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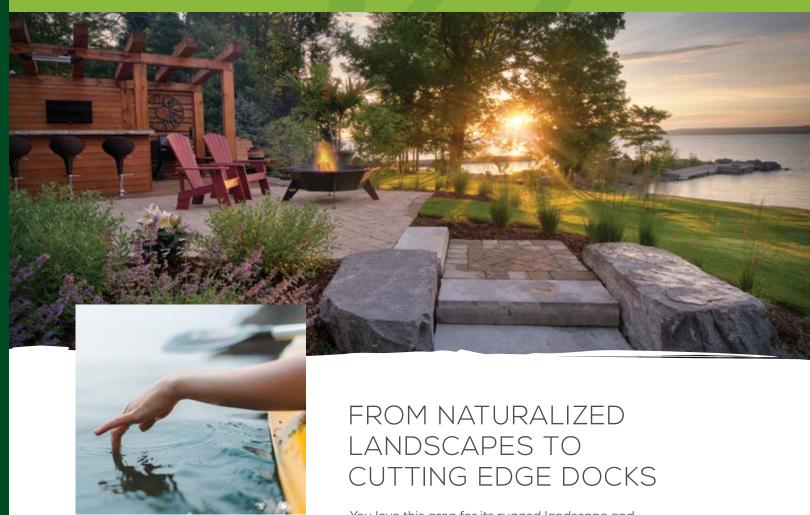
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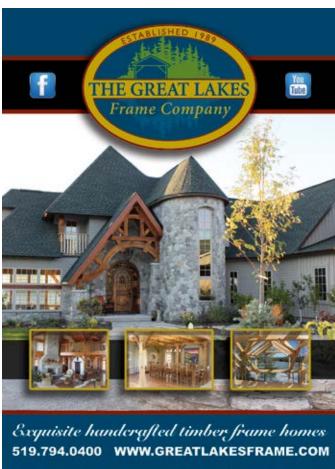
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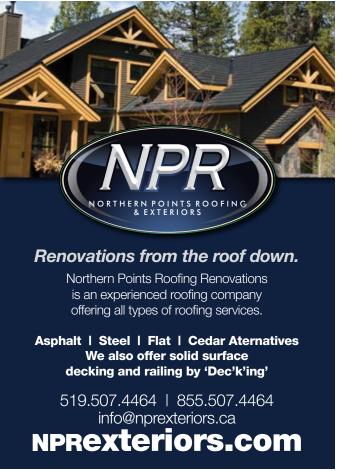
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editor's note



AS I WRITE THIS, my husband and I are in the thick of building our new home and here's what I've learned so far:

There are about 20 times more decisions to make than I thought there were!

I thought I had a pretty good idea of the decisions involved, as I go

through this process all the time with clients, but there's something about the first-hand experience that has shifted my perspective and understanding entirely.

For me, I felt pressure setting out to build our forever home: the responsibility to get everything right, decisions we'll have to live with for the long term, and I also wanted to avoid mistakes as there is not much do-over cushion in our tight budget.

I became mired in the details, stressed and a victim of decision fatigue. I was overthinking and struggling when making simple decisions. My husband Greg, although very helpful when it comes to execution, is not overly helpful when it comes to decision making (my theory is that he doesn't want to be the one held responsible!).

Then one day, exhausted from juggling a few too many balls, I realized I couldn't sustain the energy it was taking to get it all "right." We may only be building a new house once in this lifetime - and when I look back, I want the memory to be primarily a light and fun experience.

So, I've decided to redirect all the energy I spent worrying into what I advise my clients to do: focus on how you want your home to FEEL. When walking in the front door, how do you want people to feel? When sitting around the table at Thanksgiving dinner, when cosied up on the sofa watching a movie in the rain, when your head hits the pillow each night, how do you want people to feel?

My answer is simple: I want people to feel welcome and comfortable. The same feeling I can so easily recall from my Town Grandma's house (we called her that because she lived in town). No matter what time of day or what day of the week, no matter if she was home or not - you were always made to feel welcome and comfortable.

If you're building, renovating or simply redecorating for the season, give it a try and ask yourself the question.

Cheers to a cosy fall,

tamarisk Minalty Stophers

Tamarisk McNalty Stephens, Managing Editor tamarisk.mcnaltystephens@ourhomes.ca

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Traditional details flourish in an extraordinary Hanover home. Story, page 64. Photography by Valerie Wilcox.



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advice



COUNTERTOPPERPLEXITY

Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.

Planning a new kitchen or bathroom? Confused by the many counter choices? Have you gone from enthused to confused? Let's see if we can clear up your countertop perplexity.

WHAT IS YOUR COUNTERTOP PERSONALITY?

What kind of surface fits your lifestyle? Is it easy to maintain? What is your budget? Digging deep into these questions will get you closer to the right solution for you.

POPULAR CHOICES

While there are a variety of materials, we'll review the most popular choices:

NATURAL STONE: Including granite, marble and soapstone. Stone is mined from the earth. Granite is granular with sparkle. Marble has its flamboyant veining while soapstone has a matte finish and old-world charm. Granite and marble are porous and must be sealed regularly to prevent staining and moisture retention. Soapstone feels soft but is durable and doesn't stain. It should be sealed with mineral oil.

MAN MADE: As seen in plastic laminate, quartz and large format ceramic tile.

Plastic laminate is perfect for the budget conscious. Known under brand names such as Arborite, Formica or Wilson Art, it is hard plastic sheeting glued to plywood. It comes in a variety of designs from plain to fanciful. Sinks and faucets must over mount and have a water-tight seal, otherwise water will leak and will warp or rot the plywood. The edging and backsplash can be made in one piece. Countertops are available from most fabricators and large box hardware stores.



ARBORITE: Topografik Clay

Quartz is a mix of natural quartz, resins and colouring agents. Common brands include Cambria, Corian Quartz, Ceasarstone and Silestone. They can imitate the pattern of stone or come in various colours to reflect your unique décor. It is non-porous, does not require a sealant and is low maintenance. Since it is a resin mix, you cannot put a hot pot directly on the counter. You must use a trivet.



Large format tiles are non-porous, ceramic-slab tiles. Brands such as Laminam by Stone Tile come in a standard size of 64-by-128 and a





MATTE OR SHINY FINISH

Shiny surfaces can cause extreme glare and eye strain and because of that, matte surfaces are gaining in popularity. Historically, designers have been big fans of matte surfaces for a soft, sophisticated look that minimizes fingerprints and smudges.

COST

Costs for counters can vary wildly. With quartz in particular, cost is affected by the quality of the quartz stone being used, the method of manufacturing (some use fillers such as sand), country of origin and photo reproduction quality of the pattern. Ask for a specification sheet outlining all the ingredients to know what you are buying.

Other expenses include installation fees, location of the project, thickness of material, edge details and the number of cut-outs required. Generally, 90 per cent of your cost is designated to labour and 10 per cent to raw material.

Large format tiles are comparable to quartz. Granite, marble, soapstone and basic quartz are now similar in price.

FOOD SAFETY

When preparing food on counters, always use a separate cutting board and clean up with a mixture of vinegar and water to disinfect the counter.

NEW AND NOTABLE

DuPont's Corian is now offering a charging surface that can power up your devices wirelessly. A transmitter is embedded under the counter. Just plug a charging ring into your device, place it on the counter and recharge your battery.



Now that we've cleared up your countertop questions, have you gone from confused to enthused? он









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COMFORT and STYLE

PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA

As the leaves turn and the air becomes crisp, fall offers the perfect time to warm up your décor for the months ahead.



BRUTON'S DECORATING

Blinds

The Silhouette Duolite by Hunter Douglas offers maximum light control and privacy by combining the traditional Silhouette shade with a separate and independently operating room-darkening roller shade tucked behind it.

279 10th St., Hanover 519.364.5080 | brutonsdecorating.com

2 GREY BRUCE PAINT & DÉCOR

Pillows

A small change can make a big impact. Swapping out your throw pillows each season is a great and simple way to revamp your colour scheme and add flair to your space. The more the merrier!

1580 20th St. E., Owen Sound 519.371.4207 | greybrucepaint.com

3 KOUNTRY KAT

Vintage China

Sharing the bounty of Ontario's harvest with family and friends is one of the most wholesome and nourishing parts of fall. Serve it on vintage china to add an extra element of charm and nostalgia to any meal.

157 Garafraxa St. S., Durham 226.432.3005 | kountrykat.com

EXQUISITE WOOD DESIGNS INC.

Cabinetry

Create a space that is full of personality. Imagine custom cabinetry in white snake wood, quartered ebony or high gloss metallic with orange flowers. Add hardware in a finish of your choice and a bold countertop in warm autumn colours like Cambria's Aberdeen.

1980 20t St. E., Owen Sound 519.370.0808 | ewdesigns.ca

5 TOPNOTCH FURNITURE

Stool

This comfortable tractor-seat, swivel stool has been reimagined with sleek modern lines. Shown in a wormy maple finished in a lovely and warm gunstock walnut stain. It can also be customized to suit your taste.

89446 Fordwich Line, Gorrie 519.335.3213 | topnotchfurniture.com

O DÉCOR DESIGN

Basket & Rug

Layering textures is key to creating a warm and inviting space. A woven rug will keep your toes warm and a basket is not only decorative but also a great place to store extra throw blankets.

299 8th St. E., Owen Sound 519.370.0770 | decordesign.ca **0H**





20 | ourhomes FALL 2018

Aplace for THANKS

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY TARA CHATTELL



Set your Thanksgiving table with paper placemats to help express gratitude. Here are three ways to use simple paper doilies and printable templates.

TOOLS & MATERIALS

Large paper doilies (we used 14-inch doilies)

Paper (we used white or kraft paper)

X-Acto knife or scissors

Paint (optional; we used gold

Foam paintbrush (optional)

Pens or pencils

your family and friends

Placemat template

Printer

craft paint)

Glue (optional)

Continued on page 24





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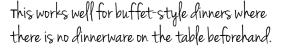




crafty ideas













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t press time, we are not sure whether anyone else will take over the Abusiness, or whether we will simply be closing the doors for good, but whatever happens, we want to say THANK YOU.

hey say "it takes a village" and in our case that has certainly I proven true. It has been an exciting learning experience for us since 2009, when we had the germ of an idea, and we cherish all the support and encouragement from everyone who helped us - other retailers in Kincardine, our can't-live-without-them staff (past and present), our mentors, Elke and Renée, all our unique and ever-helpful suppliers, advertisers and industry friends, the wonderful community of Annie Sloan stockists around the world. Annie herself, our Chalk Paint™ clients and students, and above all - all our customers (and customers who became friends!) from Kincardine and literally all over the world: without YOU. there would have been no J'Adorn.

We thank you all for this unforgettable chapter in our lives.

On to new adventures - and see you downtown! - Corinne & Bill

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CRAFT ROOM ent of the story and design lisa canning photography dann tardif

DESIGNER LISA CANNING OF LISA CANNING INTERIORS HAS CREATED A VIBRANT AND FUN CRAFT ROOM FOR A CREATIVE CLIENT.

Canning offers tips on how you can turn your crafty dreams into the ultimate room for your DIYs.

KEEP IT COLOURFUL If you can't have fun with colour in a craft room, where can you have fun? In this case, we went with a beautiful teal called Sylvan Mist by Benjamin Moore. It's soft and inviting but definitely saturated enough to be whimsical and playful. I think it's also a really fun accent to the MDF tongue and groove we applied to the walls from Metrie.

I added a bit of colour with the cabinet hardware. I selected cast bronze knobs in bright bronze from Shayne Fox Hardware, adding a pop of contrast against the white cabinets. The bold stools are from Wayfair and I incorporated more colour in accessories – paper clips, pens and a feather-shaped pen holder – all from HomeSense.

Craft rooms get messy. For this reason, I wanted a really durable, but beautiful floor. I used ErthCovering's Tivoli natural stone plank, which has the texture of wood but the durability and liquid resistance of stone.

And because it is a craft room, including a sink makes so much sense. We used the Delta Cassidy faucet in the Champagne Bronze Finish. It has Touch20 technology. That means that when your hands are full of glitter, simply tap anywhere on the faucet when the handle is in the on position and the water flows. I also love the pull-down spout.

KEEP IT COSY This room is in the basement adjacent to the backyard entrance and as a result, it is cold and drafty, especially in the winter. To keep it cosy, we put in the Celeste stove by Dimplex. My favourite thing about this electric fireplace is just how portable and easy to install it is. A pop of colour in this carpet from HomeSense completes this cosy vignette. And to help with that exterior draft, we replaced the window with an Energy Star rated, top quality vinyl window in white by Fieldstone Windows, and finished it off with Metrie's Very Square casing to keep the details contemporary.



KEEP IT PERSONAL A craft room is where you can get really fun and personal. This homeowner loves the outdoors and essential oils! So I worked with Posterjack to create all of the artwork in the room using personal photos to create unique pieces.

KEEP IT ORGANIZED Keeping craft supplies organized really is the key to an ultimate craft room. The best solution to this, hands down, is strategic storage cabinetry. I partnered with Tailored Living on this project. They provide all the tools to create effective storage solutions that will help you meet your organizational goals. In a craft room, this means a combination of shallow drawers for small items like essential oils and paper, base cabinets for tall bottles and jars, and tall cabinets for rolls of wrapping paper and banners. OH



graphy. In 2016 she made the decision to allow Krystal Klear to grow into what it is today. The

edits her design flair to an early exposure to creativity. That passion grew over time as she was led by multi-talented family members who all shared, and continue to share, a love of inspirational rces, design, decor and all forms of creativity. Knowing the importance of creating appealing spaces potential buyers, she eagerly assists sellers in gaining a competitive advantage in today's market. Il-staged homes sell faster and for more money. She can assist with both occupied and vacant properties.



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STORY MEHREEN SHAHID | ILLUSTRATION SHEILA BRITTON

THE DOS AND HOME DON'TS OF **INSURANCE**

THE CARDINAL RULE OF **HOME INSURANCE: BUY IT!**



"That increases the value of the house," he says. "If you don't tell the insurance company about it, they may say, 'since you weren't paying the premium for that item, we won't pay you the amount to replace it."

- O Do make a list of valuable items you have, Karageorgos says. Documenting assets helps the claims process go smoothly. "Most folks have smartphones with cameras, and it's easy to take photos of your rooms, cupboards, closets and your storage areas," he says. "A lot of times when we're faced with making insurance claims, we may forget what we've had in storage."
- ② Don't assume everything you own is automatically covered in your policy. "Most policies will cover a home for fire, wind and theft, but things such as power surges may not be covered," Karageorgos says.
- O Do check to see if you will need an additional personal articles policy. "Understand there may be specific sub-limits for items, such as jewelry, sports equipment or stamps you've collected," he says. "You may want to look into having these covered separately."
- O Do check for specific events for which you're covered when reviewing a policy. "More and more, we're seeing severe weather events in our communities," Karageorgos says, adding that customers calling the IBC's help centre say they are caught offquard when their dwelling is affected by a natural disaster, such as flooding or a storm. "Reality is, we're seeing a shift in weather patterns and we're trying to meet those needs."

For example, he says, when areas in Calgary were flooded a few years ago, insurance companies weren't paying to cover for the

"Now, they are," he says. "This coverage also applies to septic systems. If those overflow, insurance companies are offering sewer back-up coverage."



- Open look into taking steps to protect the house. For example, insurance companies may determine premiums based on the distance of the dwelling from the shoreline, Karageorgos says.
- "Sometimes the insurance company may ask you if you have a safety measure, such as a sump pump," he says. "Look at what you can do to minimize the risk. Make sure the grading around the property isn't such that water flows into your house, but is pushed away from the house. Make sure there aren't any issues with the foundation. You could (also) look into getting a home alarm system," he adds.
- Op repairs regularly, don't think that just because you have insurance that it will act as a maintenance policy. If items that wear and tear and have a specific period of usefulness break down, you may not get the type of claims response you were expecting.
- Do check that your policy covers additional living expenses, which pays if families are forced to leave their home, due to a fire
- ② Don't assume your landlord's insurance will cover your valuables, too. Home insurance isn't only for homeowners; renters should also look at buying a policy.
 - "As a tenant, you're responsible for covering your own items," he says. "It also helps cover you for liability, in case of a fire or another event," Karageorgos says.
 - Liability coverage also protects against being sued by visitors if they are injured on the property.
- O Do review your deductible. "Adjusting your deductible is important; maybe increase it to have a smaller premium," says Karageorgos, adding another insurance do is to look at bundling home insurance with other insurance policies, such as auto and life.

General guidance is available through IBC's help centre, which can be reached at ibc.ca or by calling 1.844.227.5422. он

Water damage happens.

50% of all home insurance claims come from water damage, that's why it's important to discuss coverage options with your broker.

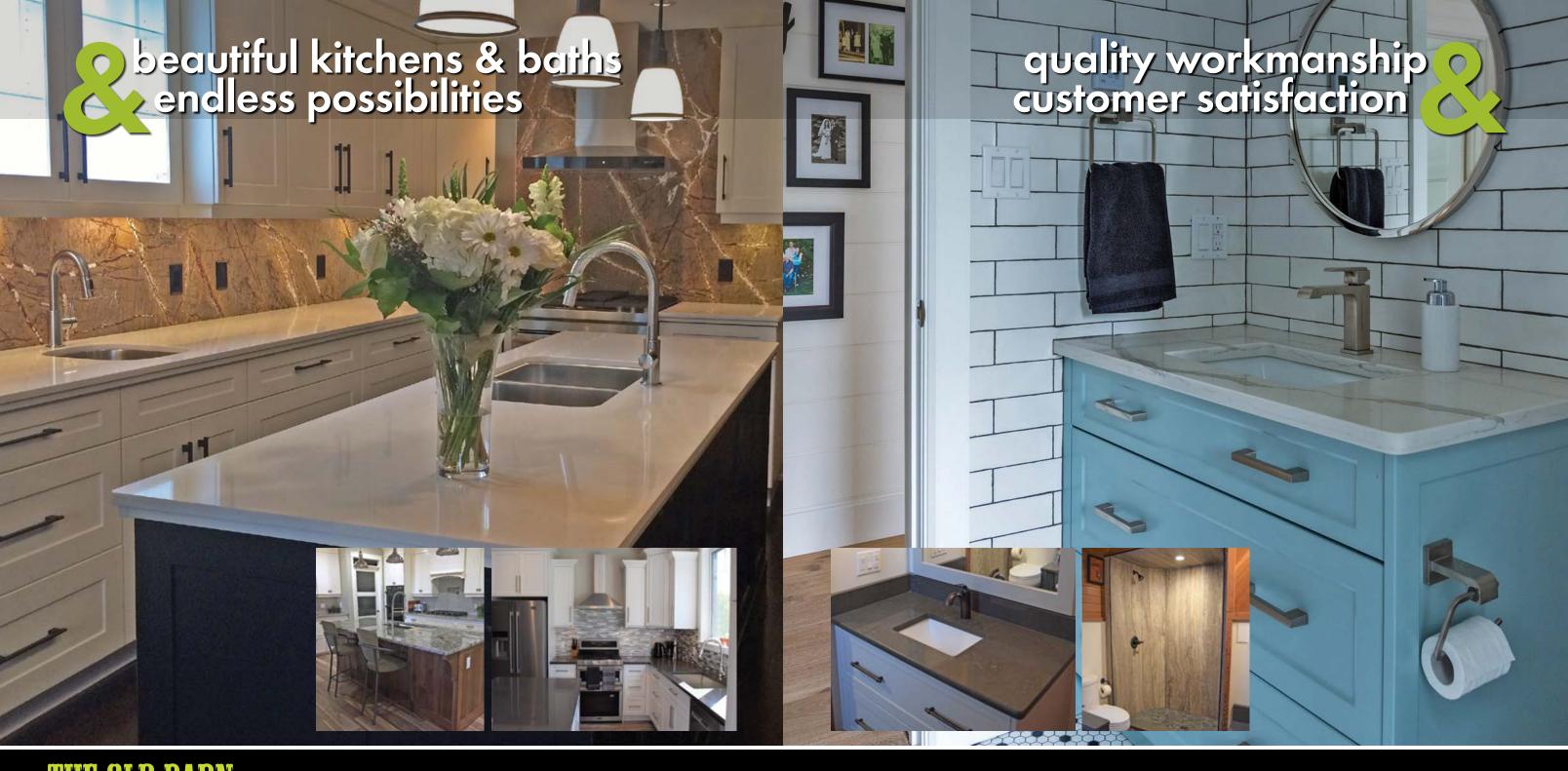
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THE OLD BARN





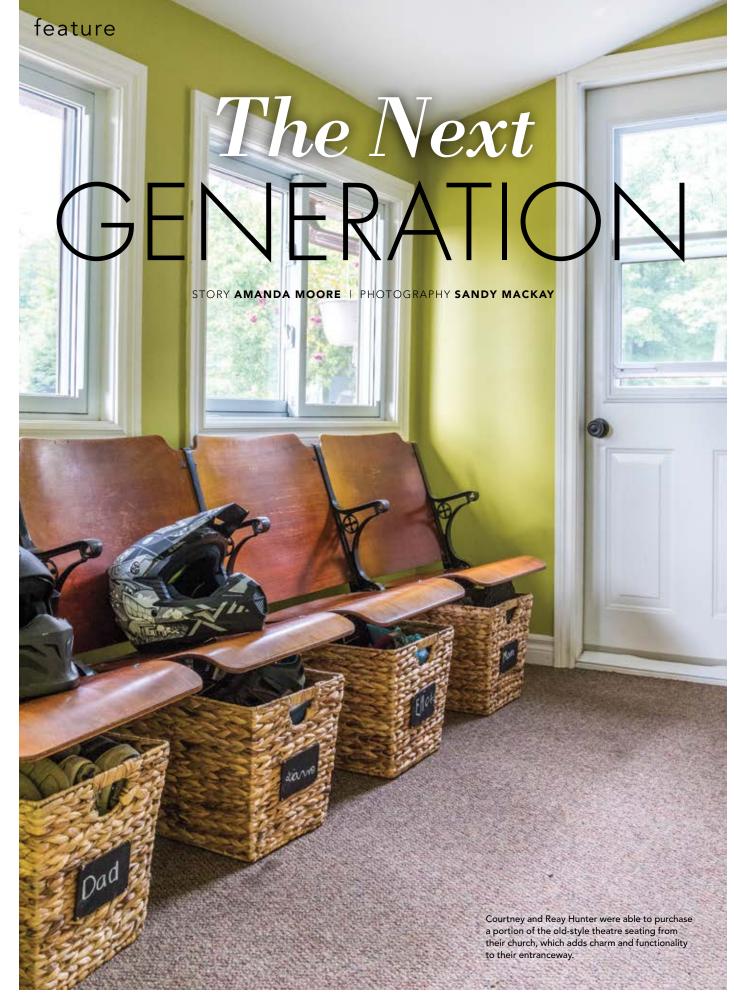








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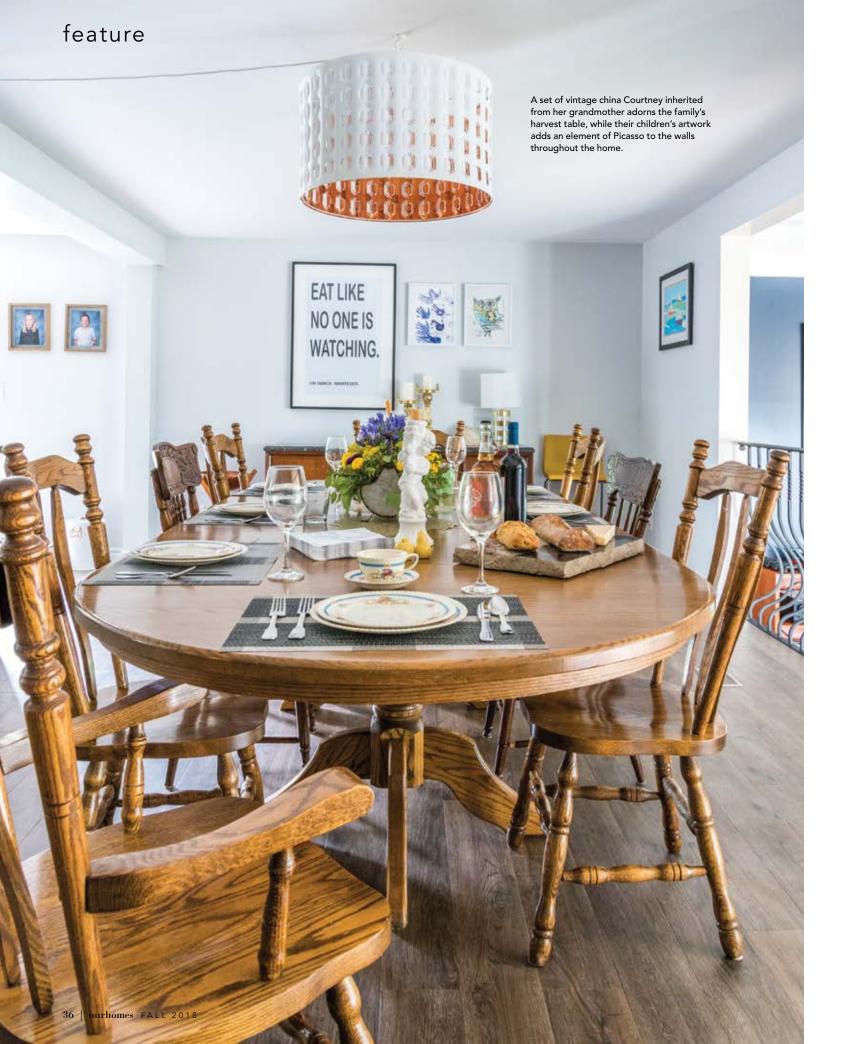
The neutral exterior is accented with a new front door in a lively red hue.





Functionality was a key theme while Reay and Courtney Hunter renovated the family homestead in Hanover. Continued on page 37

LEFT: A dark blue wall is the perfect backdrop to the bright yellow desk and a painting of the Ayton Mill by Courtney's mom Jan Croghan. ABOVE: A lovely greeting each time the family steps inside. MIDDLE: Reay and Courtney with children Liam and Elliott in front of the family's 1978 Firebird Esprit, which has just the right amount of patina to suit their tastes. TOP: The exterior was recently updated with new garage doors with a sleek and modern profile.





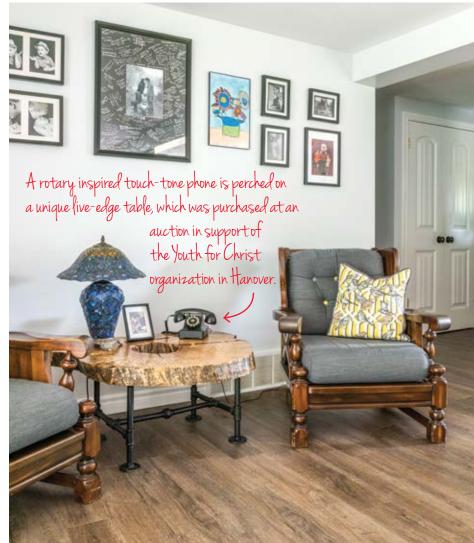
Reay is the third generation in his family to put down roots in what was once a double-wide mobile home. The ranch-style home is now completely unrecognizable from how it appears in the old photograph that hangs in the brightly-painted, closed-in breezeway.

The 2,500 sq. ft. open-concept home offers plenty of functional space for the couple, their two children Liam and Elliott and the family dog, Bruce. It's a place to showcase and enjoy unique treasures collected over the years and unwind after a long day at The Old Barn Polished **Stone Creations**, the family business.

Reay's parents, Ted and Brenda, completely gutted the home after purchasing it in 2004, putting an addition on the front as well as relocating the basement staircase and finishing the lower level. Reay recalls it used to be a hassle to go downstairs, having to maneuver around the awkward staircase when his grandparents lived there. With the major work completed, Reay and Courtney just had to put their personal stamp on the home after taking over ownership from his parents two years ago.

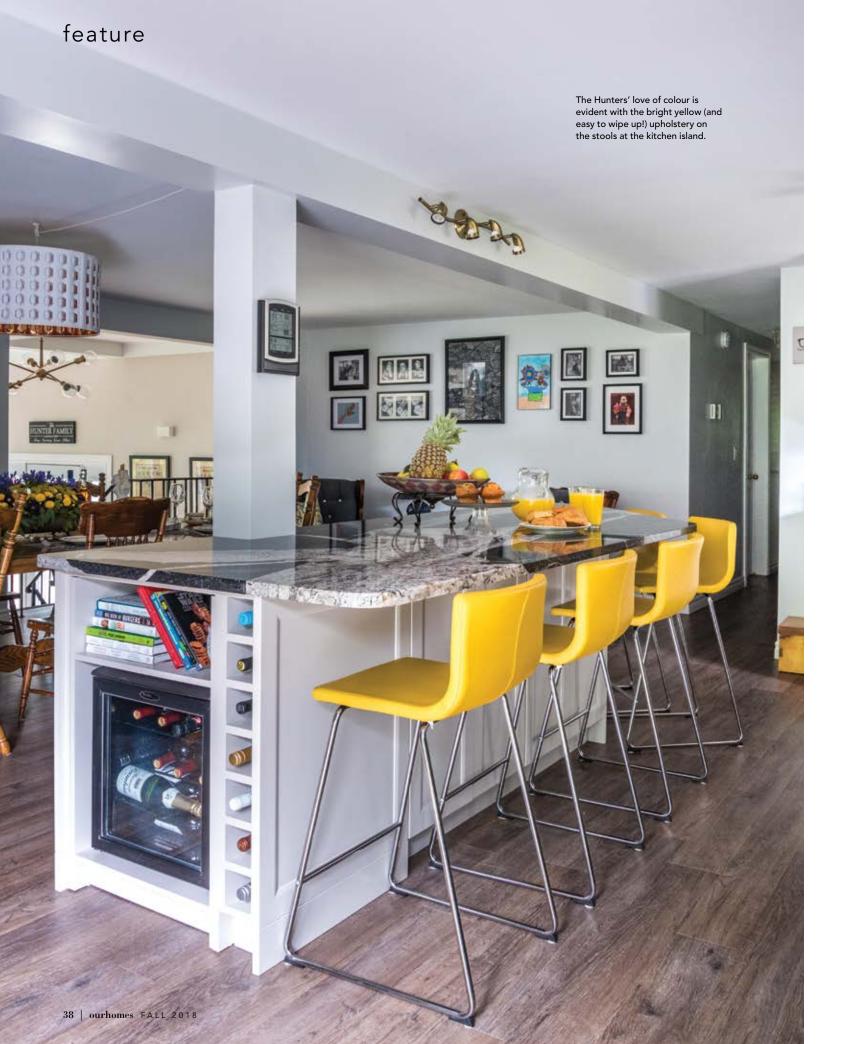
New and old seamlessly blend together in every room of the house. The couple have collected a lot of treasures over the years from relatives, antique stores and auctions.

"We love reusing old things," says Courtney, seated at the large dining table, which they purchased from family friends. "A lot of older furniture and décor is really funky." Continued on page 39



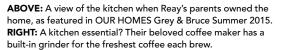


ABOVE: A chair from Courtney's godfather has been reupholstered to create the perfect spot for a good book and a hot cup of tea. TOP: The sideboard was an amazing vintage find and has been customized with a new granite top. The family loves Caesar salad and this bowl doesn't occupy table space (and is a decorative piece on its stand when not in use).



Just a glimpse into Courtney's vast collection of salt and pepper shakers.





More antiques are found on either side of the grand table, which can seat 16, enough for the entire Hunter family to sit down for a holiday meal. To one side is a vintage sideboard found at an antique store to which the Hunters added a granite top. Opposite the sideboard are two large, wooden chairs which have been given a modern facelift. The chairs were weddings gifts Ted and Brenda received 44 years ago. Reay and Courtney had Cocoon Interiors of Fergus reupholster the cushions in a deep blue, which goes with the colour scheme in the open living area.

The biggest change happened in the kitchen. Reay and Courtney reconfigured the island and dining room to open up the space and they also added new cabinetry.

"We wanted something very open," says

Courtney, noting she loves hosting family gatherings, especially over Thanksgiving. "We wanted to be able to be in the kitchen and still see people in the living room."

Reay designed the space himself and chose **Bruce County Custom Cabinets** to complete the work. The Hunters looked no further than their own backyard for the perfect granite countertops to achieve the modern look they were after. Along with purchasing the home in 2016, Reay and Courtney also took over The Old Barn. They selected Black Horse, a black stone with chunky streaks of lighter stone running throughout, to accent the Absolute Black granite around the perimeter.

The couple chose a light grey paint colour by **Benjamin Moore** for the kitchen and dining area and durable Vintage

Timberwolf luxury vinyl plank flooring from **Cuneo Interiors**.

"We really love this space," Courtney says.
"The openness and functionality of it."

The kitchen area looks down over the grand living room. The couple hired **Eric Hopkins Ltd.** to add dimension to the space by installing a coffered ceiling. This is where the family relaxes, enjoying their shared love of music. When they met, Reay worked in radio and Courtney at a record store. The couple's love of music is evident from the posters (framed by **Chrissy Rands** of **Framed**) gracing the walls in the living room and lower level of the home. A state-of-the-art sound system from **HDTV** and **Electronics** enables the family to listen to their favourites without compromising on sound quality.

Continued on page 40







Next up is a custom wall unit by **BL Duncan Woodworking** to showcase their massive record collection as well as Reay's Nintendo Entertainment System collection.

"We really wanted to show our love of music," Reay says. "We have music on all the time. We really enjoy it."

A navy accent wall adds a touch of modern drama to the room which is brightly lit by the large windows and front entry door from **Georgian Bay Window and Door**.

A few steps down takes you to the kids' area of the home, which is also a second entertaining space. A custom built-in by BL Duncan Woodworking allows the family to showcase their vast book collection as well as an action movie VHS collection Courtney inherited from her grandmother. Granite countertops create two working areas for

the children to do their schoolwork.

"It's nice to be able to show off our collection," says Courtney, "rather than keep everything in boxes."

A large grey sectional from **Smitty's Fine Furniture** allows the family to cosy up in front of the granite fireplace (Muskoka Tides from The Old Barn) and enjoy a movie. The family's love of Star Wars is evident in the chosen wall hangings, which also include band posters from the couple's teenage days.

One of their most unique antiques is housed in this room – a chest of drawers that has passed through five generations of the Hunter family so far. When Reay received the piece from a cousin it was accompanied by a written history of the family artifact and a list of owners. Their son Liam is the seventh generation, and the last name written on the list so far. Continued on page 42

ABOVE: Two homework stations were integrated into the custom shelving unit in the lower level. RIGHT: The beauty of granite (as opposed to quartz) is that it can be utilized as a fireplace surround because it can withstand the high temperatures. TOP RIGHT: Liam and Elliott mastering vintage video games in the family's primary gathering area. TOP LEFT: Showcasing the curves and inlays that can be accomplished with quartz, a custom coffee table top was created to mimic a Nintendo controller. In the background is the chest of drawers that has been treasured for generations, and there are plans to restore the vintage cash desk on top to use in the business.





Liam's room is painted a bright green (Benjamin Moore's Martini Olive, the same as in the breezeway) while Elliott chose a vibrant purple (Crocus Petal Purple by Benjamin Moore) for her bedroom. The bedrooms are typical of young children, showcasing their interests while also continuing on the theme of old and new. Elliott has a newer bed frame with a dresser and vanity from the 1940s, more family antiques.

The master suite is located on the main floor of the home. It is a simple yet relaxing space for the couple to unwind after a long day at work, which is situated on the same property. The walls are a rich blue (Benjamin Moore's Blue Danube) with black accents, including a tallboy and dresser from Durham Furniture. Continued on page 44



liam's collectibles and memorabilia proudly on display.









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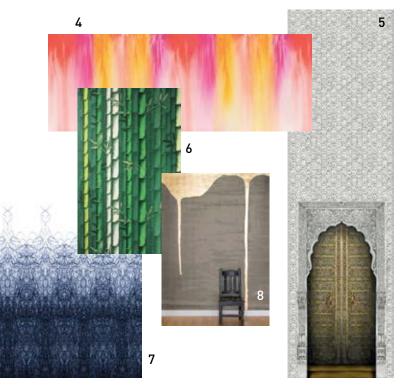
10 WAYS TO GO





STORY YANIC SIMARD

In interior design, choosing the right scale is always important – and sometimes bigger really is better! Here are my top 10 ways in the home to consider going BIG with your décor choices to create a strong statement and a generous sense of luxury.



Light Fixtures

Oversize lights add big drama and character to elevate the look of an entire space. This is especially true when you mix the scale of a grand chandelier with a modern shape to create an unexpected effect.

For a sense of balance, try a large pendant fixture with an airy form that includes a lot of clear glass or negative space, like an angular fixture. The silhouette is can't-miss-it big, but the look isn't overwhelming.

Floor lamps with a 24-inch shade or larger match the scale of a large piece of furniture like a bed or sofa, giving the whole grouping a sense of weight. Using simple drum or cone shades in a solid neutral colour makes sure the look is strong but not too heavy.

1. ZANEEN: 39-inch Willy 100 Suspension Light in Black 2. TROY LIGHTING: Uni in Tide Pool Bronze 3. MOOOI: Random Light in White

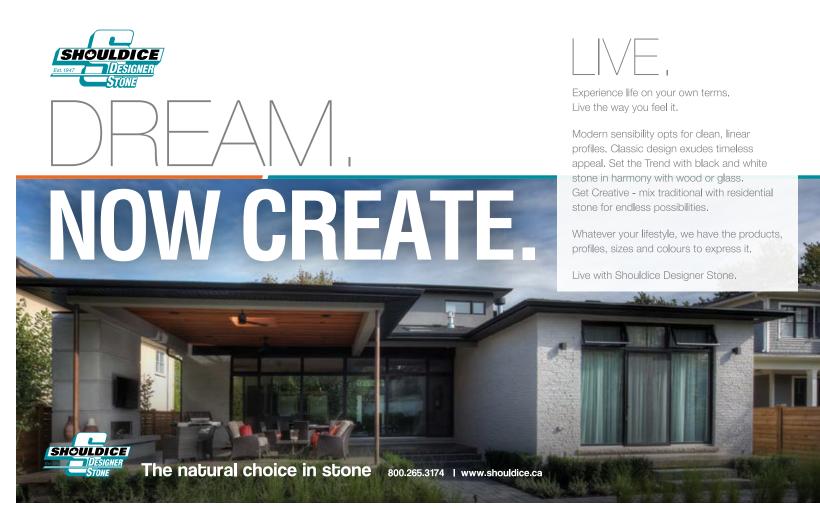
Patterns & Papers

In the digital era the options for patterns and even custom prints are virtually endless. Rather than playing it safe, consider using a paper or wallcovering with a large-scale pattern, one that you can see without having to stare at a wall up close.

Love a wallpaper with a large print but don't want to overwhelm the room? Such a wall covering is perfect for a single accent wall, paired with neutral paint for the remaining, creating a dramatic focal point in a balanced way.

When choosing a large-scale print for wall coverings, , look for ones with light backgrounds that can be matched to a nearby wall colour. This helps create a seamless effect and a sense of depth, which avoids visually shrinking the room.

4. ROLLOUT: Colourinky Wallpaper 5. COLE & SON: Bahia Wallpaper 6. OSBORNE & LITTLE: Bamboo W7025-01 Wallpaper 7. ROLLOUT: Ballpoint Pen Wallpaper 8. CALICO WALLPAPER: Satori Mountain Wallpaper







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design ideas

Seating

Seating is definitely an area where quality should not be ignored for the sake of quantity. It is often better to have fewer bar stools or dining chairs in a generous size that people will truly want to use.

Regardless of the size of the seat you choose, a person needs 24 to 30 inches of width to dine comfortably. Choosing wide seats (24 inches or more) ensures each guest has enough space reserved, while giving your island or table a rich, filled-in look.

In a living or family room, use a wide, plush sectional sofa to create a comfortable environment for day-to-day lounging. Even in a small space, a large sofa will make a room feel grand, and you'll be able to fit in a few extra quests when entertaining.

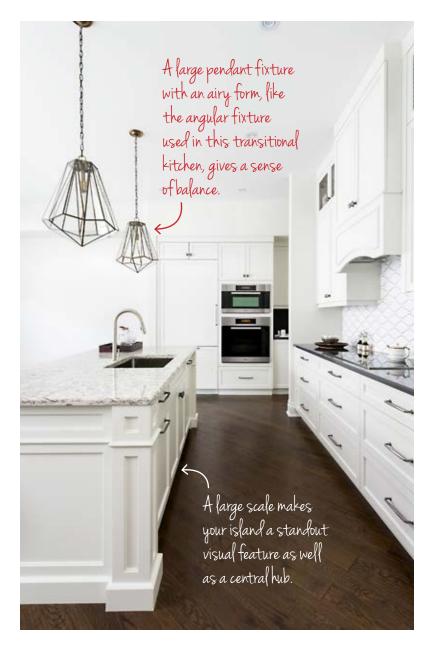


Art & Mirrors

Scale is never more important than when talking about wall art after all, it's hard to make a statement if you can't even see the piece.

Gallery walls have been a trend for nearly a decade, and they have their place, but there's also a beautiful simplicity to a singular large-scale canvas or photo print. Choose a piece that takes up at least 60 per cent of the available wall height to make a grand statement and a true focal point.

To capture the eye and also double the apparent size of the space, choose an oversize mirror hung prominently on the wall. A circular shape will add some softness to the room, perfect for a bedroom, living room or dressing suite.



Kitchen Islands

With eat-in kitchens being ever more popular, many are choosing islands much deeper than the typical 30 to 42 inches. A large scale makes your island a standout visual feature as well as a central hub.

To allow for both diners and a home chef to coexist in harmony, consider an island that's 48- to 60-inches deep, with seating on two or three sides to allow for natural conversation. With a truly comfortable island, you might not need a separate breakfast nook at all.

To suit the scale of a feature island, consider a marble or quartz counter with rich veining. Keep in mind that large-scale veins won't show well on a small sample, so you'll want to visit a quality showroom to see larger slabs and get the full picture. OH





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cooking at home

PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH COOKIES with White Chocolate Ganache



PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

INGREDIENTS

1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour

1 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt

½ cup unsalted butter, softened

½ cup creamy peanut butter 34 cup packed brown sugar

1/4 cup granulated sugar

1 large egg

1 tsp vanilla extract

¼ cup peanuts, chopped

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a bowl, mix together flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

Using a stand mixer, cream together butter and peanut butter. Add brown and granulated sugars and beat until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla. Mix to combine.

Turn the mixer to low and add flour mixture in batches. Stir in peanuts.

Scoop dough using a tablespoon and place on a lined baking sheet, leaving about an inch in between. Bake 10-12 minutes and set on a rack to cool.

WHITE **CHOCOLATE GANACHE**

INGREDIENTS

6 oz. white chocolate, roughly chopped

2 oz. heavy cream

1/4 cup creamy peanut butter

DIRECTIONS

Place white chocolate and cream in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave for 1-2 minutes. stirring every 20 seconds until melted and smooth. Let cool until ganache is firm.

Place ganache in the bowl of a stand mixer and add peanut butter. Whip on high until light and double in size.

ASSEMBLE COOKIE SANDWICHES

Spread a tablespoon of ganache onto the bottom of a cookie and sandwich with a second cookie. Repeat.

If desired, dip in melted chocolate and top with crushed





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TOOLS & MATERIALS

Clear glass candlesticks or glassware Waxed paper Container for mixing Elmer's Glue-All Food colouring Stir sticks Water **Paintbrush**

DIRECTIONS

Cover work area with waxed paper. In a mixing container, add 1 tablespoon of Elmer's glue and 4-6 drops of food colouring to achieve your desired colour. Mix well. Add ½ teaspoon of water, mix well.

Paint the outside of your glassware. Let dry. For a deeper colour, apply a second coat after the first coat has dried.

If you are painting plates or trays, apply mixture to the backs of items only (where food will not come in contact with the colouring). This finish is not washable. Spot clean with a damp cloth. OH



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NEW HOUSE SAME RULES

STORY TAMARISK MCNALTY STEPHENS | PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA



THE PLACE: After more than three successful years in business, Heather Smillie and Conny Detzler, business partners and owners of **House Rules** Design Shop, recently moved their design and décor business down the road to its own new and expanded location. The renovation of an existing building combined with the construction of a large addition was completed in time for the new space to open its doors just after the Canada Day long weekend this year.

THE STYLE: Much thought went into every design decision for the interior and exterior of the new store to optimize functionality, enhance the aesthetic and highlight the wide range of products available, providing ideas to inspire your next project. All of this has been executed without subscribing to one design style. Their collection of various styles enhances the customer experience. The new showroom feels elegant and upscale while maintaining a very welcoming and cosy environment - with goods to suit all price points.











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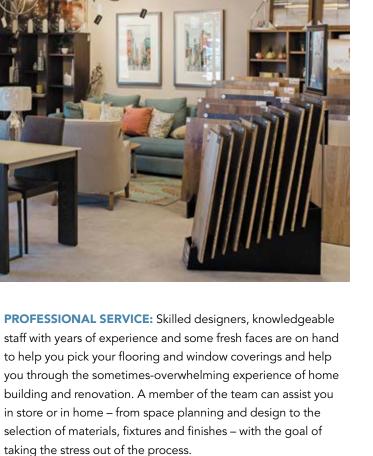
(including colour match technology) and the great coverage

coordinating patterns and colours has been added to the

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STORY MELANIE REKOLA

Fire is fascinating. Our human ancestors used fire to stay warm, cook food and keep predators at bay. It is also believed that human socialization began while huddled around the hearth.



Adding cosy warmth and ambience to modern-day al fresco areas, the outdoor fireplace often serves as a design anchor at the centre of an outdoor living space. The fire also offers a place where people can relax and unwind together even when there's a chill in the air.

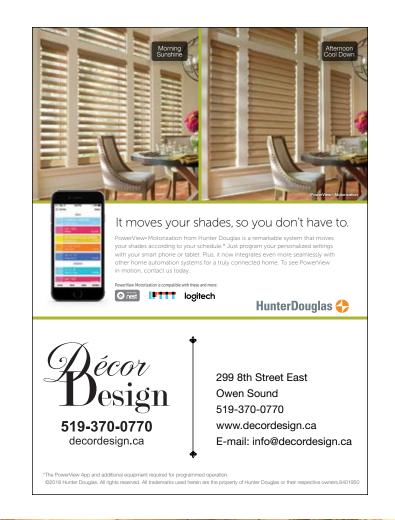
Here's a primer on how to bring fire and style to your outdoor space.

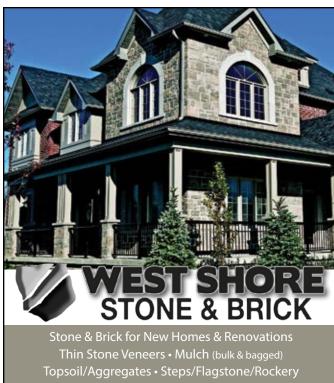
SELECT A STYLE

Freestanding Fireplaces: Adding a more formal or modern touch, these large, built-in fireplaces are simply gorgeous. They also offer opportunity for trendy, integral wood storage boxes, hearths, mantels and sometimes even a spot for an outdoor television. Some prefabricated models are offered but most often these

are custom built and faced using a wide range of natural and/ or manmade materials, including brick veneer and natural stone. Typical chimney and venting requirements for wood-burning units are dictated by strict local building regulation, making natural gas the fuel of choice due to less stringent zoning requirements. As with most things custom-made, freestanding fireplaces often come with a hefty price tag.

Fire Pits: The original open fire feature, these range wildly in design and price tag. They can be pre-fab or custom, simple or extravagant. At their most basic, a humble campfire dug into the ground and lined with stone boulders might work for some, while others may choose a high-end, custom fire feature that doubles as a dining table. Continued on page 60





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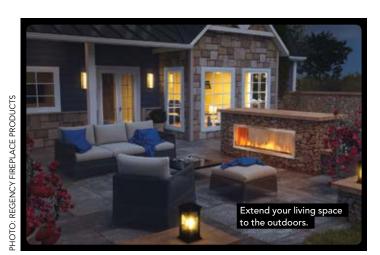
Fire tables are brilliant — they can be used where space is limited, and you can take them with you if you move.

Fire Tables: Perfect for tight spaces and easy on the bank account, fire tables are all the rage. Often fueled by propane and available in an assortment of styles, they are brilliant in the sense that they are also moveable, meaning you can also take them with you when you move.

PICK A FUEL

Wood: Wood burning fireplaces look and smell like a real campfire. To some, the odour part can be looked at as either a pro or a con! They give off lots of toe-warming heat and their fire light is nice and bright. On the negative side it takes time to build and prepare a roaring fire. They can be messy and sometimes require extra cleaning and maintenance. Wood burning fire features are also dictated by stringent local guidelines and some residential areas don't allow them at all. Yearly permits may also apply.

Natural Gas: Natural gas is a guick way to enjoy a fireside evening. They are user-friendly, easy to maintain and offer a good heat source so long as they are rated at the proper output. Unfortunately they can be expensive to run and often the fire light is barely detectible until the sun is completely out of sight.





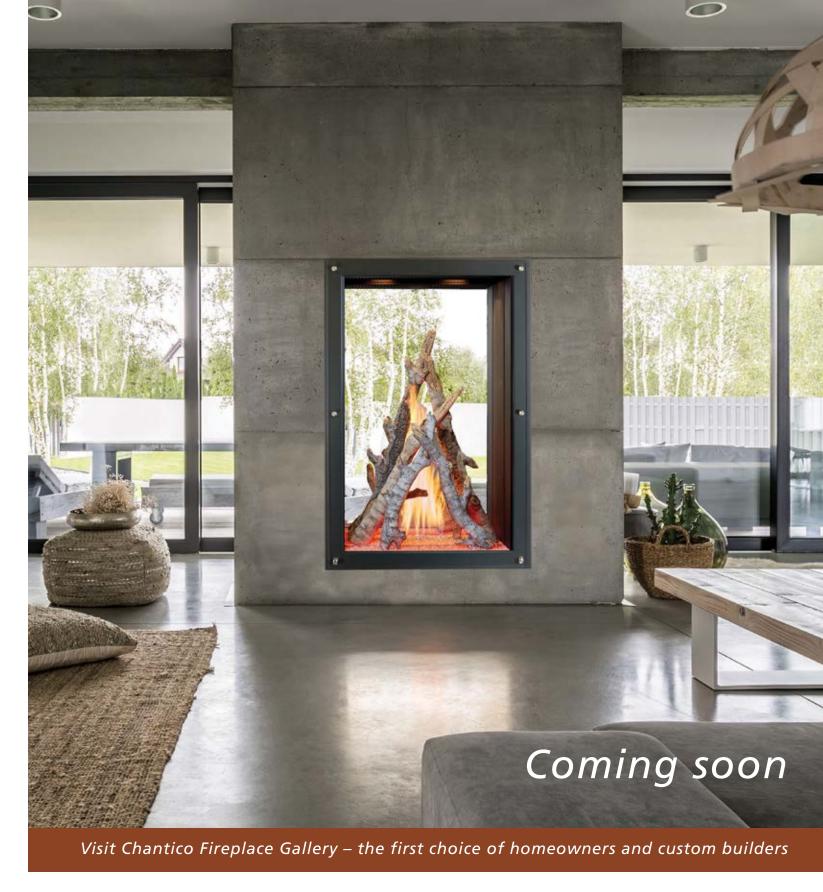
Propane: Also quick and efficient, propane fire features are great for those impromptu mid-week date nights or quick drinks with friends. Yes, this fuel source is costly but on the flip side the firelight is quite obvious even during daytime hours. Though they do give off some heat, they are more for ambience rather than actual heating. They also can be a bit smelly.

Gel Fuel: Clean burning with no smoke and very little odour, these also require no ventilation and can be placed anywhere. Though they offer real flames, there is not much associated heat.

PLAYING WITH FIRE

Fire – though very beautiful – can be very dangerous and precautionary measures must be addressed. Never place a fire feature too close to a wall or other combustible surfaces or on a raw wooden deck. Fireproof surfaces are best for placement and include stone, concrete or tile. Be vigilant to situate them away from overhead tree branches as over time this will damage the tree and could also start a fire.

Interestingly, science suggests that the mesmerizing flicker of the television is very similar to the flicker of firelight and is likely one of the reasons why TV is so addictive. Knowing this, perhaps you'll choose to sit outside and enjoy some thought-provoking conversations alongside the fire more often. OH





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Ruba Dub Dub CHOOSING THE RIGHT TUB



I am a huge fan of the showering experience. However, when I was expecting my first child and suffering shin splints, I found a soothing bath something I couldn't get through the night without. When you need to get clean quick, a shower is hands-down the way to go. If, however, you find yourself with more than a few minutes, running yourself a bath can be a rewarding and comforting personal experience. Picking the right tub for you is important.



STORY CYNTHIA SODA

STYLES

Bathtub manufacturers today offer a large assortment of styles, shapes and design features to coordinate with any taste and budget. While the most popular pin-worthy tubs are typically vessel free-standing or claw-foot, there are a multitude of options available to suit your needs. For those with limited square footage, a tub-shower combination or three-wall alcove design would be the most common tub style to maximize space. In standard-built homes, we've all seen the drop-in tub, made of enamel-coated cast iron, that sits fitted inside a framed enclosure. A more seamless alternative to the drop-in would be an undermount tub, which essentially is the same concept as an undermount vanity sink, only for your bathing pleasure.

FAVOURITES

One great resource is Victoria + Albert with tubs crafted from the brand's signature Englishcast composition, a unique blend of a naturally white material that is rich in volcanic limestone and highperformance resins, hand-finished to create a glossy white coating with excellent stain resistance. They also offer a choice of trending colour options. Since the material is solid all the way through, internal scratches simply polish away. In our latest bathroom remodel, I can personally speak for the quality of a Victoria + Albert tub. For us, with four little ones who enjoy splashing around in mom and dad's bathroom, the Eldon tub was the perfect fit. Wanting to have luxe Europeanmodern style and not having to worry about clean up behind the tub was the dilemma. The Eldon appears completely free-standing from the front, but its backto-wall design makes it perfect for busy families with style.



The best of both worlds. Get the modern style of a free-standoing vessel tub, with the practicality of an enclosed tub.



MATERIAL

The material that a tub is made from is also an important consideration for your investment in relaxation and comfort. The least expensive and lightweight options available are generally acrylic or fibreglass. The aforementioned cast iron is made by pouring molten iron into a mold, then smoothing and coating it with a thick layer of enamel. Possibly the most durable tub available, the finish is resistant to chipping, scratching and denting, as well as most types of chemicals. The cast iron option keeps bathing waters warm for a long period of time and although rewarding, they are one of the most challenging tubs to bring up a flight of stairs. If you're looking for something unique, you may consider a couture tub made of copper, enameled steel or even carved of stone or wood.

BELLS & WHISTLES

A quiet soak is not the only appeal of the tub experience so some amenities may be important to research. Jets, in-line heaters, chromatherapy, music, air-only jets, or sit in your very own champagne and soak with micro-bubble effervescent jets.

TEST DRIVE IT

Not all bathtubs are created equal. Depending on the features you choose, prices range from the hundreds to the tens of thousands. One of the most important things you can do as a consumer is take a test drive – that's right, go and physically sit in the tub you plan to invest in to make sure you like the fit and depth. After all, the bathtub can be more than just a beautiful piece of sculpture in your bathroom, you can, you know, use it. **OH**







Two custom ottomans on hidden casters were designed to fit under the waterfall-style coffee table for extra seating.

This historic home in Hanover has been in the family for several generations. As each family member moved in to take over the home from the previous one, they thoughtfully added new rooms and additions.

Particular attention was paid to make sure all rooms had beautiful vistas of the grounds through the large picture windows.

A version of the original wrap-around front porch was added to the back of the house, which now serves as the main entrance. The formal drive weaves its way up to the back porch, which overlooks the luscious landscaped gardens.

OUR HOMES takes you inside this home, designed and decorated by **Leanne Tammaro** and **Adolphina Karachok** of **Designtheory**. Leanne and Adolphina describe the interior design.

- ↑ The family room is just off the kitchen and opens into an airy space with windows on three sides and a door that leads to the wrap-around porch at the front of the home.
- ★ Windows are dressed in soft Roman blinds and long flowing drapes that intentionally blend into the walls.

- ↑ Bold tomato reds and navy blues inspired by the area carpet pull the room together.

Continued on page 66





A stunning tin ceiling sets the mood for this extravagant dining room featuring soaring arched stained-glass windows original to the house. Warm oak floors and casings add to the formality of the space.

↑ The elegantly carved dining chairs feature ink-blue pleated silk for the chair backs and mohair velvet for seats, and share the space with sparkling crystal chandeliers and sconces.



The dining room prior to the redesign of the space.

A fragrant magnolia centerpiece sits atop a linen tablecloth featuring a soft tone-on-tone beige damask pattern.

≪ Tied-back floral, linen and silk drapery was designed to maximize the light filtering through the room and showcase the beautiful stained glass. » A dramatic pair of cream and moss green silk drapes flank the arched window. Emerald green velvet armchairs and a stained glass and bronze Tiffany lamp create a cosy vignette in the bay window.

➤ This space was long and narrow and begged to be split up into three distinct conversation areas.

➤ Using the client's existing wall colour and antique chaises, the goal was to add a softness to the space through light colours and plush fabrics.

➤ A three-piece antiqued mirror and gold, gilt cocktail table sit between the chaises, reflecting the light both from the windows and the fireplace.

➤ Cream silk and velvet throw pillows with glass bead details adorn each chaise, while fringed Aubusson tapestry throw cushions circa 1860 sit on the settees just behind the desk area.

Continued on page 69







« To tone down the heaviness of the client's existing bedroom furniture, delicate new features were added in the master bedroom. The soft palette doesn't compete with the beautiful dark wood in the room.

« Roman blinds have a subtle tone-ontone pattern of off-white linen.

« A floral-patterned wool carpet gives a nod to the traditional features of the home, but presents itself in a "barelythere" way.

« A beautifully inlayed Sheraton satinwood occasional table, circa 1810, was selected to add femininity to this space – its flared legs follow the gentle curves of the headboard and elegant French bergère chairs in the room.

« Although there are six distinct fabric patterns in the room, all were carefully curated to work with one another – not compete.

➤ A small sitting area by the fireplace was created in an otherwise underutilized space in the bedroom. A custom, scallop-backed armchair and a tufted ottoman were upholstered in a leopard print linen, in a sophisticated cream and light taupe colour palette. "An animal print done well is a timeless pattern," says designer Adolphina Karachok. Continued on page 70





» An existing burled wood antique desk chair is paired with a Louis XVI kidney-shaped writing desk circa 1880, featuring a stunning sunshineyellow, tooled leather inlay top. Sitting atop the desk is a colourful Pairpoint lamp featuring a butterfly and

floral motif that becomes the focal point in the window. ★ This beautifully appointed guest bedroom at the front of the house is infused with sunlight making the butter-

≈ Soft flowing off-white linen draperies flank the windows and writing desk, and bring the outdoors in.

vellow walls even more cheerful.

A tall hand-tufted linen headboard and the owners' own antique settee were upholstered in the same natural linen fabric, creating harmony in the room.

♠ A request to include a cornflower blue colour in the room is achieved in the beautiful bed linens.

« Soft Roman blinds are repeated in the guest en suite.

≪ An elegant clawfoot tub is the focal point in this room.

« A bright floral, hand-knotted antique area carpet in rich hues balances the beige walls and black and white tiles, and sets the mood for this bathroom: fresh, country elegance. Continued on page 72



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♠ The look in this room is masculine with warm cranberry walls with additional reds, creams, taupes and blues.

↑ This headboard with nailheads in a soft linen fabric balances the heaviness of the rare Irish satinwood diminutive commodes (circa 1780) flanking it.

↑ Delicate, floral printed bed shams add balance to the guilted blue bedshams and coverlet.

Custom painted lampshades feature the same florals as the

 Custom, layered draperies and sheer soft Roman blinds frame the windows.

>> Running the length of the house from front to back, the hallway seamlessly connects the original house with the new addition.

» A cream and pale blue lattice-patterned hall runner was selected to brighten up the hallway that runs off each of the bedrooms and complements the wheat-coloured walls.

The carpet was also installed on the stairs running from the main floor straight through to the third floor. OH

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There are many great family businesses in Grey Bruce. Enjoy stories about how these companies got started.



GERALD & MICHAEL CRAWFORD

Northern Points
Roofing & Exteriors

Tell us how your family business got its start: We started working with a local contractor at the age of 13, as it was the only company that would hire us as kids. We worked together for our younger years and then for about 10 years we went our separate ways – Gerald went to Alberta and I was in B.C. and Ontario. Last year, we decided to re-join forces and run the business here in Walkerton.

What is the focus of your company? We want to provide the best roofing system available that will work with the design of the building, while keeping all budgets in mind.

What do you enjoy most about the fall in Grey-Bruce? The harvest. We enjoy all of the fresh local produce and meat selections. By spending money within our communities we ensure that we help support local people to make a living so they can raise their families in this area as well.



PHIL & GEORGE MARTENS
Topnotch Furniture

Tell us how your family business got its start: We had been working alongside a friend of ours in the furniture business when he decided to move out of the area to pursue other things. That's when he offered to help us get started on our own because he wanted the business to continue. We have expanded from only table and chairs to all types of solid wood furniture.

What is the focus of your company? The focus of Topnotch Furniture is to build the highest quality furniture for our clients. Whether you are looking for a standard piece of furniture that we have on the floor or if you want pieces custom built and unique to you, our goal is to deliver furniture that we are proud of and will serve you for many years.

What do you enjoy most about the fall in Grey and Bruce? Fall in Grey-Bruce is an awesome time of year as there is so much beautiful colour out there. We like to spend time hiking, biking and camping in the area – and it's always enjoyable to spend the day delivering quality furniture in Grey-Bruce.

Continued on page 76

ourhomes FALL 2018 | 75



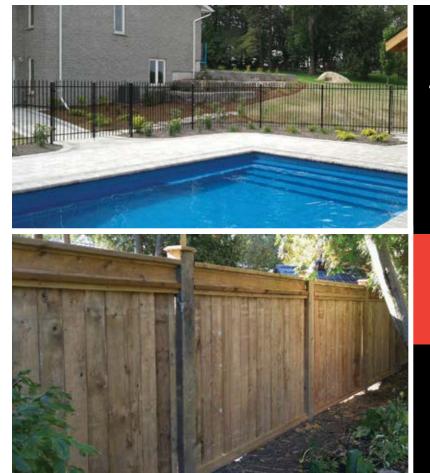
ROB, ERIN & TYSON WEPPLER, WITH DOG CHASE Air-Tech Mechanical

Tell us how your family business got its start: At 21, Rob was an apprentice for a heating company in Allenford, which eventually led to a partnership with the company. Erin got involved with the bookwork and in 2002 they bought the business. The office and fabricating shop moved to the current location just north of Keady and Air-Tech Mechanical was born. Through the years, all of our kids have been involved and this summer Tyson (the youngest) is working as an Ontario Youth Apprentice.

How has your business expanded over the years? Keeping up with the changing times over the past 16 years has allowed us to offer our customers rebates and incentives, parts sourcing, warranty tracking and administration and the peace of mind of a long-standing business. A York dealer for almost 30 years and a supportive staff help to keep things running smoothly.

What do you enjoy most about the fall in Grey and Bruce? The changing of the seasons keeps our business very active. We try to do our best to be there for our customers during any weather condition - hot, cold or in between. Fall is an especially busy time for us with both new houses and renovations nearing completion, heating upgrades and maintenance of equipment prior to the cold winter temperatures.

Continued on page 78





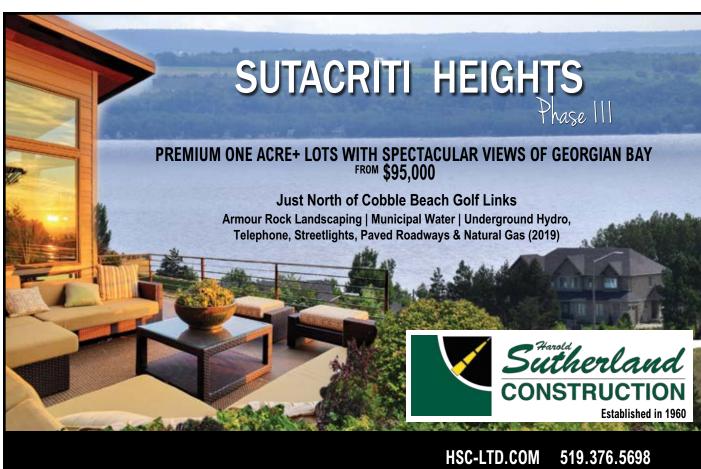
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TIM, ANDY & KRIS **VAN DOLDER**

Van Dolder's Home Team Custom Exteriors

Tell us how your family business got its **start:** Andy Van Dolder began his career in the home improvement business in his teens, selling doors for his brother out of the back of his truck. In 1964, he opened Cash and Carry Aluminum in Annan and after many years of successfully growing the business, the company eventually became the Van Dolder's Home Team. In 2009, with his two sons, Kris and Tim, Andy constructed a new village-style showroom at their landmark location on Highway 26 in Owen Sound. This spring they opened a second showroom in Collingwood.

What is the focus of your company? The

Van Dolder's Home Team sells and installs some of the best quality home improvement products. This includes windows, doors, siding, decking, awnings, pergolas, eaves, gutters, garage doors and finishing touches for homes and cottages. If it goes on the outside of your house, you'll find it on the inside of ours!

What do you enjoy most about the fall in Grey and Bruce? The fall means a return to following the young children around to different arenas as they play hockey. It's also a time for getting together to share family barbecues and spending time outdoors enjoying the fall colours.

Continued on page 80



Great Lakes Custom Homes & Renovations





SIMON & PATTY
SMITH
OWNERS
BOB MANZER
LICENSED TECHNICIAN
Smith Water Systems

Tell us how your family business got its

start: Simon grew up near Ottawa and started as a driller's helper at 15 years old. He worked up through the ranks and opened his own well drilling business in 1976. In the 1990s Simon started Smith Water Systems, installing and servicing pumps, pressure tanks and water treatment systems. The first store front opened in Erin and is now run by our daughter Julie. In February 2018, we purchased McCann Water Systems and opened our second location in the beautiful Beaver Valley.

What is the focus of your company?

Both of our locations have a team of licensed technicians to service drilled, dug and bored wells and offer well upgrades, chlorination,

decommissioning and well yield tests. We service and install well pumps, and all types of water treatment equipment, such as water softeners, iron removers, UV disinfection systems, RO systems and particle filters.

What do you enjoy most about the fall in Grey and Bruce? There are no bad seasons in Grey and Bruce! Every season has its own beauty and activities to enjoy. The fall is spectacular and abundant with colour on the trees, the fields with harvest, the apple orchards and the Meaford Scarecrow Invasion and Family Festival. Warm sunny days for hiking, biking and garden chores and cool crisp nights with campfires and hot chocolate.

Continued on page 82









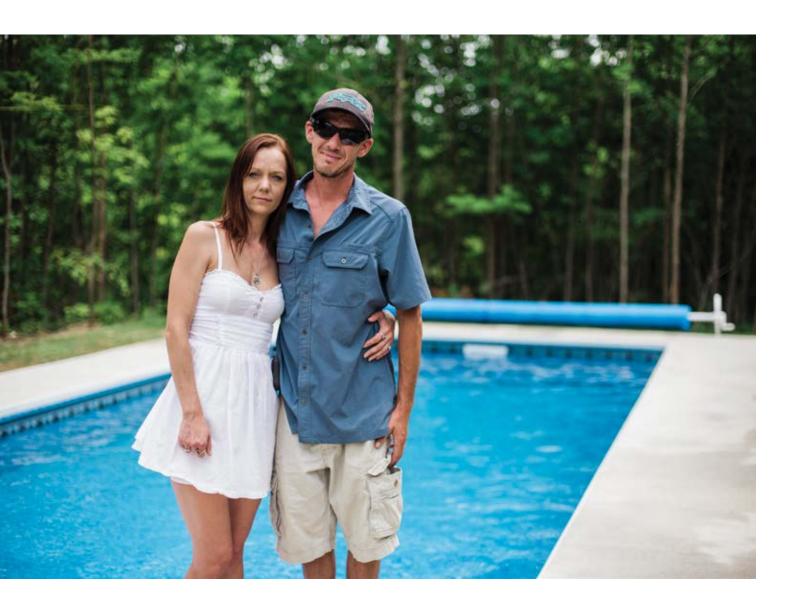






Mechanical

Plumbing



ALICIA & CHRIS
JOHNSON
Bay Landscapes and Pools/
HighR Construction

Tell us how your family business got its

start: Gordon Johnson was in business in the United Kingdom as Johnson Construction for 18 years before emigrating to Canada in 1997. He and his wife Vanessa entered Canada under the entrepreneur scheme. Having settled in Grey County, he started Bay Landscapes and Pools soon after arriving. Son Christopher was in school and upon completion he entered the business and has been a part of it ever since. He now is a 50 per cent owner and is responsible for the HighR Construction part of the company.

What is the focus of your company? The focus of the company is to offer exceptional quality of work at a fair price with no unseen extras at completion. The price you're quoted is the price you pay.

What do you enjoy most about the fall in Grey and Bruce? The weather in Grey and Bruce in the fall is ideal for working and the fall colours are usually spectacular. There are many things to do without travelling far.

Continued on page 84













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JORDAN & STEVE CUNEO
Cuneo Interiors Carpet One

Floor & Home

Tell us how your family business got its start: Cuneo's was started in 1948 by Jordan's grandfather, Tony Cuneo, who saw the need for a specialty decorating store offering products and services. The products carried were paint, wallpaper, flooring, window shades, and custom-made drapery fabricated on our own premises.

What is the focus of your company?

We provide quality Benjamin Moore paint, floor and wallcoverings and custom window fashions. Our interior design consultants and professional flooring and ceramic tile installers always focus on giving our clients the best value for their investment.

What do you enjoy most about the fall in Grey and Bruce? Naturally, we enjoy the autumn colours of Grey and Bruce and the refreshing, peaceful outdoors. After being born and raised in Bruce County, and then experiencing the big city hustle, but choosing to return to work and raise our families here – well, there's not much more a person could ask for. OH



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COTTAGE CASTING

STORY SARAH SLOAN | PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY



What began as a project to store his boats, the avid fly fisherman's dream soon turned into a unique build – one that stands out for custom homebuilders and renovators

Ben and Dylan Freeburn of Alair

Homes Grey Bruce.

Aside from its curb appeal (landscaping by **Patterson Landscapes**), sweeping driveway and impressive entrance, most would believe the build to be a traditional home, not primarily storage.

This was the look the Freeburns' client was hoping for. "We went to the drawing board to come up with the best sort of plan to house his boats, allow for space and provide the one-and-a-half storey development he was looking for," explains Ben. The plans were then handed over and professionally drafted by **Greg**Williamson of North Green Living so the build could commence in May of 2016.

Continued on page 89

RIGHT: Classic details can be found in the pitched roofs with stone gables, carriage house-style exterior lighting and commercial brown windows complete with transoms and grills. **BELOW:** A surprise awaits behind the front door – not your typical front foyer!



Dylan and Ben
Freeburn of Alair Homes
give a tour of the homeaway-from-home they
built for their client
Armando Pagliari.





LEFT: Hip waders are an essential component to fly fishing in the Saugeen River. A collection of rods and reels at the ready. **BELOW:** The upstairs bath with tile and counter selections suggestive of stones one could find along the shoreline. **BOTTOM:** An organized storage system keeps the space clutter free – and makes it easy to find the bug spray!



Gateposts at the entrance to the driveway exhibit the same finish as the exterior of the home. The tinted poured concrete driveway leads to garage doors at both the cottage and detatched garage behind. Warm Estate stone (Shouldice Designer Stone installed by Bloodworth Masonry Inc.) complements the cottage's brown shingles (Grey-Bruce Roofing & Renos), its beautiful wooden door (Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors) with notable transoms and old-world lantern above (Martin's Home Hardware). "We wanted the front elevation to be as residential as possible," Ben says.

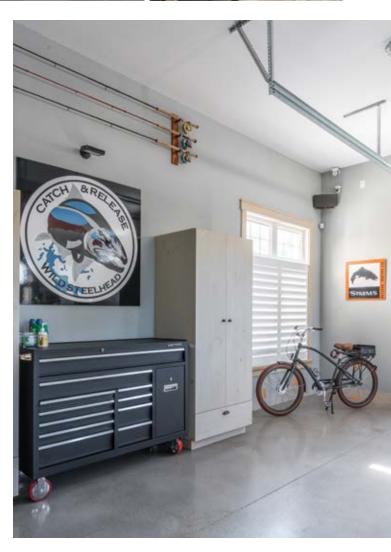
Those who knock at the door may expect to walk into a foyer but instead, step into an incredible showroom for Armando's toys. The garage is where the homeowner prefers to spend the majority of time when he visits his cottage, unless of course he's out on the water.

The high ceilings were a must-have on Armando's wishlist, and a main component in the carriage-house design. Polished concrete floors, custom cabinetry (Wood & Wallworks) along with custom, laser-cut signs branded with fishing logos make this space a man cave like no other. For Armando, who works in manufacturing, decking out the space with unique and custom pieces was no challenge.

Red Adirondack chairs line one of the walls, where his fly fishing rods are proudly on display.

The Freeburns also created a custom coat rack with rail spikes (The Timeless Materials Co.) while lockers and built-in storage benches (Wood & Wallworks) keep everything off the ground and the space meticulous.

Adjacent to the garage's large utility room (**G&M Electric**), is the bathroom (**John Bridge Plumbing and Heating**) with a colour scheme that reflects the Saugeen River. Browns, clays and sand-like tones can be found in the tile work both on the floor and walls. Both the glass tile on the walls and the beautiful granite countertops glisten like the water found so close to Armando's property. Continued on page 90



home & builder

Back out in the main space, a custom oak barrel table, as well as other whiskey branded paraphernalia and décor set the scene in the large kitchen/bar space. One of the most important appliances for Armando is his coffee maker, a must-have for any fisherman's early start.

A flat-screen TV was thoughtfully incorporated into the design in the centre of his dark wood cabinetry by **Sutcliffe Kitchens**. The earth-toned granite and tumbled stone backsplash mimic the beautiful nature found along the Saugeen.

To the rear of the garage, what was initially planned to be a screened-in porch became a four-season room, finished with the same Estate stone as the exterior.

Large Armor windows (Van Dolder's Custom Exteriors) surround the space, which houses a magnificent, Mennonite-built harvest table with ample space to entertain family and friends.

"We got looking at it and really, the most effective way to do it was to install nice, big windows to create an all-season room," explains Ben. In-floor heating was also installed under the stamped concrete floor, while sliding doors lead to a barbecue area where Armando can grill up his latest catch.

The main level of the build is equipped with everything and more, although upstairs offers another level of comfort altogether.

A staircase (Wood & Wallworks) tastefully trimmed with a natural wood offers a glimpse of the living quarters that await.

The second storey of the cottage has an open-concept floor plan. Beautiful white custom cabinetry (Sutcliffe Kitchens) with glass hardware (**Allen's Home Building Centre**) creates an inviting space, while the grey, tumbled-marble backsplash and granite counters continue the theme found downstairs. The otherwise neutral space, decorated with calming creams, greys and browns, is accented with punches of red from the small appliances in the kitchen.

Beneath your feet, ash flooring (**Bigelow Flooring**) complements the raw pine ceiling, which has been stained ever so slightly in a white wash (**Adam's Professional Painting**). Matching trim can be found throughout the entirety of the cottage, which is complete with a beautiful sitting room, three bedrooms, a laundry room and bathroom.

At the heart of the cottage is a natural gas fireplace tucked in a stone surround and complete with a rustic barn beam mantel (John Bridge Plumbing and Heating). A large leather sectional and a Mennonite-crafted hutch and large dining table add to the cosy feel. Continued on page 92





LEFT: The upstairs living space is outfitted with solid wood furniture with simple lines and rustic details. **ABOVE:** The stone corner fireplace is a focal point in the open-concept main living area of the cottage.





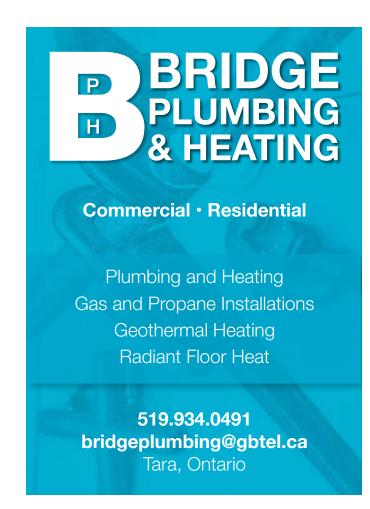


Each of the three bedrooms have their own special features that Ben explained are distinct to carriage houses. "In a storey-and-a-half design, the room rafters come down so you get this little bonus space," he says. "It's nice because there is no basement, so it provides a spot to tuck stuff away."

An additional large room at the back of the cottage was also initially planned as a screened-in porch off the second storey, the same as the room one floor below. "The further we went on, we decided to make it a fourseason place to enjoy," explains Ben.

Continued on page 94











home & builder



The room offers the same features with its large windows and custom roller blinds (Marie's Port of Blinds) overlooking his property – a setting that had Armando hooked. Armando spends a lot of time in this room making his fly-fishing ties.

"The property goes through one ravine and then you go up and over before heading down to the river," Ben says. "The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority have jurisdiction back there and don't want it developed, which is nice because it stays natural."

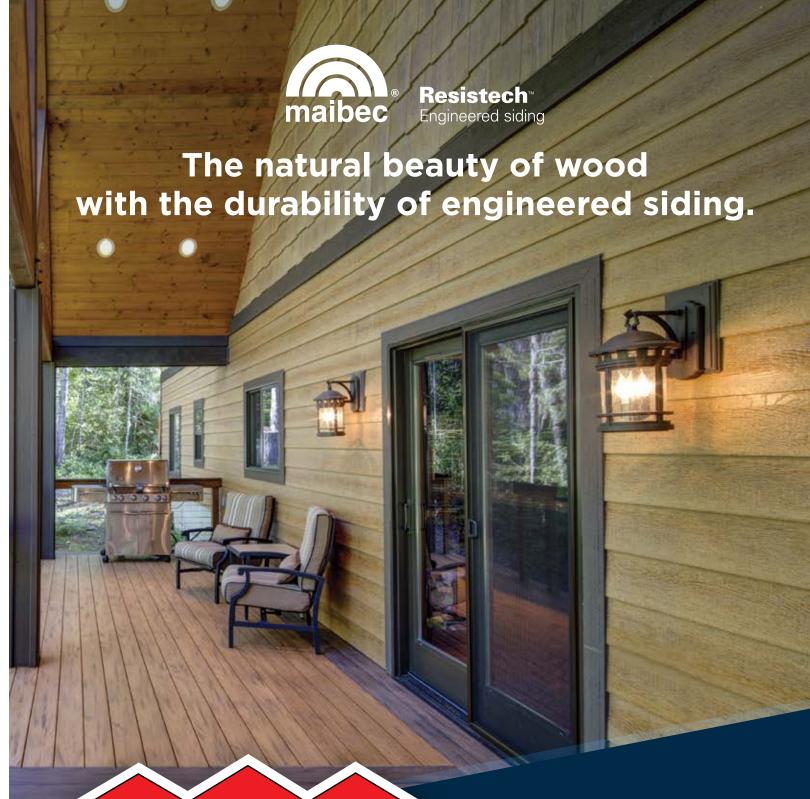
ired for the craft of fly

Also at the back of the property is a detached garage built by Alair Homes Grey-Bruce in keeping with the design and features of the cottage while providing ample space for Armando to store his second boat.

And while he may not always be there to enjoy the property or his boats, Armando can always check in on his cottage or adjust

its temperature with the push of a button on his phone using smart technology from Freiburger Communications.

Ultimately, Armando wanted to build a beautiful place on the river to fish, yet still have the comforts of home. The build exceeded his expectations and not only has he gained a home-away-fromhome, but snagged a new friendship at the same time. on



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Continued on page 98



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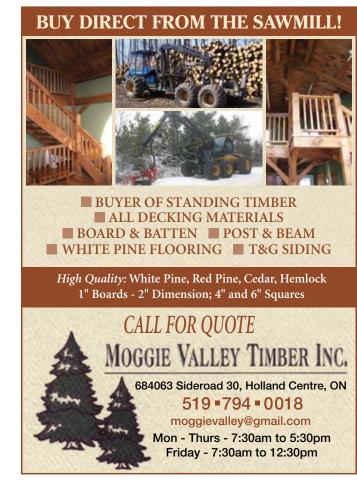


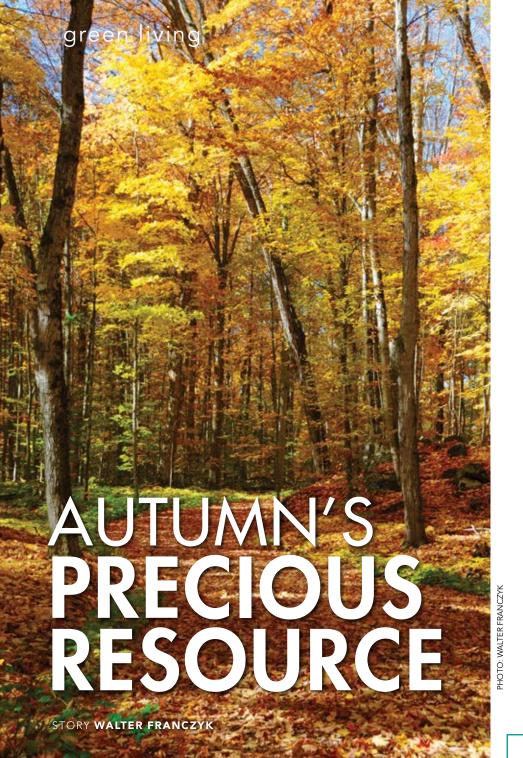














RAKING LEAVES AND BAGGING THEM FOR PICKUP AT THE CURB IS A SIMPLE WAY OF RIDDING THE YARD OF AUTUMN'S ANNUAL **BOUNTY, BUT IT'S ENVIRONMENTALLY** UNFRIENDLY.

Especially for those who drive somewhere to collect or buy compost for the garden. Hauling away leaves and carting home compost needlessly burns fossil fuels.

Better solutions can be found right at home. A mature deciduous tree sheds hundreds of thousands, perhaps as many as a half million, leaves every fall. Year after year, this colourful descent adds tonnes of organic matter to the environment. It's a plentiful and renewable natural resource. Here are five ideas for dealing with leaves.

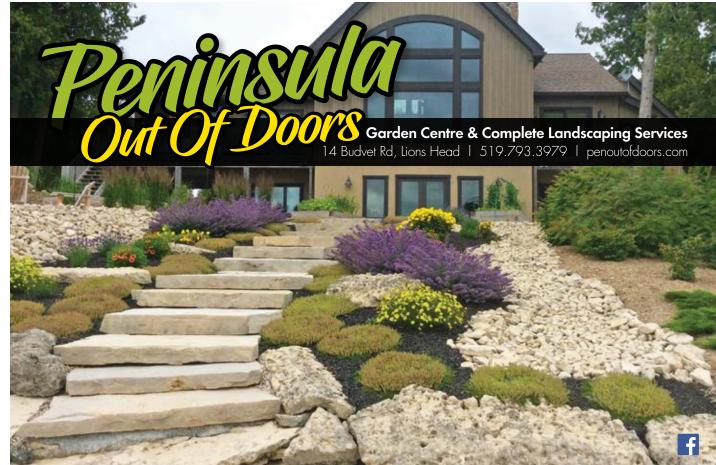
GIVE THEM AWAY

If you don't want the leaves that fall in your yard, you can offer them to a neighbour. This overture might be unwelcome or redundant if most of your leaves have already blown onto your neighbour's property. But it's worth a try. An avid gardener next door just might accept the offer. Some gardeners admit to supplementing their own leaf harvest by cruising residential subdivisions and taking the large paper bags full of leaves left at the curb for yard waste collection.

LEAVING THEM

Leaves are beneficial in yards and gardens. They serve as habitat for salamanders and insects. Completely removing them deprives soil of nutrients that percolate into the ground if leaves are left to rot naturally. But if you want to leave the leaves, it's best to leave them in wooded areas and beneath shrubs. If you want leaves to remain on the lawn, it's best to shred them with a lawnmower or place them in a big garbage bin and chop them up with a weed-whacker, before spreading them on the grass. If left un-shredded on the lawn, leaves will trap moisture, block sunshine and create bare patches in spring that will require more yard work to repair. Continued on page 102





green living





MULCHING

Adding leaf mulch around the base of trees and shrubs and atop perennial beds provides many benefits. Leaf mulch improves soil fertility. It inhibits the growth of weeds and prevents evaporation of moisture. It helps to protect plant roots, keeps soil warmer in winter and cooler in summer, and reduces soil erosion. It's welcoming to earthworms that aerate the soil and help release nutrients. Dried leaves can be chopped into mulch with a lawnmower. If trees and plants have been previously mulched, remove the old material. A new layer of three to four inches of shredded leaves can be added around trees and shrubs. Two to three inches will suffice for perennial beds. Mulch will reduce the need for watering, weeding and

TILLING

With a lawnmower, leaves can be shredded into pieces and tilled into the garden, where they improve soil quality. Leaves will increase organic matter, allow soil to hold more moisture and make it easier to till. Leaves add carbon, calcium, nitrogen, magnesium, potassium, phosphorous, iron and manganese to the soil. Decomposition is required to release these nutrients over time, but in the long run, they will enhance soil fertility. Scientists at Rutgers University in New Jersey found that due to the high carbon content of leaves, little of their organic nitrogen will be immediately available to flowers and vegetables, so some additional nitrogen fertilizer will be needed.

COMPOSTING

Composting leaves will turn them into an organic, nutrient-rich soil conditioner. Composting bins can be bought at garden supply centres or hardware stores, but it's easy to make one. Wooden shipping skids, turned on their sides and attached at the corners, will serve nicely. It's best to leave one side open or hinged to allow easy access. Chicken wire, rolled and fastened into a three-foot diameter bin, will also work. Composting works best when three parts brown material, such as leaves, are layered and mixed with one part green material grass clippings, vegetable peels, tea bags, coffee grounds, cut flowers or manure. Keep the pile moist. Turning it weekly will speed decomposition and prevent odours. After a few months, the pile will break down into a dark, valuable soil supplement that helps aerate and feed garden soil. Spread about a half-inch layer of compost over the entire garden. When transplanting, add compost to the soil surrounding plants. OH







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Spiced with fresh turmeric and ginger, this pumpkin soup brings abundant flavour and warmth to your fall table.

INGREDIENTS

1 Tbsp coconut oil

1 medium pumpkin, peeled, seeded and cubed

1 medium onion, diced

5 carrots, diced

2-inch piece fresh turmeric, peeled and diced

3-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and diced

3 cloves garlic, roughly chopped

Chili flakes, to taste

4 cups vegetable stock

Pumpkin seeds to garnish

DIRECTIONS

In a soup pot, melt coconut oil over medium-high heat. Add pumpkin, onion, carrots, turmeric, ginger, garlic and chili flakes. Sauté until pumpkin and carrots begin to caramelize.

Cover with vegetable stock and simmer for about 30 minutes.

Using a hand blender (or transfer to a food processor or blender), blend until smooth.
Garnish with pumpkin seeds to serve. **OH**









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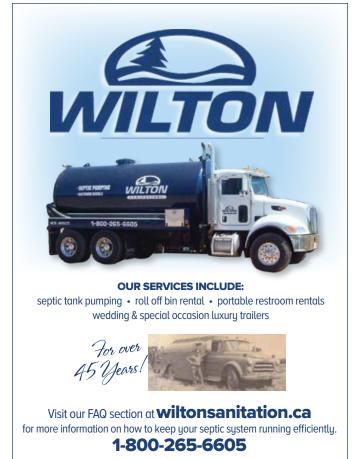
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