

# REINVENTING *Garages*

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY WALTER FRANZYK

**T**he humble garage is no longer simply a spot to store the lawn mower and yard tools or to protect a car from the elements. People who let their imaginations roam freely have found all sorts of creative uses for this previously very utilitarian space. OUR HOMES visits just a few of them.

## Limestone Trail Company Ltd.

Cyclist Debbie calls her coach house the Bike Haus. Her family uses the 7 x 10 ft. vestibule on the left of their coach house for bicycle storage and the 12 x 20 ft. main bay for spinning and bicycle maintenance. Prefabricated and erected by **Limestone Trail Company Ltd.**, this garage has two custom-built 42-inch front doors to allow entry for a car or boat. They emit plenty of natural light. The copper-topped cupola, with its penny-farthing weathervane, the round gable window and the shade overhang at the front with cedar pillars were all optional additions to the building. Rough-sawn fir clads the exterior. The family plans to drywall the interior. A friend wants to use it as a yoga retreat when it's finished. *Continued on page 66*



PHOTO BY MONIKA SCHAEFER



**DOORS AND MORE!**

**SALES, SERVICE AND INSTALLATION OF RESIDENTIAL  
GARAGE & BOATHOUSE DOORS, SCREENS AND  
SHUTTERS, AND COMMERCIAL ENTRY SYSTEMS**



HUNTSVILLE 705.789.1120 | PARRY SOUND 705.342.1120  
ORILLIA 705.325.0120 | TOLL FREE 1.888.789.1120



[www.abcdoors.ca](http://www.abcdoors.ca)

**MUSKOKA CREATIVE CONSTRUCTION  
& RENOVATIONS INC.**

*Creating Your Dreams in Muskoka*



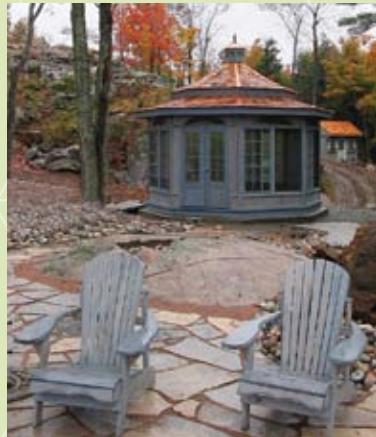
**DESIGN | BUILD | RENOVATE | MAINTAIN**

[www.muskokacreativeconstruction.com](http://www.muskokacreativeconstruction.com) [mcc.inc@hotmail.com](mailto:mcc.inc@hotmail.com)

1044 Baldwin Road, Bracebridge

PH/FAX: 705.645.1380 cell: 705.644.4477

**Architecturally  
Designed  
Garden Buildings  
and Gazebos**



GAZEBOS  
CABINS  
COACH  
HOUSES  
GLASS  
HOUSES  
CABANAS  
PERGOLAS



T (905) 563-8133  
TF 1-800-810-8223  
[info@limestonetraill.com](mailto:info@limestonetraill.com)  
[limestonetraill.com](http://limestonetraill.com)



**LIMESTONE TRAIL**



## Dean Harris

"I've been picking before picking was popular," says Dean Harris, owner of **Harris' Furniture & Antiques**. His barn is a great place to start looking for garage décor. Pictured here is a tiny sampling of the automotive and marine memorabilia and collectibles he has assembled at his Parry Sound property. "It is certainly diverse," he says of his eclectic assortment of antique gas pumps, signs, pop and beer coolers, boat motors, antique tools, gas cans and glass oil bottles. One of his favourite tasks is tracking down family treasures and memorabilia for the descendants of founders and operators of various Canadian businesses. "People contact us for specific items," he says. "You never know when and where things are going to come from."

## Brian Howard

The owner of **ABC Overhead Garage Doors**, Brian Howard (right) supplies and installs garage doors to suit all needs and tastes. "We can do any design you have," Howard says. His manufacturers will create doors to suit each individual client. "You just draw me a concept of what you'd like to see and they'll build it for me." ABC installed wood-faced, insulated steel doors, hand-built by Oxford Carriage Door Ltd., on a two-car garage that houses a 1972 LT1 Corvette Stingray at Bruce Fitter's home. The owner of SML Contracting Ltd., Fitter says ABC does all SML's door work. "We build upper-scale homes," Fitter says. "We like to use an upper-scale door. ABC finds the doors we want."

*Continued on page 68*





## Mike Doucette

Mike Doucette mixes business with pleasure and fitness in his three-car garage. His wife, Jane, uses one bay to park her vehicle. The other two bays are Mike's gym and workshop. The fully insulated garage has heated floors, a kitchen and refrigerator. While walking on his treadmill or working out on his Bowflex machine, Doucette can watch a large flat-screen TV or listen to a stereo. His workshop is equipped for his hobbies, such as refinishing old windows to create new mirrors. It is also a versatile work space for his business **Muskoka Creative Construction & Renovations Inc.** He has used the workshop to paint and stain trim and for finishing exterior siding. Refaced cabinets, salvaged from a kitchen renovation, store electrical and paint supplies.

## Dave Kennedy

A builder and avid angler, Dave Kennedy built his garage around his bass boat. The owner of **Dave Kennedy Contracting**, he designed the garage so his trailered boat – a black and sparkling gold, Z-9 Nitro – fits perfectly. When returning from a fishing tournament he can stand at the back of the boat and change fishing rods, stowing them on the garage ceiling. Wet clothing can be hung to dry on a handy rack at the stern. Alongside the boat, built-in cabinets hold fishing reels and other gear. A central vac helps keep everything ship shape. The former co-host of *Fishing TV* and *Extreme Angler Television*, Kennedy still fishes competitively, but makes his living as a building contractor. Last year, his fishing team was rated the All-Canadian Team in its division. **OH**

