

Christmas at the Joynt home is a spectacular event, filled with colour, warmth and love. Holiday cheer is evident in each and every room. **OPPOSITE:** Heather Joynt takes special pride in the details of her seasonal decorations.

HOME FOR THE *holidays*



BY SHELBY HILSON // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Having trouble welcoming winter with open arms or getting into the holiday spirit? The Joynt family in Southampton will cure what ails you – before you even step inside their warm, loving home.

Cold temperatures and snowfalls are more than welcome on this treed, nine-acre lot. “It’s gorgeous here in the winter,” says homeowner Heather Joynt, who explains that the design of her family’s home makes winter activities easy and enjoyable. “You can ski out the back door and snowshoe out the front,” she says.

But winters at the Joynt residence are really about family and friends, celebrations, traditions and decorations. “Having the house decorated is just part of the season and very much a family tradition,” says Heather. “I know this because I tried to get through one winter without decorating because we would be travelling at Christmas. I didn’t get away with it very long and just couldn’t do it in the end.”

Having more space to grow and entertain is what prompted thoughts

of building their own home many years ago when Heather and her husband Pat purchased their current lot, just two doors down from where they had lived for 25 years.

Dale’s Carpentry of Port Elgin began work on the 4,600 sq. ft. home in 2006. In 2007 the Joynt family moved into their new home that backs onto the 14th green of the Chippewa Golf Club.

Dale’s son, **Terry Chappell**, was the general contractor for most installations and the Joynts couldn’t be happier with their choice. “We chose them because they’re a local builder and employ local trades,” says Heather. “We also hired them because they offered the Nudura technology (insulated concrete forms) with its potential energy savings. The experience was very positive and the follow-up has been excellent.”

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Local trades include **Shouldice Designer Stone**, **T.A. Stewart & Son Contracting Ltd.**, **Coblentz & Brown Drywall**, **Gary Cobean Sheet Metal**, **Bradfield Masonry** and **BJS Electric**.

To make the home even more efficient, **Montgomery's Comfort Centre Ltd.** installed a Viessmann boiler system to heat the house and the floors – a heat that Heather refers to as “gentle.” She says it heats the home, not the air.

What truly warms this home though, is the incredible hospitality and friendliness that comes naturally to the Joynts. It's not surprising that Heather cites the kitchen as her favourite room. With lots of space to gather with guests, high-end Jenn-Air appliances (**Square Deal Neil's**) to cook holiday favourites, custom cherry cabinetry (**Murray Youngblundt**, Ripley) offering extended storage, and a beautiful granite-topped island (**The Old Barn**) for prep work, it suits the family's lifestyle perfectly.

The kitchen also offers a spectacular view of the golf course, where the Joynts spend many fair-weather days by simply driving the golf cart out of their garage and down the backyard path, which lights up at night. Large windows (**Georgian Bay Window & Door**) take full advantage of the home's western exposure, capturing breathtaking sunsets and an evening glow through the tall, majestic trees that grace the property.

The large windows bring the outdoors in, and so do Heather's fresh arrangements – something for which she's become well-known. In the basement you'll find not one, but two workshops. The his-and-her work areas are side by side, but couldn't be more different. Heather's workshop is nothing short of a small floral studio, complete with greenery, fresh and silk flowers for every season, drawers filled with ribbons, bows, paints, glitter and glue, vases and baskets of every shape, candle wraps and more. There's even a walk-in refrigerator with a solid oak door, used to keep arrangements fresh.

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FAR LEFT: Custom cherry cabinetry paired with high-end Jenn-Air appliances and a large centre island, make the kitchen ideal for entertaining and preparing gourmet meals. **LEFT:** Heather enjoys a glass of wine with her daughter Kelsey in the dining room. **BELOW:** The living room's fireplace mantel is dressed to impress in fresh greenery, candles and décor. **BELOW LEFT:** Heather shopped specifically for a chandelier that could be safely decorated each season.





LEFT: The master bedroom is a comfy, country retreat where Heather and Pat can relax by a fire or enjoy a hot bath in their en suite's soaker tub. **BELOW LEFT:** The Pfister pump faucet in the powder room is Pat's favourite feature. **BELOW RIGHT:** Heather's floral workshop is filled with everything she needs to create beautiful arrangements throughout the year.

Heather creates arrangements passionately throughout the year, but Christmas is when her workshop sees the most use. Each year she hosts "arrangement parties" with friends to create centrepieces for their holiday dinner tables. Now, Heather's daughter Kelsey and her friends share in the tradition.

Heather's flourishing hobby has made her a very regular customer at **Bayberry's of High Street** in Southampton. "I always get lots of specialty greenery there," she says. "At Christmas, it's the place to go for the good stuff."

For other holiday gifts and décor items Heather frequents **Port's Emporium, August Skies Home Décor, Etc.** and **The Fyre Place & Patio Shop**. Her knack for decorating landed her on the decorating committee for the Southampton United Church after being a part of the 2010 Chantry Island Chambette's Christmas Home Tour – one of the organization's many community events and fundraisers. This year, Heather will be helping to decorate one of the homes on the tour.

Aside from creating beautiful things, the Joynts also gather to cheer on the Steelers from the comfort of their living room (which will be decked with "Steelers season" décor during the NFL playoffs). The oversized sofas and chairs from **Little's Furniture Ltd.** make it a nice, casual space where the whole family can unwind.

"We wanted a home where everyone can feel comfortable and relax in," says Heather. That's just what they've achieved, a fun, warm and friendly home full of cheer this holiday season. **OH**



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