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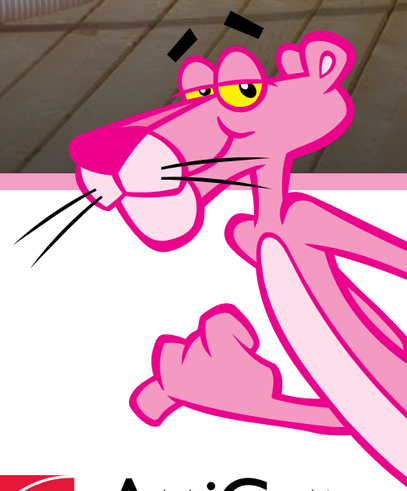

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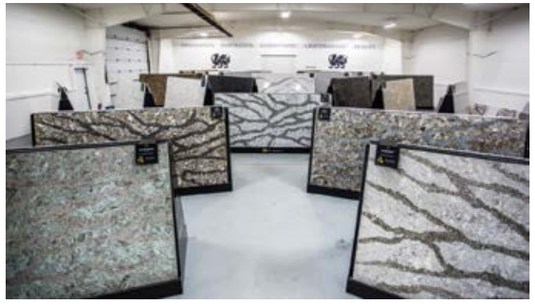

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WATER IS a defining element of the homes featured in this edition of OUR HOMES.

In Peterborough, we visited Dave and Karen Brown's home on the east side of town, their favourite part of the city, a quaint neighbourhood, separated from the Electric City's urban hubbub by parks and the Otonabee River.

When the couple first saw the home 21 years ago, the wetland at the rear of the property, on a tributary of the river, sold them on the property. The protected creek and green space ensured no one would ever build behind them. It affords privacy and a natural, leafy habitat. In winter, when the wetland floods a little, they can skate on it. Karen, who has a knack for design, steered years of modest renovations to the home. Her designs culminated recently in a modern new kitchen with custom cabinetry and gleaming quartz counters. Their family room also got a makeover. Dave added his touch to the natural surroundings with chanticleer pear trees that shade their front courtyard with a profusion of white flowers every spring. At the back of the home, he's growing a Vimy oak, a descendent of the oak trees destroyed in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917.

Early in the year, photographer Harold Clark, writer Lee-Ann Choquette and I dodged a freezing rain storm to meet Joanne and Rich Clark at their new Stoney Lake cottage. They grew up with a love of the outdoors, during summers and weekends on Cameron Lake and Stoney. With plans to retire soon, they leapt at the chance to get back on the water. They bought their property intent on making it their permanent home. The Clarks' front yard descends into a small cove, frozen solid during our visit and shovelled clear to create a skating rink. At the edge, a small fire blazed near two wooden arm chairs.

Nearly everything in their home has a story. Resourceful and imaginative, the couple made many of the furnishings and décor themselves. They used the weathered boards from a builder's scaffold to construct a long, rustic coffee table. A grey wooden beam, chiseled with slashes from an adze, came from a relative's barn to make the fireplace mantel. Fence boards from Joanne's parents' ranch are now a wall table that holds lamps the two of them made. That's just a small sampling of the home's unique features.

Take a closer look at these homes inside the pages of this edition. Hope you enjoy your visits as much as we did.

Walter Franczyk

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CONTENTS

FALL/HOLIDAY 2018

ON THE COVER

An award-winning kitchen design graces an early retirement home. Story, page 22. *Photography by Harold Clark.*

LOCAL FEATURES

16 **Style Picks** These winter nesting ideas are as unique as snowflakes.

22 **Home & Builder** A couple revels in Stoney Lake Canadiana.

32 **Spotlight** Focus Flooring Centre carries products from around the world.

36 **Feature Home** The heart of a Peterborough home gets a major makeover.

44 **People** Getting it right with the help of some friends.

DEPARTMENTS

10 **Editor's Note**

14 **Advice** Bathroom Design

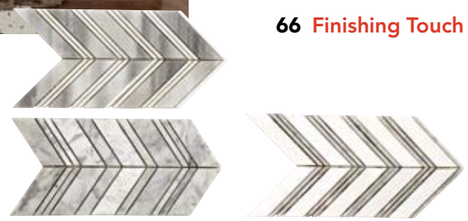
18 **Good Taste** Eggnog For Vegans

20 **Gardening** Feed The Birds

30 **Real Estate** Home Insurance Primer

64 **Home Resource Directory**

66 **Finishing Touch** Christmas Place Cards



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KEEPING CLEAN

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

1

2

3

4

Keeping clean has never been more luxurious and spectacular. The master bathroom, in particular, is the second-most-popular renovation after the kitchen. Visual appeal, functionality and unique design elements are what we are now looking for in our bathrooms. Tubs and showers are a great way to make your unique statement. Here are some tips that interior designers think you should know.

5

6

7

1. PRODUITS NEPTUNE: Florence Freestanding Tub
2. CASALGRANDE PADANA: Marmoker Nero Creta Tile
3. CASALGRANDE PADANA: Marmoker Olimpo Tile
4. SCHLUTER: Kerdi-Line Floor Drains **5. PRODUITS NEPTUNE:** Malaga Shower Tower **6. MIROLIN:** Cruz Acrylic Freestanding Tub
7. SCHLUTER: Ditra-Heat-E-Kit

TUBS

The new attention grabber is the freestanding tub. A sculpture that bathes you in comfort, it appears to float, taking less space than a built-in and easier to clean.

Tips:

- Test your tub for body size when sitting. A taller person requires a longer tub. A small tub will result in knees to the chin and not comfortable at all.
- Statement lighting over the tub can add that wow factor. Make sure your fixtures are rated for damp or wet locations. Place on a separate switch.
- A soft white lighting colour temperature of 2,700 to 3,000 degrees Kelvin provides a warm, cosy atmosphere so you'll always look your best.
- Dimmers set the mood and can be pre-set to the timing of your choice. Place on a separate switch.
- Leave three inches or more around the tub for cleaning. The handle of a mop still needs to reach around the back.

SHOWERS

The shower is where you stimulate your senses. Glass shower enclosures have eliminated thick tiled walls, allowing for more space. Glass doors can now roll or hinge effortlessly.

Tips:

- Curbs virtually disappear with curbless shower systems made possible by Schluter Kerdi-Line Systems. They have shower kits that provide the necessary waterproofing membrane and floor sloping for drains. Linear drains, which are long troughs two-inches deep, lie beneath the floor and need to run in the direction of joists or can be carved out of a concrete floor.
- Water can rain on your head or jet you from three sides. Be careful when selecting body sprays. Make sure they accommodate all members of the family and their various heights and weights. While they can be adjusted to suit your needs, jet sprays can be very powerful and you could end up with a mouthful of water or even injure sensitive body parts. You may need a grip rail.
- Large format tiles, quartz stone or Corian are now used for seamless shower walls, eliminating the need for those pesky, hard-to-clean grout lines. Ask your contractor if you have enough room to get them up the stairs or in an elevator prior to installation.
- Shower floors need small tiles for foot grip and safety so that you can avoid slipping. Make grout colour the darkest colour that coordinates with the tile.
- Install a waterproof light fixture overhead for safety. (Yes – you can still install an overhead shower.) Place the fixture on a separate switch with no dimmer.
- Shower benches are useful for a quick sit down during a long shower and also to perch your foot while shaving your legs.

SPECIAL TOUCHES

- **Heated floors.** Made more affordable and doable with Ditra-Heat-E-Kit by Schluter. It has a quarter-inch profile that minimizes the thickness of the finished tile floor.
- **Wall niches.** Scavenge space from wall cavities with niches. Wall niches can come in stainless steel or tiled. A slight slope is needed to drain water. Not only are they a décor element, they make all items more accessible.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Check out bathroom manufacturers' sites for your specific needs. Tubs and showers are just two of the elements to explore so that you can create your own unique fabulous bathroom. **OH**

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3 META4 CONTEMPORARY CRAFT GALLERY

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4 THE COZY HOME

Lazy Susan
Made from the lid of a repurposed French oak wine barrel, this lazy Susan is one example of the unique home furnishings made in Alberta and available at this downtown shop. The store also has tables, clocks, wine holders and a bar made of old wine barrels.

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5 HOWIE'S BLINDS

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6 NORM'S CASH & CARRY

Contemporary Tub
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VEGAN *eggnog*

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

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An eggnog everyone can enjoy. This recipe is a play on the classic eggnog – vegan, dairy-free and made with natural sweeteners!

INGREDIENTS

Serves 4

- 2 cups cashew milk, store bought or homemade
- 1 cup full fat coconut milk
- 3 pitted dates
- 1 Tbsp maple syrup
- 1 vanilla pod or ½ tsp vanilla extract
- Nutmeg and cinnamon to garnish

DIRECTIONS

In a blender combine all ingredients. If using fresh vanilla, slice pod lengthwise and scrape out seeds. Blend on high. Strain through a fine mesh strainer. Chill for 1-2 hours before serving. Sprinkle with nutmeg and cinnamon to taste. **OH**

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STORY **MELANIE REKOLA**

For the Birds – Suet

WHETHER YOUR FEATHERED friends are fall migrants or year-round residents, augmenting their diets with high-quality calories found in suet will help them survive and thrive.

Making homemade suet is about as easy as making hummingbird nectar. It's also more rewarding, affordable and often healthier than purchasing commercially made cakes, bells or blocks. Plus, making suet at home allows you to customize the ingredients to appeal to the specific birds in your yard as well as those you wish to attract.

TIP: To avoid attracting unwanted rodents, only put out enough suet for birds to consume in one day. This will also help the suet stay fresh.

SIMPLE SUET RECIPE

1 cup rendered suet (tallow)

1 cup chunky organic nut or seed butter of choice

1/2 cup wheat or quinoa flour

When it comes to making suet, the more natural, organic and local the food ingredients are, the healthier the results are for the birds. A homemade suet blend is also free from nasty preservatives and fillers.

Start by purchasing rendered plain suet cakes or chunks from a wild bird supply store, garden centre, butcher shop or pet store. These cakes can be used as-is or can be melted down and used in more specialized suet recipes. You can also save beef fat left over from cooking to make homemade tallow (rendered suet). Once you have saved enough to make the batch size of your choice, just add a bit of water and let it simmer on the stove for a few hours until it turns a golden brown. Then strain the liquid fat with cheesecloth to remove any contaminants and the resulting liquid will be beef tallow. Use it right away or store in the fridge or freezer.

Suet recipes need not be complicated in order to attract a range of hungry fowl.

1. Melt the suet and nut butter together until they are smooth and liquid.
2. Add the flour, mixing well. Allow the mixture to cool slightly to thicken, then pour it into moulds, containers, muffin liners, plastic wrap or foil as needed for desired shape.
3. Refrigerate or freeze suet until it is firm and ready to use. Extra suet may be kept frozen until needed.

Make It More Tempting

While a simple bird suet recipe is a great starting point, adding other ingredients to the mixture before it cools will make it more tempting to birds. Through experimentation you'll discover what your local birds find the most appetizing. These customizable ingredients include:

- Organic and unsalted/unseasoned/raw chopped nuts of choice
- Sunflower seed chips or other shelled seeds (many birds cannot extract the seeds encased with shells once fat is introduced).
- Organic dried fruit and berries
- Mealworms or crickets (my home bird populace goes crazy for these!)

Suet can be moulded into all sorts of interesting shapes leaving lots of room for personal creativity in your own bird buffet offerings. Given my personal affinity toward natural Christmas décor, my favourite way to display suet is by using a large pine cone that I run a stick through the middle of and attach with twine (the stick acts as a perch). I then smush the suet mixture on and into the pine cone and freeze it to set. I add a pretty double twine and ribbon combo to the top of the pine cone for hanging and voila, it's a gorgeous, natural and edible outdoor Christmas ornament. Bring on the birds! OH

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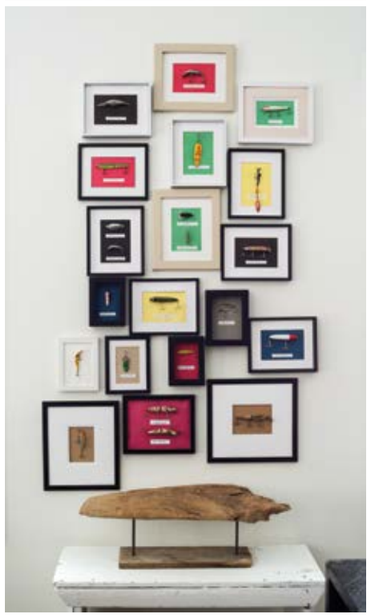
STORY **LEE-ANN CHOQUETTE**
PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD CLARK**

stoney comfort

Sitting fireside, Rich and Joanne Clark admire the expansive panorama of evergreen treetops contrasting against a land carpeted in fresh white snow. "It feels like you are sitting in a treehouse, right?" asks an upbeat Joanne. "We just love it here." Giddy with delight, the Clarks finally have their own four-season lake house on Stoney Lake. *Continued on page 24*

Old fence boards from the family's ranch were used to build a living room console. They topped it off with handmade lamps and a canvas painted in a Hudson's Bay motif. **ABOVE:** Homeowners Rich and Joanne Clark intend to make their Stoney Lake home their permanent residence when they retire. **OPPOSITE:** Stonemason Barry McClennan built the living room fireplace and hearth. Boards from a builder's scaffold were repurposed to make the coffee table.



A colourful collection of framed fishing lures makes a visual hook on a kitchen wall.

The award-winning kitchen design by Hickory Lane Kitchens includes black cabinets with brushed gold hardware and leathered granite countertops from Delray Granite. The surfboard at the left is plastered with stickers from the many places the couple has visited. **TOP LEFT:** Just inside the front door, a debarked wooden pole is a place to hang your hat.

"We both grew up cottaging, it is ingrained, it is in our DNA," says Joanne. With a legacy of cottage life on Cameron Lake, Joanne grew up in Fenelon Falls while Rich, who spent his youth in Unionville and then Toronto, enjoyed his uncle's cottage on Stoney Lake's Casement Island. "We would pull up at the lights at Crowe's Landing, point the car at the island and flick the headlights," Rich remembers. "I could hear the boat; it was my uncle coming to pick us up." His family has had a cottage on the lake since 1950, making Rich a third generation "Stoney Laker."

Living in an apartment in Toronto, Joanne works as a marketing executive. Rich is a network engineer. As young adults, the Clarks devised a longstanding plan to retire early and to get back onto water. Now in their late 40s, they intend to retire in less than two years. "We always saw this plan very clearly," says Joanne. "Everything we did was moving another piece of the plan into place for the long term."

Deciding they would need a home, not a cottage, they began searching for property on Stoney and Cameron. "Vacant lots on Stoney Lake are rare," says Rich. "We found two and fell in love with and bought this one. We could envision our house perched on the granite shelf, sitting high above the bay." They purchased the property in 2007 and started building their customized home by Beaver Homes and Cottages from **Chemong Home Hardware Building Centre** in 2012. They got an occupancy permit the next year. In 2017, they completed their chic, black and gold kitchen by **Hickory Lane Kitchens**. It features a leathered granite countertop from **Delray Granite**. The design received the Peterborough & The Kawarthas Home Builders' Association Best Kitchen Under 150 square feet award for 2017.

Joanne says she loves to see people's reactions when they first enter the home. "The house is very unassuming from the outside," says Joanne. "Once inside, everyone's face goes WOW." Rising from nine to 21 feet, the sloped ceilings, combined with white walls and a curtain of windows that spans the water view, make the home airy and bright. An open floor plan provides unobstructed glimpses to the treetop vista outside and makes it easy for guests to mingle no matter where they sit. In addition to the great room, which includes the kitchen, living and dining areas, the one-floor, 1,300 sq. ft. home has three bedrooms, a laundry room, a three-piece main bathroom and a two-piece bathroom off the master bedroom.

"We wanted something modern, fresh and different," says Joanne. "We brought in elements like barn boards, stone and pieces to make it

Continued on page 26

A high wall of windows overlooks the forested lakeshore.

One of two guest bedrooms provides a comfortable space for overnight guests. **ABOVE:** Joanne enjoys juxtaposing styles, textures and vintage in her home furnishings. Northern Iron furnished the overhead light in the great room.

interesting." Fellow Stoney Lakers and best friends Ian Beck and Duncan Fanning were a big help and inspiration. "They are good decorators and we always have fun talking about interior design," says Joanne. Ian and Duncan own Fresh Home & Garden, a luxury outdoor furniture store in Toronto. They supplied the Clarks with market umbrellas and a patio set.

Long before they started to build, Joanne imagined every room. "I like putting things you wouldn't expect to see and pairing them up," she says. "It's all about the juxtaposition of things." Edgy, upholstered armchairs with wooden legs sit nearby mid-century, black leather-seated shell chairs. A Ray Eames chair adds swooping lines, interest and texture in a guest bedroom. In the main bathroom, snowshoes, a Davy Crockett hat, a reclaimed French renaissance mirror and a rustic bathroom vanity made from barn beams share the space with modern fixtures like a wall-mounted toilet and a large, custom glass shower clad in indigenous granite.

Aiming for a mix of new and old, precious, purposeful and personal, the couple have achieved the space they imagined. Heirlooms like a Singer sewing machine that belonged to Joanne's grandmother and wartime keepsakes from Rich's grandfather are lovingly sprinkled into the décor. Antlers, acorns and birch branches bring the outdoor element in. Handcrafted furniture like the console Rich and Joanne's dad constructed from old fence boards from her family's home not only warms the space, but also the heart. Her father died two weeks after they took occupancy of the home. Decorative pillows, faux fur and woollen throws and rugs, including a silk rug Joanne brought back from India, and a contemporary hide rug she managed to fit into her carry-on luggage while travelling in Argentina, add elegance, colour, texture and cosiness to the space. A nod to Canadiana comes in the form of the iconic Hudson's Bay Company stripes on canvas wall art, towels and blankets. Joanne mounted fishing lures on coloured paper and framed them. Some are vintage, given to Rich by a long-time Stoney Laker. Other lures are retired old favourites. Another is a special lure from their nieces. The fishing wall not only adds a pop of colour, but also acknowledges the importance of fishing to Rich. "There's a bit of everybody here," says Joanne. *Continued on page 28*

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High windows in the master bedroom bathe the sleigh bed in natural light. Doors open to an exterior deck.
BOTTOM: A French renaissance mirror hangs above a vanity crafted from thick barn beams in the bathroom.

SOURCE GUIDE

• Barry McClennan Masonry • Beaver Homes & Cottages • Chemong Home Hardware Building Centre • Delray Granite • East of Eden Antiques • Foote's Heating Systems • Greg Armstrong Trucking & Excavation • Hickory Lane Kitchens • Horlings Garden Centre • John Johnson Plumbing • Lockside Trading Company • Napoleon Fireplaces • Northern Iron • Ouellet Connection Inc. • Rotospa • Tasco • Willow Green Ltd. • Woodview Farm & Forest Products Ltd.

Getting back to their early retirement plan, ease of maintenance was top of mind. Outside, the house is clad in vinyl, and they opted for a natural landscape with native perennials and no grass. **Greg Armstrong Trucking & Excavation** landscaped the property with its natural look and supplied hardscape materials. The couple planted junipers, hydrangeas and various perennials from **Horlings Garden Centre**.

Rich also made the house flip-of-a-switch-easy to winterize. The Clarks like to travel and they own a beachfront condominium in Panama. When they retire, Stoney Lake will be their permanent residence in Canada and Panama their winter retreat – that's when they are not out skating, skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing or jogging in the great Canadian outdoors at Stoney.

The husband and wife team are sharing a heritage of lake living together and are writing a new chapter in the rich history of Stoney Lake. "When you are doing the right thing, it just all falls into place," says Joanne. "All through the seasons, there are all kinds of good things awaiting us on the lake and we look forward to enjoying it with family and friends." **OH**

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

THE DOS AND DON'TS OF HOME INSURANCE

THE CARDINAL RULE OF HOME INSURANCE: BUY IT!

- **Do shop around when getting a new policy,** says Pete Karageorgos, Ontario director of consumer and industry relations, Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC). And remember to sit down with your insurance representative for a yearly review of your policy. The reason, Karageorgos says, are the upgrades homeowners do over a number of years.

  "That increases the value of the house," he says. "If you don't tell the insurance company about it, they may say, 'since you weren't paying the premium for that item, we won't pay you the amount to replace it.'"

- **Do make a list of valuable items you have,** Karageorgos says. Documenting assets helps the claims process go smoothly.

  "Most folks have smartphones with cameras, and it's easy to take photos of your rooms, cupboards, closets and your storage areas," he says. "A lot of times when we're faced with making insurance claims, we may forget what we've had in storage."

- **Don't assume everything you own is automatically covered in your policy.** "Most policies will cover a home for fire, wind and theft, but things such as power surges may not be covered," Karageorgos says.

- **Do check to see if you will need an additional personal articles policy.** "Understand there may be specific sub-limits for items, such as jewelry, sports equipment or stamps you've collected," he says. "You may want to look into having these covered separately."

- **Do check for specific events for which you're covered when reviewing a policy.** "More and more, we're seeing severe weather events in our communities," Karageorgos says, adding that customers calling the IBC's help centre say they are caught offguard when their dwelling is affected by a natural disaster, such as flooding or a storm. "Reality is, we're seeing a shift in weather patterns and we're trying to meet those needs."

  For example, he says, when areas in Calgary were flooded a few years ago, insurance companies weren't paying to cover for the aftermath.

  "Now, they are," he says. "This coverage also applies to septic systems. If those overflow, insurance companies are offering sewer back-up coverage."

- **Do look into taking steps to protect the house.** For example, insurance companies may determine premiums based on the distance of the dwelling from the shoreline, Karageorgos says.

  "Sometimes the insurance company may ask you if you have a safety measure, such as a sump pump," he says. "Look at what you can do to minimize the risk. Make sure the grading around the property isn't such that water flows into your house, but is pushed away from the house. Make sure there aren't any issues with the foundation. You could (also) look into getting a home alarm system," he adds.

- **Do repairs regularly,** don't think that just because you have insurance that it will act as a maintenance policy. If items that wear and tear and have a specific period of usefulness break down, you may not get the type of claims response you were expecting.

- **Do check that your policy covers additional living expenses**, which pays if families are forced to leave their home, due to a fire or another event.

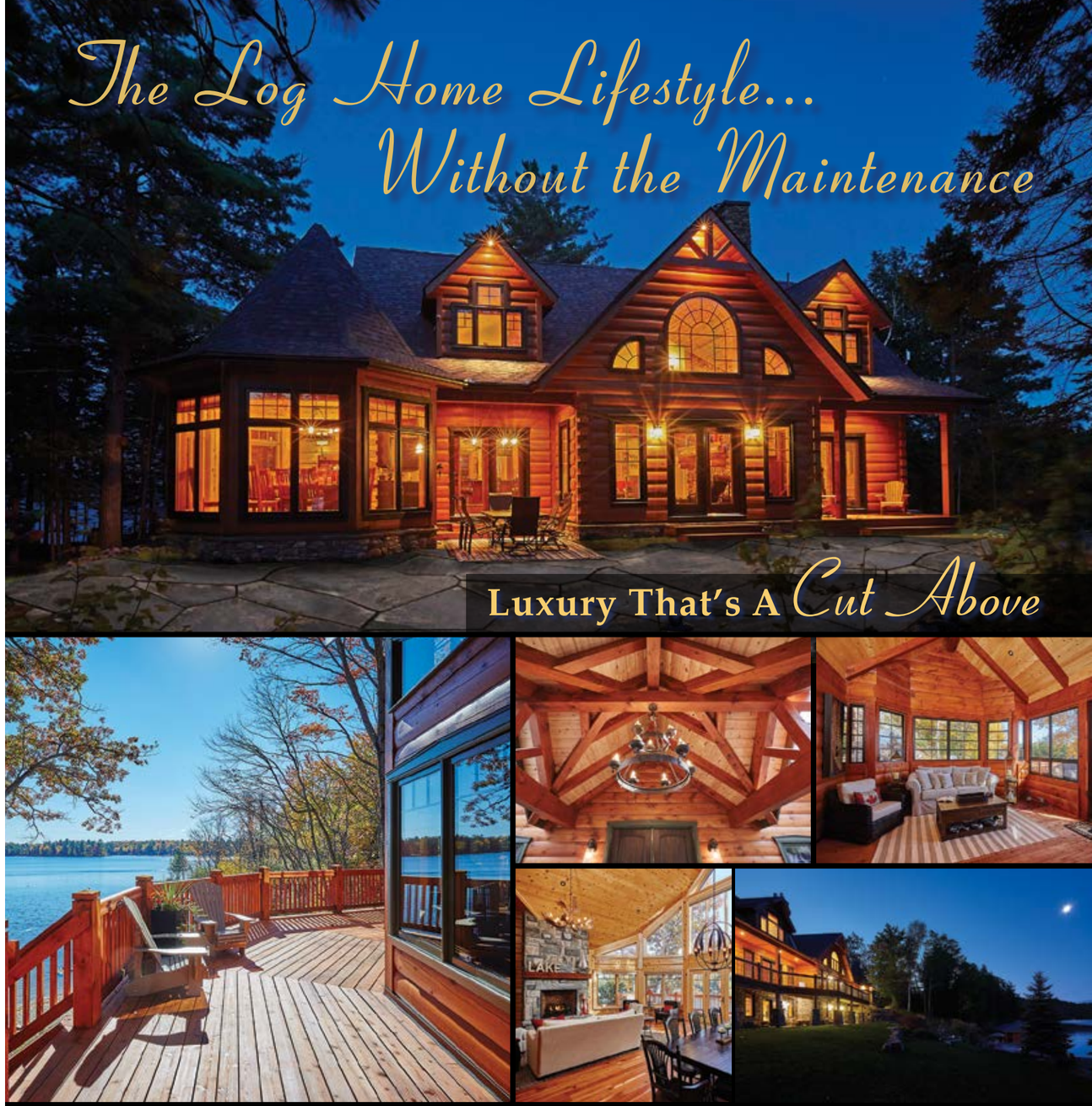
- **Don't assume your landlord's insurance will cover your valuables, too.** Home insurance isn't only for homeowners; renters should also look at buying a policy.

  "As a tenant, you're responsible for covering your own items," he says. "It also helps cover you for liability, in case of a fire or another event," Karageorgos says.

  Liability coverage also protects against being sued by visitors if they are injured on the property.

- **Do review your deductible.** "Adjusting your deductible is important; maybe increase it to have a smaller premium," says Karageorgos, adding another insurance do is to look at bundling home insurance with other insurance policies, such as auto and life.

General guidance is available through IBC's help centre, which can be reached at ibc.ca or by calling 1.844.227.5422. OH



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PHOTOGRAPHY **WALTER FRANCZYK**

THE PLACE: Just south of Peterborough's Lansdowne Street, in an unassuming strip plaza on Rye Street, is the home of one of the most remarkable stores in which anyone will ever set foot. When entering the showroom of **Focus Flooring Centre**, shoppers are greeted with a stunning array of funky tile displays, rusty metal walls, fish tanks, enormous barn beams, a water wall feature and a unique selection of all types of flooring and wall tiles. If you can't find what you're looking for at Focus Flooring, then chances are it doesn't exist.

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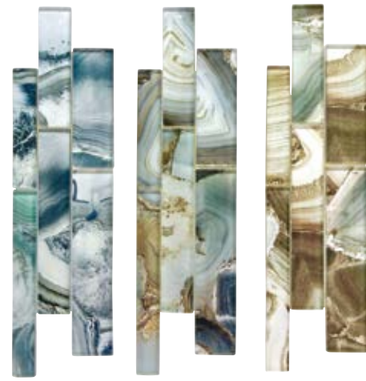

THE STYLE: From rustic, wide-plank hardwood flooring to contemporary stainless-steel tile, the huge selection has something for everyone. Choices expand well beyond the big box store selection – that cookie-cutter style that looks just like your neighbour's. "I've never seen anything like this before," is an expression commonly heard when people are shopping at Focus Flooring.

WHAT'S HOT: Waterproof vinyl planks have been a huge seller. "They have terrific graphics, accurately depicting hardwood flooring and ceramic tile patterns," says Doug. "They're easy to install, very durable and they're waterproof. What's not to like?"

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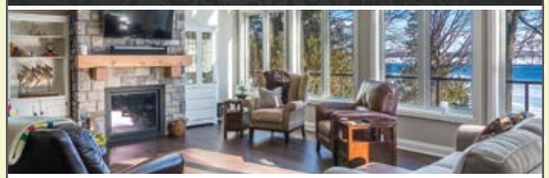

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STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**
PHOTOGRAPHY **HAROLD CLARK**
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reno GETS COOKING

A new kitchen, with custom-built cabinets and quartz countertops by Kitchen Cabinet Solutions, is the centrepiece of the most recent renovations to Karen and Dave Brown's Peterborough home. The makeover also created a beverage centre with a wine cooler, coffee maker and microwave oven.

Homeowners Karen and Dave Brown.

DAVE AND KAREN BROWN KNEW WHEN THEY BOUGHT THEIR HOME 21 YEARS AGO IT HAD PLENTY OF PROMISE.

"We saw the potential," says Karen. "We knew there was lots of potential to do some things with it. At the time, the kitchen was rather small, but I knew that at some point, when we had the budget, we could make it comfortable."

The Browns have done just that. They culminated years of modest renovations by installing a new kitchen, with custom cabinetry and quartz countertops and they renovated their family room, giving it a new fireplace, recessed pot lights and custom-built shelving.

Their leafy courtyard, surrounded by colourful perennials and chanticleer pear trees, where neighbours gather for conversation over a glass of wine, had been their favourite spot until they remodelled their kitchen and family room. Karen now spends much of her time in the newly renovated surroundings. Dave favours his perch on a stool at the new breakfast bar. "I love sitting here," he says. "I'm very comfortable watching the television from right here."

Dave and Karen each grew up in big old, two-storey farmhouses, so when the need arose to buy a larger

Continued on page 39

SCREENED BY GREENERY AND FLOWERS, THE FRONT COURTYARD IS A PLEASANT PLACE FOR DRINKS WITH THE NEIGHBOURS.

ABOVE: Chanticleer pear trees at the front of the house herald the arrival of spring with a profusion of white blossoms. **BOTTOM:** A rear deck overlooks the backyard swimming pool and the natural wetland and green space beyond. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The Browns lowered their dining room window to provide a greater view of the backyard. The harvest table was made from seasoned pine planks, stowed in a hunt camp, and originally intended for a wooden boat. **BOTTOM:** Kawartha Stair & Rail Ltd. created a new look for the steps leading upstairs.

home for their growing family, they chose a two-level, four-bedroom home in east Peterborough. "We liked the idea of having a two-storey house, having all the bedrooms upstairs and separate," says Dave.

The home's backyard, which abuts Farmcrest Park and an Otonabee River tributary, was a tempting feature that sold them on the property. "We knew there would always be open space there," says Karen. The wetland and creek ensure no one will build behind them, says Dave. "In the winter, you can walk out there when it freezes. A lot of times, we've been able to skate when it floods a bit. It's a great thing." There's even been the occasional hockey game on the frozen wetland.

The couple built a new deck at the back of the house as soon as they moved in. They installed a small swimming pool and an outside entrance for the home's basement apartment. They then slowly began renovating and putting Karen's design ideas into practise.

"Karen's got a great eye for decorating," says Dave. They widened the kitchen doorways, installed contemporary doors on the bedrooms, renovated the powder room and began laying new hardwood floors with new trim. "We slowly worked down this way and kept going," says Dave. The family room got a large new patio door while the dining room window was enlarged and lowered for a better view of the backyard. A hot tub and gazebos outfitted the backyard.

They expanded the opening, as much as possible, between the kitchen and family room and enlisted the professional help of **Brenda Perry** at **Kitchen Cabinet Solutions**.

"She laid out the best design for the kitchen," says Karen. "What I liked about Brenda is she would come right out to your home. Some kitchen companies don't really want to come out and physically see your place," she says. "I just felt really comfortable with her the first time she came in," Karen says. "I didn't check out anyone else. I really liked Brenda and I said, 'I'm going to work with her.' " *Continued on page 42*

A new fireplace, flanked by custom-built shelving and new furnishings, transforms the family room.

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Karen chose the appliances, cupboards, materials and colours for the kitchen backsplash and countertops. “I like the simplicity, the soft colour. I thought they never would be dated. I love the Cambria quartz countertop,” she says. Brenda contributed great ideas about how to make a small kitchen work. They relocated the refrigerator, shortened bulkheads above the cabinets and built a beverage centre with a wine cooler and coffee maker. Walls were painted with **Benjamin Moore**’s Silver Satin from **Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper**.

Builder **Ralph Armstrong**, owner of **Armstrong Restoration**, installed the new kitchen and backsplash. His renovations included built-in shelving in the family room, hardwood flooring, painting, trim and troubleshooting those taxing situations that arise when remodelling a home. “He was great. Whatever I wanted, he did,” says Karen. “Ralph is a very good finish carpenter,” says Dave. “If you’ve got a challenge, a tough situation, he can figure it out.”

Davin Orde Custom Carpentry renovated the living and dining rooms as well as the main entrance. Davin also installed new upstairs doors and hardwood.

Monaghan Lumber Specialties furnished interior doors, hardwood flooring, trim and building supplies while **Turco Tile Limited** supplied tiles. **Kawartha Stair & Rail Ltd.** enhanced the stairway to the second floor. **TBS Plumbing Ltd.** handled waterworks and **Jamie Condon** did the electrical tasks. **Peterborough Refrigeration Heating and Air Conditioning Limited** provided interior climate control.

Dave and Karen furnished their renovated space with items from **Bennett’s Home Furnishings**, **Knock On Wood** and **My Favourite Things** in Bobcaygeon.

For their dining room, they turned to a Fenelon Falls craftsman who transformed aged pine lumber into heritage tables for the Browns and for one of their two daughters. Originally intended as building material for a wooden boat, the pine planks had been stowed for years in the rafters of an old hunting camp, north of Havelock. The advent and popularity of aluminum boats eclipsed plans for a wooden boat so Dave decided to make use of the wood at home.

Karen loves interior design and has ideas for other changes. “But not for a little while. We’re going to take a little break from renovations right now,” as she sits back, enjoys and admires their latest mission accomplished. **OH**

ABOVE: Soft shades of white and silver on walls and furniture create a calm oasis in the living room.

SOURCE GUIDE

- Armstrong Resoration
- Bennett’s Home Furnishings
- Bonivan Windows • Cambria
- Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper
- Chemong Custom Sewing
- Davin Orde Custom Carpentry
- Jamie Condon • Kawartha Stair & Rail Ltd. • Kitchen Cabinet Solutions • Knock On Wood • Monaghan Lumber Specialties • My Favourite Things
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Birchview Design

What's new at Birchview Design? Birchview Design is expanding. We are excited to announce we have welcomed two new team members in the recent months. Each member brings a different background of expertise, which allows the firm to offer an all encompassing, full service resource to our clients.

In what do you specialize? At Birchview Design we offer a variety of services including residential, cottage and commercial design. From one-room projects to large scale retail, we do it all. However, our speciality is truly in new builds. We work closely with our client and their builder to take their dream home concept and turn it into reality, allowing the client to focus on the fun and exciting aspects of their new space and none of the stress.

What makes your business unique? At Birchview Design, we pride ourselves in offering superior client service. From concept to completion, we are there every step of the way. The firm runs on communication, transparency and an understanding that each curated space is unique. Not only do clients experience this superior service from our team, but we work with an extended group of trusted sub-trades and suppliers who value quality and service as much as we do.

AL ROSE, *PRESIDENT*

Stalwood Homes

What's new with Stalwood Homes? The company is expanding, with five residential sites in various developments, including Brighton, Cobourg and Grafton, as well as a rental housing project in Cobourg. "We've revamped our website to be more user-friendly," says Al Rose. "We've created an online portal called Dream Home Navigator that will allow our condo buyers to choose their kitchen and bathroom cabinets, flooring, plumbing fixtures and other features online. It lets clients make their own choices in the comfort of their home and think about what they want to have in their new home," he says. "It allows them to do it on their own schedule, when they feel like it."

What's key to Stalwood's success? "Attention to detail, communicating and listening. The key is to listen to your client and deliver exactly what they want," he says. Stalwood builds about 60 homes every year for every demographic, at every price point, with the same Stalwood quality. "That's been our key – to be able to do it all." With more than 30 employees, Stalwood is a team effort. "Everybody has their areas of expertise and they're very good at what they do. Each of them is essential to the team's success."

Continued on page 46

SUSAN BOWIE

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Royal LePage Frank Real Estate, Brokerage

How can you help clients? "I've been selling homes for almost 16 years and with my background in design I have a unique ability to help sellers prepare their home for sale and buyers to see different aspects of a home that might not already have been there," says Susan Bowie. She studied interior design at Ryerson University and owned a shop on the Danforth before moving to Peterborough and getting her real estate licence. "I enjoy working with people closely and building a relationship, beyond just putting up a sign and getting the sale done. I'm always making sure I'm doing all the things I need to do to fulfill the client's needs."

How can you help those people buying a home? "From the buyer's perspective, sometimes you have a buyer who has a tight budget and so sometimes you have to look beyond a client's initial criteria and see what possibilities a home might have for them. What can really help is to be able to talk it through and see what they can do with the house to make it right for them." As the market changes, some buyers have to be more creative, she says. "A lot of buyers have to look beyond that first glance and see the possibilities."

MIKE JONES, *DESIGN & SALES SPECIALIST*
& JENNIFER GARTNER, *DESIGN & SALES SPECIALIST*

Royal Homes

Tell us about your company: Royal Homes is a custom prefab homebuilder, specializing in custom homes and cottages throughout Ontario. Each of our locations offers a fully furnished model home and design centre. Royal Homes has been in business since 1971 and continues to be a forerunner in building design, technology and finishing in the modular home industry.

What makes Royal Homes unique? We are flexible in what we design for our clients. They may choose from our standard designs and make revisions to suit their tastes, or we can custom design them a home or cottage to suit their requirements and budget, or build from their plans. Since the homes are built in a factory and delivered to the site, we are able to build year-round.

What are the advantages of prefabricated homes? The prefab units are built in a factory under a controlled environment, which ensures the home is built to high standards. The homes are built square and have numerous inspections along the way. Since the home is predesigned and pre-engineered, and the clients choose their finishes before the home is built, they have a firm price. Clients know when their home is being produced, delivered and finished.

Continued on page 48

CHARLES & SHARON HARWOOD, *OWNERS*
Harwood Kitchens

What's new at Harwood Kitchens? "We recently won an award on Houzz. We were voted the kitchen business with the best customer service," says Charles Harwood. For two years in a row, Harwood took home the Peterborough & The Kawarthas Home Builders' Association awards for best kitchen design under 100 square feet and over 100 square feet.

Where are kitchens trending? "People continue to like open-concept designs, so lots of the renovations we do involve opening the walls up to make the kitchen part of the rest of the house, sharing the light, making the traffic flow a little nicer, with maybe a big island instead of a wall separating the kitchen from the family room or living room," says Charles. "There's lots of new colours this year – all of them white," he smiles. "White kitchens are still the most popular colour." Multi-coloured tile backsplashes are also favoured, says Sharon. "The lighter wood colours are a good seller when people want wood," she says.

How can you help with design? "Our job is to try and stay at the forefront of it, so we can advise our customers about what's in style and sometimes, more importantly, what's not in style, so that they don't buy something and find they've bought it at the tail end of a trend."

JENNIFER ROBERTS, *OWNER*
Southern Comfort Hearth & Home

What's new at Southern Comfort? There's always new items in the showroom, lots of great sofas and Canadian solid wood furniture. We're always bringing in the latest fabrics, the latest trends and styles of sofas. It's great to come in, sit in everything, find the style that suits you best. We are also a great place to find that one piece of art you have been looking for.

What are the trends in fireplaces? Fireplaces are forever changing. Expect to see new efficiencies and modern looks, especially for wood fireplaces. Clean lines are the trend in fireplaces. Homeowners are moving away from the traditional fireplace look and we find owners favour fireplaces with clean lines, more of a modern look.

Your services? For fireplaces we provide turnkey installations. From helping you decide which unit is right for you to installation and finishing, gas/propane line installations, chimney and venting systems, barbecue connections and WETT installations. For interior design, we'll help you pull the room together. We assist with floor layouts, colours, art and furniture layouts.

Continued on page 50

ANN GRILLS, *DESIGNER,* DAN STANFORD, *PRESIDENT,* BEVERLY WELLINGTON & STACEY LAWRENCE, *DESIGNERS*

Cabinetree

What's new at Cabinetree? "We have invested relentlessly in modern, automated equipment, which has managed to keep our costs down and allowed us to do the high-end custom product at reasonable costs, but also to have a product that fills a segment that is more in the middle of market," says Dan. "We certainly have had lots of comments from people who had not realized that our product is as affordable as it is. We are trying to move to a broader segment of the market. Lots of people presume we're non-affordable. When they get here they find we're amazingly affordable."

What are the advantages of a custom kitchen? "There are many. One of them is we can make the cabinets exactly the right size, so there aren't fillers and compromises made in terms of storage. We have standard finishes and custom finishes where people can have colours that will match exactly what they want. We can customize details in lots of areas," Dan says. "There is also accountability, the fact that the person building the kitchen is doing so right in our community," he says. "We contribute to the community and that's a healthy thing. We think that the fact we're here makes a lot of people confident that they're going to get a good job and it's not misplaced confidence."

Continued on page 52

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DAVE URRY, LARRY SPEERS, STEVE DURAND, JIM SMITH & LAURA SPENCLEY

Linwood Custom Homes

What does Linwood provide clients? Linwood Homes has a design library of more than 500 home plans in many different styles and sizes to suit any budget or location. "We can also create your own unique custom design," says Larry Speers. "Whatever you want to build, we have a design and material package or home kit to meet your needs."

Why do people choose Linwood homes? In its 50th year, Linwood has won the most national awards for "outstanding custom home" by using design and material home packages and a local builder or Linwood Construction services. These awards have been achieved even when competing against homes that cost much more. Linwood's homes have the wow factor or that something extra that immediately creates a lasting impression of value and quality, Larry says. Linwood homes showcase soaring ceilings, harmonious living spaces and an abundance of light. Linwood's use of natural wood features, including western red cedar and exposed Douglas fir beams, is admired throughout the world.

What advantages does custom design offer? Linwood's proven track record means clients benefit from award-winning expertise to get an outstanding custom home at a great price. The Linwood home package includes the creation of a top-quality design. Working with Linwood's design experts means clients can create a site-specific concept that can actually be built and meets their budget requirements.

Continued on page 54

PHOTO: BONNIE FOX

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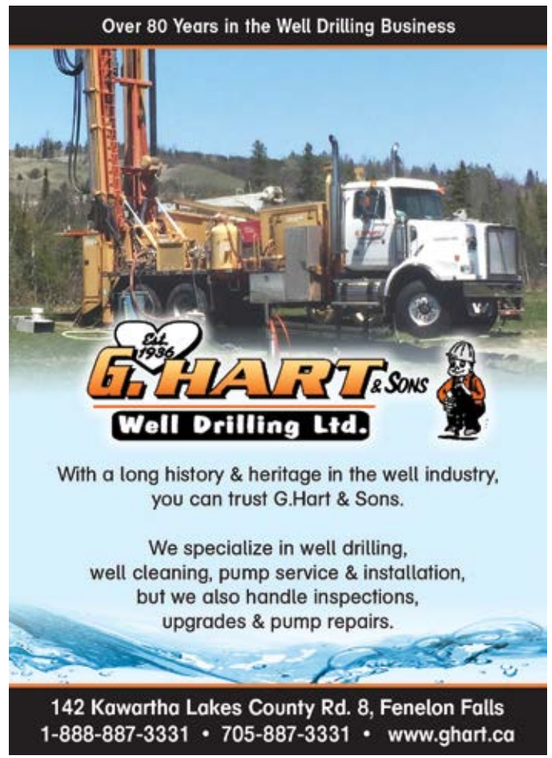

BRADLEY ALLEN, *CNC ROUTER OPERATOR*
& CRAIG TALBOT, *OWNER*
Custom Built Solutions Inc.

What does your company do? We build affordable custom cabinetry for kitchens, islands, bars, laundry, closets and built-ins. We offer professional delivery and installation, but also offer the economical option of flat-packed. This is when we build custom cabinetry, but do not assemble it. This is a great choice for those who have some knowledge and want to assemble and install themselves, while saving thousands.

Why do people use your expertise? We have over 30 years of combined experience, which allows us to create anything you can imagine. We enjoy working with our clients, guiding them through all the steps and choices like finishes, materials, colours... all the way to completion. We work with all styles and budgets to ensure our clients enjoy a functional and beautiful space.

What's the best thing about your work? Sharing the moments when our customers see their ideas and dreams turn into a custom-built reality – that's the best.

Continued on page 56

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Overhead Door Company of Peterborough

Tell us about your company: In business for 27 years, this company performs residential garage door and electric-opener installation, service and repair. It also supplies and installs a wide range of commercial and industrial door products, including insulated sectional steel doors, rolling steel doors and rolling steel fire doors.

What can you do for homeowners? "We can send a salesperson out to give an estimate," says Ron. "With the internet, a lot of people have a rough idea of what they want before they even call here," he says. "We can give them a ballpark price over the phone if they have a rough idea of their size and what they're looking for." He encourages people to come to the company's showroom. "So they can see the product and real colours," he says. "We like them to see the real thing before they make their final decision."

How did you get into this business? "I graduated college when there wasn't a lot of work," he recalls. With a background in electrical-mechanical engineering and a good knowledge of electrical, pneumatic and hydraulic systems, he bought the door business. He enjoys the variety of changes, unique situations and the people he meets in this business. **OH**

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(Please see ad on pg 13)

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Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper was established in 1961. Ken Wood and Ann Spivey have owned it for 38 years with an experienced staff who have been with them for many years.

They are very knowledgeable and helpful with great colour sense and coordination for the projects the customers are involved in. Charlotte Paint serves homeowners, professional decorators, Interior Designers and also paint contractors and builders. Some of the very loyal customers are second and third generation.

The store recently installed the Benjamin Moore Colour Studio. It provides an excellent colour matching service with many more colours to choose from. Along with the quality line of paint Benjamin Moore offers, there is also a full range of products and prices. Charlotte Paint has maintained a good selection of in-stock wallpaper, keeping the patterns current with an excellent variety of wallpaper books.

Charlotte Paint has recently won *Favourite Paint Store* by two local newspapers and continues to support local charities and events in the community. *Thank you to all the customers who have been so loyal and supported Charlotte Paint for many years and they look forward to serving them in the future.*

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(Please see ads on pg 9, 41)

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(Please see ad on pg 59)

Continued on page 62

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We are an authorized service provider for most brands as well, so if you require any assistance, help is only a phone call away.

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VILLAGE PAINT & PAPER

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The business is owned and operated by Adrianne Towns and her friendly staff who are excited to help you make colour choices. "How-to" advice is always available for all your interior, exterior or furniture projects!

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OUR HOMES magazines saturate 14 local markets in Ontario and connect to over 5 million readers annually with our advertisers through premium, consistent, local content and beautiful photography. Our readership and distribution numbers are audited. Our advertisers reach our highly sought out, high-income demographic through targeted distribution in each region and throughout Ontario.

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(Please see ad on pg 34)

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(Please see ad on pg 5)

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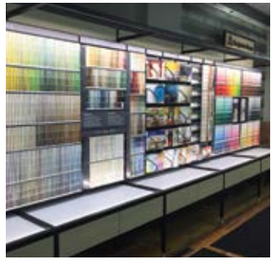
The stores' selections are in constant change throughout the seasons, offering a multitude of choice from quality custom furniture, lighting, home décor, great giftware, casual clothing, plus everything in between.

Lockside Trading Company also offers a successful Interior Design Service. With their dedicated staff and quality products, Lockside offers complimentary interior design when purchasing furniture, having all your design needs under one roof. This service includes in-store and on-site consultations, room layouts, colour, fabric selections and much more. It is a service that works with the customer, giving them direction and confidence to create a living space that they dream of. Offering Hunter Douglas window treatments, floor coverings, and many lines of furniture specializing in Canadian made! Quality by Canadians, for Canadians, keep it local!

lockside.com
(Please see ad on pg 29)



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(Please see ad on pg 9)

TRUE NORTH LOG HOMES

True North Log Homes is the manufacturer of the best-engineered log homes in the world today – homes of exceptional quality, beauty and durability. Located in Bracebridge, Ontario, deep in the heart of the ruggedly beautiful Muskoka region. The True North Log Homes story is one of technical innovation, hard work, and a steadfast commitment to being the undisputed leader in the construction of high quality log homes.

For over 30 years we have celebrated and enhanced the log home lifestyle. While being true to our roots, we have developed the most technologically advanced log home system on the planet. We take great pride in the innovative spirit of our family, which is reflected in our 24 (soon to be 25) Canadian and U.S. patents exclusive to True North Log Homes. The True North technology is comprised of many minute details and it is our attention to these details that create the peace of mind that we provide to our customers.

"Get the Log Home Lifestyle…. without the maintenance!"

Learn more at truenorthloghomes.com
800.661.1628
Follow us on:
(Please see ad on pg 31)

directory

OUR HOMES attracts the area's finest businesses to advertise in our pages, and utilize our unparalleled distribution and coffee-table appeal to market their products and services. We're making it easier for you, our readers, to become educated as you plan your home- and real estate-related purchasing decisions. View these business ads online at **ourhomes.ca/peterborough**. The listings below are organized alphabetically by industry.

APPLIANCES
Peterborough Appliances, *62, 68*

ART GALLERIES/ARTISANS/STUDIOS/ FRAMING
META4 Contemporary Craft Gallery, *35*

AUTO WASH
Villa Auto Wash, *34*

AUTOMOBILE SALES AND SERVICE
Currie Tire Limited, *59, 60*
Villa Auto Wash, *34*

BOATING & DOCKING
Kawartha Docks, *58*

BUILDERS & NEW HOME DEVELOPMENT
1867 Confederation Log Homes, *57*
Chemong Home Hardware Building Centre, *27*
Linwood Custom Homes, *67*
Monaghan Lumber Specialties, *13, 60*
Norris Custom Homes Ltd., *61*
Royal Homes Ltd., *11*
RWH Construction, *2, 62*
Stalwood Homes, *43*
True North Log Homes, *31, 63*
Your Own Design, *59*

CLOTHING & FASHION/FOOTWEAR/ ACCESSORIES
Antoinette Bridal Boutique, *34*
Cahill's Outerwear, *35*

COUNTERTOPS, GRANITE & STONE
Custom Built Solutions Inc., *10*
Delray Granite, *21*
Elegant Solutions/Cambria, *6&7*
Greensville Soapstone Company, *19*

DISPOSAL
North Kawartha Disposal, *58*

EXCAVATING/SEPTIC
Don LaFonte Excavating, *59*

FINE WOODWORKING/CUSTOM FURNITURE/CARPENTRY
Cabinetree, *4*
Wood By Design, *15*

FIREPLACES & STOVES
Southern Comfort Hearth & Home, *55*

FLOORING, STAIRS & TRIM
Focus Flooring, *65*
Sine's Flooring, *10*

FOOD & DRINK/RESTAURANTS/ CATERING/DELI
NaKeD Chocolate, *35*
The Black Horse Pub, *35*

FURNITURE/HOME DÉCOR/ INTERIOR DESIGN/GIFTS
Birchview Design, *51*
Habitat Decor, *8*
Lakeshore Designs, *15*
Lockside Trading Company, *29, 63*
My Favourite Things, *41*
Shoreline Furniture Co., *15*
Southern Comfort Hearth & Home, *55*
Twohey Home, *3*

GARAGE DOORS
Overhead Door, *59*

GARDENING/GREENHOUSES/ NURSERIES
Griffin's Greenhouses, *15*

HEALTH & BEAUTY/ESTHETICS/ WELLNESS/SPA
fandango Salon and Spa, *58*

HOME IMPROVEMENTS/ RENOVATIONS
Kawartha Hardware, *58*
Stalwood Homes, *43*
Turco Tile, *59*
Your Own Design, *59*

HOME SECURITY
Trent Security Systems Ltd., *59*

HOME STAGING
Get Staging & Design, *65*

INSULATION
Owens Corning, *5, 63*

IRONWORK
Black & Smith Ironworks, *51*

JEWELERY
Charlotte Jewelers & Custom Design, *35*
James Gold and Silver Buyers, *34*

KITCHEN AND BATH
AyA Kitchen Designs, *53*
Custom Built Solutions Inc., *10*
Delray Granite, *21*
Elegant Solutions/Cambria, *6&7*
Harwood Kitchens, *65*
Kawartha Hardware, *58*
Kitchen Cabinet Solutions, *41*
Turco Tile, *59*
Wood By Design, *15*

LANDSCAPING/LAWN & GARDEN
Don LaFonte Excavating, *59*

LIGHTING
Vanvark Electric, *53, 60*

PAINTING & DECORATING
Benjamin Moore, *9*
Charlotte Paint & Wallpaper, *9, 41, 60*
Cobourg Paint & Wallpaper, *9, 63*
Colour Concepts, *9*
Newcastle Home Décor & Design, *9*
Village Paint & Paper, *9, 62*

PERFORMING ARTS
Market Hall Performing Arts Centre, *34*

PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL
M & J Plumbing, *58*
Norm's Cash & Carry, *59*

REAL ESTATE
Bowes and Cocks Ltd. Real Estate Brokerage – Mark Jenden-Selway, *53*
Exit Realty Liftlock Brokerage – Stephen Coughlin, *58*
Royal LePage Frank Real Estate – Susan Bowie, *41*
Royal LePage Frank Real Estate – Jo Pillon, *35*

ROOFING
Steel Tile Co., *51*

SIGNAGE
Signarama, *58*

SPORTING SUPPLY/RECREATIONAL OUTFITTERS
No Comply Boardshop, *34*

TREE CARE SERVICES/ ARBORICULTURE/ARBORIST
Logan Tree Experts, *59*

WELL DRILLING
G. Hart & Sons Well Drilling Ltd., *53*

WINDOW FASHIONS
Howie's Blinds, *58*
Sine's Flooring, *10*

OUR HOMES is committed to ensuring the businesses above appear under the correct headings. To make a correction, or to have your business listed under more than one heading, please email lisa.leonard@ourhomes.ca or lisa.merrell@ourhomes.ca. To have your business listed in our Home Resource Directory, call us to advertise at 705.750.7736, 705.445.5065 x200 or 1.877.600.4840 x1.

Our party last weekend was a huge success. Everyone had a wonderful time. The star of the show was our new stained glass tile back splash that **Focus Flooring** had just installed. Everybody was talking about it, the way it shimmers, the depth of colour, the workmanship, we couldn't be happier.

If *spectacular* is what you're aiming for then you need to get in and see the folks at
Focus Flooring Centre

Focus Flooring CENTRE
774 Rye Street Unit 6
Peterborough
705.876.0795

focusflooringcentre.com
hardwood . ceramic . carpet . vinyl . laminate

PROJECT **DAWN MCCONNELL** | PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**

LIGHT BULB *place cards*

Delight your guests with personalized place cards created out of repurposed holiday string lights.

TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Large holiday string light bulbs
- Acrylic paint in your choice of colour
- Paintbrush
- Sealant (we used Mod Podge)
- Marker in contrasting colour (we used silver, black and gold)
- Waxed paper
- Twine or ribbon
- Glue
- Tiny trinkets for decoration

Directions

1. Cover workspace with waxed paper. Apply two coats of paint to the glass of each light bulb, allowing to dry between coats. Coat painted area of bulb with sealant.
2. When dry, write or print names on bulb using marker. Wrap bulb stems with twine or ribbon and glue in place. Decorate with bows and/or trinkets. **OH**

PETERBOROUGH APPLIANCES

Your Appliances Superstore

Learn more by visiting Peterborough Appliances

1.888.680.6220 | 705.748.9781 | www.PeterboroughAppliances.com
Warehouse and Showroom located at 2849 Lakefield Road, Peterborough

KitchenAid

AT LAST, A RANGE FOR THOSE
WHO MAKE A STATEMENT WITH EVERYTHING THEY CREATE.