



Lisa Barsony and Anji Goobie



In addition to the variety of items that you'll find in the store, My Back Shed offers custom finishing. Bring in your rough, unused pieces of furniture and Lisa will create a new, up-to-date look. A fresh coat of paint, perhaps in a metallic silver or gold, creates a light and airy look. You'll be able to keep the sentiment of your grandmother's chair, but with fresh paint and modern fabric, the chair will be transformed.

My Back Shed has built a solid reputation based on good quality products, reasonable prices and great customer service. Lisa and her staff are on a first-name basis with many of their customers who pop in often to see what's new and exciting. She believes that the durable quality of their finishes sets her wares apart. You can rest assured that the piece you purchase is in good condition and perfectly functional.

The thrill of the hunt drives Lisa, and it's all the more exciting when she finds a specific piece she's been searching for. She recently found the mate for a chair that a customer purchased from her nearly three years ago, proving that patience does pay off. "Finding the perfect piece is always exciting for me," Lisa says. She's able to see a treasure covered with dirt and envision exactly how it will look when it's finished.

My Back Shed offers a showroom full of lovely pieces ready to grace your home, including beautiful vanities and chairs. Step into the as-is room, and enjoy the flea market experience.

Items come with two prices: as-is for a DIY project, or the finished price, which includes your choice of colour and fabric.

Lisa believes you can fit antiques into a modern aesthetic for an eclectic look that combines the new with the old. You'll be thrilled with the treasures you'll find at My Back Shed. **OH**



THE THRILL OF THE HUNT

BY TERESA BAERG // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

It's never too late to follow your passion and change your career. Just ask Lisa Barsony, owner of **My Back Shed** in Oakville, a destination spot for refurbished antique and vintage furniture. A former dental hygienist for 10 years, Lisa found the inspiration for her business in her very own backyard.

Lisa's light bulb moment came while sitting at her kitchen table one day watching her husband build a backyard shed. A simple request to make the shed a little larger was granted, and My Back Shed was born. The shed was open for business every other Saturday, selling pieces that Lisa had collected and refurbished. Eventually, the decision was made to move into the current location in Bronte Village in Oakville.

Because Lisa's children were still young, at first the store was only open on Saturdays and Sundays. "It's amazing how we ever survived," Lisa laughs. As the kids got older, hours increased and the store is now open seven days a week.

Step into My Back Shed and experience another time and place.

Beautiful antique and vintage pieces of furniture have been carefully and lovingly restored and tastefully displayed. There's a sense of history and mystery in each of these pieces. Modern fabrics and up-to-date paint finishes create a French country, shabby chic aesthetic that keeps customers coming back from Toronto, Guelph and a little closer to home.

"I've always had a passion for antiques and I've always loved doing things with my hands," Lisa says. A lifelong love of old furniture, garage sales and auctions, combined with courses in upholstery and refinishing, make Lisa a natural for this business. She does the bulk of the reupholstery herself. A self-professed magazine and design show junkie, Lisa continues to evolve her business. "Even though they're old pieces of furniture, you do have to stay with what's on trend, whether it be types of fabric or colour choices," says Lisa.

Lisa has a staff of four and speaks highly of her team. A retired fellow, Dave, can fix anything and has become indispensable. He does the sanding and repair work so there are no sticky drawers or cracks in the wood when you bring your "new" piece home.