

MIX & MINGLE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY ROBINSON

Old man winter is just around the corner – time to turn up the heat and chill out with friends and family. With a little help from our experts, you'll be entertaining in style, whatever the weather has in store, so break out the mistletoe and let the festivities begin!



◀ Sarah Hilwerda, Owner
Birgitte Hansen, Employee
Salena Devlin, Employee
The Cellar Door Wines By You, Brighton

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MAKING YOUR OWN WINE? Our customers get the satisfaction of enjoying a glass of something they've created themselves, and the convenience of a well-stocked cellar is handy during the holidays for last minute gifts and entertaining. One trip to The Cellar Door saves you from making multiple trips to the LCBO, and reusing your bottles repeatedly keeps them out of the landfills.

WHICH WINE IS BEST TO SERVE WITH TURKEY? If you're fond of white we suggest a Pinot Gris, a crisp versatile food-friendly wine that's nice to sip on during preparation time. For red, we recommend a Pinot Noir; the velvet smooth finish is always a favourite and the silky tannins won't overwhelm the meat.

WHAT PART OF THE HOLIDAYS DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST? Hunting for the perfect tree has become my favourite holiday tradition.

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◀ **Bernie Bertrand**
Bartender, Bernie's Tap & Grill,
Holiday Inn, Peterborough
WHY MIGHT SOMEONE CHOOSE TO HOLD THEIR FAMILY HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE HOLIDAY INN? We're your one-stop party destination. We're the only local full-service hotel, with full meeting rooms, party rooms, all outlets, riverside restaurant and hotel rooms over the river.
WHAT IS A TRENDY DRINK HOSTS CAN DAZZLE THEIR GUESTS WITH? Anything with cranberries is appealing this season, such as a Cosmo: to a Vodka base, add a grenadine and Cointreau (or other orange liquor) mix, add a splash of cranberry juice, mix in a shaker and pour into a martini glass, garnish with a skewer of real cranberries.
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? I plan to stay close to home to be with family.

▶ **Linda Sedgwick-Sharpe & Judy Rough**
Stage Right, Cobourg
WHAT TRENDS IN STAGING DO YOU PREDICT FOR 2014? When staging a home you are focusing on space! To maximize the room space, use furnishings and décor pieces that create a clean, sleek and inviting space. Upgrade your home by painting, decluttering and depersonalizing. Consult with a home stager on how to make the best impression in the marketplace.
WHAT'S YOUR TOP TIP IN READYING YOUR HOUSE FOR THE HOLIDAYS? Decide on a decorating theme for your home and carry the theme throughout. Focus on your front entrance, foyer, fireplace and dining room table. We suggest using fresh boughs and different seasonal greenery. You can just go in the woods to collect, and decorate with them.
WHAT DO YOU MOST LOOK FORWARD TO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? We enjoy spending time with family and friends, decorating the house and entertaining.



◀ **Kimberly VanVark**
General Manager, VanVark Electric,
Trenton
HOW DO TODAY'S LIGHTING TRENDS DIFFER FROM 10 YEARS AGO? In the last 10 years, we have seen a huge increase in energy-efficient lighting options. There has also been a dramatic change in lighting design. Polished and antique brass fixtures have been replaced with brushed nickel and oil rubbed bronze fixtures. Crystal chandeliers are also making a comeback.
WHY IS LIGHTING AN IMPORTANT DECORATING DETAIL? Lighting is an extremely important, although often overlooked, detail in making a house a home. We suggest that our customers use a large portion of their lighting budget for the rooms they will use the most such as the kitchen and family room.
WHAT ARE YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS THIS YEAR? Christmas is a very special time of year. We will go to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus as well as spend time with family and friends.

▶ **Bruce Stewart**
President, Package Plus Inc.,
Peterborough
PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR VIDEO SERVICE. We started 25 years ago offering international tape conversions, and have added format conversion, such as camcorder tapes to dvds. This enables people to watch old family videos, remembering days gone by. They make great presents for those who don't want more "things."
WHAT UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS DO YOU OFFER AT PACKAGE PLUS? We offer personalized calendars and Christmas cards, plaqued pictures and posters, and locally written books we print and publish in house.
WHAT DO YOU MOST LOOK FORWARD TO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? For Marion and me, Christmas has always been a special time to connect with family and friends, and reflect on how blessed we are. We make an effort to make a positive tangible difference in the lives of others. As the seasonal rush of commerce recedes I'll look forward to relaxing, playing guitar, reading and visiting with friends. **OH**

