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OUR HOMES is distributed to residents of Grey & Bruce Counties and to cottagers via direct mail. Copies of OUR HOMES are available for free pick up at high traffic locations throughout the region. Copies of OUR HOMES are also sent via direct mail to members of select ski clubs in the region. OUR HOMES is distributed throughout select B&Bs and hotels, and to select business leaders via direct mail.

OUR HOMES Media Group Inc. is a proud member of the  
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Please send all letters and/or feedback to OUR HOMES Magazine, 279 Ste. Marie St., Collingwood, Ontario, Canada L9Y 3K6. Or email us at [editor@ourhomesmagazine.com](mailto:editor@ourhomesmagazine.com).

All letters received are subject to editing for grammar and length. Please return all undeliverable Canadian addresses to 279 Ste. Marie St., Collingwood, ON L9Y 3K6

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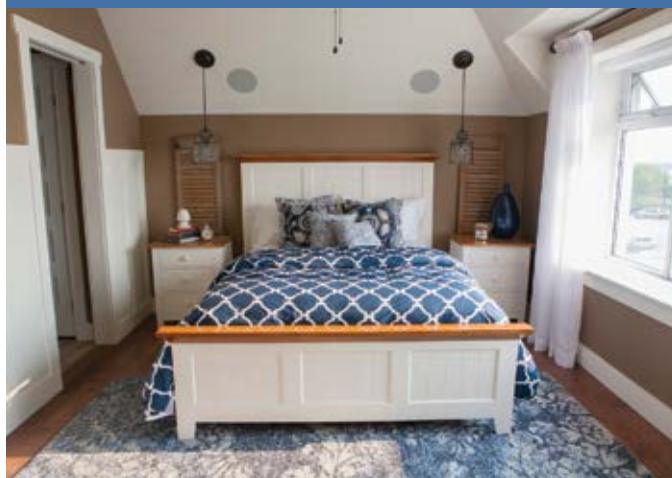
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## editor's note

### AS THIS YEAR

draws to a close, I was reminded (via Twitter) that it is the 100th anniversary of the First World War. I've always had a penchant for history and it made me think about how people lived at the turn of the last century.

Did you know that in 1914 only about 20 per cent of homes were considered middle class and even though electric lighting had existed for 35 years it was still expensive and not available in remote areas? Most middle-class people continued to use gas lighting in their homes. More than half of Canada's 7.5 million citizens lived in rural communities. People didn't have fridges or freezers; they still used ice boxes to keep their food cold.

Family residences in North America changed significantly during the early 1900s, due not only to advances in building materials and construction techniques, but also in an effort to craft homes that were more visually cohesive with their environments. This era saw the emergence of Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Prairie style (visually horizontal homes with gently sloping roofs, among other characteristics), the bungalow and the American Craftsman style (simplicity of form, prominence of natural materials and emphasis on handcrafted work).

During these years, interior design moved away from the extravagant and ornate towards more contemporary, simple and elegant home décor, featuring clean lines and the use of wood, glass and metal work. It was common to find large windows, exposed wood beams and hardwood built-in features. Colours such as wheat, cream, sage, slate grey and browns, or federal blue, red and ivory were very popular; paints themselves were generally still made from raw pigments. Isn't it interesting that grey is once again enjoying a vogue?

A lot has changed during the intervening years, but these early 20th-century movements continue to resonate in home décor and design – I often find myself touring homes where natural materials continue to take centre stage.

Hope you enjoyed the historical facts and from all of us at OUR HOMES Grey Bruce we wish you a happy holiday and a great start to the new year!

*Jennifer Schleich*

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**CORRECTION:** In our fall issue story *Beauty on the Bay* (page 34) Burnie Root of B. Root Construction was not clearly acknowledged as a contributor to the renovation of the cottage. OUR HOMES regrets the oversight.



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Photography By Sandy MacKay.



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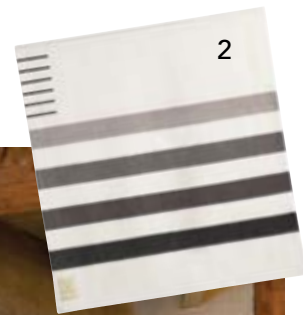
STORY **STEPHANIE REDMOND**



Designer  
Stephanie Redmond  
shares her ideas.



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2



3



**Cabin chic** seems a fitting décor choice for winter months. The aesthetic evokes images of cosiness and warmth, reminding us of what it is to be Canadian. Rustic interiors with wood, wool and hot chocolate come to mind. However, let's not forget that, in August, we sweat, fight blackflies, and if we're lucky, swim in our wonderful fresh water. Winter or summer, the cabin makes me feel truly Canadian. Here's how to achieve that rustic setting, with a few modern conveniences.

First of all, I have to stress comfort. No modernist furniture in my cabin, please! How about this extra long sofa from Lee Industries? It will accommodate a mass of people (perfect for the weekends) and is ultra comfy for lounging, reading and napping. Of course, I'd prefer it in a natural linen colour, so it doesn't clash with my collection of antique Bay blankets. If you don't have one, they are always available (and always in style) at The Bay. Now, if you're a bit allergic to colour, you can always go with the Millennium Stripe, which is a more neutral approach, but just as lovely.

Of course, all of this must sit on a rustic base of something, so let's talk about wood flooring. In the cabin, I see pine, but if you have dogs or kids, or simply a busy household, pine will be too soft. You can apply an oil or wax finish (this will not protect it from grooves) but the wear will be slightly less noticeable than a deeper stain finish. If you'd like to

modernize, try a grey wash quarter sawn oak with an oil finish. More Belgian than Canadian, but the results will be stunning.

As tempted as I am to put an antler chandelier in here, I like my lighting a bit more modern. You can try the Mori light by Rich Brilliant Willing for a beautiful, soft glow. With more rustic companions like wood and textural fabrics, a modern light will fit right in without making the scene appear too contemporary. (For a cheap fix, you can always use a big white paper lantern – always a winner as far as I'm concerned!)

A cabin shouldn't feel like it was pieced together yesterday, or it becomes too decorated and too stiff. Throw a fur rug on the floor and a few oddball pieces to make it seem like a collection from bygone times. I like rattan because its low-key style never looks right off the shelf. I found these chairs on 1stdibs.com for a bit of rustic charm. They're quirky and will look great with pine floors.

There is one more piece that every cabin needs: Monopoly! I would add a deck of cards and Scrabble, too; the list is never-ending. Whatever your game, don't forget to include an antique pine chest of drawers filled to the brim with games that the whole family can enjoy in front of a roaring fire. Now that is wonderful living. **OH**



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STORY **JENNIFER SCHLEICH**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **ALAN SHISKO**

# COMING HOME FOR THE *Holidays*



PHOTO BY LISETTE STOLP



PHOTO BY LISETTE STOLP



On a bright frosty morning over Thanksgiving, the Stolp family invited us into their home-away-from-home. An all-season cottage on the banks of the sandy Sauble River, the Stolps' vacation home is a luxurious retreat at the beach and a holiday gathering spot year round.

For Stacy Stolp, who hails from the community of Sauble Beach, visiting his family's cottage really is like coming home.

"I grew up in Sauble Beach and that's why we decided to build here," he says.

It's a place where Lisette, Stacy and their two children Jadelyn, 11, and Mason, 7, can detach from their busy lives in Oakville and enjoy spending time together. The siblings even agree to share a bedroom at the cottage, which functions as a base of operations allowing the family to visit their favourite destinations around Bruce County and make use of the sporting equipment overflowing their garage.

*Continued on page 20*



**TOP:** An open-concept living and dining area offers a panoramic view of the river. **ABOVE:** (left to right) Stacy, Jadelyn, Mason (front) and Lisette stand with their builder Ken Burrows of Ken Burrows and Son on the family's dock overlooking the Sauble River.

**TOP:** A baby falcon landed on the Stolps' backyard deck this past summer, close enough for a close-up. **MIDDLE:** A light coating of frost adds a magical touch to the sweeping lawn in the backyard. **ABOVE:** The entrance to the cottage is filled with natural light and features wood-look tile flooring. **ABOVE MIDDLE:** A set of owls welcomes guests at the front door, offering a helping hand for sunglass owners. **RIGHT:** The deep blue front door pops off the façade, featuring an arch of colourful bricks.





**ABOVE:** The foyer features a modern open-concept staircase in white, contrasted with neutral wood accents. **RIGHT:** Granite countertops, wood-style ceramic floors and soaring cabinetry form this custom kitchen, built by Seedling Woodworks. The kitchen's glass-tile backsplash ties in with the glass tiling used throughout the cottage.



They adore their cottage, which was built by **Ken Burrows and Son Custom Homes and Additions**, but they love the outside more: the decks, the dock, the beach and the smooth flowing Sauble River, which is rife with wildlife. The rural atmosphere of Bruce County is important to the Stolps, who enjoy immersing themselves in nature.

“We love the winters in Sauble; they are peaceful,” says Lisette. “We go snow tubing, cross-country skiing and take night walks, which are magical in the winter. The kids love nature. They feed peanuts to the blue jays and chipmunks and we love that Blue Mountain and Scenic Caves are so close.”

Four years ago, the Stolp family purchased a parcel of land and its accompanying aging cottage, and then promptly demolished it. Shortly after, the family set to work building their holiday getaway with the help of Stacy's long-time friend Dan Burrows.

“Dan and I have known each other since we were teens,” he says. “We worked together at Home Hardware when it was called Beaver Lumber. I knew he was honest and sincere. When you are working with a person like Dan it's one-on-one and he adds a personal touch.”

Six months later, the family moved in.

“Nobody I know of could do what Dan did for us in six months,” says Stacy. “He got it

done for Christmas and we spent the holidays here that year.”

The cottage was designed with the help of Architectural Technologist **Craig Johnston (Craig Johnston Design)**. Together they created plans for a two-storey brick home (**Shouldice Designer Stone** and **John Bloodworth Masonry**). It features an open concept kitchen (**Dan Spitzig** of **Seedling Woodworks**) and living area, complete with roomy 10-foot ceilings and expansive windows showcasing the river view. And that view sure is something; glistening blue water and vibrant vegetation interspersed with soaring pine trees and friendly neighbours.

**RIGHT:** A pair of french glass doors, originally intended for the study, form unique fronts for built-in shelving on either side of the fireplace. **BELOW:** A barrel-shaped side table with metal accents and a curvy white lamp complement the leather sectional and stylish, yet casual, feel of the living area.

A classic stone fireplace with a gas insert (installed by **Ken Philp Plumbing & Heating**) draws attention along the length of the living area. Stationed on either side is a unique floor-to-ceiling, built-in shelving unit fronted by a pair of glass doors.

“It was an accident,” admits Stacy. “I ordered french doors for the study and got the wrong size. Just by a fluke they fit perfect in the niches around the fireplace and my wife said ‘Oh my god that looks amazing!’ so we hung them up.”

Adjacent to the living room, the patio doors open onto a sprawling deck (**Andrew Kivell** and **Miller's Home Hardware Building Centre**), which is home to a harvest patio table built by **Jason Hawk**. The upper-storey deck provides cover for the outdoor dining area, which is shielded from the sun by a retractable transparent solar screen. The lawn (**Grey Bruce Sod Supply Ltd.**) slopes gently down to the river, lined by landscaped gardens (**McCartney Property Maintenance** and **Westside Nurseries & Greenhouses Ltd.**), ending at the dock (**Garrett Baker Contracting**). *Continued on page 22*







**ABOVE:** The spacious master bedroom features engineered hardwood, a walk-in closet and master en suite. **LEFT:** The balcony off the master bedroom offers a stunning view and a quiet space for Stacy and Lisette to wind down. **BELOW:** Vintage buffet-style vanities and a glass tiled shower pair nicely in the upstairs guest bath.



“I wanted something different for our dock,” says Stacy, who built an elegant sunburst-patterned gate. “I’m a sunset guy and I wanted to keep it simple; I’m not a master craftsman,” he jokes.

The ground floor of the cottage is only half the story. The open staircase leads upstairs to four bedrooms and two bathrooms; a space designed to accommodate guests. The atmosphere on the upper level, influenced by softly hued and glossy engineered hardwood (installed by **North Acres Hardwood Floors**), is warm, airy and inviting.

The rooms and hallway are adorned with Mason and Jadelyn’s artwork, including Jadelyn’s impressive painting of *The Hobbit*. Paintings by Lisette’s cousin **Lina Serrano** are also found throughout the cottage.

*Continued on page 24*



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**TOP:** A his-and-hers vintage vanity, in distressed white, is a central feature of the master en suite.  
**RIGHT:** Adorning the guest bedroom wall is an original acrylic painting of *The Hobbit*, painted by the Stolps' daughter Jadelyn.  
**BELOW:** Jadelyn and Mason's bedroom features the siblings' artwork and their collection of stuffed animals.



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

Andrew Kivell • Barfoot Contracting & Excavating • Craig Johnston Design •  
Finest • Garrett Baker Contracting • Grey Bruce Paint & Décor • Grey Bruce Sod  
Supply Ltd. • Gulliver Electric • Jason Hawk • John Bloodworth Masonry • Ken  
Burrows and Son Custom Homes and Additions • Ken Philp Plumbing & Heating •  
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"Both my son and daughter paint," he says proudly. "We brought them, just for fun, to an art school course and they love it. Jadelyn especially loves to read, she reads so much," he adds about her choice to paint a scene from J.R.R.Tolkien's novel.

The upstairs bathrooms are a fusion of traditional and modern styles. The antique vanities are accompanied by glass-tiled showers (Mike Sollazzo of Finest By Sollazzo).

"I have always been a fan of antiques mixed with modern pieces, they call it a transitional look," explains Lisette. "I picked the glass tiles for the showers because the turquoise colour produces a waterfall effect when the water runs. We paired them with frameless glass doors to complete the look." The guest bathroom and the master en suite mirror each other conceptually.

The master bedroom houses Lisette's favourite feature: a west-facing balcony large enough for both her and Stacy to sit and enjoy the Bruce Peninsula's world-renowned sunsets. What better way could there be to end a day at the cottage than watching the sun slowly sink below the horizon with your loved ones? OH



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comfort zone

STORY **JENNIFER SCHLEICH**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

# BARE BEAUTY

**THE PLACE:** Walking into **barebirch** is quite simply like stepping into an enchanted birch forest, if a forest were cosy, comfortable and incredibly stylish. It's a place where people lose hours browsing inspirational displays of beautiful quality furniture, pottery, gifts, fashion accessories, area rugs, dining essentials and home-décor items. Opened in 2012 by Owen Sound native Jacquie Furtner and her husband Simon, the 2,000 sq. ft. store was named best new business in 2013 by the Owen Sound Chamber of Commerce and voted best gift shop in Grey Bruce by readers of the *Sun Times* in 2014. "Our customers make us who we are and we do our best to accommodate them in any way we can," explains Jacquie.

**THE STYLE:** Awash in neutral tones and natural materials, the boutique is certainly a unique experience. Select pieces from the shop can fit into nearly every décor, whether traditional or modern, casual or formal, rustic or refined. Classic anchor items are interspersed with seasonal and trendy accent pieces. "Our philosophy at barebirch is that your environment influences your state of mind," says Jacquie, "And we want to help you create a space that allows you to be at your best."

**WHAT'S HOT:** During the holiday season barebirch is transformed into a Christmas wonderland. Tiny white lights twinkle from every corner of the shop and the barebirch team

creates a series of holiday displays featuring natural elements and gorgeous statement pieces. "We put together the holiday displays for our customers, who come in just for inspiration," explains Jacquie. Very few people leave without taking home a piece or two to incorporate into their holiday décor. "They usually just can't resist," she says.

**FAVOURITES:** Jacquie and Simon are staunch advocates of local arts and have endeavoured to support Canadian artisans by stocking handmade pieces. Among some of the beloved favourites at barebirch is a line of buffalo leather bags, wallets and accessories made in Alberta. The handmade buffalo leather accessories are statement fashion pieces that get better with age and use, notes Jacquie, adding "We can't keep them on the shelves!"

**GET THERE:** 975 2nd Ave. E., Owen Sound  
226.664.2273 | [www.barebirch.ca](http://www.barebirch.ca) **OH**



Jacquie Furtner





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## Check your financial list twice!

Tax planning is a year-round activity if done properly. There are deadlines however and many of them are in the next three months! Add the following financial checklist to your calendar and don't miss these important opportunities:


- ✓ **Tax Loss Selling:** Carrying a few dogs in your investment accounts? Considering selling them off to take advantage of tax savings. Don't forget about the 30 day superficial loss rule if you wish to buy it back.
- ✓ **Defer Capital gains:** Think about waiting until the New Year to sell stocks with gains and defer any taxes owing for another 12 months.
- ✓ **Low income year and nearing retirement:** If either this or next year will be an unusually low income year, consider a withdrawal from your RRSP before age 71 to reduce the total taxation of the account over time.
- ✓ **Charitable Donations:** Consider donating stocks or mutual funds in kind rather than cash before December 31st to get rid of any unrealized gains that have built up over the last few years.
- ✓ **65 this year:** Make sure you earn \$2,000 of tax free pension or RRIF income.
- ✓ **71 this year:** See your advisor before December 31st to convert to a RRIF and discuss how you will begin generating income from your account.

✓ **RESP deposits:** Must be made before the end of the year and only up until the year in which the child turns 17. If your children/grandchildren are into their teen years, consider catching up on any unused contribution room before it's too late.

✓ **TFSA contributions:** The total cumulative room for TFSAs is now \$31,000 if you haven't opened a tax free savings account yet. An additional \$5,500 can be added as of January 1st, 2015.

Contact **Michele Mannerow**, Investment Advisor with RBC Dominion Securities ([www.mannerow.ca](http://www.mannerow.ca)), at 519-376-2018 to help check these items off your list.

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STORY **YANIC SIMARD**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **BRANDON BARRE**

# CRAFTING THE ORGANIZED KITCHEN

Although the clutter of kitchen ideas may seem overwhelming sometimes, there are really two main ways to get that perfectly organized space – finding last-minute storage tricks to hide your growing collection of tools and trinkets, and designing for organized living from the start. There’s always room for innovations and improvements, but I think the effortlessly elegant look of this recent condo renovation proves that the best results come from a little planning.

*Continued on page 32*



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decorating

Here’s how you can get a perfectly planned kitchen:

- **Pull it Back** – Rather than choosing a more traditional look with handles and/or knobs, I used mitred-edge cabinets (so they can be easily gripped from the bottom) and eliminated the visible hardware. This look is more modern, but also helps a small kitchen feel less cluttered with fewer projecting pieces. Traditional warmth was reintroduced through the sandy porcelain tile and timeless wood floor.
- **Outlet It Go** – Speaking of the porcelain tile, you may have noticed its rich, subtle tones, or the elegantly organic texture. What you probably did not notice were electrical outlets marring this beautiful surface. The outlets are tucked away on the underside of the cabinets and shelves, where they are still conveniently reachable without being in your sight line – a worthwhile adjustment during construction.
- **Shed Some Light** – Along with moving the outlets to organize the electrical, I added sleek under-cabinet lighting. You can add under-cabinet battery-powered lights at any time, but building them into the cabinets results in a clean finish. Plus, it adds a convenient on and off switch for a better light scheme (you can flick on with one elbow while wrist deep in dough).
- **More Bright Ideas** – Under-cabinet lighting wasn’t going to be enough; every space should have multiple layers of light, especially a functional one. Here, I dropped the ceiling a few inches to allow for a network of pot lights, eliminating the harsh shadows created by the original central fixture.
- **Open Up** – Although open shelving may not be your first thought for de-cluttering, it can be a very practical addition, so be open-minded! A long shelf for often-used dishes keeps these everyday items immediately at hand, shows off their simple beauty and forces you to keep them tidy (but not too perfect). Don’t worry: glass and white basics look great jumbled together effortlessly.
- **Hidden Depths** – I am a huge fan of the deep, square sink, with a perfectly fitted draining rack. I have one in my kitchen and use it often for client projects. Springing for the extra depth



hardly adds to the cost, and a slight loss in storage below is more than made up for by the clean lines. It also allows extra hiding space for the messes you haven’t gotten to.

- **Easy Trade-Offs** – The original floor plan here included space for a breakfast nook, but there was also room for a four-seat table just outside the kitchen, and this condo certainly didn’t need both. The new plan moved the fridge to this area and added extra cabinetry around it, with one open display niche in the centre to keep the space from feeling too boxed in.
- **Built To Serve** – If you do have space for an eat-in kitchen area, consider a built-in banquet on one side of the table. This allows you to still incorporate some

storage in the base of the seat, hide heating vents underneath in the toe kick, and keep guests in conversation distance while out of the workspace.

- **Widen Your Options** – Whether creating custom cabinetry or working with standard units, remember to consider what items you typically store and make sure to select cabinets that will hold them effectively rather than repeating one standard size. This plan includes a slim, full-length pantry, half-height doors, standard cupboards, and wide drawers, allowing any item short or tall to find the perfect home. Running the nonstandard units floor to ceiling (with the top filler matching the toe kick in height) keeps the look clean, simple and always organized. **OH**



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# COUNTRY WINTER *Wonderland*

STORY **ROSE STUART**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Where the table is always set, and something good is always cooking on the stove – there you will find true country hospitality and charm.



**LEFT:** The home's sunroom features exposed brick from the original exterior wall and houses an antique entryway bench that belonged to Betty Ann's grandmother. **ABOVE:** The exquisite white Christmas tree complements the lovely blue hues in the home, including an antique trunk turned coffee table. **OPPOSITE TOP LEFT:** The dining table is a central feature of the home, always set and ready for guests. **TOP RIGHT:** A set of miniature stockings make excellent festive napkin holders. **RIGHT:** The Tiffany Blue accent walls in the dining area pop next to the neutral stone façade of the fireplace.



Two of OUR HOMES' very own, Betty Ann and Allan Fawcett, spent six months last year renovating their quaint 1960s bungalow on a quiet country road in Vandeleur. On the outskirts of Flesherton, Vandeleur is a speck on the map in the heart of Beaver Valley. Just over the hill from the Beaver Valley Ski Club, this small village, with a long farming history, has an endearing Wikipedia entry and even a song in its honour.

The Fawcetts purchased the one-acre property in the spring of 2013 after they decided to downsize from their neighbouring 100 acre cattle and hay farm. With help from friends and family, Allan set to work transforming the bungalow into a customized space where they could while away their golden years when those years eventually get here.

"Allan did a lot of physical labour, and he worked his little butt off, with loads of help, to make this house something of our own," says Betty Ann. According to Allan, the physical labour wasn't the hard part, but arranging all of his trades to be there at the appropriate times was difficult.

"I was involved in every step, from drywall to putting down the floors," he says. "This wasn't my first building endeavour; I've built three or four houses over the years. Everything fell into place well and Betty Ann really knew what she wanted so that made it a lot easier."

The main floor of the home was essentially gutted during the renovation, which also saw the removal of the chimney, repositioning of

*Continued on page 36*



feature



**TOP LEFT:** A flat top stove fits seamlessly into the island, creating an efficient and functional cooking space. **ABOVE LEFT:** A vestige of their former home, this tin ceiling tile has been framed in the same wood as the kitchen cabinetry. **TOP:** The custom kitchen features leathered granite, an array of high-tech gadgets and an expansive island and food prep area. **ABOVE:** A snapshot of the home pre-renovation shows the original layout of the kitchen.

the basement staircase and a reconfiguration of the living room, master bedroom and bathroom. Additionally, the basement was restructured to create two guest bedrooms where Betty Ann and Allan's children still like to spend the night, though they are all grown (it may have something to do with her highly-acclaimed cooking).

"We had to blow out a wall to open up the floor plan a little more and make room in the kitchen," says Betty Ann. "I love that we punched the wall back. We also moved the staircase from the kitchen to the other side of the house where a little boy's bedroom used to be."

The new staircase features the same beautiful hardwood found throughout the main-floor rooms, sourced from **South Bruce Flooring**. The heart and soul of the home is an open-concept kitchen, dining room and living area. The custom kitchen, built by **South Gate Cabinets Inc.**, is especially close to Betty Ann's heart.

"I love my new kitchen gadgets," she raves. "When you come from an old country farmhouse to 'touch' garbage cans and fancy lazy susans, it's great. All my drawers are super deep for my bowls, and I have a custom cutlery drawer."



Though the new kitchen layout follows the same basic blueprint as the original, moving back the hallway wall and removing the staircase afforded the extra room needed to install a spacious island. The island features an oven and cooktop (**Square Deal Neil's TV & Appliances**) situated in gorgeous leathered granite from **The Old Barn**, as well as seating for Betty Ann and Allan to enjoy their meals together.

Adjacent to the kitchen is the dining area with a central, two-way gas fireplace set into modern stone (courtesy of **Warton Home Decor Centre**), beside a stunning Tiffany Blue accent wall.

"I took my Tiffany & Co. box into **Grey Bruce Paint & Decor** and told them it

was the colour I wanted – not turquoise," says Betty Ann.

Filling the dining space is a hardwood harvest table (**Topnotch Furniture**), which is always set and ready for guests.

"I would entertain every night if I could," says Betty Ann. "That's what I love. I love to cook!" Allan laughs and agrees, "There's no time to farm anymore because we're always entertaining."

The Fawcett's table décor is spectacular, and Betty Ann prides herself on keeping it decorated. With accessories from stores across Grey Bruce, including **Décor Design, Inside Ideas, August Skies, Peek Thru my Window** and **J'Adorn**, she has placed imaginative pieces throughout the living area.

*Continued on page 38*



**TOP:** One of Betty Ann's favourite kitchen gadgets is a unique pull-out lazy susan designed to hold large kitchen items like pots and pans. **LEFT:** The light neutral tones of the master bedroom allow the hardwood four-poster bed to take centre stage. **ABOVE:** Hidden behind this full-length mirror mounted on the master bedroom wall is a jewelry storage system, which features swinging earring racks and hidden compartments.



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

Air-Tech Mechanical • August Skies • Centre Grey Builders & Supplies • Country Charm Mennonite Furniture • Décor Design • DJ’s Handcrafted Solid Wood Furniture • Donna Harvey • Drywall by Phase V • Grey Bruce Paint & Décor • Habitat for Humanity Restore • HDTVandElectronics • Hutten & Co. Landscaping • Inside Ideas • J’Adorn • Life Style Kitchen & Bath Design Centre • Living Lighting • Peek Thru My Window • Markdale Home Hardware • Miller’s Home Hardware Building Centre • Moggie Valley Timber • Ofra Svorai • Smitty’s Fine Furniture • South Bruce Flooring • South Gate Cabinets • Sparling’s Propane • Square Deal Neil’s TV & Appliances • The Old Barn • The Water and Wellness Centre • Topnotch Furniture • Van Dolder’s Custom Exteriors • Wiarton Home Decor Centre

“I don’t make any money because I spend all my time in décor stores and end up coming home with these great pieces instead,” jokes Betty Ann.

If you peek inside the fire, you can see the master bedroom and its solid wood **Durham Furniture** bed from **Smitty’s Fine Furniture** on the other side. The bedroom is adorned with paintings by local artists, including **Jack Lumber**, **Donna Harvey** and **Ofra Svorai**. Hanging in the corner is another of Betty Ann’s gadgets: a sleek full-length mirror from **Country Charm Mennonite Furniture** that doubles as a hidden jewelry cabinet.



The lower level of the home contains Betty Ann’s workspace (computers and TV from **HDTVandElectronics**), two guest bedrooms (furniture from **DJ’s Handcrafted Solid Wood Furniture**), a laundry area and a garage. They hope to convert the garage into a playroom space for their young grandson when he’s a little older.

Leaving behind their lifelong farm may have been hard, but the Fawcetts only have to glance out their front window to see it in the distance.

“It must be tradition,” says Betty Ann. “When Allan’s dad bought our old farm in the 60s the previous owners moved down the road and built this house. Now we’ve bought the same house.” **OH**



**TOP:** This lower floor guest bedroom is a cosy and comfortable space for guests to unwind.  
**FAR LEFT:** An efficient gas fireplace heats the office, which features a French-inspired cream desk and glossy brown tile.  
**LEFT:** A bold washer and dryer set in red adds gusto to the bungalow’s laundry alcove.

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# THE HOME OF THE FUTURE

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**



IMAGE COURTESY OF REID'S HERITAGE HOMES

While many Canadians strive to keep their heating and hydro bills as low as possible, a small group of home builders is working to do away with these expenses altogether.

Five builders, two in Ontario and three in other provinces, have embarked on an experiment to build 25 homes that produce at least as much energy as they consume. Called Net Zero homes, they are extremely energy efficient. They've been around for years. Any home built off the grid could be considered a Net Zero home. But they've typically been custom-built, often at considerable expense, beyond the financial reach of all but the most dedicated energy misers.

Partnered with Owens Corning Canada LP, and with \$1.9 million from Natural Resources Canada, five selected builders will construct Net Zero homes using off-the-shelf equipment and materials. Their goal is to make these homes available to the mass market and to more homeowners than ever before. "It hasn't been tried in a production setting," says Candice Luck, director of strategy and programs for buildABILITY Corporation, the project manager. "We wanted to see whether Net Zero could be done in an affordable manner in a production setting and across Canada."

Builders Reid's Heritage Homes, of Guelph; Minto Communities, Ottawa; Mattamy Homes Limited, Calgary; Construction Voyer Laval, Quebec and Provident Development Inc., Halifax, were chosen for their track record in building energy-efficient homes, their expertise, drive and motivation to build leading-edge homes. "We wanted to make sure these houses are built for any homebuyer,

something that's aligned with their regular production design, something that they can possibly repeat in the future," says Luck.

Reid's Heritage Homes, which has built thousands of houses in southwestern Ontario, recently broke ground for the first of its five single-family Net Zero homes in Guelph. Blake Seeberger, the company's senior vice-president, estimates the first house will be finished by spring 2015. "We've had an overwhelming response from the general public," he says. "We have people lined up saying, 'How can I get one of these?'"

Seeberger expects Reid's will take the lessons learned in building these homes and apply them to future developments. "You have to have some kind of a test to work out the bugs, before you go out and build a community of 300 homes," he says. "You've got to be able to understand how best to build the home and make it affordable to the end user."

Ranging from 1,500 to 2,600 sq. ft., the Guelph homes will be built with high-efficiency, triple-pane windows, an air barrier system and thicker walls with added insulation. Extra insulation will be installed in the attic and below the basement floor. Homes will be equipped with solar panels to generate electricity, a cold climate air source heat pump instead of a furnace and a hybrid heat pump water heater. Owens Corning will provide the CodeBord™ air barrier system while Jeld-Wen® Windows and Doors, Canadian Solar Inc., Mitsubishi Electric Sales Canada

Inc. and Rheem® will supply other off-the-shelf technologies.

The technologies have to be readily available and affordable, something any other builder could buy, says Luck. "The builders are really trying to show the industry that this is feasible and hopefully drive the prices down on some of these technologies."

Seeberger estimates a two-storey, 2,000 sq. ft. Net Zero home will cost about \$60,000 more than a typical home of the same size. Solar panels, he says, would account for most of the added expense. Mortgaging that extra \$60,000 at today's interest rates would cost about \$300 a month, an outlay that could be offset with savings of \$3,000 to \$5,000 on annual energy bills. As energy-saving technologies become more popular and more widely used, Seeberger expects their costs will decline, just as prices for CD and DVD players dropped after those technologies became widespread and mass-produced.

He and Luck agree it's hard to predict how well these Net Zero homes will serve the individual families who live there. The lifestyles and energy-consumption habits of occupants will vary and determine whether these homes produce all the power they require. Reid's is working with the University of Guelph to monitor this aspect of the experiment. "We're trying to figure out what truly is the lifestyle and the load that we need to prepare for and how should we build those houses to offset those uses," Seeberger says.

Mattamy Homes is building five single family Net Zero homes in Calgary, Provident Development is building five in Halifax. In Ottawa, Minto will build one single family Net Zero home and a row of four townhouses, while Construction Voyer is building a two-storey, six-unit building in Quebec. All construction is expected to finish by 2016. **OH**



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Very early on in my 20+ year career I understood that just buying or selling stocks didn't make sense for my clients if the rest of their financial house was in disarray, carrying credit card balances for example. Wealth Management consultations with my clients now typically include discussions about:

**Where are you now? Where do you want to go from here? How are you going to get there? What unexpected events can happen along the way to throw you off course and how can we minimize their effects on you and your family?**

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It's important enough to do today. Contact me to book your Wealth Management consultation.

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people

# PAINT AWAY THE WINTER BLUES

STORY **JENNIFER SCHLEICH**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **STEVE SMALL**



Is the cold weather keeping you inside by the fire? What a great opportunity to refresh your walls and furniture with a new coat of paint or wallpaper.

## **DANA APONTE & ANNE MORROW** *Cuneo Interiors Carpet One Floor & Home*

**Wallpaper in the modern home:** Use wallpaper to make focal walls, which provide a pop in a room and can solve problems with walls that are difficult to decorate. We're also seeing the wall behind a fireplace or behind a bed papered.

**Patterns and styles:** The modern abstract look, country styles that include plaids, florals, rustics and farm patterns, and the classic damask or stripe are popular.

**How has wallpaper changed?** The best thing that's happened to improve wallpaper is the ease of removal from the wall. With the dry strippable alternative, it simply pulls away – so simple.

## **WAYNE BORLAND & JIM DRIEDGER** *The Paint & Woodcare Co. by Custom Soda Prep & Paint*

**Care for your stain:** Exterior wood needs to be kept clean in order to reduce damage from mould and mildew. We recommend applying a siding cleaner, followed by pressure washing, and applying a maintenance coat of stain.

**What's new?** One of the most exciting lines we offer is the Purity 0-VOC stains and interior finishes from Sansin Corp., which provide a scratch resistant "gymnasium" finish to floors, trim and doors.

**Your two company names?** The Paint & Woodcare Co. is the name of our retail store and Custom Soda Prep & Paint is the contracting side.

*Continued on page 48*



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**CORINNE ROBERTSON-BROWN**  
*J'Adorn*

**What is Chalk Paint?** Chalk Paint™ by Annie Sloan is a versatile paint for use on nearly any surface with minimal prep. Created in England in 1990, her 31 colours can be mixed into hundreds of pigments.

**What's new?** A burgundy colour is now available and Annie's new book "Annie Sloan's Room Recipes for Style and Colour" is also now available at J'Adorn.

**Chalk Paint Workshops:** Our customers look to us for statement pieces that are unique, so we have always sought interesting patinas and finishes. We are thrilled our customers can now learn to create them through our workshops.



**ROBERT MAYERHOFER**  
*Robert Mayerhofer Ltd.*

**What services do you offer?** We provide interior and exterior residential painting and decorating, including wallpaper hanging and wood finishing. We also specialize in faux finishes, stencilling and gilding.

**Best tip:** A well-crafted paint job is one of the best investments you can make in your home.

**What's your colour?** My favourite colours are the calm, cool hues of blue and green.



**RUTH & BRUCE MARTIN**  
*Martin's Home Hardware*

**How to pick the right paint:** What are you painting? Our staff will ask customers the proper questions about their project to recommend the right products.

**What's new in colour?** Greys and whites are still holding strong. These neutral colours allow people to add boldly coloured accents and accessories.

**Do you have a designer in-house?** Yes, we always have one or two colour consultants in the store. **OH**

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# SUN-FILLED LEMON CHUTNEY

STORY AND PHOTOS **PAT CROCKER**



This chutney gets better and better over time. In fact, it is best when “aged” from four to six months. Whether you make it for the holidays for gifts or wait until the new year, this tangy grill-buddy is perfect for summer barbecue season. Its spicy, rich marmalade flavour lends zest to grilled vegetables, fish and chicken. Don’t be put off by the overnight macerating of the rind, flesh and salt because it’s easy: all you do is peel and chop the lemons, combine with salt, cover and let sit overnight.

Because I like this chutney to have extra heat for grilled foods, I add either dried chipotle or hot red pepper flakes, but you can omit these if you wish. Use a small, heavy spice mortar and pestle – mine is cast iron – or a rolling pin to crush the seeds and a micro-grater to grate the fresh ginger.

## LEMON CHUTNEY

Makes 4 cups (1 L)	½ cup (125 mL) cider vinegar
8 thick-skin lemons, scrubbed	1 tbsp (15 mL) freshly grated gingerroot
2 tbsp (25 mL) pickling or Kosher salt	1 dried cayenne pepper, crushed
4 large cloves garlic, minced	1 tsp (5 mL) ground cardamom
½ cup (125 mL) dried currants	1 tsp (5 mL) crushed coriander
½ cup (125 mL) chopped dried apricots	½ tsp (2 mL) dried hot red pepper flakes, optional
½ cup (125 mL) freshly squeezed lemon juice	2 cups (500 mL) +2 tbsp (25 mL) packed brown sugar

- **Peel:** Using a vegetable peeler, remove the zest from the lemons, being careful not to include the white pith. Finely chop the zest. Using a paring knife, cut away and discard the white pith from around the lemons. Coarsely chop the lemons, discarding the seeds.
- **Combine:** In a non-reactive bowl, combine the zest, lemons and salt. Cover with a clean cloth and set aside in a cool place overnight.
- **Cook:** In a Maslin pan or large saucepan, combine macerated lemon mixture, garlic, currants, apricots, lemon juice, vinegar,

ginger, cayenne, cardamom, coriander and hot pepper flakes. Bring to a light simmer over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and stir in the brown sugar. Stir constantly until the sugar is dissolved.

- **Simmer:** Adjust the heat to keep the mixture at a regular simmer and cook, frequently stirring for 30 to 45 minutes, or until the mixture becomes thick and mounds on a wooden spoon.
- **Jar:** Meanwhile, place four, 1 cup (250 mL) Mason-type jars in a canning kettle. Cover with water and bring to a boil. Place 4 flat lids in a saucepan and pour boiling water over, set aside.
- **Fill:** Skim and discard any foam on chutney. Fill hot jars one at a time, leaving a ¼ inch (0.5 cm) headspace. Wipe rims with a clean cloth, top jars with flat lids and screw on metal rings. Return jars to the hot water bath, topping up with hot water if necessary to bring the water one inch (2.5 cm) over the tops of the jars. Cover the canner, bring water to a full rolling boil and keep boiling for 10 minutes.
- **Cool:** Turn the heat off, remove canner lid and wait 5 minutes before removing jars to a towel or rack to cool completely. Check seals, label and store in a cool place for up to one year.
- **Use:** Once it has “aged” for a month or more, serve Lemon Chutney right from the jar with baked whitefish (as shown), trout or salmon. You can also mix 1 cup (250 mL) with 3 tbsp (45 mL) chopped capers for a flavourful and different tartar sauce. Mix with orange juice or an equal amount of yogurt and coat chicken before baking. Mix ¼ cup (50 mL) chutney with the same amount of soy sauce and use as a sauce for stir-fried foods. Serve as a condiment for cooked chicken, cold cuts of meat and with a cheese platter or over brie, cream cheese or goat cheese. **OH**



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STORY AND PHOTOS **TARA CHATTELL**

# LIGHTBULB ORNAMENTS



Don't toss your burnt-out light bulbs – re-use them to create adorable decorations for the holidays. They make a unique, handmade gift. Fill them, wrap them or paint them!

**FILL:** When your bulbs are empty, fill them with anything you like. We've used crystals, pearls, lace, paper confetti and curled paper. To make the paper confetti, simply use a hole-punch and some pretty, decorative papers. For curled paper, cut the paper into thin strips and curl with scissors. You'll need to wind your strips tightly around a pen or wood skewer to get them through the neck of the bulb.

**WRAP:** Wrapping your bulbs is quite simple and they don't have to be empty. We've chosen to wrap ours with twine and yarn.

Start with a dab of hot glue at the base of the metal neck and attach one end of your twine or yarn. Continue wrapping and gluing until the entire bulb is covered.

**PAINT:** For the painted bulb you'll need some multi-surface or glass paint in the colours of your choice. Once your bulb has been emptied, squeeze in some paint, cover the opening with your finger and shake the bulb until the paint has coated the entire inside. Hold the bulb upside-down over a paper towel and tap out any excess paint. Leave to dry over night.

To finish off your ornaments, attach a hanger. We've chosen wire and twine. You can also paint any exposed metal necks that have not been wrapped with twine. For your filled ornaments, you'll need to close off the tops to prevent the filling from spilling out. Wrap the twine around the top, attaching with some hot glue as you go along.

Display your creations for all to enjoy this holiday season. **OH**



online

Visit our [ourhomes.ca/mag/orns](http://ourhomes.ca/mag/orns) for a link to a great video tutorial that will guide you through the steps of emptying a light bulb.

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