

# people

## DISTINCTIVE *details*

BY GINA MAKKAR // PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG



### Rick Beeke ► Doorway Inc.

**SPECIALTY:** We're a family-owned door and window company approaching our 20th year of business. In addition to sales and installation, we operate an on-site shop where we build, stain, and assemble doors. This enables us to create both custom and standard door systems at affordable prices. Come check out our showroom!

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**ADVICE:** As a major focal point, an updated door system will add beauty and value to your home.

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It's all in the details, and as we huddle under the blanket of our cold Canadian winters, it's a great time to get cosy and create an inviting living space. Whether you're building an addition, investing in a fabulous front door, or dreaming up a creative kitchen concept, meet the professionals who can help warm up your home or build you a new one.

### ◀ Peter Brejnik Brejnik Fine Homes Inc.

**SPECIALTY:** Brejnik Fine Homes designs and builds custom luxury homes and renovations. **MUST-HAVE IN A NEW HOME:** Everyone's style is unique, and a touch of character brings personality to a house and makes your home your own. Homeowners are moving toward smarter, energy efficient building options. We have the expertise to build the most eco-conscious and healthy homes possible. Automation is also popular right now. It brings life to a home, saves energy, and provides security and peace of mind. **ADVICE:** The sky is the limit when it comes to custom luxury homes. It's really about choosing someone that you trust and has your best interests at heart.

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### ◀ John, Gavin, Adam and Constance McInnis Kitchen Tune-Up

**SPECIALTY:** Kitchen Tune-Up offers remodelling options for every budget. We restore original cabinet finishes or reface them with over 4,000 door styles and finish choices. We also re-style by refacing and adding new elements, design new kitchens and supply custom-made doors for the do-it-yourselfer.

#### **MUST-HAVE IN A KITCHEN**

**RENOVATION:** Maximize functionality by adding full extension, soft-close drawers wherever you can. Adding drawers can also double the usable space.

**ADVICE:** Help ensure your design consultant makes appropriate recommendations by creating a wish list, establishing a budget, and clipping examples from magazines that show the style you envision. Ask for a written scope of work with every estimate and always check references. The most competitive quote may not be the lowest, but it may meet most of your needs within budget.

### Peter Sellors, Adam Bates ▶

#### **Greenville Soapstone Company**

**SPECIALTY:** Our craftsmen specialize in the fabrication of countertops, sinks and tiles. We provide the highest quality soapstone imported from quarries in Brazil and India.

#### **MUST-HAVE IN SOAPSTONE:**

Soapstone is considered the original stone countertop and has been used since the turn of the 19th century.

It's the perfect choice for people looking for natural, organic materials for kitchens, bathroom vanities, and fireplace surrounds.

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# CHEESE & WINE 101

WITH TONIA WILSON

Creating a concise and interesting cheese platter, along with well chosen wine pairings, can be effortless and fun.



The variety of wines and cheeses available to us is utterly astonishing, (no pun intended, no wait, that's udder). There are cheeses made from the milks of different animals – cow, sheep and goat, amongst others. There are wines made from hundreds of different grape varieties, and then there are the varied influences and styles of the regions they come from and the people who produce them.

With a few basic guidelines you can create a simple or extravagant cheese platter that will entice all your friends and family.

Cheese makes for a very easy starter. I find that if I have a big cheese board put together before people arrive I know that they'll have something to nibble on while I tend to last minute details. Don't add too much yeasty bread, otherwise everyone will be full before they reach the table. Thin crackers and bread sticks suffice perfectly. You can then round the platter out with two or three sliced meats, such as prosciutto or dried sausage, some dried fruit and olives and your work is done. The platter is visually appealing and is a great place for your friends to gather and chat with each other.

You can create your cheese platter on pretty much anything you choose, including a scattering of vintage floral plates, cake platters or old wooden cutting boards. For a more formal and elegant effect you can place your cheeses and accompaniments on a large mirror. The platter I use most is a "leftover" piece of wooden countertop trimmed to size.

Now, picking wine and cheese. We'll start with the cheese. You want a variety of "milks" on the platter, so try to have at least two of the three main milk groups – cow, sheep or goat. For a smaller group, serve three or four cheeses; a larger platter can be comprised of five or more. Make sure you've covered a variety of cheese styles. Try to offer something soft, such as a triple cream or a Brie-style cheese, something harder and aged, such as a Manchego or English Cheddar. Lastly, you can either serve a blue

cheese as your third option, or perhaps an interesting goat's milk cheese, such as a Crottin de Chavignol or a Canadian goat's milk cheddar. The main thing is to keep flavours, styles and shapes varied to give your platter visual appeal and interest.

Different cheeses go with different wines. This can get overwhelming and costly if you are trying to offer wine matches for all the different cheeses. There are, however, some wines that innately work well with cheese. For white wines, look toward bigger bodied style wines such as oaked Chardonnays or Chenin Blancs, both of these grape varieties tend to work well with cheese, perhaps because of their French roots! For reds it is always useful to have a fruit-forward Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot and perhaps something a little bit different like a new world Syrah or even a Malbec, both work well with cheese.

It's always more effective to choose your cheeses first. Once you've decided what you're serving take your list to the local wine store and utilize the wine vendor's knowledge.

Blue cheeses partner best with off-dry wines (meaning wines that have some sweetness), unlike other cheeses, which taste better with dry wines (meaning no sweetness). This can get expensive if you are opening a bottle solely for the blue cheese. A way to get around this is to serve a fortified wine that can be recorked and still be enjoyed up to two months later. Ones to try are Tawny Ports (Portugal), Madeira (Portugal) and sweet Sherries (Spain), all of which are terrific value and taste sensational.

## Cheat Sheet:

Below I have given a few examples of cheese plates that can be put together easily. They offer great range of taste and the cheeses shouldn't be too difficult to find. For any cheese or wine related questions please feel free to contact me at [tonia@savourflavour.com](mailto:tonia@savourflavour.com). Enjoy! **oh**

## SUGGESTED CHEESE PLATES

### Plate #1

La Sauvagine (Canada) cow  
Aged Manchego (Spain) sheep  
Roaring Forties (Australia) cow

### Plate #2

Saint André (France) cow  
Chèvre Noir (Canada) goat  
Gruyère (Switzerland) cow  
Stilton (England) cow

### Plate #3

Crottin de Chavignol (France) goat  
Taleggio (Italy) cow  
Oka (Canada) cow  
Pecorino Toscano (Italy) sheep  
St. Agur (France) cow

## >> SOURCE IT

### REMAX ESCARPMENT REALTY - ELENA CIPRIANO

Elena has never measured her success in real estate by numbers alone. Certainly, she has achieved some exceptional things in her career, routinely reaching Platinum Status within Remax, ranking her among the top real estate professionals in the city. But her own personal measuring stick is not number of transactions or dollars sold. For her, these are simply statistics that do not reveal what is truly important. For Elena, success is measured by the friends she has made along the way from satisfied clients. The greatest compliment a client pays to Elena is when that client refers her to their friends and family.

The basis of her philosophy has been built upon one unwavering tenet - "I treat a client's real estate needs as if they are my own". That means, a client is never pressured to make an offer on a prospective home or accept an offer on their existing home - quite the contrary, Elena often restrains clients from acting too hastily when wanting to make an offer on a property that Elena feels may not be right long term. A twenty-year veteran of the industry, Elena brings her extensive expertise and resources to bear in every single transaction - whether with a first time buyer or a multi-million dollar property. Her marketing savvy truly separates her properties from the masses - infusing dynamic photography, tasteful colour palettes and professional design to create a promotional strategy for your home that makes the audience beg to view more. Elena expresses her mission statement in the following way: "In the end, if I am invited to my client's new home for a cup of coffee to catch up on things, I know I have done good by the client. I feel blessed to have made so many friends from my business. Elena Cipriano 905.639.7676 [www.burlingtonhometeam.com](http://www.burlingtonhometeam.com)

(Please see ad on page 11)

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Bogart's philosophy never changed through the years. Today, it continues to be an alternative source of high-quality, beautiful and unique furniture that complements diverse lifestyles and unique needs. And more importantly, Bogart's fine furniture is available directly to the consumer, eliminating the need for the middleman and resulting in savings for the consumer.

Bogart Furniture & Décor occupies a 2-floor showroom in Oakville with select dining room and living room furniture on display. Come visit our showroom and view our collection. Here are some of the choices you have: Classic or contemporary living room and dining room furniture, Trendy office furniture, Stylish sofa bed designs, A wide variety of leather and fabric options.

You can also check our website [www.bogartinc.com](http://www.bogartinc.com) or call us at 905.829.0088 for more information.

Watch out for the opening of our new showroom in 2013!

(Please see ad on page 35)



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