it's one of the largest surfaces in your house.

## A SHORT PRIMER ON SOME COMMON FLOORING MATERIALS

### I. Soft floor coverings:

#### a. Carpet, nylon

- Winchip says materials used in the fibres, sealants, and adhesives are harmful to the IAQ.
- Carpet adhesives can emit high quantities of VOCs. Winchip suggests tacking carpet rather than gluing is a healthier solution. Refer to the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus program for the lowest VOC emitting products on the market.
- According to Winchip, the highest levels of VOC gases are emitted with new carpet. Some estimates indicate that after the first 72 hours the VOC off-gassing subsides significantly. Whenever possible, new carpet should be allowed to air out outside the building, and people should wait several days before occupying the rooms.

#### b. Carpet, wool

- Absorbs noise and noxious gases from the air.
- Resists odour and resists fire more than other fibre choices.
- Hypo-allergenic and does not promote the growth of dust mites or bacteria or give off harmful emissions.

### II. Hard floor coverings: wood, stone, tile, bamboo

- According to Interior Designer Corky Binggeli, in her book, *Materials for Interior Environments*, the glue binding bamboo together contains formaldehyde unless specifically noted otherwise. The amount off-gassed is very little, however. Zero VOC bamboo flooring is available.
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood floors are made from sustainably harvested wood. Low VOC stains and sealants are available.
- Particleboard, which may be used for an underlayment, should not contain formaldehyde.

### III. Resilient Flooring: Resilient floor finish is elastic and has some "give" to it. Examples include linoleum, cork, rubber, vinyl and vinyl composite tile (VCT).

- VCT and rubber tiles are available with recycled content.
- Linoleum is made from renewable resources: linseed, wood flour and pine resins on a jute backing and is compostable.
- Vinyl flooring contains plasticizers and releases VOCs. Look for low VOC or PVC-free products.
- Flooring adhesives should be solvent-free, low- or zero-VOC and water-based.
- Frequently, rubber flooring is recommended only for outdoor or commercial use due to the potential for off-gassing.
- Some binders used in flooring such as cork are made of Urea-formaldehyde. **OH**

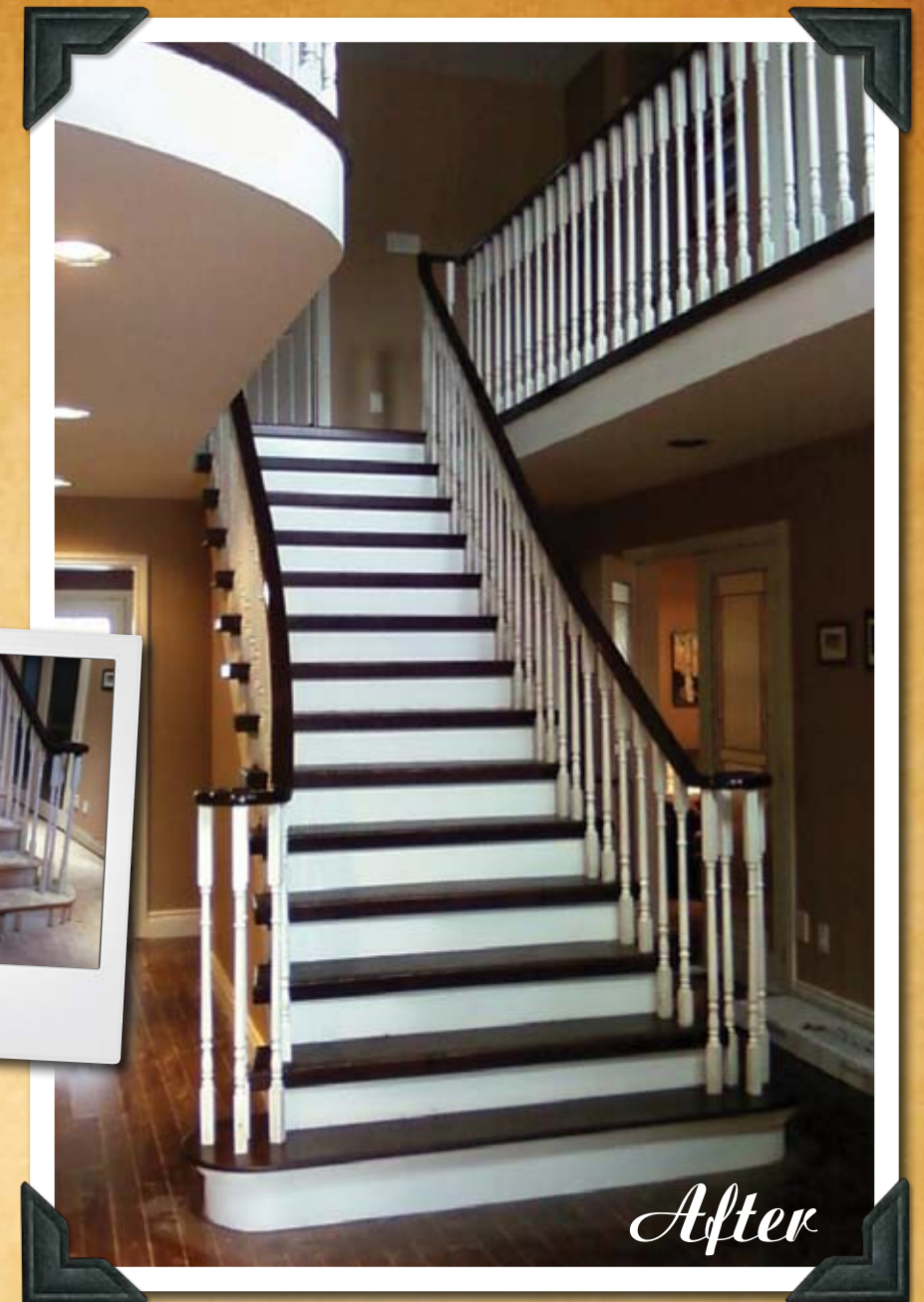
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cooking at home

# SAUCY SMOKY BBQ PORK RIBS

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER



To me, ribs are the ultimate summer food. I mean, we're already eating outdoors – why not make it messy? On rib nights at my house, I cover the picnic table with paper, throw down a heaping platter of these ribs, a pile of napkins, a bowl of coleslaw, some fluffy dinner buns and we dig in! And if this scene doesn't evoke summer, I don't know what does!

Ribs do take a while to become tender, but so many steps along the way can be done in advance. The day before you plan to serve them, rub the ribs with the spices and marinate, and make the sauce. In fact, the sauce can be made up to five days ahead. The sauce is equally delicious on chicken, steaks, burgers, chops – you name it!

While you may want to experiment with other sauce/rub flavours through the summer, perhaps even the meat (beef ribs are a treat too!), this one is a total classic – saucy, smoky, a little sweet and may truly be the only rib recipe you'll need all summer!

## CAN'T STAND THE HEAT? GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN...

- Too hot to bake the ribs first? Grill the ribs over indirect heat instead. The timing will be approximately the same, but your kitchen won't overheat. For indirect grilling, place the ribs over a portion of the grill that is not lit or heated. In a gas grill, achieve this by lighting only a few of the burners – in a charcoal grill, by piling the coals to one side of the grill. Be sure to place a drip tray below the ribs to catch the fat and prevent flare-ups.

## RIB DONENESS

- The phrase "falling off the bone" often comes to mind when we think of cooked ribs. However, technically, if the meat is actually falling from the bone the ribs are likely over cooked. A perfectly cooked rack of ribs is very, very tender but should still be clinging to the bone. The best way to test doneness is to insert a toothpick into the thickest part of the meat. If it pokes in and removes with ease, the meat ribs are done. Be sure to check each rack individually as each one is a little different.

## CHIP APPEAL

- If using a gas grill, consider adding wood chips to achieve the natural smoky flavour that's inherent in a charcoal grill. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using the wood chips, as each gas grill will have different specifications.

## SAUCY SMOKY BBQ PORK RIBS

Serves 6 to 8

4 lbs pork back racks (about 2 racks)

1 tbsp packed brown sugar

2 tsp smoked or regular paprika

1 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp onion powder

1 tsp salt

½ tsp each dry mustard

½ tsp pepper

## SMOKY BBQ SAUCE:

1 tsp vegetable oil

1 onion, finely diced

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup passata (strained bottled tomatoes)

¼ cup molasses

¼ cup cider vinegar

2 tbsp packed brown sugar

1 tbsp chili powder

1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

2 tsp smoked or plain paprika

¼ tsp salt

- **Trim fat from ribs:** Remove membrane from underside of ribs, if attached. Mix together brown sugar, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, mustard powder and pepper. Rub all over ribs. Cover and refrigerate for one hour or for up to 24 hours.
- **Smoky BBQ sauce:** In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onion and garlic until softened and lightly golden, about six minutes. Stir in tomato passata, molasses, vinegar, brown sugar, chili powder, Worcestershire sauce, paprika and salt. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until thickened and reduced to about one cup, 20 to 25 minutes.
- **Place ribs in shallow roasting pan.** Bake, covered with foil, in 350°F oven until very tender, 1½ to 2 hours.
- **For a charcoal grill, place ribs on grill directly over the coals.** Cover and grill, turning once halfway through grilling and brushing occasionally with sauce, until ribs are browned, about 10 minutes. For gas grill, place ribs on grill over medium-high heat. Cover and grill as directed. Serve with any remaining sauce. **OH**

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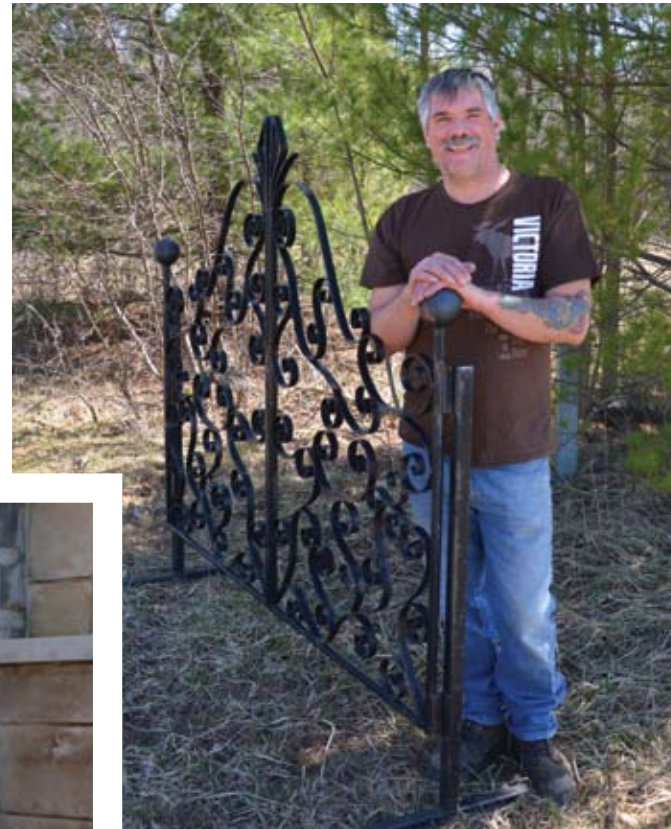
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BY JENNIFER SCHLEICH  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

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## ▲ Lynda Grimoldby Owen Sound Ledgerock Ltd.

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**BEST PART OF THE DAY:** I enjoy going to see the quarries and knowing where the stone comes from and understanding the challenges of extracting the materials.

## ▲ Dan Duquette Duke Iron

**FAVOURITE JOBS:** I love all custom iron projects. The exciting part is shaping and assembling the metal. A beautiful curve is equal to a beautiful weld and the balance of straight bars is gorgeous.

**WHAT DO YOU TEACH?** I am the lead teacher of the welding program at Georgian College. We teach welding and metallurgy and also offer a general interest course.

**HOW HOT DOES IT GET?** The electric arc that's used to melt the material is 9,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The cutting torch is about 5,000 degrees. The heat is dangerous. It's important to protect your skin from the radiation and heat. *Continued on page 54*

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### ◀ Bob Wilson

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**HOW TO ENJOY A FIRE THIS SUMMER:** The best way to enjoy a fire is to have safety in mind. Smoke can cause respiratory problems for family members and sparks pose a risk of unwanted fire. A propane or natural gas fireplace is a great compromise.

**BEST PART OF SUMMER:** Sitting back on our patio and listening to nature at work.



### Sascha Wagner ► Ground-Up Contracting

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PHOTOS AND STORY BY MELANIE REKOLA

# MINIATURE MARVELS SINGING THE PRAISES OF THE LOWLY *groundcover*

Considering groundcovers are often in the forefront of garden beds everywhere, it seems little praise is given to these tough, tiny plants.

Groundcovers can add a whole new dimension of colour to your garden through their foliage, texture and abundant bloom. Many, with their trailing nature, can soften hard stonework when tucked in crevices, or be encouraged to spill down the front of retained beds giving an “aged” feel. Groundcovers can also help retain slopes and discourage weed growth. Some are so strong that they can act as a lawn or path substitution. Read on to discover more.

## MELANIE’S PLANT PICKS:

**Stoncrop** (*sedum*) – There are so many lovely trailing varieties of the sedum family that I cannot pick just one! The fleshy, succulent leaves of this little plant often look like a flower. It comes in a variety of foliage and bloom colours, plus it’s drought tolerant and happy in lean soil. Bees and hummingbirds love them and the presence of pollinators is an important indicator of a healthy garden. Stoncrop favours sun but will tolerate partial shade. My favourites are:

*Angelina* (*Sedum rupestre*) – This spiky evergreen variety offers bright golden foliage and turns orange in fall, with yellow flowers in early summer.

*Dragon’s Blood* (*Sedum spurium*) – This well-loved stoncrop is a semi-evergreen

specimen with rich reddish foliage and bright pink blooms in late summer.

*Bronze Carpet* (*Sedum spurium*) – This showy stoncrop sports brilliant bronze red semi-evergreen foliage with flattering pink flowers.

*Miniature Stoncrop* (*Sedum requienii*) – This miniature stoncrop is a tiny leafed evergreen sedum and is the only one that tolerates foot traffic. It forms a dense mat with tiny white flowers and is extremely hardy.

**Creeping Phlox** (*Phlox subulata*) – Dense and low growing, this soft-looking plant is a prolific bloomer! It’s covered in small purple, pink, white or variegated flowers in spring, with short, stiff evergreen foliage. This low-maintenance perennial prefers sun/part sun and is accepting of lean soils.

**Golden Scotch Moss** (*Sagina subulata*) – Very dense and low growing, this mounding evergreen perennial, with tiny star-like white flowers in spring, boasts attractive chartreuse foliage. It tolerates foot traffic easily but its shallow root system requires steady watering to thrive. It prefers part shade.

**Hens and Chicks** (*Sempervivum*) – I like all varieties of this drought tolerant succulent. Their rosettes display dazzling progressive colour changes throughout the season. They favour full sun to bring out their

rich colour. Sempervivums will bloom after the second or third year. An odd looking flower stalk will shoot up from the centre of the main rosette with a cluster of flowers. After the flower dies, gently twist off the stalk. The main rosette has put on new offsets that will fill in.

**Cranesbill** (*Geranium Bloody*) – Of the many variations of the Cranesbill family, my absolute favorite variety is Bloody, which, to me, is one of the best Cranesbill introductions ever. It bears handsome dark green foliage with happy, upright clusters of bright violet-purple, cup-shaped flowers. Bloom period begins in early summer and continues on throughout the garden season. It likes sun to part shade.

**Creeping Jenny/Moneywort** (*Lysimachia nummularia* or *Golden Creeping Jenny*) – Creeping Jenny is accused of being an aggressive perennial, however the Goldilocks variety is restrained in habit. It is ideal to combat soil erosion or on rock walls and tolerates lean soil. Preferring full sun to part shade, its yellow-green foliage makes a bright statement when paired with common greens typically found in the garden. The name “wort” suggests medicinal use; it was used by early English herbalists to heal superficial wounds of both man and serpents. It was also used for ulcers, scurvy, hemorrhages and ailments of the lungs.

**Dianthus** (*Dianthus*) – Dianthus range in colour from pink, to red, to white flowers with notched petals and finely textured leaves. Sweet Williams (*Dianthus barbatus*) are larger and are biennial or short-lived perennials covered with bicolor flowers in late spring. Pinks are low-growing, low-care dianthus suitable for rock gardens with happy open-face flowers and attractive grey-green foliage. Dianthus prefers full sun and won’t stand wet soils.

**Creeping Thyme Elfin** or **Minus** (*Thymus praecox Elfin* or *Minus*) – This tiny gem has gorgeous miniature flowers and compact leaves. This is another “walk upon” plant and when trod on will let go its thymey scent – plus it’s edible! It favours full sun and tolerates lean soil.

A host of mature, entangled groundcovers can rival the beauty of a tapestry. But be careful to consider the aggressive habit of many and choose the right plant for the right environment. Groundcovers are not only at home in the applications mentioned – consider planting a “mini” garden in a planter or two. Children love this pint-sized forest idea, or dare I say living wall. Perhaps it’s just the thing to take a ho-hum exterior wall to a front-and-centre showpiece! **OH**



Not only at home on the ground, a living wall of mature, entangled groundcovers can rival the beauty of a tapestry.



SEDUM (ANGELINA)



SEDUM (DRAGON'S BLOOD)



CREeping PHLOX



GOLDEN SCOTCH MOSS



HENS & CHICKS



CRANESBILL



CREeping JENNY



DIANTHUS



CREeping THYME



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finishing touch

# CONTAINER herb GARDENS

BY JULIE SIMMONDS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TARA CHATTELL

An herb garden is a delicious way to keep your body, mind and cooking healthy. Since herbs don't need pesticides to keep critters away, tending to your herb garden is easy, fun and organic.

We've put together three creative ways to make a simple herb garden for your back porch, window or wall.

1. **Reuse old mason jars on old barn board** for a shabby chic wall-hanging garden. Mark the spots you want your plants to hang from with chalk. Using screws, attach metal pipe clamps to the board. Insert jars and tighten clamps. Fill jars with rock and soil. Plant herbs. Affix chalkboard labels.

*Materials: Mason jars, rocks, potting soil, screws, herbs, screwdriver/drill, barn board, metal pipe clamps, chalk, chalk labels.*

2. **Create a simple window garden with recycled cans.** Use rocks to create a little bed at the bottom of each can. Fill with soil and transplant your herbs. Label with a paper tag, attach with twine.

*Materials: Recycled cans, rocks, potting soil, screws, herbs, paper tags, twine and marker.*

3. **Plant your herbs in individual pockets of a hanging cotton shoe organizer.** Fill each pocket with moisture retaining soil. Make cute labels from scrapbooking paper and plastic nametag covers

*Materials: Hanging cotton shoe organizer, potting soil, herbs, paper or labels, marker, plastic nametag covers with pins.*



#### TIPS:

- Fill your containers one-inch below the top with moisture-rich potting soil.
- If potting containers aren't breathable, then make a rock bed at the bottom to help drain excess water. Only a half-inch of rock is needed.
- For the shoe organizer garden, place a small plant underneath to catch water run-off. Water the plants from top to bottom, creating a waterfall effect.
- Use wide-mouth mason jars for large pre-grown herbs. **OH**



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