

FALL 2017

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

ourhomes

PARRY SOUND MUSKOKA HUNTSVILLE HALIBURTON

Huckleberry ISLAND HABITAT

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LAKE LUCKY

DEEP NORTH

autumn


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BUSINESS

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Brandy Lake, Port Carling**	\$949,000
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Boldly curious, this doe shows little trepidation as she grazes on the lawn of a Huntsville home.

CREATING THIS EDITION of OUR HOMES, once again, took us to some beautiful spots we've never seen before.

In the woods south of Parry Sound, a long meandering trail carpeted in a thick, crunchy layer of gold and crimson leaves led to a cottage built amid the pines, oaks and maples on Salmon Lake. Constructed with Douglas fir beams and timbers, pine ceilings, oak floors and maple cabinets, the cottage thrusts, like the prow of a ship, toward the lake. It's a quiet, scenic sanctuary for an urban professional and his family. Autumn is the owner's favourite season. It's easy to see why.

Just north of Parry Sound, photographer Sandy MacKay and I trekked to Huckleberry Island for a story about a new lake house, designed to meld with the rugged Georgian Bay shoreline. Nadine Melemis Walters, who's been summering on the island since she was a child, picked us up in her family boat and expertly steered the craft as it skipped over the waves to her family's island cottage. Atop a well-worn slope of fractured granite, the cottage hugs the earth, barely visible from a distance. Nadine and her husband Gary planned their summer that way – modern, comfortable and inconspicuous.

At Horseshoe Lake, freelance writer Rick Shurman joined us to chronicle the history and the latest changes at the Wenn family's summer retreat. Built when there was no road or hydro and very few people on this lake, the original cottage has been replaced by a new three-bedroom home, furnished and finished in homage to family history. Mark Wenn and his wife, Melanie Valentine, enjoy the cottage year round. It remains remote on a summer road that becomes a snowmobile trail in the winter.

Visiting these cherished summer spots affirms that wild things and places are still well and alive and much appreciated around here.

Walter Franczyk

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ON THE COVER

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KNOW YOUR TILE

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

Tile. This all-purpose material used on floors, walls and ceilings, in wet or dry locations, as decoration or as a versatile workhorse, is available in a variety of shapes, sizes, colours and textures. Today's manufacturers have the shocking ability to mimic concrete, brick, wood, marble, carpet, wallpaper, sand – you name it – in ways that look more real than real. The options are endless.

Here's what you really need to know when choosing the right tile.

PLANNING

Research online to see the many possibilities. Know what you're looking for to make purchasing easier.

Have a floor plan. The size of the room and its intended use will dictate what's possible.

Determine your colour scheme. Bring home a sample tile to make sure it coordinates with other elements.

Explain to your contractor what size and type of tile you're using. The size and weight of the tile affects the application and labour costs.

Plan and start the tile layout from the room's centre line and work outward, balancing the pattern and minimizing odd pieces.

MINI TO MAXI

Tiles can be as tiny as ¼-by-¼-inch or super large at five-by-10-feet.

The size and condition of a floor or wall will determine what size suits your space best. Uneven surfaces and curves have different size and installation requirements than do large, flat surfaces.

TILE VOCABULARY

Application: What is the tile's intended use? High or low traffic? Floor or wall? Wet or dry? Answer these questions before making your final choice.

Ceramic: Stoneware body with a surface application of colour or texture. Highly decorative and mostly used for walls.

Porcelain: Made from fine white compressed clay, fired at a high temperature to create a dense tile, impervious to moisture. It has colour throughout the tile so that if chipped, the surface colour appears in the body of the tile.

Glass: Made of glass where colour lies behind or throughout the body of the tile.



Mosaic: Individual small tiles, purchased on mesh sheets 12-by-12-inches to 118-by-118-inches. Can be easily cut to size. Perfect for inside and outside curves.

Large Format: 14½-by-14½-inches or larger.

Specifications: Technical information including intended use, material composition, country of origin and LEED certification. Always read your specs to know what you're buying and how to maintain it.

Matte Finish: Non-shiny surface, easy to walk on, slip resistant.

Polished Finish: Shiny surface and slippery.

Stacked Pattern: Tiles are aligned to form a repeating grid pattern.

Staggered Pattern: Joints are not aligned. Each tile requires different offset spacing depending on size.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES

Grout: Filler used between tiles allowing for flex. The tile setter can make minor adjustments along the way.

Grout Size: The space between tiles – ⅛-inch for wall tiles, ¼-inch for floor tiles. Super large tiles require larger grout lines.

Grout Release/Sealer: Same product, different names. Matte porcelain tiles need to be sealed to avoid the cloudy effect that occurs after wiping off the edges.

Grout Colour: Use as a design element. Match grout to wall colour. Use darker grout for floors. Grout tends to darken with regular foot traffic and cleaning.

Epoxy Grout: Guards against germs. Especially for spillage of bio fluids in kitchens and bathrooms.

SPECIAL PIECES

Trim pieces are usually L or U shaped and cap off tile edges for a smooth, clean look, making it easier to clean. They come in a variety of finishes and colours. Most pros like to use the Schluter System, available in any large hardware store.

Super large tiles covering a large surface require expansion joints. All structures and materials expand and contract. Planning a strategic cut will make your super-size tile age gracefully with no cracking over time.

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PHOTOGRAPHY **WALTER FRANCZYK**



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4 MUSKOKA WOODCHUCK

Pallet Clock
Craftsman Chuck Gagnon repurposed and refinished a hardwood pallet originally used to ship machinery from Germany to create the face of this large rustic wall clock. The saw blade at its centre came from a South River sawmill. His work includes harvest tables, benches and charcuterie boards, all on show at Art Wurqz, a custom furniture and décor gallery.

Art Wurqz, 45 Cairns Ave., Huntsville
705.205.6910 | [instagram.com/muskokawoodchuck](https://www.instagram.com/muskokawoodchuck)

5 CRANBERRY COTTAGE

Pillows
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162 Highland St., Halliburton
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6 SIMPLY COTTAGE

Coffee Table
This unique coffee table on a cross-buck base was made in Simply Cottage's shop using reclaimed barn board. The shop also crafts custom-built dinner tables and end tables.

101 Entrance Dr., Bracebridge
705.646.2828 | simplycottage.ca

Continued on page 24



7



8

7 WEHRMANN FURNITURE

Hudson's Bay Bed
Framed in whitewashed pine and painted in the iconic stripes of the Hudson's Bay Company, this custom-made bed is available in a variety of sizes. Open year-round, this shop specializes in designing and crafting furniture using quality native wood.

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8 HARRIS FURNITURE & ANTIQUES

Old Time
Among the many treasures awaiting discovery at this vintage Parry Sound shop is a Gilbert mantel clock, manufactured in Winsted, Connecticut and trimmed with marble and brass.

17 Parry Sound Dr., Parry Sound
705.746.5100 | harrisfurniture.ca

9 TRILOGY OF ART

Stained Glass
A stained glass *Tribute To Mt. St. Helens*, the volcano that erupted south of Seattle in 1980, includes, at its centre, a slice of a geode thrown up by the exploding mountain. The glass tribute illustrates the art created by Mary Jane Zisoff at her Seguin Township studio.

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RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

INGREDIENTS

2 ounces espresso, cooled
1 ounce vodka
½ ounce crème de cacao liquor
2-3 dashes chocolate Aztec bitters

DIRECTIONS

- Chill martini glass with ice, removing the ice before adding cocktail.
- Fill a cocktail shaker with ice and add ingredients.
- Shake until chilled and strain into chilled martini glass. **OH**

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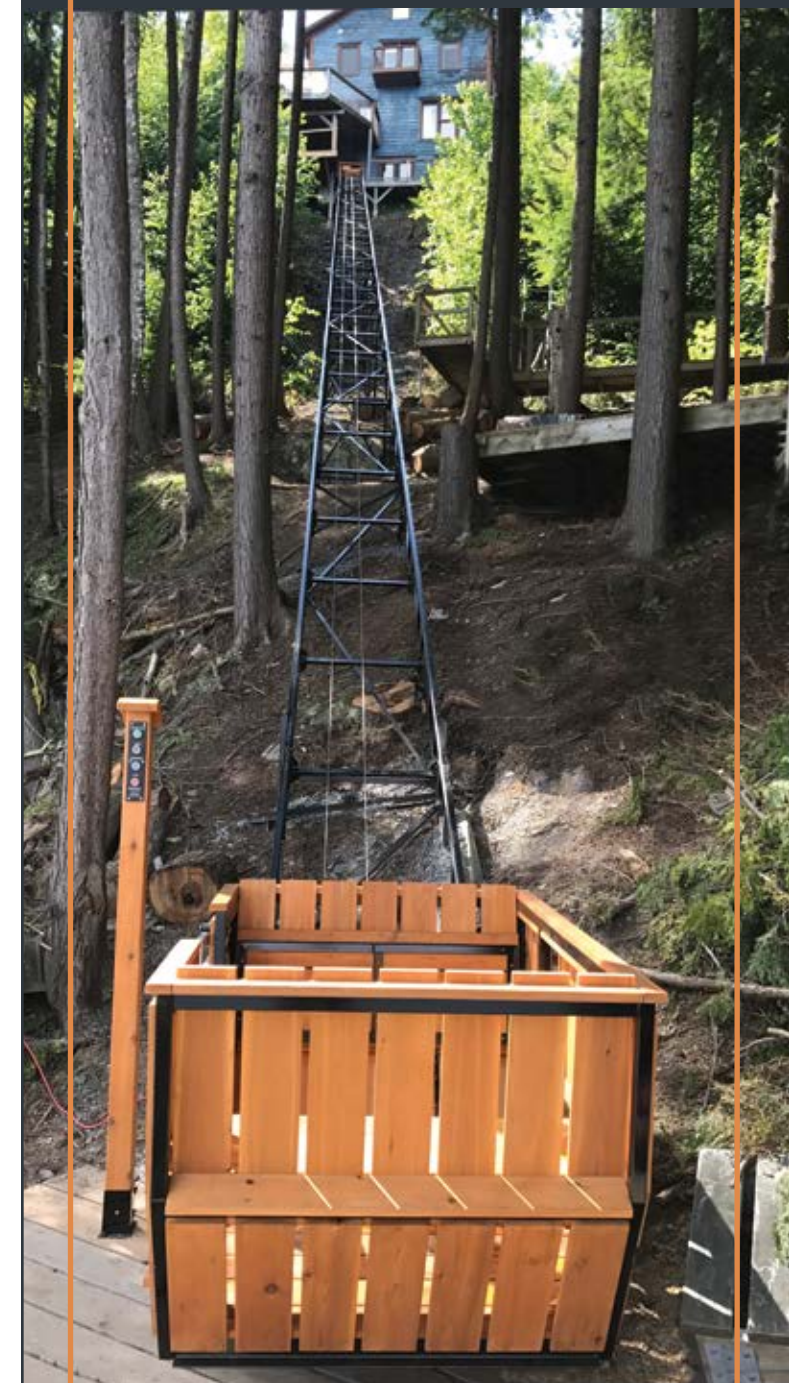
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liveable COLOUR



Whether you're looking to bring a leafy green to your home for warm, year-round vibes, or you prefer a different accent hue, these tips for adding liveable colour can help you have fun with your palette – inspired by this cheerful Toronto Interior Design Group project.

STORY
YANIC SIMARD
PHOTOGRAPHY
VALERIE WILCOX



GET COMFORTABLE WITH COLOUR

For this project, we wanted to create a look that respected the heritage details of the home, but didn't feel too safe. This meant adding some colour and taking a few strategic design risks, one of which was a cool sectional sofa. The modular style meant being able to use a contrasting upholstery for a few sections, and a neutral fabric for the rest. It also leaves the option open for switching up the look later by rearranging the pieces or changing just a few covers.

Pro Tip: Green is near-neutral enough to withstand changing trends and mix with new accent colours in the future. This colour family in particular is a smart choice for accents you can live with for years to come.

USE A NEW NEUTRAL

Enriching your colour scheme doesn't always have to mean tossing in a new bold hue: adding a new neutral to your scheme will make the palette feel more diverse in a subtle way. Here, a cool mid-tone grey for the fireplace brick plays against the warm wood floors. This stone shade also helps soften the appearance of the black fireplace surround, plus, it's repeated in a cosy blanket, tying the entire palette further together.

BENJAMIN MOORE:
Chelsea Gray (HC-168)

Continued on page 30



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THROW YOUR PALETTE TOGETHER

Does the unique sofa seem like too much commitment? This is where accent pillows and throws come in. Not only are these changeable pieces a smart way to add colour without a big investment, but they can also tame a bold palette and connect non-matching areas. By piling the sofa with multi-tonal green and neutral pillows, the colours of the sofa sections become repeated and tied together. A striped blanket is then used to bring this accent hue to a neighbouring seating area for a sense of harmony.

Get the look: Use pillows and throws in related but subtly differing shades, and in a rich array of fabrics and textures, to integrate your accent hues throughout the space in a sophisticated way.

1. **BARCLAY BUTERA:** Greer Linen Insert with Grommets

2. **CELERIE KEMBLE:** Sail Celadon with Ball Trim

3. **BRUNELLI:** 3. Dorothy in Aqua

4. Fred in Cream

5. Pompon

6. Gwyneth in Blue Duck

7. **SURYA:** Troy Throw in Mint, Cream and Teal

FRESHEN UP YOUR WINDOW TRIM

Using a fresh minty accent hue for your window trim truly brings the outdoors in. First, it adds a pop of greenery in an unexpected way, but in a small enough dose that it's not overwhelming, or hard to repaint if you want a new look down the road. Second, it beautifully frames the view outside. We finished the look with elegant in-window shades rather than draperies, to suit the architectural appeal and leave the elegant trim exposed.



SAFAVIEH: Carlotta Arm Chair in Griego

TON CANADA: Merano Armchair in Beech with Black Stain

MOE'S: Adele Coffee Table

MIX WOODS LIKE A NATURAL

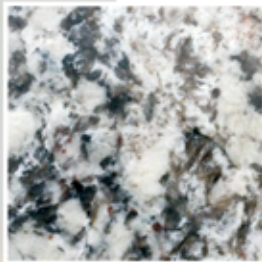
Think all of the woods in one room have to match? Mixing wood tones is like mixing other neutrals – the subtle differences can actually enhance each other and your palette. However, there are rules that will help avoid clashes. In general, it's safe to stick to just cool (ashy/grey) woods, or warm (yellow/red/brown) tones, so they don't conflict. It also helps to use somewhat similar grains. In this room, all of the woods have small subtle grains rather than bold exotic ones.

Get the look: Mix a pale rattan accent chair, rich-stained or lacquered bentwood side chairs and a natural-edge coffee table for a perfectly eclectic trio that extends from light to dark. **OH**

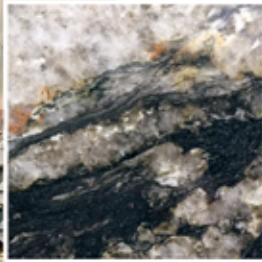


Get the look: We used Benjamin Moore's Salisbury Green (HC-139) for the windows (drawn from the mint upholstery on the sofa), but for the nearby entry door trim we matched it to the walls to keep the vestibule simple and breezy.

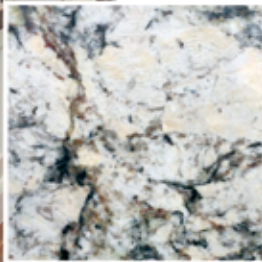
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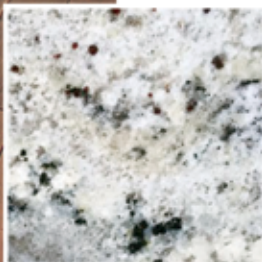
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Island Magic

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK** // PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

On summer nights, when the full moon rose high over the Big Sound, Spiros Melemis would launch his sailboat and cruise with his friend and fellow sailor, their boats silently plying the waves on either side of a shimmering beam of reflecting moonlight. *Continued on page 34*



A shed roof and dark wood siding give the cottage a low profile while corrugated steel skirting offers extra protection from winter's snow.



TOP LEFT: A dinner table on the exterior deck has wicker seating for 10. **TOP RIGHT:** Toasting Georgian Bay on a sunny afternoon. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Boldly-striped sofas and matching armchairs in one corner of the deck make an inviting spot for morning coffee. **ABOVE:** Nadine and Gary built a backyard shed to support solar panels that power the cottage with electricity. **LEFT:** A window wall by Muskoka Window and Door Centre opens wide from the main living space to the deck across the front of the cottage.



Wooden stairs ascending the granite slope to the cottage were individually sculpted to fit snugly against the rock.

Summer evenings still weave that moonlit magic on Huckleberry Island where Spiros's daughter Nadine and her husband Gary Walters have built a contemporary lake house to replace the aging cottage her father built more than 50 years ago. "In my mind there's nothing more beautiful than Georgian Bay," says Nadine, who has been summering on Huckleberry Island since she was a child. "The rocks, the wind-swept pines. It really is spectacular."

Her father bought a 1.2-acre parcel of rocky Crown land near the southern tip of the island for \$500 in 1964. Although he had never built a house before, using plans he found in the *Toronto Star*, he erected an A-frame cottage. "It was impressive," says Gary. "He built the whole thing with a handsaw and hammer."

Originally from the United Kingdom, Gary loves the outdoors. He had often explored Algonquin Park and sailed Georgian Bay aboard the Island Queen, unknowingly gazing at his future wife's summer cottage, just 100 yards from the Hole In The Wall, a narrow channel between steep granite cliffs that delights youngsters who thrill at diving off the rocks. Gary began coming to the island when he and Nadine were dating.

Continued on page 36



Although the original A-frame had served the family well, constant repairs were a losing battle. “It was well past its best-before date,” says Nadine. When they realized their sons, Kieran, 14 and Aidan, 15, loved the place as much as they do, they agreed a new cottage would be a good investment.

Nadine and Gary began exploring possibilities for a new summer home atop their sloping ground of twisted, folded granite, sculpted smooth by glaciers, waves and winter ice. “We actually got on the jet skis and went touring around the outer islands and inner islands, looking at various places.” Drawing ideas and inspiration from around the bay, they developed a contemporary design with a shed roof. “The intention was to keep it as tight to the rock and as inconspicuous as

possible,” says Nadine.

“We wanted it to blend into the rocks,” says Gary. “The rocks here are magnificent and we wanted to build it so it, at least in our minds, fit into the rocks and the scenery.”

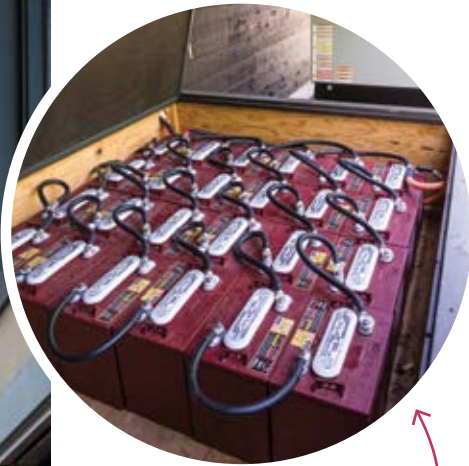
To execute their plans, they hired general contractor **Ron Bowman** of **Bowman Custom Building**. He had built their neighbour’s cottage, one of the first modern summer homes on the island, and came highly recommended. “He was awesome,” says Nadine. Gary describes Bowman’s work as phenomenal. “The detail, the finishing, the ideas they gave us were all great,” he says. Building designer Adam Vokes of Mountainside Design rendered drawings for the project. Construction of the 1,900 sq. ft. home took about six months and was completed last fall. *Continued on page 38*

TOP: The owners designed their new cottage to maximize the view. **LEFT:** Solar energy powers cottage lights, electronics and appliances, including a dishwasher built into the kitchen island. **OPPOSITE:** Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath furnished the kitchen cabinetry while Di Pietra Design supplied leathered granite for the island and countertops.





UpCountry armchairs swivel in a kitchen corner to allow guests to look out at the view or converse around the table. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Although the southern exposure receives the Island's harshest fall and winter weather, it also provides the best view. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A sunroom table offers sheltered space for board games or informal meals. **RIGHT:** On cool days, a wood stove warms the sunroom, where the coffee table was made from granite cut from the fireplace surround in the great room.



A bank of batteries stores solar energy.

Finished in dark wooden siding with corrugated steel skirting and glass deck rails, the four-bedroom cottage was built with the couple's sons in mind. Sleeping quarters are contained in two distinct wings, each with two bedrooms and a bathroom, enough private space for the brothers and their future families to comfortably share the summer home.

Bathworks supplied the bathroom fixtures.

Gary and Nadine angled the new building to capture an expansive view of the Big Sound. In the great room, a wall of glass by **Muskoka Window and Door Centre** folds open to reveal a panorama, stretching as far as Parry Sound. **Ryman Plumbing and Electrical** installed the cottage's utilities.

The kitchen, by **Perkinsfield Kitchen & Bath Inc.**, is furnished with cabinetry designed to withstand the fluctuating temperatures of a three-season chalet. **Di Pietra Design** supplied leathered blackberry granite for the kitchen island and counters as well as the polished, marbled granite fireplace surround in the living room. In a corner of the great room, framed by windows facing south and east, armchairs from UpCountry can swivel to surround a round rustic table or to face the view outside. "I love the early morning, when the sun is coming up," says Nadine. "It's the perfect spot, if you're inside, to watch the morning light." *Continued on page 42*





ABOVE: A round shower from Bathworks and a compact vanity with a vessel sink save space in this bathroom. **LEFT:** Rough sawn wood forms the headboard in the master bedroom.



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LETTING YOUR GARDEN STAND TALL



STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY
MELANIE REKOLA

Aesthetic, environmental or functional, there are many reasons to let your garden stand tall this fall.

Instead of sanitizing the garden with a complete cut-back and clean-out, let's celebrate architectural value and those subtle hues of decay. Slow down and really look around to appreciate the understated allure in the many sumptuous shades of brown, gold and tan.

For many of us the garden season seems to end in September, but it really doesn't have to. Autumn's beauty is in more than colour-changing tree leaves, and winter's elegance is in more than just the evergreens. The time is now to consider creating fall and winter interest in your garden.

GRASSES

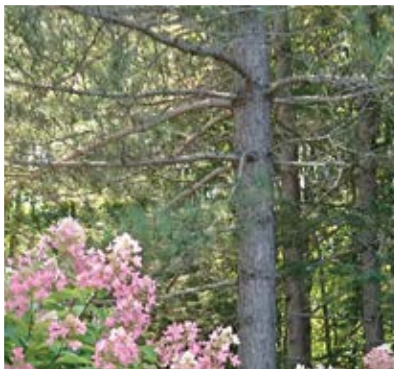
Grasses are likely the first plant that comes to mind when considering fall and winter. Their feathery or dotted plumage is divine and a lot of colour pop can also be found in their fluffy foliage, even after the freeze. By varying your grass selections you will be rewarded with warm winter browns, golden tans and hints of copper. A few of my favourite grass plants for fall colour are Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Northern Sea Oat (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) and Maiden Grass "Ghana" (*Miscanthus sinensis Ghana*). *Continued on page 46*



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LASTING LEAVES

Many plants retain their dead foliage throughout fall and winter. Just as grasses do, other common garden perennials (such as the common Peony) sport varied shades of golden yellow and red-bronze. A characteristic known as marcescence, some deciduous trees (such as Beech and Oak) even retain their leaves all winter long. In the dead of winter when almost all deciduous trees are skeletonized, the coppery leaves of Beech are still clinging to their branches – a joyful sight to see.

SEED HEADS

Seed heads add drama and contrast. Their often very dark brown and spikey kernels can appear jet black. I find this makes one take notice and appreciate all the exciting diversity of shape and texture provided by the natural world. When large perennials are left to stand with their sturdy stalks and branches, architectural interest is achieved. Giant Coneflower (Rudbeckia maxima), large Sedum varieties and Globe Thistle (Echinops bannaticus) top the list for plants with beautiful seed production. Seed heads left to ripen also provide a food source for many birds and other forms of wildlife.

WILDLIFE

Leaving perennials to stand welcomes all kinds of exciting creatures. And a garden teeming with life adds a whole new dimension to its otherwise static state. Ground birds, such as the Mourning Dove, appreciate a refuge of thick cover. Furthermore, many beneficial insects, frogs and other wildlife hibernate in leaf litter so don't rake them out. Some of our native solitary bee species overwinter in hollow plant stems, so don't cut them down. You just might be “throwing out the baby with the bathwater,” so it is said.

GARDEN HEALTH

More than just for aesthetics, leaving perennials to stand actually improves a garden's health. Standing plants accumulate extra snow, which in turn insulates their roots during cold winter temperatures. When that snow melts it also adds extra moisture to the surrounding soil. Plus, the decaying leaves feed soil microbes, making for a healthier soil ecosystem on the whole. Exposure to a certain soil bacteria will make you healthier too. Mycobacterium vaccae acts as a natural antidepressant, activating brain cells that improve mood, increase serotonin levels, reduce anxiety and facilitate learning.



Perfect for the low maintenance gardener, by waiting to cut back your garden until springtime you can cross this chore off the fall to-do list. Then in wintertime, instead of a desolate, lifeless garden cut to the ground, you will enjoy exquisite frosty mornings where every leaf, stem and seed head is encircled with sparkling snow. You'll be captivated by the variance in heights, textures and forms. You may even see a blood-red cardinal pecking at your spent Black-Eyed Susan flowers. After seeing such a sight, can you imagine being without it? Leaving your landscape alone this autumn is really a win/win/win situation for the garden, the environment and you. **OH**

Melanie is a certified horticulturalist and landscape designer.

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STORY TAIGAN DANCE

Many of us are guilty. With good intentions of using the green bin or compost, we've caught ourselves tossing food scraps and leftovers into the garbage. For some of us it's not worth the stench or grime involved in scraping the remnants into the green bin in an age of efficiency and busy lives; it seems easier to toss it all into the garbage.

Continued on page 50



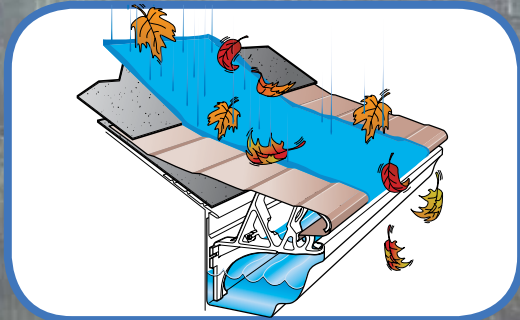
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But, it is fairly easy and worthwhile to live a greener life. While composting and green bin use isn't always pretty, it may soon become mandatory by municipalities. To help make this job easier, here are some products and tips to help make your green bin experience more bearable, less of a choice and more of a routine.

Products

A. BioBag: These bin liners are designed for 35-litre containers and are highly breathable, made of biodegradable plastic and ideal for kitchen waste. BioBag products have a very high penetration barrier against bacteria, viruses, spores and mould.

B. Compost Pail Charcoal Filter: The charcoal filters in these Canadian-made pails absorb odours.

C. Greenlid: No leaks, no smells. This Canadian-made compostable bin boasts that it is leak-resistant.

D. Waste Management Odour Disposer: Using plant-based ingredients safe for kids and pets, this spray rapidly eliminates odour-causing bacteria.

E. Ecolife Odour Blaster: Eliminates odours instead of masking them.

Preventative measures:

1 To avoid those smelly liquids often found beneath your biodegradable kitchen-catcher, layer newspaper inside the bag to soak up any liquids or smells. You can also line the bin with newspaper or egg cartons to catch any spills from holes in the plastic.

2 Use a smaller bin that is easy to access in your kitchen. The more frequently this bin is emptied, the less likely odours will consume your kitchen. Be sure to wash your small bin after emptying with warm, soapy water.

3 To prevent a gag-reflex-worthy encounter with pests and bugs, it is best to avoid tossing expired meats or meat scraps in the bin too early in the week. Wrap your meat scraps in newspaper and store them in the freezer until collection day.

4 In the winter, to keep your outdoor bin from freezing, try spraying the lid lightly with cooking oil.

5 In the summer, it is best to keep your bins out of direct sunlight, either in the garage or in a well-shaded area. The warmth from sun exposure causes moisture and makes the matter start to decompose and cause odours.

Problem solving:

6 Use natural cleaners in the bin to get rid of unwanted odours or pests. Sprinkling baking soda, spraying the bin lid with vinegar or cleaning with lemon juice are all appropriate ways to clean your bin without the use of harsh chemicals.

7 Eliminate odours by spraying the bin with a solution made of 50 per cent water and 50 per cent vinegar.

FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE YOUR WASTE PRODUCTION. HOPEFULLY, THESE TIPS MAKE YEAR-ROUND COMPOSTING YOUR NEW PASSION. OH



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GET READY TO SELL

STORY **MEHREEN SHAHID**
ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

Putting your house up for sale isn't just about listing it on the market. Experts say there's more to it than that.

GET FEEDBACK

"I think one of the first things people should do is to get a neutral opinion on their house on what is a good value to add," says Brendan Powell, broker and team leader at the BREL team, Sage Real Estate.

Getting an outsider to give feedback on what could make the house better helps homeowners decide on renovations that will be a real return on investment, he says.

"People often bring us in after renovating," says Powell. "That's usually too late because you can't do anything about it. If you spend \$100,000 on your reno, you can't add that much to the price. Just because you spent the money, it doesn't mean others will see the value, too."

SPRUCE IT UP

Be prudent in spending money, Powell says, but do fix the nitpicky items, such as bathroom or kitchen fixtures, creaky boards or crumbling brickwork.

Quick ways of sprucing up the inside of a house include a good cleaning, decluttering and a new coat of paint, preferably neutral colours, as they allow the house to look spacious and help buyers easily imagine their items in the same space.

Also, focus on getting rid of smells to which your nose is blind, be it cooking spices or pet odours, says Powell.

STAGE IT

If you still have no idea how to go about getting your house ready for sale, says Powell, real-estate agents can help stage or call in a professional stager for help.

Red Barrinuevo, professional home stager and interior decorator at Redesign 4 More says staging not only gives a fresh look to the house, but it also demonstrates effective use of space for buyers.

"If it's a living room, showcase it as a living room and remove other pieces that don't have to be there," he says. "For example, for a living room, all we need is a coffee table, a sofa and some chairs."

Another factor that helps determine a home's value and guides the preparation process for a house is its location, says Barrinuevo.

"If you're downtown, the buyer is probably someone working downtown and looking for a starter home. There, a small room could be staged as an office," he says, adding the quality of the furniture should reflect the value of the house. "If you're selling a house outside the city, an extra room could be showcased as a baby room."

IMPROVE CURB APPEAL

Make sure the exterior of the house is not neglected, Barrinuevo says. "That's the first thing buyers see."

Adding a fresh coat of paint on the garage door, taking care of the front yard and putting garbage bins in the back, instead of front, are just some items on the list. It should tell the buyer the house is well-maintained.



"The outside is like a teaser. If you get off on the wrong foot at the beginning, buyers will look for more faults," he says.

GET GREAT PHOTOS

Both Barrinuevo and Powell agree that once the inside and outside are taken care of, make sure a professional photographer takes the images shared for the listing.

"It has to be of professional quality, because this is one of the most expensive things you're going to sell," says Powell.

CONSIDER AN INSPECTION

Where most people focus on cosmetic fixes, it's also a good idea to get a pre-sale inspection done, says Graham Clarke, president of the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors.

"It allows the homeowner to be aware of what conditions or deficiencies are going to show up when the buyer brings along an inspector," he says.

This helps reduce potential renegotiation after a potential buyer brings in an inspector.

"The more information you can disclose, the smoother the transaction will be and the more realistic the expectations of the buyer," says Clarke.

Some common items homeowners can fix before listing include safety issues that may arise from electrical, water or leakage issues and neglected porches and decks.

And it helps both the homeowner and their realtor understand what the real condition is and set a more realistic price for the market, he says. **OH**



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NORTHERN LIVING

THE PLACE: With over 12 years serving the Muskoka, Parry Sound and Georgian Bay areas, **Northern Living Kitchen & Bath** prides itself on providing excellence in design, workmanship, product selection and service. Owners Nancy Fournier and Jason Robertson continually foster a positive team environment for the benefit of clients, employees and the community. "When we work together our ideas flourish and allow us to be truly unique," Nancy says. "No kitchen is solely designed or finished without the input of at least one other team member."

THE SERVICE: Northern Living Kitchen & Bath offers full cabinetry design for any room, from the typical kitchen and bath to mudrooms, entertainment units, fireplace surrounds, desks, closets and more. "We go the extra mile to help you select coordinating finishes for your walls and floors so everything works together," says Jason. "Give us a call for your initial consultation and let Northern Living make your dreams a reality."



THE PRODUCTS: Providing cabinetry design is how Northern Living started but it has grown to supply top quality plumbing and lighting fixtures. "With our recent partnership with the Living Lighting buying group we can now provide our clients with a full solution of interior products at great value," explains Jason.

WHAT'S HOT: Clean lines and simple door styles are trending. Contemporary style with rustic charm is big for cottages right now. Clients often look for cabinets that best

represent themselves instead of following trends as they might in their city home. Whites and greys dominate the colour palette, often with touches of colour as accent or a furniture piece. Quality wood grain melamine has had small growth in popularity. For countertops, durable quartz that mimics the soft veining of marble is by far the most sought-after material.

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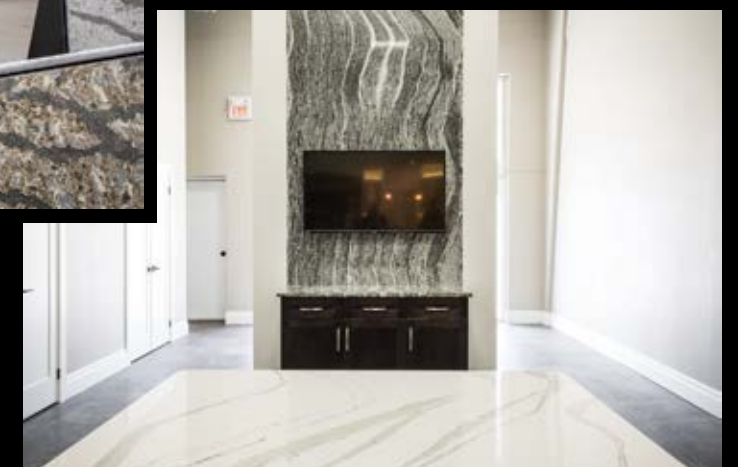
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Autumn WONDERS

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Master carpenter **Greg Hudolin** vividly remembers the cold, wet day in November when he met a new client near a small lake in Seguin Township.

“It was pouring rain,” he recalls. The owner of **LakeForest Construction & Renovations**, Hudolin and the landowner had driven to the lake 600 metres down a rough, jolting driveway where one of them nearly got stuck in the thick, oozing mud. “We stood out in the rain for about an hour talking about this building, about what he wanted to do and how he was going to approach the property,” Greg remembers. The landowner’s parents had bought the 16 acres of sloping, wooded land on 540 feet of lakeshore more than 30 years earlier. The Salmon Lake property was a place to escape from the city. Initially, the family boated in on day trips.

Continued on page 61

OPPOSITE: Shaped like the prow of a ship, the great room of this new cottage, by LakeForest Construction and Renovations, projects toward the lake and a sandy beach. **RIGHT:** At more than 50 years old, this maple dinner table functions as well and as elegantly as ever in the dining space of this lakeside cottage.





Built of maple by Chervin Kitchen & Bath, the kitchen cabinetry deliberately avoids the clutter of handles and knobs. Cupboards open and close at the touch of a finger.

They hiked in the forest and swam in the lake. As a young adult, the owner started bringing his own family north to camp in the woods. “There was nothing, just forest,” the owner says. “We loved it so much we wanted to spend more time here.”

With a long-held desire to build a cottage on the property, he just decided one day to do it and discussed his plans with several builders. After a friend put him in touch with Greg and they met on that rainy autumn day, the owner was convinced he’d found the right builder. “I knew exactly what I wanted,” the owner says. “I just knew Greg would get it. He got it. He’s a real mensch of a guy.”

LakeForest built the 3,000 sq. ft. cottage, with four bedrooms and three bathrooms, as close to the lake as possible. The prow of the cottage, an angled two-storey wall of glass windows and doors, by **Ross Windows & Doors**, abuts the shore road allowance. “We designed the shape of the building to fit right in there so we could push it right up as close as we could to the water,” Greg says. Builders preserved the backcountry setting, leaving as many trees as possible and keeping the cottage hidden amid tall pines, oaks and maples. **RH Designs** tied the landscaping and stone patio into the natural surroundings, to keep it wild and appealing.

The owner and his family love to be on the water. They shun motorboats in favour of quietly paddling the lake in canoes, kayaks or a small paddle boat. “One of the things that’s so wonderful about this lake is it’s a relatively small lake,” the owner says. “It’s a spring-fed lake,

Continued on page 62



ABOVE: An old phone from a family farm in Haliburton was saved for a prominent place at the lake. **LEFT:** The kitchen range, as seen from the loft, is built into the island, facing the great room, allowing cottage cooks to remain part of the conversation.



Etta, a son's pet and the cottage's vocal security chief, takes a break and snoozes by the fire in the great room. **OPPOSITE:** With three walls of windows that open to the breeze, the sun room on the east side of the cottage is a favourite spot to spend summer days and evenings.

so it's alive. It's healthy. It's clean." With no through traffic from other lakes, there are only a few hours during the high season of summer when they can hear motorboats, skiers and tubers. "Most of the time, we're alone." The opposite side of the lake, and terrain to one side of the cottage property is heavily forested Crown land. "It's complete privacy, it's extraordinary," the owner says. "We're

in the midst of nature. We've got the loons, ducks and geese, beavers, chipmunks and lake otters. There are bears and rattlesnake too. It's quite beautiful."

The owner says he knew what he wanted when he began designing the cottage and Greg taught him what was involved in creating different kinds of spaces. They used ideas from other homes Greg had built, refined

and expanded them with the help of the **RONA Building Centre Parry Sound**. "We went through seven or eight different designs in terms of roofline changes, floor plan changes and whatever else," Greg says. "At the end of the day, it is a completely custom-designed house."

While the cottage wasn't built in a specific style, some of its architecture harkens back

Continued on page 64



BELOW: The main floor of the lake house is built with extra wide doors to make it wheelchair accessible. **RIGHT:** Bordered with glass railings, the second-floor loft serves as a games room and entertainment centre.



to the 70s, Greg says. Douglas fir posts and beams support a loft and games room over the open-concept kitchen. Maple cabinets, custom-built by **Chervin Kitchen & Bath**, furnish the kitchen walls and island. Durable white oak, manufactured by **BreezeWood Floors**, a company that specializes in eco-friendly hardwood flooring, sheaths the floors on the main level, the loft and in the bedrooms. Pine covers the ceilings, where a massive, 20-by-10-inch, 36-foot Douglas fir beam, custom-milled and shipped on a rail car from British Columbia, spans the length of the house. “That’s the kind of thing the owner wanted to see there,” says Greg. “He wanted that rustic, real wood look. He likes natural things.”

There is very little in the home that is purely decorative, says the owner. “It’s all functional,” he says. “There’s a lot that’s aesthetic, but it’s aesthetic and functional. There’s nothing that’s pure aesthetic and doesn’t have some kind of a purpose.” The Renaissance Rumford fireplace in the great room, for example, is enclosed in drywall

instead of a stone facade. “I didn’t need to create the illusion of a stone fireplace,” the owner says.

The main floor is wheelchair friendly. All doors are extra wide to accommodate wheelchairs and the cottage entrance is built low so a ramp can be quickly installed when needed. “That was an important feature for us,” says the owner.

Two secluded spaces augment the main living area. Glass double doors open from the dining area to a large sunroom with pine-panelled glass walls that project into the forest. Upstairs, tucked into a corner of the house, is a comfortably furnished loft overlooking the great room. Glassed railings provide an unobstructed view of the lake from this aerie. In the dead of winter, the loft is the owner’s favourite spot. “Winter is out of this world,” he says. “Imagine looking out there and it’s all white, especially on a blue sky sunny day. It’s almost a mystical experience. The white is different colours, depending on the light. It sparkles. It’s serene. The silence in winter is a special kind of silence.”

Continued on page 66



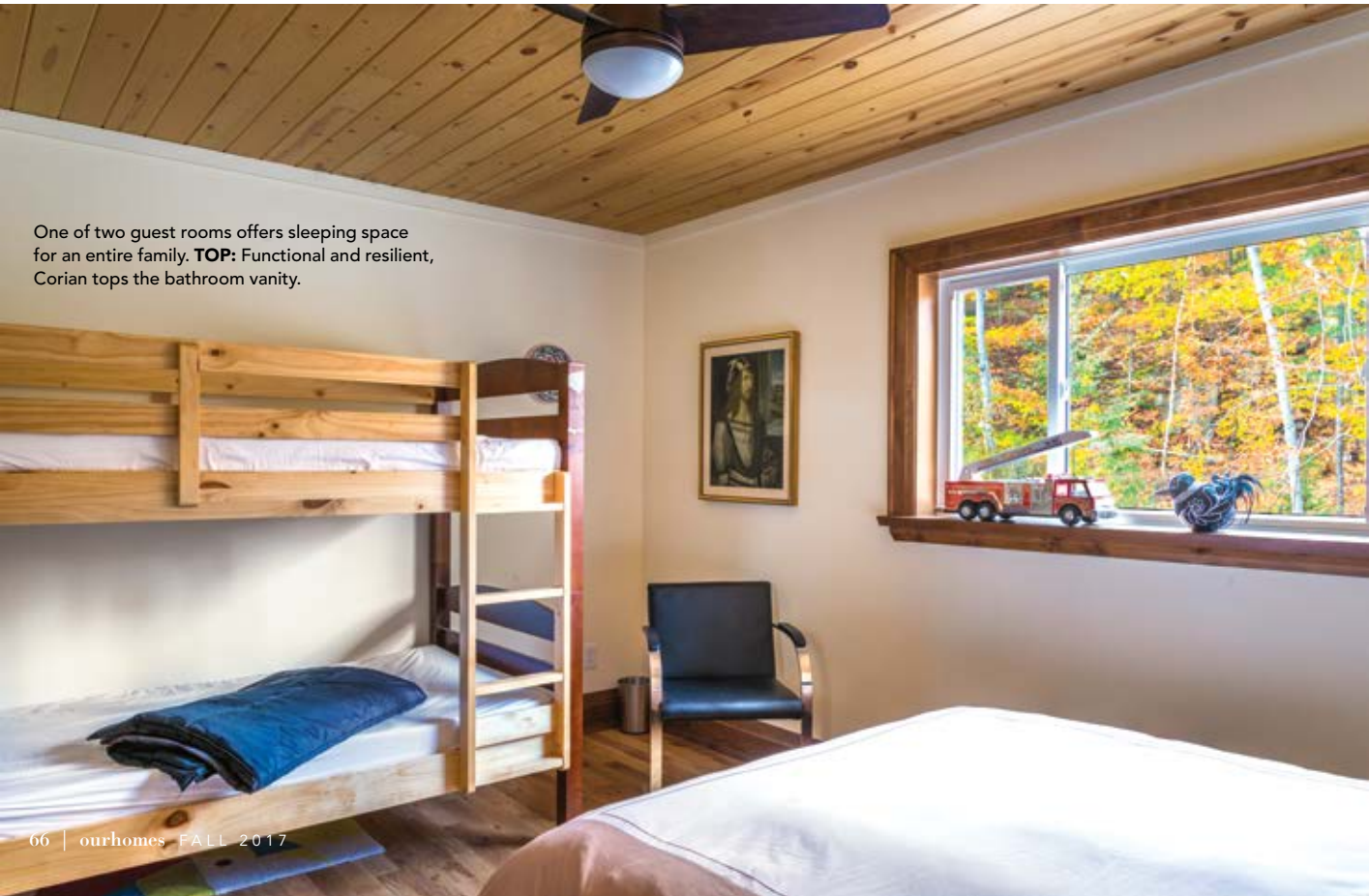
In keeping with the home’s strict functionality, the cottage has four bedrooms, but no master bedroom. Tough, resilient and beautiful white oak, milled from sustainably harvested North American timber by BreezeWood Floors, covers the floors.

Fall is his favourite season – the best time to walk in the woods and to savour the colour, the mood and the temperature. “I just love it,” he says. “I love the crisp air. Everything about the fall is amazing. Year-round, the cottage is a beautiful place. It’s wonderful to be in the forest. That was one of our concepts from the beginning. We wanted to live in the forest and to experience the changing seasons, week by week.”

As autumn leaves fall, they carpet the forest floor in brittle bits of yellow, orange and brown. The air is cool. Most cottagers are gone. Rippled by a gentle breeze, the lake is silent. “It amazes me,” says the owner. “Why would you leave now?” **OH**

SOURCE GUIDE

Anna Van Dalen Painting • BreezeWood Floors • Central Roofing Systems • Chervin Kitchen & Bath • Georgian Rentals • Graziotto Electric • LakeForest Construction & Renovations • Morrow's Plumbing & Heating • Parry Sound Insurance Brokers Ltd. • RH Designs • Renaud Excavation & Construction • RONA Building Centre Parry Sound • Ross Windows & Doors



One of two guest rooms offers sleeping space for an entire family. **TOP:** Functional and resilient, Corian tops the bathroom vanity.



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to fit glass vessels on top
Pencil
Power drill
Drum sander

Palm sander or sandpaper
with fine grit
Multiple hole saws in sizes that
correspond to vessel bottoms
3-4 C-clamps
Wood glue
Wood filler
4 scrap wood pieces of equal
thickness (for clamping)
Rust-Oleum Gloss White
spray paint


Continued on page 70



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HOW-TO

Vessels

Wash and dry glass vessels.
Use rubber bands and painter's tape to mask off stripes on glass vessels.



Set glass vessels upside down on a protected surface in a well-ventilated area.
Apply 3 to 4 coats of metallic copper spray paint to vessels, following manufacturer directions for drying time between coats.



Allow paint to cure completely for 48 hours before removing rubber bands and tape.



Wood Base

Arrange vessels on one of the two wood planks and trace around the base of each vessel with a pencil.



Use hole saws to cut holes slightly larger than each vessel. Sand holes with a drum sander until smooth. If you have a hole saw slightly too small for your vessel, try reaming the hole with a drum sander and coarse sandpaper to enlarge it.



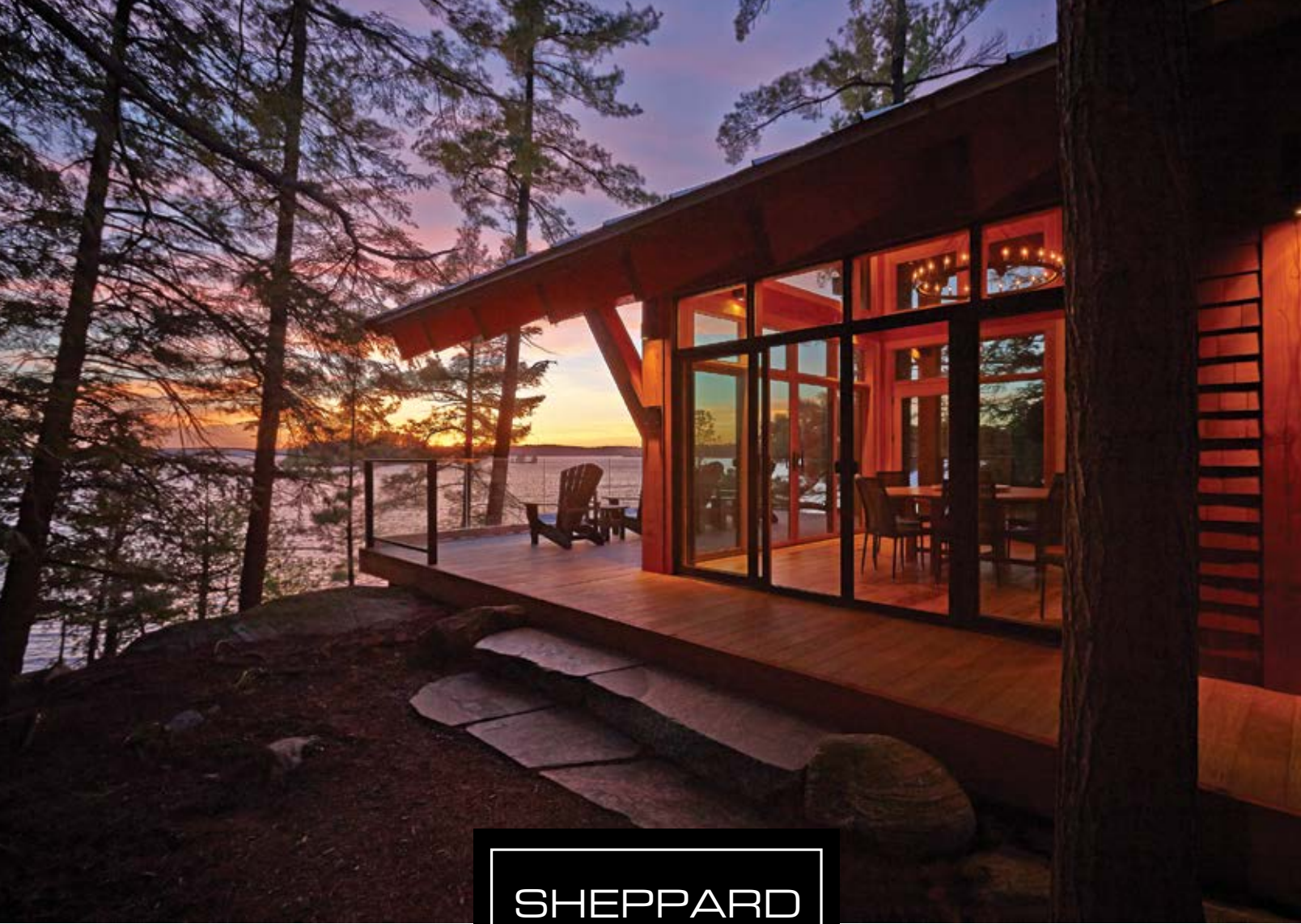
Sand all surfaces of both planks of wood with a palm sander or sandpaper.
On the plank with holes, apply wood glue to one side and clamp it, glue-side down, to the second plank. Use scrap wood to protect the planks while clamping with C-clamps. Allow glue to dry for 24 hours.



Remove clamps and fill the joint with wood filler. Allow to dry. Sand the edges smooth.



Place the wood base on a protected surface in a well-ventilated area and apply as many coats of gloss white spray paint as needed, following manufacturer directions, until satisfied with the look. We applied 5 coats. A light sanding between coats will help achieve a smoother finish. **OH**



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AT YOUR SERVICE



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WAYNE HOMER & LORI HOMER

OWNERS
Pro Pool Table Services

Tell us about your business: “We offer all services with pool tables,” says Lori. “We’ll come to your home or cottage and re-cloth them, level them, we’ll move them from one home to another, relocate them within your home – just about anything to do with moving and refinishing pool tables.” They also sell tables. “If anyone is interested in purchasing a new table, we’d be more than happy to help them out. We also sell accessories.”

Why re-cloth a pool table? “Sometimes they’re ready for a fresh new look,” says Lori. “Maybe the homeowners have done some decorating and want to have a more modern colour or there’s been a spill or a stain or a tear in it or it’s old and tired and needs to look fresh again.”

What are the advantages of using a professional? “It really comes down to the fine art of levelling it as you go, squaring it up as you go,” Lori says. “There’s nothing worse than taking a shot and having everything all roll over to one side. It comes down to having a nice tight cloth installation, nice and smooth on the rails and having the table level.” They encourage anyone planning to buy a used table to call them. “We’ll let them know what to look for, so they can make a good purchasing decision.”



FRONT: TRACY, DOUG, LYNN, ROMAN & DAVID
MIDDLE: LINSEY, TARA, CARLEY, PATTI, JOSEPH & CHRIS
BACK: ALEXIS, BILL, MATT, AMY, COLIN, ADAM, NICK & DALE
(missing from photo: Keith, Susan, Robert and Al)
Normerica Timber Homes & Cottages

Tell us about Normerica: Since 1979, Normerica has created the highest quality timber frame structures across North America and around the world. We have a simple philosophy: to marry traditional craftsmanship with the latest engineering and building science, delivering nothing less than our customers’ ultimate dream homes.

Why are your homes in demand? Stunning beauty and exceptional quality are what Normerica homes are renowned for, but our commitment to our clients – past and present – and an industry-leading warranty are what truly set us apart. Over the years, thousands of discerning customers have trusted us with their vision – most of those customers come from referrals.

What does every Normerica home have? Every Normerica custom home or cottage is unique, with two important similarities – an airtight, energy efficient building system and a timeless design that delivers harmony and warmth. Whatever your taste, our expert in-house design team will work with you to create a home that surpasses your expectations, today and for years to come.

Continued on page 74



SEAN JAIKO,
JJ FRANCOEUR,
AMBER MINISTER
& SPENCER
DESCHAMBAULT
Georgian Water and Air

Tell us about your company: At Georgian Water & Air we take pride in offering our customers the very best service and experience possible in cottage country. We offer a no-charge water or air quality assessment and evaluation and our trained technicians will leave you with the results on the spot.

How do I know if the air or water quality isn't right? In water the question is simple: Are your ice cubes clear or are they white? Is your orange pekoe tea orange or brown? Your ice

cubes should be clear and your tea orange. With the air, ever wonder why you wake up in the morning stuffed up, sneezing with itchy eyes? Poor air quality could be responsible.

How has pure air and water changed your life? When you have good water everything feels better, from your skin to your fabrics (towels, bed sheets, clothing). Food and drinks will taste way better without the chemical. The air we breathe every day will feel fresh and crisp without any objectionable odours.

Continued on page 76





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BRYAN GARDNER & CHRISTINA SHANE
OWNERS
Simply Cottage

Tell us about your store: “It is a blend of traditional Muskoka and contemporary Muksoka so that people can go one way or the other. It’s original and traditional, but also contemporary. All the rage right now is a blend of the two,” says Bryan. “We just started a new brand and a new section called Lakelife Mercantile, which is soft goods, art, décor, traditional Muskoka hoodies, that sort of thing – our own brand and our own label.”

Why do people shop here? “More than anything, it’s the energy and the vibe we have,” says Bryan. That vibe stems from the fact that Christina grew up in Magnetawan and Bryan is a fourth-generation

cottager. “We really get Muskoka,” he says. “We love the lifestyle and we’re celebrating it through the store.”

What do you enjoy about this business? “We love design and décor,” Bryan says. “When we get to go into other people’s places, whether it’s a brand new build or a renovation, or just putting new furniture in, it’s seeing other people’s places and seeing the way they celebrate Muskoka and helping them enhance that.” Bryan and Christina also enjoy hearing great stories about old antiques, retaining those tales and passing them on, giving cherished objects life beyond a garage sale. **OH**

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THAI COCONUT SOUP

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

Spicy chili paste and rich coconut milk balance perfectly in this Thai-inspired soup. Makes a warm, healthy meal for two.



INGREDIENTS
2 servings of rice or rice noodles
1 tsp light cooking oil
1 lb shrimp
1 tsp ginger, grated
1 tsp garlic, grated
2 tsp Thai chili paste
1 ½ cups vegetable stock
1 ¾ cups coconut milk
1 tsp fish sauce
1 tsp brown sugar
salt and pepper
Cilantro, lime and radish to garnish

DIRECTIONS

- Cook rice or rice noodles according to package directions. Set aside.
- Add oil to heavy saucepan over medium heat and cook shrimp until tender. Remove shrimp, season with salt and pepper and set aside.
- Add garlic, ginger and chili paste to the pan and cook for 1-2 minutes.
- Pour in vegetable stock and allow to simmer for 5-7 minutes.
- Add coconut milk, fish sauce and brown sugar and simmer for another 10 minutes.
- Finally, add shrimp to warm.
- To serve, pour broth over rice or rice noodles and garnish with cilantro, lime and sliced radish. **OH**



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EVERYTHING OLD Is Truly New Again

STORY **RICK SHURMAN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Although Mark Wenn and Melanie Valentine’s charming new cottage on the shore of Horseshoe Lake is only months old, it echoes a wonderfully heart-warming history.



Cottage owners
Melanie Valentine
and Mark Wenn
take a well-earned
break on the dock.

Overlooking Horseshoe Lake, the new all-season, three-bedroom cottage replaces the original cottage built more than 50 years ago. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Granite seemingly spills toward the back porch. The dock leads to summer fun. Muskoka chairs encircle the lakeside fire pit. Mark with his Fair & Square handyman’s trailer. A great summer spot for morning coffee. A shiny bucket catches bottle tops.

A history that speaks to 50 years of family gatherings, lazy summers, bracing winter snowmobile rides across frozen trails and so much more. Weekends dedicated to construction, reconstruction and renovation projects, generations of family members working side by side, creating a delightful setting that year after year renews their affection for this very special part of the north country.

Mark’s parents, Wally and Alice, first discovered Horseshoe Lake through Wally’s brother Roland in the early 60s. Its remote location, quiet bays and open spaces were all the reasons they needed. In 1968, Wally got together with Rocky Marshall, who owned a great deal of the lakefront and surrounding property on Horseshoe. The two sat down on a rock on the shoreline of the current cottage location, shook hands

and cut the deal for the property on the back of a cigarette pack. Not exactly how it works today.

As small boys, Mark and his brother Craig assisted their dad, along with friends and neighbours, in building the first Wenn family cottage. No hydro, no road, no modern conveniences. Just hard work, tenacity and the creative use of anything they could find, recover, reclaim and repurpose – an ongoing project and labour of love that lasted years.

Some 15 years ago, Melanie and Mark purchased the property. They managed to maintain the original handyman special for quite some time, with a little ingenuity, “spit and a prayer,” until a couple of years ago when it became obvious it was time to rebuild. *Continued on page 85*





Stained hemlock from IKEA tops the kitchen island and counters. **OPPOSITE TOP:** A double farmhouse sink, shaker-style cabinets and open shelving lend the kitchen a clean, efficient look. **RIGHT:** Multi-coloured coat hooks service the wall cabinets that Mark built just inside the back door.

Melanie scoured magazines, attended cottage shows, researched websites and eventually found a building plan they both loved – a modern take on a traditional lakeside retreat with a respectful nod to the property's family history. Simple, but elegant, open and functional with just the right amount of space to keep it cosy when friends and family get together. As it always was.

They approached **Kris Smith**, an architectural designer at **RONA Building Centre Parry Sound**, who finessed the basic plan to meet their specifications. Delighted with the result, they ultimately chose a general contractor to bring their finished plans to life. It was Melanie and Mark's desire to be fully engaged in the building process, to have input and a moderate amount of control over the sub-trades and materials and products employed in the construct.

They met and were suitably impressed by **Toby Scott**, from **Scott Custom Building**, a young, enthusiastic individual. "He was attentive and appreciative of our vision and our need for involvement," says Mark. "It was the perfect match. Toby was conscientious, pleasant and accommodating. He went out of his way to send us pictures every day to show us the progress when we were not around to see it in person." *Continued on page 86*



Red Canoe Interiors supplied the brackets used throughout the kitchen.



LEFT: Northern Iron forged the unique lamps and chandelier in the great room. **OPPOSITE:** Stoneworks Masonry built the wood burning fireplace.

Pine, originally salvaged from shipping pallets, was used to create this dinner table.



Melanie and Mark did most of the sourcing of materials and fixtures. Toby was more than easy-going about it. “He met our every expectation and delivered fantastic taste and quality every step of the way,” says Melanie. “We were so pleased with all of his choices.” She acted as project manager, as far as design and finishes were concerned. Both she and Mark come from the world of management and human resources and although they were keenly involved in the project, they were measured in their approach to ensure that the various trades felt a sense

of autonomy and inclusion. The result is absolutely picture perfect.

The interior is relaxed with flowing, uncomplicated textures, from the vaulted great room ceiling, finished in V-groove pine and illuminated with lighting by **Northern Iron**, to the open shelving, wall units and lovely rustic details. The exterior offers traditional, clean lines of deep blue-grey wood siding, bordered with black window frames and eaves. This cottage is both a tip of the hat to the historic architectural style of the area and an excellent reflection of what can be done today with the latest building materials.

Continued on page 89





SOURCE GUIDE

Accurate Drywall Muskoka Parry Sound • Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc. • Bay Area Electrical Co. Ltd. • Billy Watkinson • Comfort Zone Heating Service • Fair & Square Handyman Services • Fireplace & Leisure Centre • HillTop Interiors • Huckleberry's • Northern Iron • Prime Painting • Red Canoe Interiors • Rest Assured Construction • RONA Building Centre Parry Sound • Scott Custom Building • Stoneworks Masonry

ABOVE: Built in the 1940s, a treasured blanket box serves double duty as a coffee table in the sun room. **RIGHT:** A kitchen table that belonged to Melanie's grandmother and survived a house fire, complements the family heritage in the sun room.



LEFT: Holly, the family's 13-year-old Wheaton terrier, rests in the master bedroom where a nearby door leads to a private deck overlooking the lake. **BELOW:** Bedroom cabinetry mirrors the clean, simple style of the new home. **BOTTOM:** A hall closet contains a compact washer and laundry dryer.



“**Bay Area Electrical Co. Ltd.** of Parry Sound offered excellent advice and did a fantastic job on the wiring, lighting and all the plumbing installation,” says Mark. Heating and HVAC were expertly supplied by **Comfort Zone Heating Service**. Kitchen cabinetry was purchased through Direct Buy from KitchenCraft Cabinetry and is exactly what was needed for a simple, airy profile, delightfully complemented by butcher-block hemlock countertops from Ikea.

Melanie and Mark chose a strong, wear-resistant, laminate flooring, in a weathered pattern, that reflects the relaxed feel throughout the cottage. Northern Iron

furnished lighting for the great room and dining area to accentuate its rustic elegance.


“We sourced the stone for the fireplace ourselves and **Stoneworks Masonry** did an amazing installation for us and executed it exactly as we had asked,” says Melanie. Trim, mouldings and doors were supplied by **Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc.** to further the easy-going design elements.

Additional cabinetry and shelving throughout the cottage was handled by Mark himself, a carpenter and craftsman at heart who operates **Fair & Square Handyman Services**. He also takes credit for a handsomely crafted, rough-hewn styled bed-frame in the master bedroom.

Continued on page 92



In the all-white bathroom, tiles that look like barn board cover the floor and sheath the walls of the shower stall.


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LEFT: A pocket door opens to the bathroom where open shelving provides lots of storage. **FAR LEFT:** A multi-media artist, Melanie stitched the bright red pillows for this guest room. **BELOW:** Melanie's mother, Trudy Valentine, created the hand-hooked rugs that adorn the walls of this bedroom and the one next door.



Finally, **Rob Moore** of **Rest Assured Construction** was responsible for the landscaping. “He did an outstanding job of keeping it natural, yet functional and made sure the installation looked and felt indigenous to the property,” says Mark. From the crushed granite ground cover, to the quarried stone bordering the cottage, the fire pit and sitting area, it looks and feels like it has been there from the very beginning. “It all goes with the flow,” Mark says.

Many of the furnishings that so tastefully support the overall design of this exquisite getaway were found at **Red Canoe Interiors**, **Huckleberry's** and **HillTop Interiors**.

The dining room table, designed by Craig Laaksonen, has special meaning to Mark and Melanie. It's made of pine that Mark's father Wally salvaged from shipping pallets and brought to the cottage where Mark and Craig were tasked with pulling the nails and saving both the nails and boards for further use. A gathering place for friends and family, the table carries with it a touching piece of Wenn family history – a constant and very sweet remembrance of how it was back in the day and how this beautiful cottage has come to be. **OH**



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BROWN'S APPLIANCES



TIP: Grab a few pallets from a local retailer for a low price or possibly for free. Ask the store owner when they receive their inventory shipment and offer to take the pallets away as soon as they're empty.

rustic PALLET PUMPKINS

STORY **MATT BOWES**
PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**

Using reclaimed pallet wood is the latest trend for easy DIY home projects. Grab your jigsaw, drill and paint to make these adorable pallet pumpkins for your outdoor fall décor. *Continued on page 96*



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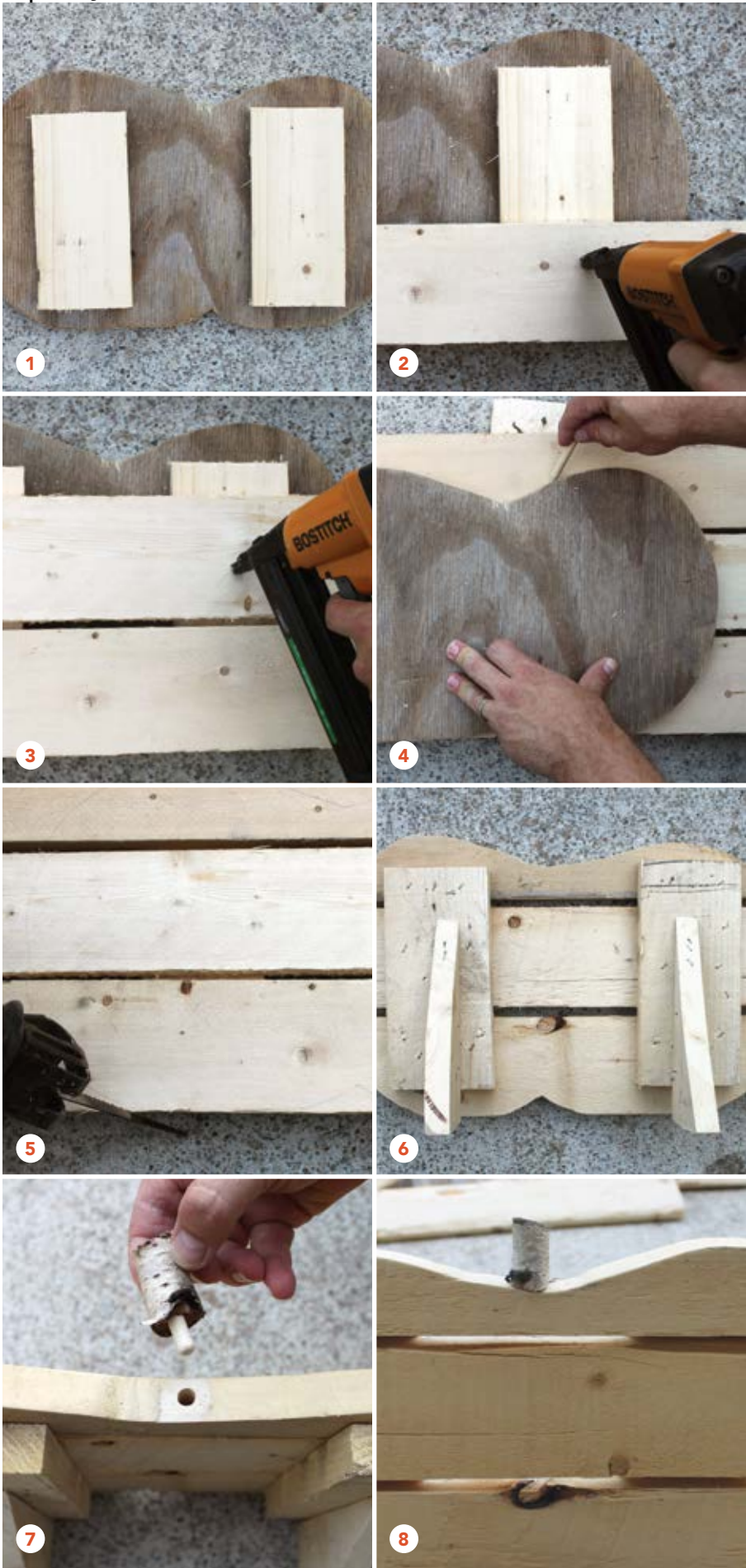
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- TOOLS:**
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Brad Nailer
Drill
5/16-inch Drill Bit
Pencil
Paintbrush
Sandpaper (Coarse)

- HOW-TO:**
- Pry apart pallets and remove nails.
 - Draw a pumpkin shape, any size you like, on a piece of plywood and cut it out with your jigsaw. This will be your template.
 - Cut two small pieces of pallet wood for support backing and place them on the back of your plywood template. They should be slightly shorter than the height of your template. (see image 1)
 - Lay uncut slats of pallet wood over the backing and template, about ¼ inch or so apart, covering the entire template. Nail or screw the slats to the backing (you’re not attaching the slats to the template). (See images 2 and 3)
 - Remove template from under backing and slats, and place on top. Trace a pencil line around template. (see image 4)
 - With your jigsaw, cut slats around pencil line. Now you have your pumpkin. (see image 5)
 - Cut two identical triangles from some pallet wood and nail or screw them to each of the backing pieces. These will support your pumpkin so it can stand upright. (see image 6)
 - Cut a piece of tree branch for the pumpkin’s stem.
 - Drill a 5/16-inch hole, 1 inch deep, in the end of the branch as well as the top centre of your pumpkin. (see image 7)
 - Cut a 2-inch piece of dowel and use it to join the stem to the top of your pumpkin. (see images 7 and 8)
 - Now you can give your pumpkin a coat of paint. We’ve used Annie Sloan Chalk Paint in Barcelona Orange.
 - Once the paint is dry, give it a quick sand to distress the edges and bring out the rough texture of the wood.
 - Repeat these steps to make pumpkins of different shapes and sizes.

Now your pumpkins are ready for display on your porch, in your yard or even inside your home! **OH**

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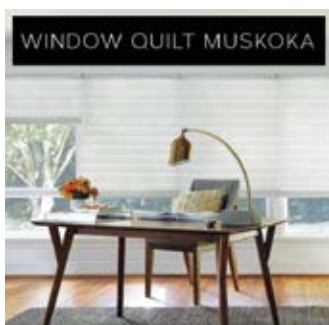
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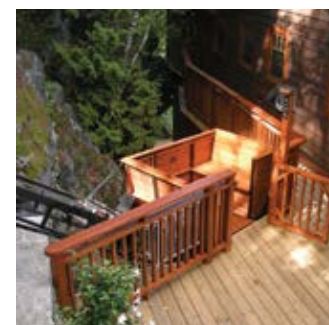
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Whisk-y BUSINESS

STORY **KIM MASIN**

A whisk is a staple tool for any chef or baker, but which whisk is the right one for the task at hand?

The variations, shapes and uses are many. Our guide will fix the mix-ups so your sauce is thicker, your cream is creamier and your egg whites reach the thickest peaks.

The most popular material for a whisk is wire, however, there are wooden whisks and silicone-coated variations in different shapes and forms, each serving a specific function. Silicone-coated whisks are made of wire coated with heatproof silicone, perfect for non-stick pans.



Balloon Whisk

Dubbed the balloon due to its shape, this is one of the most popular types of whisks. Amazingly, the balloon is made from eight or more flexible wires joined at the ends and attached to a handle. It comes in a number of sizes, from tiny to quite large. Wide uses for this type of whisk make it the most sought after for beating eggs, creating meringues and whipping cream into a thick delight.

SHOWN HERE
TOVOLO: Stainless Steel 11" Whip Whisk



French Whisk

This whisk is similar to the balloon, however its shape is longer and more cylindrical and the series of flexible wires overlap each other to then join together at the handle. Chefs prefer this tool for mixing sauces or for combining ingredients in a deeper pan to access the sides and edges. The flexible wires are preferred when cooking with liquids to create thicker sauces and custards.

SHOWN HERE
BEST MANUFACTURERS, INC.: 10" French Whip with Red Wood Handle



Flat Whisk

Also commonly called a roux whisk, used when cooking flour and fat to thicken sauces. There are fewer loops than you'd expect in a whisk, but they lie flat, rendering the orientation uniquely suited to stirring in shallow pans to create sauces and rid the creation of any unwanted lumps.

SHOWN HERE
OXO: Good Grips Flat Whisk

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in the kitchen



Spiral Whisk

This type of coil whisk with a slightly angled head is a bit of a luxury purchase, but was specifically designed to make constant contact in a pan or bowl to ensure even mixing and prevent scorching or lumps. This is the perfect tool for smooth vinaigrettes, or for incorporating liquids into a roux.

SHOWN HERE
RÖSLE: Spiral Whisk



Ball Whisk

Fans of the ball whisk claim the lack of the typical whisk loops makes it easier to clean, and allows for quicker and better aeration. The quick aeration makes it a preferred choice for whipping egg whites into the ultimate meringue. Pastry chefs also use this to make elaborate spun-sugar decorations for dessert toppings.

SHOWN HERE
WMF: Flexi Whisk Profi Plus 27 cm



Coil Whisk

This type of whisk is characterized by its one single wire, which spirals into a round shape. Unlike other whisks, which are stirred around the bowl to aerate liquids, this type remains stationary in the bowl, and is pumped up and down. Not to confuse things, but sometimes this is also called a spiral whisk, too. Used to incorporate liquid ingredients, especially in a deep vessel.

SHOWN HERE
WMF: Twirl Whisk Profi Plus 25 cm



Dough Whisk

The strange triple-loop shape and strength of this whisk is best used to lightly blend mixtures like batters, fruit fillings and muffin batters without overworking the mixture or breaking down the fruit. It can also be used to bring together yeasted pizza dough without all of that sticky mess on a spoon or spatula. **OH**

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RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY JENELLE MCCULLOCH



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WITH WHITE CHOCOLATE
CHUNKS AND CRANBERRIES
AND IS FINISHED WITH A FLUFFY
CREAM CHEESE FROSTING!*



BARS

INGREDIENTS

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 cups brown sugar

2 large eggs

1 cup butter, melted

2 tsp vanilla extract

½ tsp salt

½ cup white
chocolate, chopped

½ cup dried cranberries
and a handful for garnish

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a 9-by-9-inch baking pan with parchment paper.
- In a large mixing bowl and using an electric mixer, beat together melted butter and brown sugar until smooth.
- Add eggs and vanilla extract. Beat until smooth, then slowly add flour and salt and mix well.
- Add white chocolate and cranberries and, on low, mix until incorporated.
- Pour batter into pan and bake for 20-25 minutes until set in the middle.
- Remove from oven and let cool on rack.

FROSTING

INGREDIENTS

1 8-ounce package
cream cheese

1 cup butter, softened

2-3 cups icing sugar

1 tsp orange zest

DIRECTIONS

- While the bars are baking, with an electric mixer, beat together butter and cream cheese until fluffy.
- Add icing sugar 1 cup at a time until reaching desired sweetness. Stir in orange zest.
- Top cooled bars with an even layer of frosting and garnish with extra cranberries. **OH**



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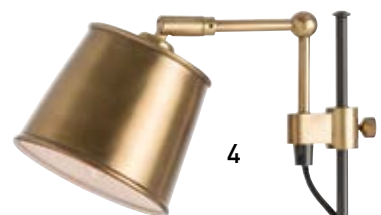
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6



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Continued on page 110

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