



# CHALK IT UP TO *creativity*



Nicole Poirier-Wyss

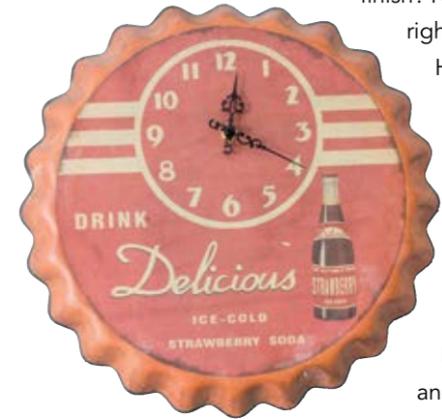
STORY **JOYCE TURNER-GIONET**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

**THE PLACE:** **White Pear Studios Inc.** is designed to unleash your inner artist. Heard of Annie Sloan? She's one of the world's most influential names in paint and colour. Her Chalk Paint is used by artists, designers and do-it-yourselfers worldwide. It's more than paint, it's about possibilities. Unlike the big paint brands, Annie deals with small distributors she calls "stockists," and White Pear Studios is one of them. "You know what I love about Annie? She's a big name, but always reachable. I can call, email, or message her at her home in the U.K. and she'll respond," says owner Nicole Poirier-Wyss. Boutiques like Nicole's are designed to show, tell and teach, not just sell. They're about sharing a passion, not just selling a product.

**THE STYLE:** What's great about Chalk Paint? It's fun, safe and easy to use with a rich matte finish. Mix colours to extend the range. No priming, sanding or preparation. Paint dries quickly. Parents love it because it's safe for toys. Want to distress furniture, create a varnished crackle or experiment with foils or gold leaf? You can. Love that 18th-century liseuse writing table Aunt Gladys left you, but not its dull



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finish? Nicole and her right-hand gal, Maureen Hetherington can refinish it if you don't want to tackle the job. Want to add pizzazz to a claw-foot tub by gilding it? The girls will show you how. Chalk Paint and its finishes are for everyone and every style.

**WHAT'S HOT:** The Rs are trending: Repurpose, refinish, renew. DIY projects are a time-out from the buzz of technology that dictates our day. It's not just about renewing "stuff;" it's personal. "When I paint, I'm mindful and in the moment," says Nicole. Her customers agree.

**FAVOURITES:** Chalk Paint is a favourite. "People gravitate to neutrals, but Annie offers incredible possibilities," says Nicole. "Start small. Once you're used to colour you'll love it." Interested in White Pear Studio's workshops? Sign up early. They fill up quickly.

**WHERE:** 119 Kerr St., Oakville  
905.582.8318 | whitepearstudios.ca OH