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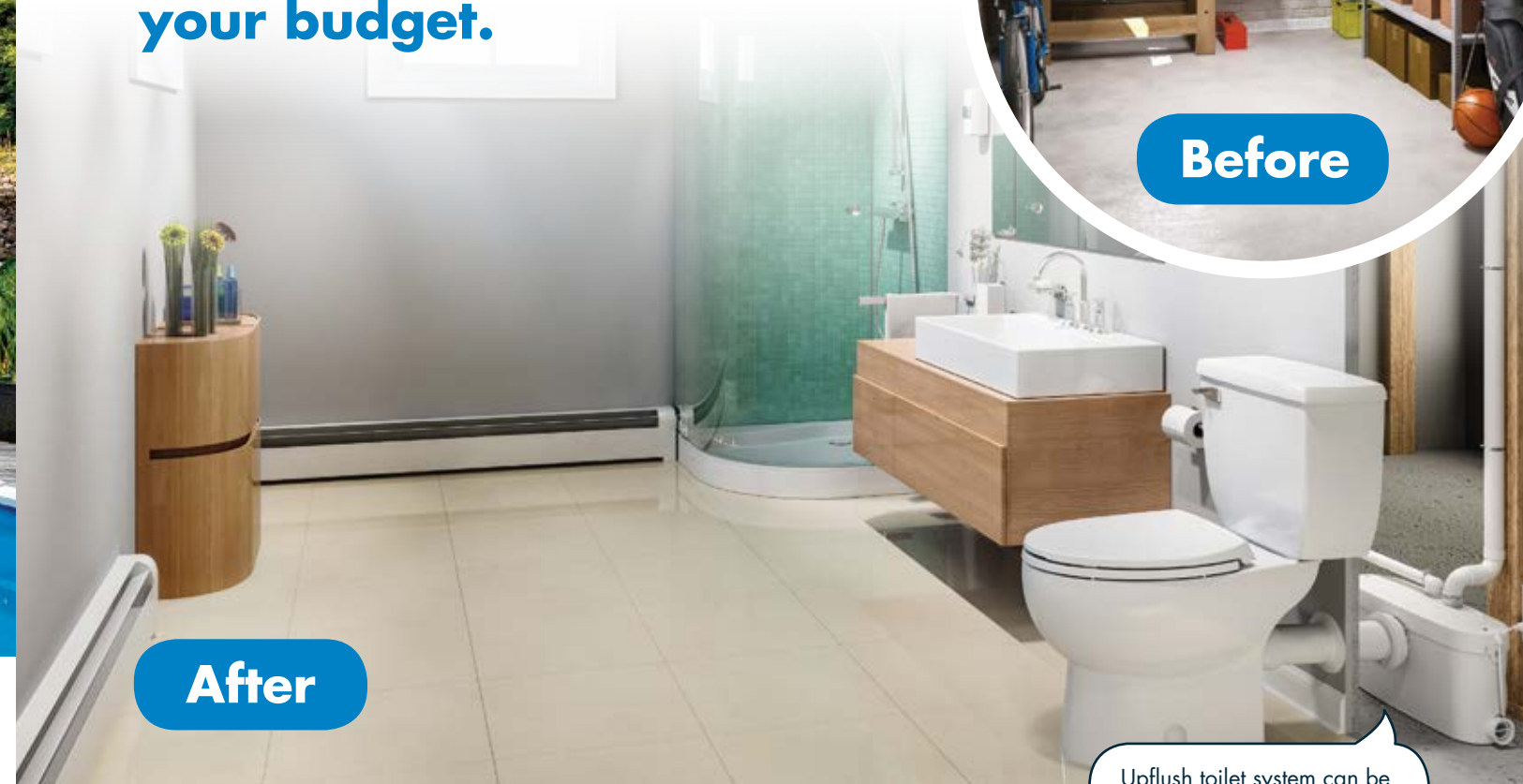
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Walter and his corgi Shappie.

BOB CAYGEON, an unusual name, always makes me think of bobcats, those stubby-tailed lynx with tufted ears, wild felines that grow not much bigger than an overfed Maine Coon cat. I knew this tiny Kawartha town as home to 1867 Confederation Log & Timber Frame, a family firm that's been building sturdy log homes and cottages for nearly 40 years. But before this spring, I had never been to Bobcaygeon, a place forever linked to stargazing and enlightenment by the Tragically Hip in their Juno Award-winning song of the same name.

The moniker's etymology is debatable. One school of thought suggests it was coined by French explorer Samuel de Champlain who travelled through Ontario on his 1615 expedition and described the terrain as "beau bocage," a beautiful countryside of woodland, fields and orchards. Another possible origin resides with the native Mississaugas who are said to have referred to the area as "bobcajewanunk," a cascade, or narrow rocky place with rushing water. Both descriptions apply.

Downtown Bobcaygeon sits on two tiny islets and a much larger island that interrupt the Bobcaygeon River as it flows from Sturgeon Lake into Pigeon Lake. Anyone unfamiliar with this island village would be challenged to navigate the streets and half-dozen bridges linking it with the mainland.

Founded on logging, navigation, farming

and mining, Bobcaygeon sits at the centre of the Kawarthas, a chain of lakes surrounded by summer homes, rural residences, farmland and forests. Tourism is now the main business, fuelled partly by the first lift locks built on the Trent-Severn Waterway more than 180 years ago.

In visits to two lakeside homes in the area, it was obvious why this area remains so popular. Although tame when compared to the wilderness encountered by adventurers 400 years ago, it retains a natural beauty that delights urban denizens as well as the people who live here year-round. This edition of Our Homes explores a new cottage built on the shore of Sturgeon Lake by Lucia and Al Kaminskis. Upstream, on Cameron Lake, Karen Simon invited us into her new lake house. Both homes were built on the sites of old summer cottages that drew these families to lake country for fun, relaxation and a lifetime of fond memories. Have a look for yourself.

Walter Franczyk

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PHOTO LORI FRAN CZYK



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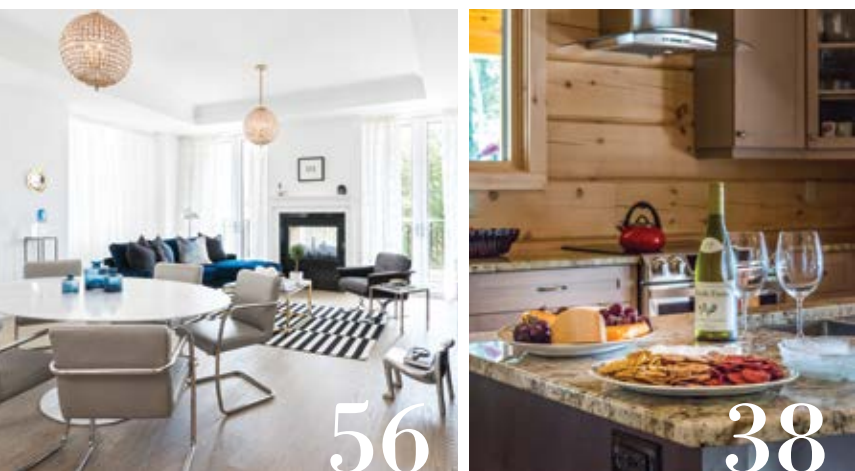
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CONTENTS

MID-SUMMER 2016



ON THE COVER

Karen Simon puts a personal touch on her new cottage. Story, page 22. Photography by Sandy MacKay

30



16

LOCAL FEATURES

- 16 Style Picks** From Bobcaygeon to Cobourg, Peterborough and Campbellford, local shops have it all.
- 22 Feature Home** Cottage owner rebuilds on Cameron Lake where summer memories last a lifetime.
- 30 Comfort Zone** Twohey Home creates a modern furniture gallery with professional service and expert advice.
- 38 Home & Builder** Family builds a legacy with a six-bedroom, all-season log cottage on Sturgeon Lake.
- 52 People** Design your kitchen, fireplaces and landscaping with these skillful specialists.

DEPARTMENTS

- 10 Editor's Note**
- 14 Advice** Renovating The Basement
- 18 Gardening** Debunking Flower Patch Myths
- 20 Cooking At Home** Tomato Chili Sauce
- 34 Outdoor Living** Fire Bowls
- 36 Real Estate** Advice For Novice Sellers
- 44 Good Taste** Over-the-top Milkshakes
- 46 Green Living** Dreaming Small
- 48 Decorating** Bars On Tap
- 56 Design Ideas** Million Dollar Concepts
- 59 Home Resource Directory**
- 60 Double Take** Mid-Century Modern Look
- 62 Finishing Touch** Nautically Inspired

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

LOWER LEVELS

NOT THE DUNGEONS THEY USED TO BE

Gone are the days of low-ceilinged unfinished basements that smell of mould and mildew; meager places to do laundry and store sports gear and Christmas decorations.

Now that fixer-uppers in some cities are going for a million dollars or more, spending \$100,000 to \$150,000 doesn't sound unreasonable to reclaim existing space. Basement renos are a lot cheaper than an addition and much easier than attics.

In posh neighbourhoods with historical designation and height restrictions, contractors are now digging deep to create spaces three or four levels below ground, so that they can house bowling alleys, Olympic-size pools – you name it, just dig it. Called “iceberg” architecture, what you see above ground is just the tip of what lies below.

For regular folks, the new-found square footage becomes a fantasy space. When all the necessary rooms for daily living are accounted for above ground, the basement becomes a space where your imagination can run wild.

That's when I dub basements “The Lower Level Retreat.” With a shift in name comes a shift in thinking about the space and its possibilities and functions.

These spaces can house entertainment centres with large 50- to 60-inch televisions, sizes that would normally dominate a regular living area.

For the practically minded, extra storage room is always welcome and if you're going to have a laundry room, then why not add a little panache. The ultimate home office can double as a guest room when grandma and grandpa come to visit.

Other leisure lair spaces include wine cellars, spa retreats that double as doggie grooming centres with heated floors, therapeutic pools for athletic injuries or music studios. The possibilities are endless.

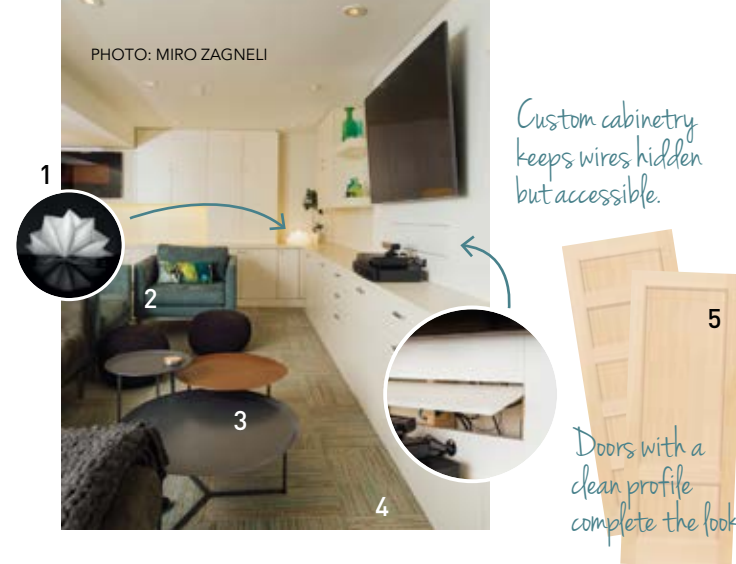
How do you design a livable, lovable space that feels warm and cosy? Let's start with the basics:

Planning:

Open plan seems to work best. If you need to enclose spaces for privacy, then make the walls moveable, to enclose or open a space as required.

Building:

Ideally, a finished eight-foot ceiling suits everyone best. Remember that recessed pot lights, flooring and under-floor infrastructure all reduce available height.



Make sure to address structural issues and all possible moisture issues. Hire a contractor who knows all about basements.

I prefer to add radiant floor heat. If not the whole floor, then in the washroom or spa area. When your tootsies are warm, then the rest of you will feel warm, cosy and pampered.

Lighting:

The trick is to find light fixtures and bulbs that spread light in all directions, filling surfaces with light and minimizing harsh shadows to help decrease the cave-like effect.

Choose a warm colour temperature of 2700 kelvin (K) or 3000K. Bluish light of 4000K is cool and will feel fridge-like and not somewhere you'd like to hang out, especially in the winter.

Use different sources of lighting throughout the space such as lamps and LED strips in built-in shelving.

Décor & Design:

Raise sofas and other large pieces of furniture off of the floor. Your eye travels underneath furniture on raised legs, keeping the look light and airy.

Use lighter colours and textures as a focal point for emphasis and drama.

Don't place a television over a fireplace. Together they are visually overwhelming.

Flooring:

Make sure to use a modular flooring system. Should water damage occur, pieces can be popped out of place and new product installed easily. Large rolled goods such as carpet or linoleum should be avoided. When wet, mould and mildew occur.

I've had a lot of success with carpet tile over plywood. Carpet tile acts as an insulator. It's removable, easily cleaned and easily re-installed.

Your options for flooring are: porcelain or marble tile, or vinyl or laminate planks. Engineered hardwood is debatable, but plank flooring is your best bet.

Fixing up the basement will add much happiness to you and your home. What is your Lower Level Fantasy? **OH**

1. **ARTEMIDE:** EN-EL Hoshigame Table Lamp 2. **CASA LIFE:** Henley Chair in Vanderbilt Teal Ultrasuede 3. **CASA LIFE:** Tam-Tam Tables 4. **FLOR:** Lacebark Carpet Tile in Jade 5. **MILLET:** Shaker Doors 6. **EQ3:** Pouf in Grey 7. **BENJAMIN MOORE:** Paint



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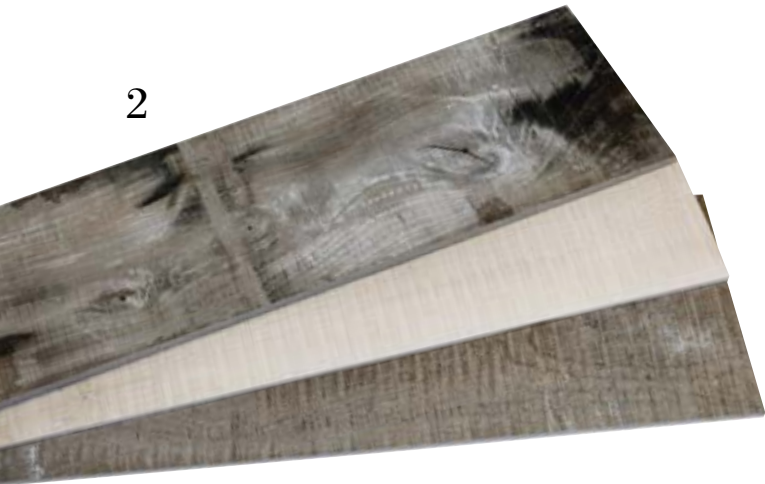


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SUMMER inspirations

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STORY & PHOTOS **WALTER FRANCZYK**



2

1 MY FAVOURITE THINGS

Vintage Fliers

Painted in oil on canvas, these songbirds are framed in vintage white. Designed in Canada and produced by hand, these art pieces will suit a variety of design themes for living rooms, foyers, bedrooms or kitchens. With their soft colours and subtle framing, they are timeless.

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weeding out THE GARDEN MYTHS

STORY AND PHOTOS **MELANIE REKOLA**

As a landscape designer and certified horticulturalist, I come across a lot of misconceptions when it comes to gardening.

Myth 1: *Cedar trees attract mosquitoes*

Reality: In nature, cedar grows in moist soil, which mosquitoes adore. It's not actually the cedar that attracts them, though mosquitoes are attracted to shaded environments of any type.

Myth 2: *Garden lines have to be curvaceous*

Reality: Some spaces don't have the room to accommodate the serpentine lines loved by many. Sometimes straight lines just work better and can be equally striking.

Myth 3: *Existing garden soil needs cultivation*

Reality: Cultivation of the earth around existing perennials and shrubs breaks their vital hair roots, thus injuring the plant.

Myth 4: *Gardens are a lot of work*

Reality: Start gardens with a thick layer of good quality soil with additional bonemeal supplement. Spread a good layer of mulch yearly to retard weeds and keep moisture in. Do this and a garden will need little weeding and may never need fertilization or supplemental watering after establishment. How's that for low maintenance?

Myth 5: *Vegetable gardens are an eyesore*

Reality: Veggie garden placement counts. Raised planter boxes add definition and look great flanking a path. Edibles such as leaf lettuce have lovely foliage and many food plants sport pretty blossoms. Am I the only one that finds beauty here?



Myth 6: *Containers are only for annuals*

Reality: Many trees and shrubs can live in pots for years. They need less care and watering plus offer a bigger bang for your buck than a typical annual display. For example, a \$20 Curly Willow shrub can survive for years in a large pot, has amazing form and makes a bold statement. Compare that with what you have to spend on annual displays over a three-year span.



Myth 7: *Trees stop growing*

Reality: Trees don't reach a certain height then suddenly stop growing. Some trees do have shorter or slimmer habits that suit smaller spaces. Remember, if trees were planted for the height they will reach in 50-100 years, few of us would plant them.

Myth 8: *Bees sting unprovoked*

Reality: Flowering plant materials are fine poolside choices. Just because you have more skin showing does not make your chances of being stung any greater, though flailing around wildly will increase the likelihood! Stay calm and learn to enjoy and respect bees.

Myth 9: *Overwatering isn't harmful*

Reality: All new plantings require water to establish, yet overwatering quickly drowns plants. Stick your finger in the soil. If you feel moisture, don't water. Plant roots require gaseous exchange for survival and need to dry out a bit between waterings to accommodate this.

Myth 10: *Vines are bad for intact brickwork and woodwork*

Reality: Current studies show vines such as ivy act as a thermal blanket, warming up walls by 15 per cent in cold weather and offer a cooling effect in hot weather by 36 per cent. Plus they look gorgeous! But take care to keep vines out of windows and soffits.

Myth 11: *Landscape designers are landscape architects or garden designers*

Reality: Landscape designers approach design as a whole, including pool, patios and outdoor living spaces, trees and gardens, lighting and even outdoor furniture and accessories. Think of us as exterior designers. **OH**



cooking at home

So Saucy

HERITAGE CHILI SAUCE

RECIPE AND PHOTOS **PAT CROCKER**

Homemade chili sauce complements eggs any style and bacon or sausage meats like no other condiment.

I especially like to have a pint on hand for the one or two occasions when we serve a huge country breakfast to guests who have come out from the city for the weekend. Nothing communicates the simple country pleasures like the first meal of the day cooked in cast iron skillets and grills, over a wood stove. If you get beyond breakfast, this heritage chili sauce also tops meatloaf and lends the hint of cinnamon and spice to skillet dinners and roast beef or chicken at Sunday dinners.

If you like your chili sauce with some heat, add fresh or dried hot cayenne pepper (crushed or chopped) or hot sauce to taste.



INGREDIENTS

(Makes 9 pint jars)

- 12 cups heritage tomatoes, skinned, seeded and chopped, with juices (from about 7-½ lbs. whole heritage tomatoes)
- 4 cups paste tomatoes, skinned, seeded and chopped, with juices (from about 2-½ lbs. whole paste tomatoes)
- 8 large onions, chopped
- 5 red bell peppers, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- ¼ apple, chopped
- 2 cups white wine vinegar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup lightly packed brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp salt
- 1 Tbsp whole mustard seeds, crushed
- 1-½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- pinch chili powder, or to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a Maslin pan or large, heavy pan, combine tomatoes, onions, peppers, celery, apple, vinegar, granulated and brown sugar, salt and mustard seeds. Bring to a boil over high heat, stirring constantly. Reduce heat and boil gently, stirring occasionally for 1-½ hours until sauce begins to thicken. Add cinnamon, cloves, ginger and chili powder. Boil gently, stirring frequently for about 30 minutes, or until thickened and sauce begins to mound on a spoon.
- Meanwhile, in a large stockpot or canning kettle, cover nine, one-pint (2 cup) jars with water and bring to a simmer. Cover and turn off heat. In a shallow pan, arrange the lids, lifter, funnel and tongs and pour boiling water over and set aside.
- Using tongs, lift hot jars one at a time out of the pot. Fill with hot chili sauce, leaving a ½-inch headspace. Run a thin nonmetallic utensil around the inside of the jar to allow air to escape. Add more hot chili if necessary, to leave a ½-inch headspace. Wipe rims, top with flat lids and screw on metal rings (do not over tighten rings). Return jar to the hot water bath and continue to fill remaining jars. Cover the pot and bring the water to a full rolling boil over high heat. Keep water boiling for 20 minutes.
- Remove pot lid, turn off the heat and wait five minutes before removing jars to a towel or rack to cool completely. Check seals, label and store in a cool place for up to one year.

Pat Crocker is a Culinary Herbalist, writing and growing herbs in Grey County. She is the author of 18 cookbooks.

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STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

**RWH Construction
built Karen Simon's
new cottage, but
her fingerprints are
all over it.**



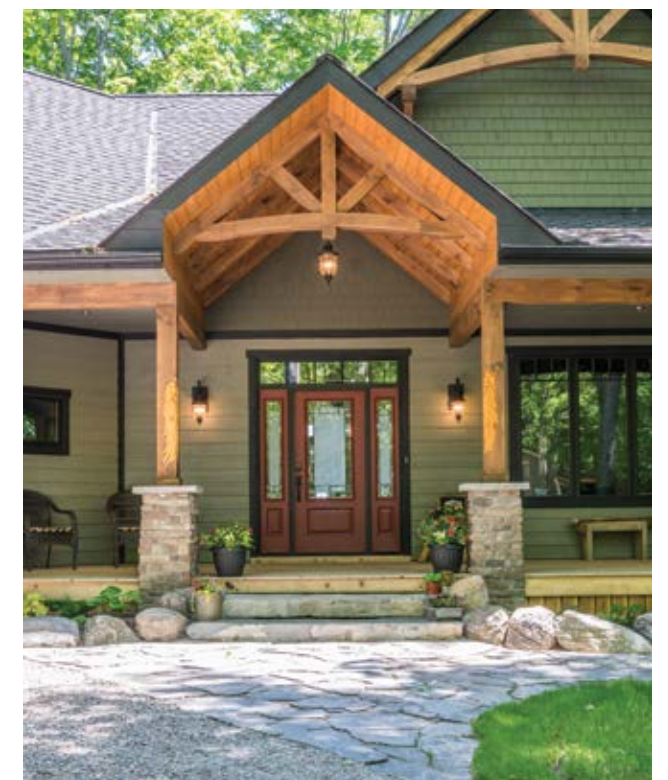
"I WAS QUITE INVOLVED," says Karen, an avid mountain biker, potter and stained glass artist who worked for years as an automotive tool and die designer. She loves creating, refinishing and repurposing things and her Cameron Lake retreat is one of her most ambitious projects.

Karen's parents built the original family cottage on the property. A simple three-bedroom rectangle with a beautiful stone fireplace in 1964, it stood just down the road from Lake Breeze Lodge, an old-fashioned family resort where Karen's family often holidayed. "As soon as school finished, we were up here all summer," she recalls. "We couldn't wait to get up to the cottage." She made great friends at the lake. "We were out swimming, fishing and playing on the infamous styrofoam surf board which, even today, the kids always pull out of the boathouse to surf off the dock. It's like a family tradition," she says. "We got into water skiing and had a slalom course set up down at the end of the lake." Some childhood friends are now retired and have moved to live full-time in the area.

When maintaining the aging family cottage grew arduous, Karen began planning a new lake house. She collaborated with a designer to create preliminary drawings. She watched other building projects in her neighbourhood and was impressed with the work ethic of **RWH Construction** crews. After investigating the company's reputation and checking references with its previous clients, Karen asked RWH for an estimate.

"They got back with a quote quickly. They were so eager," she says. "Any questions I had, they dealt with." She hired RWH with straightforward instruction for her new lake house. "I want it warm, cosy and I want it cottage-like."

Continued on page 24



TOP LEFT: Karen Simon's cottage overlooks Cameron Lake. **TOP RIGHT:** Carvings adorn wooden posts at the cottage entrance. **ABOVE:** A flagstone walkway leads to the low deck at the main door. **OPPOSITE:** A beloved spot for summer fun, the lake remains a cool, tranquil retreat.

feature

Milt Peel and Sons Sand and Gravel Inc., the company that excavated the original cottage site, installed a new septic system, graded the land and built flagstone paths and stone steps. The company also dug a drainage system to prevent flooding and washouts. “That was very important,” says Karen who remembers how torrential runoff washed insulation out of the old cottage floor.

As construction progressed, she was on the work site regularly. She designed the fireplace with its ascending taper and large, wraparound wooden mantel, then drove many miles looking for the precise stone, finally finding it – Rugged Faced Squares – at Colonial Brick & Stone near Stratford. “The fireplace was very important to me,” she says. Her new NZ6000 Napoleon wood fireplace can heat the whole main floor on a winter day.

Karen brushed and cleaned an antique barn beam from an old barn near Lindsay to fashion the fireplace mantel, complete with mortice and tenons. Using her trailer, she hauled barn boards from St. Jacobs for the sun room. Older barn boards, 15-inches wide and 15-feet long, were brought in from just off the Glenarm Road to her building site where she cleaned the planks and stored them in her boathouse for later installation on the walls of the entryway. “I thoroughly enjoyed being here with the crew,” she says. “They were fun to work with and had a great sense of humour.”



Raku pottery is part of the eclectic mix of art in the cottage entrance. The chandelier has shades made from repurposed Mason jars over Edison bulbs. **TOP:** The Napoleon fireplace can heat the entire main floor on a winter day. A horse collar becomes the frame for a mirror. **LEFT:** Filtered by the leaves of mature maple trees, light spills in to the sunroom.



The entrance to the 2,056 sq. ft. lake house reveals a sweeping view, draped by tall maple trees shading the front of the property. Marvin Windows & Doors supplied the glass doors and windows with large lower panes topped with small vertical muntins. “I wanted the cottage style,” Karen says. “It doesn’t impede your view of the lake, but it still has that cottage feel to it.” Made with wood on the inside to match the home’s interior and durable fiberglass outside, the windows are maintenance-free.

Sutcliffe Kitchens and Renovations shaped the large, open kitchen where polished green granite from Stonex Granite and Quartz covers the counters and dining bar island. Smudge-proof, slate-finished appliances complement the stone countertops and travertine backsplash. Mennonite kitchen cabinetry has a distressed black finish while the island cupboards are painted green with an antique look. *Continued on page 27*

ABOVE: Darkly-stained pine beams and tongue-in-groove planks clad ceilings in the ground-floor living area. **LEFT:** A small boathouse and dock are just a few steps downhill from the cottage.



Black Mennonite cabinetry combines with dark green granite and virescent island cupboards to create the kitchen. The light fixture is fashioned from an old wagon bolster.



A cast iron hay trolley forms the base of the rustic chandelier above the dining table.

In the great room, pine timbers and trusses support the tongue-in-groove pine ceiling while the floor is covered with Antique Impressions hardwood flooring from **Monaghan Lumber Specialties**. Soft grey seating gathers around the stone fireplace. A wooden bookcase displays Karen's raku pottery and tiny sculptures.

Furnished with wicker and a reclining sofa, the light-filled sunroom has a sliding door that opens to an exterior deck spanning the width of the house. "I love my sunroom," Karen says. At the entry is an old leather horse collar that Karen reconditioned and hand-stitched with pliers and a hammer to create a unique mirror.

Large windows overlook the lake from the main-floor master bedroom. In the en suite, antique tin panels are a backdrop for the vanity, custom-made of old hemlock and barn board by Artefacts Salvage & Design. Karen foraged and found antique cabinet handles and hinges for the vanity at the Aberfoyle Antique Market.

To illuminate her kitchen, dining room and foyer she built rustic chandeliers out of rusting farm artefacts. She used an old cast iron hay trolley as the base for the lights over her dining table. In the foyer, she combined a wagon bolster with a rebuilt and customized light fixture fitted with Edison bulbs. She cut the bottoms off Mason jars and used them as shades.

Continued on page 28

feature



Upstairs is a large loft with lots of room for guests that her adult children bring to the cottage. Karen intends to use the space as a studio for pottery, stained-glass work and other interesting creations. **Floortrends** supplied the carpeting.

Her cottage won the 2015 Housing Design Award award for 1,601 to 2,500 sq. ft. Custom Built Homes from the Peterborough & The

Kawarthas Home Builders Association. Karen describes her RWH Construction builders as awesome and great to work with. “I’m more than pleased.” She appreciates how quick and eager they are to help with any facet of the home. “They’ve become like family,” she says. “They’ve more than delivered my dream of a warm, cosy cottage.” **OH**

TOP LEFT: Glass and slate tiles enclose the shower in the master en suite where old barn boards and hemlock were used to build the vanity and cupboards. **BOTTOM LEFT & ABOVE :** Colourful quilts add warmth to the main floor master bedroom and a guest bedroom.

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PHOTOS **WALTER FRANCZYK**



Owner Linda Twohey



CANADIAN *at heart*

THE PLACE: Twohey Home is a third-generation family business operating in a spectacular, newly-renovated location in Peterborough. The new furniture gallery and retail space invites people to linger and discover the comfort of Canadian-made furnishings. At its Aylmer Street location since the 1980s, the downtown store was refurbished last year with new branding, clean lines and a bright, modern, welcoming look. “We thought that a change in direction and a reduction in square-footage would allow us to work with products that might accommodate our customers in a better way,” says owner Linda Twohey. “People who come into the new store now spend more time browsing and shopping.”

THE STYLE: Twohey Home specializes in custom-ordered Canadian furniture, high-quality sleep sets and wood furnishings. They offer an incredible variety of sectionals, sofas, chairs and décor as well as dining room sets and office furniture that can be customized to suit individual tastes. The store also carries an array of distinctive chandeliers, floor and table lamps. Staff, including Linda’s daughter Heather, offers full design services and

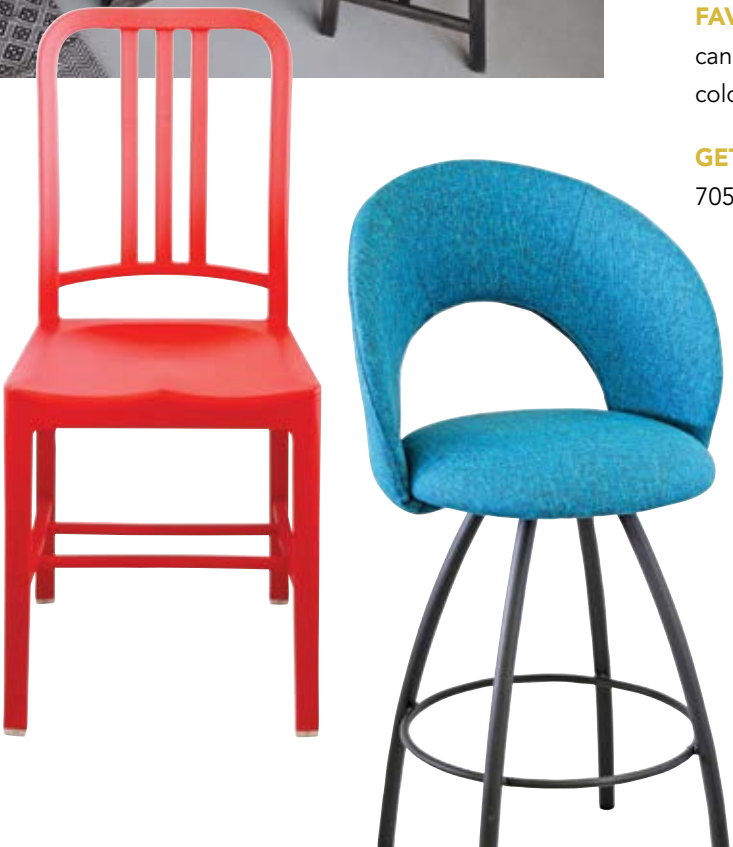


decorating advice. In-home consultations are available. Anyone furnishing a room with an already established colour scheme can rely on professional recommendations about compatible styles and colours. Those searching for their own style can find inspiration here.

WHAT’S HOT: Recliners – because they’re small, compact and ergonomically designed with adjustable headrests that fit people of all sizes and body shapes. Sectional sofas are also popular because they maximize seating space in even the smallest room. “We can customize all of our sectionals so they will fit into any space,” says Linda.

FAVOURITES: All of Twohey Home’s sofas, chairs and sectionals can be custom ordered. The customer can select the style and colour of fabric to accentuate their personal flair.

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» **CABANACOAST:** *Monaco Outdoor Fire Pit.* Available in Sherwin-Williams Dark Rum or Dove. Stone options include clear pebble fireglass, brown pebble fireglass, diamond fireglass or blue fireglass.



» **PALOFORM:** *Caldera Corten Fire Pit.* Choose from river rocks or lava rocks.



» **AMERICAN FYRE DESIGNS:** *French Barrel Oak Cosmopolitan Round Firetable.* Features a reclaimed wood-style table top.



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» **HEARTH PRODUCTS CONTROLS:** *Tempe Copper Fire Bowl.* Also has a fire and water option. Many media options to choose from. **OH**



DEKKO CONCRETE: *Alea Firepit.* Rock options include slate or ivory river rock, black lava rock or bronze glass. Six colour options to choose from.





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SELLING WITH CERTAINTY

TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME HOME SELLERS

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**
ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

Moving house has often been touted as an adventure, but homeowners prefer certainty when selling a home for the first time.

First-time home sellers typically own a small starter home and want to move to a larger house, more suitable for family needs.

Fred Aitken, a broker with Royal LePage Lakes of Muskoka Realty, suggests sellers first think about where they'd like to move. "Check with your bank to make sure you're in a position to buy and sell," says Aitken, who's been selling houses for 24 years.

Prospective sellers must have their financial house in order if they plan to buy another home. A lender will consider car payments, old student loans, credit card debts and whether the family has children attending college or university when it assesses someone's finances. A lender can determine if it's possible to buy a new house before selling the old one. And it may provide the bridge financing to make that possible.

Trying to sell a home on the same date you move into a new one is not easy in today's market, says Aitken. Getting the selling and buying dates to coincide is complicated. "You can get them close but to get it all on the same day is very difficult," he says.

After securing financing, the next step is to find a real estate agent. "Personal referrals are a good thing," says Aitken. "The best way to pick a real estate agent is a referral from a family member or a friend."

Ask to see the real estate agent's track record – statistics that show how successful the agent has been. Find out what the realtor's game plan for selling your home will be. Make sure you're comfortable with your choice of agent because selling your home is a working relationship.

Preparing a home for sale takes time, effort and skill. Laura Willis, a designer and stager, says hiring a stager to prepare a property is well worth the money. "A lot of people who have lived in their home for even two or three years get used to it the way it is and they can't be objective. They can't look at it through a buyer's eyes," says Willis, whose company Refresh also offers sourcing, colour consultations and pre-construction advice.

A professional stager can identify areas of the home that need attention and can make recommendations about paint colours, furniture placement and styling.

A stager can suggest what a home needs to suit the market. "If you're living in the Beaches in Toronto the way that you would stage your home would be totally different than a condo in downtown Toronto. You have to know who your market is," she explains.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR SALE:

Edit

The first step in preparing a home for sale is editing – removing items that a homeowner doesn't like or that don't complement the home. "Get rid of it or put it in storage," says Laura Willis, a designer and stager.

Fix

After thoroughly cleaning the house, determine if it needs structural or cosmetic improvements. Ensure all DIY projects are complete and good quality. "Nobody wants to buy somebody else's headaches," says Realtor Fred Aitken. "If there's something wrong, you need to address it. That's the bottom line."

Pick A Colour

Consider the furniture and wall colours. Could someone else imagine themselves in your home? "HGTV has made it so that everyone walking into a house thinks it should be perfect for them to move in," says Willis. "They have trouble seeing past what the original homeowner has in their home. They want it to be perfect. 'I can move in. I don't have to do anything.'" Avoid loud wall colours in favour of neutrals, but not so neutral that the home looks boring.

Take Pro Photos

As the Internet is the first place many prospective buyers look when searching for a home, professional online photographs are essential to selling a home. Photos taken with a cell phone won't do a house justice. "I had a professional do the last home that we sold," explains Willis. "We thought our home was spectacular, but when we saw what she did, it was amazing."

Fluff Outside

Prospective buyers who have seen a house they like on the Internet will usually drive by to look at the place before contacting a realtor. Curb appeal, a tidy yard and attractive landscaping can help prompt a sale.

Open Your House

Open houses for sales agents will familiarize them with your home. Agents with prospective buyers can immediately contact them. Public open houses should be held within two days of the house going up for sale, Aitken says.

The main lesson in first time home selling is to do your homework. **OH**



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STURGEON SUMMERS

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Setting foot in her new family cottage is like coming home to a warm embrace, says Lucia Kaminskas. “It’s like a really big hug,” says the retired school teacher.

She and her husband, Al, a benefits consultant, built their six-bedroom Sturgeon Lake retreat on a waterfront cottage property, originally bought by Al’s father about 40 years ago. It’s a place where they spent many happy times. “We basically raised our children up here in the summers,” says Al. “My wife was a teacher, so she’d come up at the end of school with all three kids and spend the summer up here. They grew up here,” he says. “Their best memories, their fondest memories are the cottage.”

Al and his sister Renata bought the family cottage from their father. Their families shared it until Renata built a new home on nearby Pigeon Lake. That’s when Al and Lucia bought Renata’s share of the property and embarked on a new future for their summering spot.

Building a new cottage was a family decision, Al says. They had a dinner and meeting with their children, twin daughters Anna and Ramona, and son Vytas. The project would mean Al would retire a little later. “But we, as a family, decided that’s the legacy we want for our children,” he says. “All three children jumped at the opportunity.” *Continued on page 40*



SCF Countertops supplied polished granite for the counters and island dining bar in the kitchen, a favourite gathering spot for the owners’ family and guests. Delicious food and warm hospitality are hallmarks of Al and Lucia Kaminskas’ Kawartha cottage. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Lucia and Al with their outdoor-loving poodle Skyler have enjoyed many summers on Sturgeon Lake. **BOTTOM:** The new log home was built 150 feet from the lake, creating a gently sloping front yard. The new cottage can sleep 20 people.



ABOVE: A stone-clad, wood-burning fireplace in the great room lends a rustic look to the living space. **RIGHT:** Al enjoys smoking the occasional aromatic cigar. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** **LEFT:** Leading to the second-floor loft, finely-finished hickory stairs match the engineered hardwood flooring. **TOP RIGHT:** Large windows alongside the dinner table provide diners a great view of the lake. **BOTTOM:** White pine walls and ceiling embrace the dormer window seat in the second-floor loft.

In preparation for their new lake house, the Kaminskis bought the lot next door, doubling their water frontage to 200 feet and establishing a wide lake view. They took a year to decide what kind of lake home they wanted. They went to cottage shows and investigated builders on the Internet before choosing **1867 Confederation Log & Timber Frame** to design and manufacture their new home.

“We wanted something rustic,” says Al. Something to suit the lake’s beautiful surroundings, a legacy for their children that would stand for a 100 years. Confederation’s performance was exceptional, he says. During a year-long process, the company went through 16 different designs with the family. “I can’t say enough nice things about them and their patience in designing the home and going back and forth about the changes we wanted,” says Al. “I could only say good things about them.”

They designed the 3,200 sq. ft. foot home with six bedrooms, all equal in size, three bathrooms, a loft and a large open kitchen, dining space and great room. They built the cottage so that Al and Lucia could live comfortably on the first floor without climbing or descending stairs. “So the liquor cabinet is on the first floor,” Al smiles. **Design Alternatives** owner **Greg Lawson** collaborated closely with Confederation and erected the cottage with phenomenal, meticulous workmanship, says Al. He praised



project manager **Keith Armstrong**, foreman **Lyle Fawcett** and acting foreman **Bob Philpott** for their diligence and attention to detail. “They built this house as if it was their own.”

Sixteen-inch white pine logs, harvested in Northern Ontario, envelope every living space. Tongue-in-groove pine covers the ceilings. Engineered hickory sheathes the floors and matching stairs ascend to the second-floor loft and upstairs bedrooms. “All the wood is so natural and organic,” says Lucia. “It feels warm and cosy.” Cherished tchotchkes from the original cottage are at home in the new house. Vintage light fixtures, salvaged from the old cottage, illuminate some of the new spaces, augmented with modern sconces, pendants and lighting from **Lighting Interiors & More**.

Situated at one end of the main-floor living space, the kitchen, by **Kitchen Design Studios**, is integral to family get-togethers. The kitchen island and dining bar, topped with granite from **SCF Countertops**, links the kitchen with the dining space and great room. “We all gather in the kitchen, where everybody does, here and in the main room,” says Lucia. Whether playing a board game or cribbage, watching TV or a crackling fire, reading a book or making a sandwich, family members congregate here. “It can get pretty rowdy and pretty noisy,” she says. **Peterborough Appliances** furnished the kitchen with culinary equipment.

Continued on page 42

home & builder

Outside, a timber frame porte cochère shelters guests, relatives and deliveries arriving at the main door. On two sides of the cottage, a wide, covered deck overlooks the lake. “The deck is great because when it’s pouring rain and the wind is coming from the north or south, it doesn’t matter, you can find a dry spot on the deck where you can sit and read a magazine or play with the grandchildren,” Al says. “The deck is one of the features we designed and thoroughly enjoyed over the last few months.”

The family built their new cottage 150 feet from the lake to create a large, grassed front yard where they can play badminton, horseshoes or bocce. At the foot of the property, a long dock provides moorage for a power boat for water skiing and Al’s fishing boat. “I’m a fisherman, so whether it’s ice or snow or water, I don’t care, there’s definitely

a way to fish,” he says. “If I was retired tomorrow, I’d be fishing every day.” Lucia says she loves the cottage, day and night, in winter and summer. “The kids are here almost every weekend, whether we’re here or not,” she says. “And it’s not just to come and vacation, they take on jobs, they like to work and always leave the place the way it was when they came up.” It’s cottage etiquette they perfected when the family shared the old cottage with Al’s sister and her family.

Although their Kawartha cottage would be a great place to retire, Al and Lucia expect to always keep their home in Toronto, where they regularly visit her mother and his father. Their two young grandchildren live just 15 minutes away in the city and Lucia often looks after them. But, Al says, they’ll definitely be spending more than the better part of every week up north, year-round. **OH**



Skyler makes himself at home in a main-floor bedroom where light sconces saved from the family’s old High Park home are installed above the bed. The cottage is built with two downstairs bathrooms and one on the second floor.



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

1867 Confederation Log & Timber Frame • Design Alternatives • Kitchen Design Studios • Knock on Wood • Lighting Interiors & More • Northern Lights Security • Peterborough Appliances • SCF Countertops

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RECIPE AND PHOTOS JENELLE MCCULLOCH

Foodies across North America are giving in to their sweet tooth to indulge in the new craze of extreme milkshakes or “Freakshakes,” as the more insane versions are called.

Black Tap, a New York city restaurant, is on the cutting edge, creating shakes like Sugar Sugar and Sweet & Salty.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF BLACK TAP



They look a bit daunting, don't they? No need to worry, we will show you how to make your own.

THE BASIC

INGREDIENTS

- Ice cream of your choice
- Milk

INSTRUCTIONS

- Add 1 pint of ice cream and 2/3 cup of milk to your blender and blend until smooth. Easy, right?



THE VERY GOOEY BLUEBERRY PIE

INGREDIENTS

- “THE BASIC” milkshake, vanilla
- Cake icing
- Graham cracker crumbs
- Blueberry pie filling
- Mini blueberry pie
- Whipped cream

INSTRUCTIONS

- Grab a chilled milkshake glass and coat the edge of the glass in cake icing.
- Next, dip the coated glass into your graham cracker crumbs.
- Alternate layering the blueberry pie filling and vanilla milkshake until three-quarters full.
- Top with mini pie, whipped cream and any other crazy ingredients you desire.

THE RISE N’ SHINE

INGREDIENTS

- “THE BASIC” milkshake, vanilla or chocolate
- 1 tsp cocoa powder
- 1 tsp espresso powder
- Cake icing
- Cookie crumbs
- Chocolate sauce
- Mini doughnuts
- Whipped cream

INSTRUCTIONS

- Add cocoa powder and espresso powder to your basic milkshake recipe and blend.
- Grab a chilled milkshake glass and coat the edge of the glass in cake icing.
- Next, dip the coated glass into your cookie crumbs.
- Smear some chocolate sauce into the sides and bottom of the glass.
- Fill three-quarters full with the espresso-infused milkshake.
- Top with whipped cream, mini doughnuts and any other sweet ingredients you may desire! **OH**

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LIVING SMALL

STORY **GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH**

Home prices are going up, up, up these days. The cost explosion has left many millennials between the ages of 18 and 34 wondering if they'll ever afford a home of their own.

According to a recent CIBC poll, 85 per cent of Canadians consider home ownership important, and 59 per cent of millennials say home ownership provides a sense of personal freedom. That freedom comes at an ever-increasing cost.

In reaction, there's a movement to pare down living quarters – make homes smaller, more efficient and less costly. Tiny houses are becoming a growing trend. It's generally accepted that a tiny house covers no more than 500 square feet. That's a far cry from the average size of a Canadian home, which is still about 1,900 square feet.

Tiny homes are big business these days, but building codes and municipal bylaws are spoiling some of the fun.

The most common tiny homes are those built on trailers that can be moved from place to place. In Ontario, these homes on wheels are considered to be like recreational vehicles, which means, in most places, that you can't live in them full time.



These fully decked out shepherd huts offer 108 square feet of extra living space.

However, some entrepreneurs are skirting the rules and building tiny quarters that fly under the radar. Dylan Euteneier's family company Güte builds prefabricated, moveable shepherd huts on cast-iron wheels in Maxwell, Ontario. A fully decked out hut offers 108 square feet. They are recommended for the backyard, cottage, garden or island and can be used as a bunkie, guest cabin, studio, home office or sanctuary.

The beauty of the shepherd hut, Euteneier says, is that it falls under the same rules as a garden shed. In most Ontario municipalities, you do not need a building permit if your structure is less than 108 square feet in size. Güte's shepherd huts can cost up to \$37,000.

Toronto-based The Bunkie Co. has a collection of prefabricated products that all offer 106 square feet but sit on the ground. The Bunkie Co.'s Premier model is priced at \$36,900. Partner Evan Bare says his clients are using the structures to house overflow guests at their cottages. "Most bunkies go north of Toronto to cottage country," Bare says. It's a niche product that resorts are also hip to offer clients who want to go "glamping" (glamour camping). The all-plywood bunkie does not need to meet the Ontario Building Code. The interior can include a Murphy bed, storage and even an ethanol fireplace.

Bill and Linda McMaster built such a bunkie on their property in Meaford because their future son-in-law's pet allergies mean he can't stay in their main house. "People have slept in it in the spring and of course in summer," says Bill McMaster. "It is especially attractive as a private, secluded space for reading, napping or meditation."

These bunkies can include a Murphy bed, storage and even an ethanol fireplace.

SMALL HOMES ARE COMING

Tiny homes are just the start of the changing face of housing in Ontario. Ontario's 2011 Strong Communities Through Affordable Housing Act requires municipalities to change their official plans and bylaws to allow additional units in detached, semi-detached or row-house homes as well as in ancillary structures such as existing detached garages. These new units must comply with the province's Building Code, Fire Code and property standard bylaws.

The City of Ottawa, for example, is in the process of allowing coach houses – permanent standalone buildings – in the backyards or laneways of existing properties. The aim is to increase affordable housing options and make it easier for families to live together on the same property, but in different legal structures.

Port Credit architect Andy Thomson, a tiny homes activist, says City of Ottawa should receive kudos for having fully embraced the Act. Thomson says it's time for other cities, like Toronto, to follow suit and he's urging Ontario's government to enforce the planning Act. "That would be my advice to the Wynne government – enforce the planning Act," says Thomson.

It won't be long before more companies jump on the tiny home bandwagon. Bare says his Bunkie Co. is preparing to unveil an 800 sq. ft. two-storey that would require a permit and could be a main house. His company is anticipating a future for tiny home communities and a time when small-house living hits the mainstream. **OH**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BUNKIE CO.



lounging AROUND AT HOME BRINGING BACK AT-HOME BARS



STORY BARBARA NYKE

An anonymous writer said, "Why limit happy to an hour?" When you have a well-designed and inviting bar in your home, happy hour can last as long as you want.

PHOTO: MAX WEDGE

If you're the kind of person whose favourite winter activity is cosy comforts of home, having your own customized bar will help to chase away the winter blues.

Back in the 60s and 70s, it was popular for homes to have a basement bar, complete with wood panelling, a curved bar with a few barstools and a mirrored back wall to display the barwares. Thankfully, that clichéd design trend is over and home bars aren't relegated to the basement any longer.

Discriminating travellers look to the furnishings, ambience and amenities they enjoy in hotels, bars and restaurants to provide inspiration for home décor. Adding a bar brings home the festive lounge feeling of a hotel or trendy club, making it the perfect spot for entertaining with friends over the holidays, or anytime.

Why do you go to bars? What's your favourite spot? Do you like the appetizers? Is it the unique cocktails? The people? What about the music? Perhaps it's a combination of all of these elements.

Great design captivates all of our senses and makes it easy for us to move through the space. Successful use of layout, colour, texture, statement furnishings, varying lighting levels and sound systems define a wonderful experience.

Homeowners are investing in their homes and customizing rooms to reflect their personalities and to make them more functional. The trend continues for renovating houses to have open-concept living and cooking spaces. At-home bars are no longer considered to be a separate design item. Bars can be incorporated into the overall design scheme, whether it's a modest well-appointed bar cart, or a free-standing wet bar complete with a sink, running water, specialty appliances and bar stools. Choices for layout might be a bar that's separate from the living room, or a bar that's designed with an adjacent lounge area.

At the end of the day, you want your home bar-lounge to surround you with interesting textures, colours, lighting and ambience and ultimately to be relaxing.

Prepare for more time indoors with a customized home bar – be careful, don't let too many friends and neighbours know about it. You might never leave the house!

Continued on page 50

You Could Hear The Gasps As They Came Into The Room....



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Successful design considers functionality and aesthetic preferences. Here are three key considerations to include in your home bar:

1 How will you use your bar? Entertaining is easier with a central gathering spot. Whether you're welcoming family for dinner or hosting a small cocktail party, a bar is a big attraction. You'll have to decide on the size and the location, which will depend on how you plan to use your bar. Do you have a sink for a wet bar? Will it be a stand-alone feature in your home, or will your bar complement an elegantly appointed outdoor kitchen?

2 What's your style? A bar could be a major feature of any room. Its location within the home will determine if the style will be harmonious with adjacent rooms, particularly if they open onto one another, or if the bar will be in a separate room. Then it can be a different style. Do you like a particular design era for bars and lounges? Maybe it's the mod-60s style, or contemporary-luxe style. Its placement, size and how it relates to the other rooms will affect the flow of your home.



3 What features do you want? Customization is the ultimate enjoyment of any bar design. Homeowners can choose from an incredible selection:

- Wine fridge
- Mini-fridge
- Ice machine
- Hot water spout
- Sink
- Drain board
- Under-counter lighting
- Various light levels
- Sound system with customized music selection
- Television
- Storage
- Display area
- Counter space for small appliances
- Wall-mounted oven
- Bar seating
- Lounge area

Defining these criteria will influence your bar's aesthetic, the design materials you choose and its ultimate functionality. **OH**

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PHOTOS **WALTER FRANCZYK**

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DEBBIE SKINKLE

President, AyA Kitchen Designs

What services do you offer? With superior cabinetry and countertops, in-house design professionals and expert installation, AyA works with individual homeowners and some of the area's largest builders to create the best possible kitchens. "We provide standards that exceed most other cabinet manufacturers and we offer a large variety of styles and storage solutions for today's modern builder and most discriminating homeowner," says Debbie.

What's in store for kitchens? AyA's décor centre offers an expansive selection of cabinetry and countertop samples, ranging from a wide array of cabinet styles, wood, stains, paints and hand finishes to plastic laminates, granite, marble and quartz countertops. The showroom houses a variety of displays illustrating different kitchen styles, accessories and storage ideas. "Whether your style is classic, contemporary, urban or vintage, we have something for you," says Debbie. She encourages people planning a new home or renovation to drop by the showroom. "Our team is waiting to help you through each step of the process to make the kitchen of your dreams become a reality."

MATTHEW LOGAN

Owner, Logan Tree Experts

Why hire a professional arborist?

Arboriculture is an unregulated trade, which means that there's no mandatory requirements to work in the industry. Since arboriculture is a very dangerous trade, home and cottage owners need to ensure that the people who work on their trees are fully insured, professional and competent to perform this highly skilled job.

What services does Logan Tree Experts

provide? We are a full-service tree-care company servicing the entire Peterborough and Kawartha region including Port Hope, Port Perry, Brighton, Cobourg, Haliburton, Minden and all points in between. We do planting, pruning, removals, consultations and reports. If it has to do with trees, we are the experts.

Why do you do this? My wife Tracy and I saw an opportunity and a need to provide quality tree care with a focus on customer service. We wanted to offer our clients quality, professional workmanship while educating them and the public about trees and their proper care.

Continued on page 54





DAN STANFORD
Founder, Cabinetree

What's unique about Cabinetree? Cabinetree has been built from day one, almost 30 years ago, to create cabinets, efficiently allowing clients to get the best possible value for their money. The use of advanced manufacturing and dedicated local craftsmen to create these efficiencies has been augmented in recent years by a team of talented designers who can create beautiful spaces.

Why manufacture locally? In our world, custom widths of cabinets are standard, which removes the need to waste space by using fillers. Making a cabinet to fill your unique space the right way is second nature to us and something we never tire of. Manufacturing artistry has seen a steady improvement of our facility and equipment to a world-class level, allowing us to build custom product for standard prices. We have fully integrated our design software into our manufacturing process so that what you see on the screen is really what you end up seeing in your home.

**KEN MONK
& CATHY MONK**
Owners, Chemong Chimney Ltd.

What do you offer? Chemong Chimney carries wood, gas, propane and pellet fireplaces. It specializes in fireplace facing. "We do all of our own framing and finishes, with in-house staff, to complete the fireplaces," says Ken. The company employs trained and certified wood and gas fireplace installers as well as a licensed mason and his crew.

What's in store? "We have a large selection of working fireplaces on display, as well as many fireplace finishes. Our helpful staff will answer any of your questions," says Ken, who does all in-house estimates. "I go to every customer's home and have a no-charge consultation to go over the customer's wishes, wants and needs."

How did you get started? For 10 years, Ken was employed by Rehill Building Supplies where he helped customers with their fireplace needs, installations and repairs. While working six days a week and on weekends he expanded his knowledge in the field. "That's how I came to learn and love the business," says Ken. Cathy and Ken opened Chemong Chimney Ltd. just over 23 years ago. **OH**





IT JUST *Looks* EXPENSIVE

STORY **YANIC SIMARD** | PHOTOGRAPHY **GILLIAN JACKSON**



PHOTO: BRANDON BARRE

Craving that never-look-at-the-price-tag style? The look of luxe is actually more about high-end taste than unlimited money, and with a few guiding principles anyone can get millionaire décor – even on a “first job” budget. Read on for my favourite tips for living the design high life.

A FRESH START

No matter your design past, you can start fresh with the ultimate haute palette: clean shades of white and grey. Using one all-over colour to treat your walls, trim and ceiling gives that sleek Parisian air, connects your spaces and helps visually erase any imperfections. Try CIL's faintly grey Dove White (10BB 83/020), or Crisp Linen White (61YY 89/040) for a trendy yet classic hint-of-cream look.



INHERIT CULTURE

A millionaire's estate isn't built in a day and it usually carries a sense of history. Vintage items contrast the sharpness of new finds, so look to vintage shops for great deals on pieces with some worn-in character. Try an old wooden chair as a bedside table or a salvaged sideboard as a vanity or storage cabinet. Mix heirlooms and old books into shelving displays to play history against the now. *Continued on page 58*

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DRAMATIC
INDULGENCES

If you never indulge, you won't truly love anything in your space. Basing the design around one or two splurge pieces will give a visual centre and draw attention from the "save" pieces. An eye-catching light (like a stunning mini-chandelier pendant) is a great place to splurge, as it's a natural draw for the eye that can be enjoyed from all angles.

SECRET DEALS

Trading off the splurges with smart save pieces is just good business. Avoid cheap substitutes that will look fake or break down quickly; choose inexpensive classics instead. Try plain, white porcelain subway tile for a timeless look in baths and kitchens, minimalist vanity cabinets from big box stores (you can always customize with a great faucet), and mismatched pillows from off-price resellers or vintage shops.



FEEL THE LUXURY

Your eyes aren't the only way you connect with your space; a millionaire's interior is a feast for all senses, especially touch. Plush materials will give both physical and visual texture, so include elements like wool throw blankets, shearling or Mongolian fur pillows, velvets, linens or heavy jute. Treat yourself to an irresistibly-scented candle from an aspirational store. Layering on accents like these builds up a feeling of wealth and can be done over time.

GROW ACCUSTOMED

There are some areas where it's worth it to invest in custom details. Having draperies properly fitted (especially a full wall floor-to-ceiling) makes a huge visual difference versus letting them drag or hang short, so consider splurging on custom panels or having packaged curtains hemmed.

BE A BOSS

A millionaire isn't shy about getting their way. Know what you want in your décor and make sure to be upfront with contractors or installers to get the details right (like installing flooring in a chevron pattern to add style). Don't be afraid to buck trends and make a personal statement. After all, it's you who should love your home the most – you've earned it. **OH**

Plush materials, like velvets, add physical and visual texture.



THINK BIG

A few statement pieces can do a lot more talking than an extensive collection of clutter. Choose upgrades like oversize lampshades, large frames (with wide matting) or big, art-student canvases or prints, vast rugs (in plain Berber to balance the budget). Extend your trim (like baseboards or window trim) by adding strips of plain half-round or quarter-round to the edges to create the illusion of rich elaborate moulding. Then skip the small knick-knacks that bring down the look.

INVEST IN METALS

Combining elements of gold or warm brass with elements of silver and crisp aluminum gives a hint of Art Deco appeal (think Great Gatsby) and lets you add drama without committing to any one trend. Add metallic candle sticks, picture frames, dining chairs (great for indoor/outdoor flexibility), lamps, side tables and/or sculptural objets.

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ANTIQUES

Bobcaygeon Marketplace, 32

APPLIANCES

Peterborough Appliances, 64

BOATING & DOCKING

C-US Consignment Marine Sales & Service, 57
Houston Marine Systems, 29

BUILDERS & NEW HOME
DEVELOPMENT

1867 Confederation Log Homes, 4
Discovery Dream Homes, 7
Gilmer's Home Building Centre/
Chemong Home Building Centre, 63
Linwood Custom Homes, 13
RWH Construction, 3
Stalwood Homes, 49
Tobey Developments, 51, 61
True North Log Homes, 9

CANVAS & UPHOLSTERY

Lairds Interiors, 37
Restwell Upholstering Co. Inc., 57

CLOCKS

Cobourg Clocks, 29

DECKS/DOCKS/FENCES

Kawartha Docks, 57
Pride Marine Group Dock Division, 21

ELEVATORS & LIFT SYSTEMS

Cottage Lifts, 43

FINE WOODWORKING/CUSTOM
FURNITURE/CARPENTRY

Cabinetree, 51
Frank Bouwmans - Cabinet Maker, 29
Log Furniture and More, 21

FIREPLACES & STOVES

Chemong Chimney, 57

FLOORING, STAIRS & TRIM

Focus Flooring, 49

FOOD & DRINK/RESTAURANTS/
CATERING/DELI

Delectable Fine Foods, 57
The Blackhorse Pub, 57

FURNITURE/HOME DÉCOR/
INTERIOR DESIGN/GIFTS

Birchview Design, 43
Curious, 36
Lairds Interiors, 37
Lakeshore Designs, 15, 61
Lockside Trading Company, 33
My Favourite Things, 8
Sassy Digs, 21
Twohey Home, 11

GARDENING/GREENHOUSES/
NURSERIES

Griffin's Greenhouses, 37

GENERATORS

Encore Power Systems, 32
Newton Electric, 45

GRANITE & STONE

Delray Granite, 33

HOME IMPROVEMENTS/
RENOVATIONS

Frank Bouwmans - Cabinet Maker, 29

KITCHEN AND BATH

Aya Kitchen Designs, 43
Delray Granite, 33
Frank Bouwmans - Cabinet Maker, 29
Harwood Kitchens, 45
Kitchen Cabinet Solutions, 36, 61
Saniflo, 5

LIGHTING

Newton Electric, 45
Vanvark Electric, 21

PAINTING & DECORATING

Benjamin Moore, 2

PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL

Newton Electric, 45

REAL ESTATE

Cathy Hopkins Poole – Re/Max All-Stars Realty Inc., 57
Jo Pillon - Royal LePage
Frank Real Estate, 57, 61

SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Nature Conservancy, 6

TREE CARE SERVICES/
ARBORICULTURE/ARBORIST

Logan Tree Experts, 43

WINDOW FASHIONS

Lairds Interiors, 37

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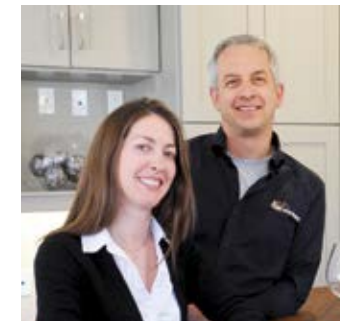
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JO PILLON
SERVICE – Somewhere along the line in our busy lives, the concept of **SERVICE** has become obsolete – the exception, rather than the rule. My experience over the years has enriched me with the knowledge and understanding of the service industry in which Real Estate is so important. 20 years in the optometric field was rewarding because I worked for my patients, it was an easy transition to serving my clients with the same respect, caring, and **SERVICE** that goes the extra mile. When asked what I do for a living, I reply, "I deal with people's hopes and dreams, and often their life savings." Trust in your representative, be it Buying, or Selling, is imperative in a successful venture. **SERVICE** to my clients is my obligation as a REALTOR, and my joy as a human being to provide each and every one the courtesy, respect and integrity I bring to the table. Royal LePage is more than 100 years old. A Canadian company, proud to carry the slogan **HELPING YOU IS WHAT WE DO**. My heart is in that slogan, and my personal statement - **It's SERVICE that sells homes, Jo Pillon, your SERVICE professional**. Award winner for nine consecutive years, 2015 Diamond Award Winner – representing the top 3% in the marketplace.

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For the past 12 years, Angela Jones of **Lakeshore Designs**, has been offering Premiere Design Services to the Peterborough and Kawartha region. In order to continue to accommodate and successfully interpret her clients' vision, she has opened a new location, just south of Lakefield. Within the newly renovated showroom she will be presenting the stylings of Lakeshore Lodge; Lakeshore Coastal; Lakeshore Home and Lakeshore Generations to make your shopping experience unique in every way.

Angela and her staff specialize in custom kitchen and bathrooms. They assist in projects of all sizes, from sourcing furniture and colour consulting to full project management. Lakeshore Designs is there to complete your dream. She receives a truly gratifying feeling when her clients put their trust in her and her team. Achieving that 'wow' reaction really means their vision has been fulfilled.

Angela and Lakeshore Designs have really made their mark in the region; from working with Habitat for Humanity of Peterborough, to becoming the decorator of choice for the Princess Margaret Early Bird Cottage Home Lottery. Continuing to support local businesses like hers, help to enhance the community we live in.

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PHOTOGRAPHY TARA CHATTELL



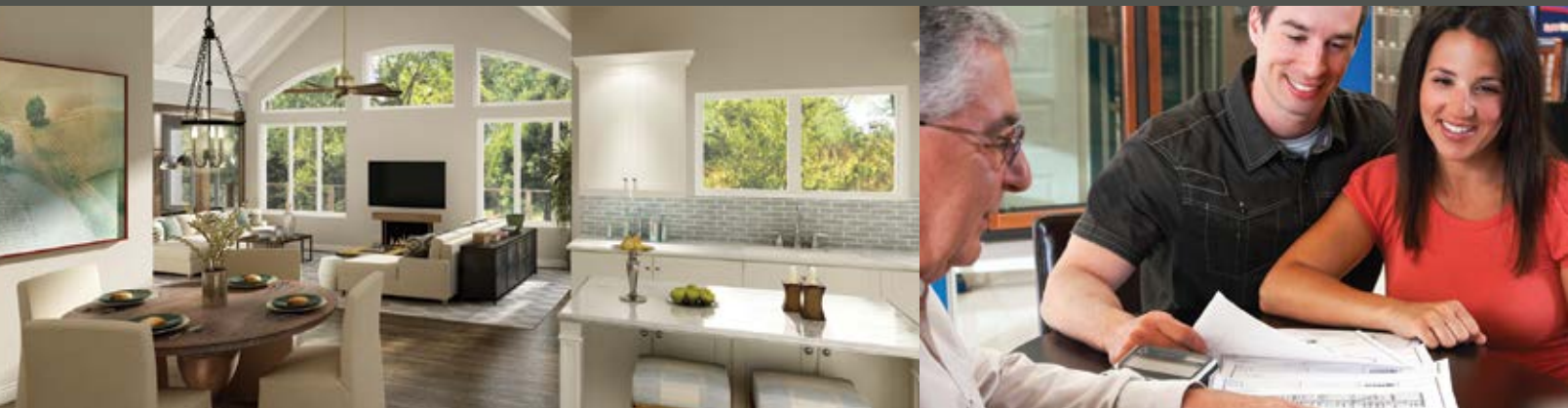
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