

FALL/HOLIDAY 2011

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RECONSTRUCTED  
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**HOUSE  
BEAUTIFUL**  
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HOLIDAYS**

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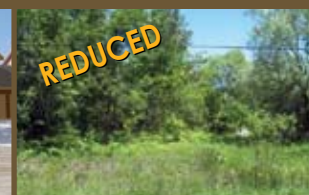


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Mountain Springs Resort	Cranberry - Multiple Units	Cachet Crossing	Chateau Ridge	Wintergreen Place
			 <b>2 SOLD</b> <b>4 Available</b>	 <b>1 SOLD</b> <b>2 Available</b>
Two 1 bedroom units available. <b>\$124,900 to \$139,000</b>	Dawson 4 bedroom, Trott upper & lower 2 bedrooms. <b>\$134,900 to \$159,900</b>	Multiple units right beside the Village at Blue. Hill side. <b>\$215,000 to \$264,000</b>	Upper and lower units available. Hill side location. <b>\$234,500 to \$279,000</b>	2 units available on golf course. Walk to ski hill. <b>\$259,00 to \$264,900</b>
Lighthouse Point	106 Hamlet	Clarksburg	128 Birch View Trail	Happy Valley
 <b>SOLD</b>	 <b>SOLD</b>			
Ground floor condo, 3 bedrooms fully renovated. <b>SOLD</b>	Beautifully kept, renovated Swiss Meadows Chalet. <b>SOLD</b>	Beautiful Century home on quiet corner lot. <b>Only \$375,000</b>	6 bedroom classic chalet, excellent turn key rental. <b>Only \$459,000</b>	Ski out your back door! Views of Georgian Bay. <b>From \$550,000</b>
Wasaga Beach	Slopeside Properties	Sunset Blvd	116 Carmichael Cres.	Lora Bay Lots
Quiet location, 4000 sq ft custom bungalow. <b>Only \$615,000</b>	Ski-in ski-out properties available. 2 lots and 1 chalet. <b>\$425,000 to \$725,000</b>	Lora Bay waterfront 3 bedroom winterized cottage. <b>Only \$699,000</b>	Large chalet with excellent rental history. <b>Only \$899,000</b>	2 lots including founder's 100 ft lot on the 18th. <b>\$179,000 &amp; \$425,000</b>
108 Craigmere Cres.	133 Brophy's Lane			



Lot surrounded by fine homes. Walk to ski hills.  
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**REDUCED**

Craigleith lot, 98 x 232. Deeded beach access.  
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## The Team



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Sales Representative  
josee@kevinwoolham.com



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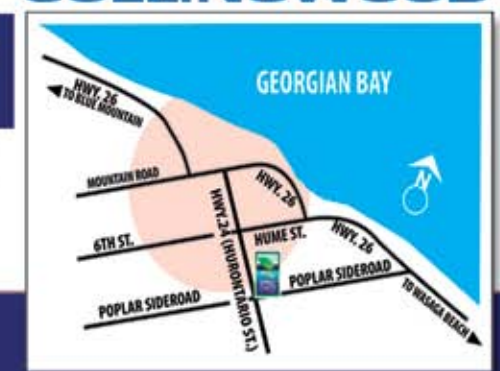
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**COLLINGWOOD** Exclusive Maple Street location. Victorian style brick home with wrap around front porch, detached 2 car garage with a new paved driveway & private lot at the end of a cul de sac. Heated floors in dining & kitchen area. 2300 sq. ft., 3 bdrms, 2½ baths. **\$499,000 MLS#20115151**



**ALPINE HILLS** Luxurious Mountain chalet. 3850 sq. ft. architecturally designed. Loaded with character, 4 bdrms, 3½ baths, wood burning fireplace, upgraded fixtures, reclaimed wood floors. Double attached garage with inside entry on a nicely treed lot with extensive landscaping. Close to Craigleith & Alpine ski clubs & the Village @ Blue. **\$1,450,000 MLS#20115531**



**THORNCROFT ESTATES** Vaulted Great Room equipped with media centre & gas fireplace. Kitchen provides ample cabinets & countertops & pantry. Fully finished lower level with huge entertainment area, hobby room with sink, large bdrm & 3 pc bth. Garage boasts tandem bay, perfect for storage, workshop or 3rd car. **\$595,000 MLS#20115402**



**CUSTOM BUNGALOW** Close to Alpine & Craigleith Ski Clubs on ½ acre lot with mountain views. Eat-in kitchen with stainless steel appliances, breakfast bar. Stone wood burning fireplace in living room, wall to wall windows & French doors leading to deck with gas hook-up for BBQ. **\$599,000 MLS#20110863**



**NIPISSING RIDGE** Professionally designed & decorated 5 bdrm, 3½ bath chalet. Vaulted ceilings, 3-way stone fireplace w/seating around, fully finished lower level with media room, exercise area & unique 800 bottle wine cellar. Great location for Craigleith, Alpine Ski Club & Georgian Bay Club Golf Club members. **\$999,000 MLS#20114582**



**SILVER GLEN PRESERVE** Tanglewood model open concept living room & kitchen with center island counter. 3 bdrms, 2½ baths. Walk out to deck which backs onto wooded area with western exposure. Upgrades include hardwood flooring throughout, ceramic tiles in kitchen & bathrooms, upgraded furnace, alarm system, California shutters in bdrms. Unfinished basement. **\$279,900 MLS#20114771**



**NIPISSING RIDGE** Spacious home with hardwood floors throughout. Living room with gas fireplace, screened-in sun porch & enclosed hot tub room. Well designed kitchen with granite countertops & walk-in pantry. Gas fireplace in master suite. 4/5 bdrms, 4½ baths. **\$799,000 MLS#20113555**



**LORA BAY CUSTOM CHALET** Located on 17th hole of the golf club with views of Georgian Bay. 5 bdrms, 5½ baths. Reclaimed hemlock floors, heated slate tile entrances. 10 ft. ceilings with wood beams. Master with gas fireplace & french doors to outdoor terrace. **\$1,175,000 MLS#20111374**



**NIPISSING RIDGE** Magnificent Post & Beam chalet custom built by Patrick Coulter & Associates. Over 7200 sq. ft. of finished space with 7 bdrms, 5½ baths, towering stone wood burning fireplace, reclaimed Hemlock wood floors, gourmet kitchen. Views of Georgian Bay. Close to Craigleith, Alpine & Georgian Peaks Ski Clubs & Northwinds Beach. **\$2,495,000 MLS#20112199**



**CRAIGLEITH** High quality craftsman style bungalow on a ¾ estate lot. 3200 sq. ft., 3 bdrm/3 bath, office/den + bonus room. Bright open concept design, cathedral ceilings, floor to ceiling gas/stone fireplace. Close to skiing, golfing and shopping. Backs on to green space. **\$799,900 MLS#20110149**



**MOUNTAIN VIEW ESTATES** Fantastic contemporary home in a very private setting backing onto Silver Creek. 5 bdrm, 3 bath multi-level custom designed home with outdoor deck overlooking the river, attached tennis court & hot tub. Attached double car garage. Mudroom with ski tuning room. Wood burning fireplace in the open concept living rm. Close to all the area's amenities. **\$1,595,000 MLS#20114481**

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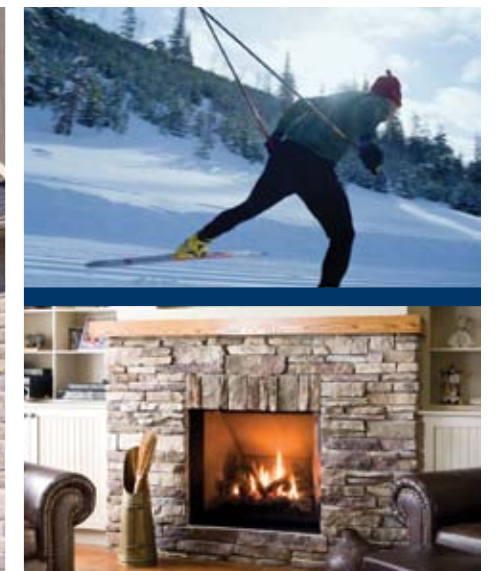


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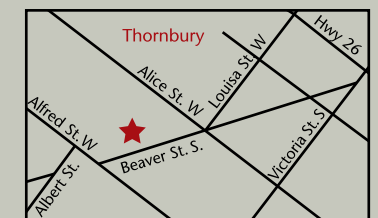
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Backing on the fairway, looking to the ski hills. 6 Beds / 6  
baths – room for all!  
**Offered at \$849,000 – Call Holly Stone**



**Oasis at the base of Alpine Ski Club.** 6 bedrooms, 4 ½  
bathrooms, 3 separate living spaces, stunning gourmet  
kitchen. The very best in “Mountain Modern” design.  
**Offered at \$1,750,000 – Call Desmond von Teichman**



**Olde Towne steps to beautiful down town Collingwood.**  
Upgraded bungalow loft, two bedrooms, three bathrooms,  
open concept living and double car garage.  
**Listed at \$435,000 – Call LeeAnn Matthews**



**Mill Creek Retreat in the heart of Ravenna.** a short drive  
to The Blue Mountains. Four bedrooms, five bathrooms,  
over 6000 sq.ft of high end home.  
**Listed at \$1,950,000 – Call Karen E. Willison**



**Nature Lovers Paradise** – over 8 ½ acres, including trails,  
carp pond, and rose bushes. Custom stone 3 bedroom  
home offers over 2300sq ft of living space, immaculate  
condition. Just move in.  
**Listed at \$359,000 – Call Julia Hinds**



**Country Location** – Riverfront property. 5 bedrooms,  
open concept kitchen, dining room, living room with patio  
doors overlooking river. Large garage with inside entry.  
**Offered at \$229,000 – Call Brenda Holden**



**Attention SKIERS! Why rent? APPLEJACK-Thornbury's hidden gem!** 3 brn's, 2 baths, 5 appliances, central vac, 1  
fireplace. Value plus location.  
**New Price \$139,900 – Call Dave Armstrong**



**Condo Living-Year round use or weekend getaway!**  
Cathedral ceilings, gas fireplace, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths,  
family room, private patio and a wonderful clubhouse with  
indoor pool and fitness area.  
**Listed at \$165,000 – Call Sharon Gray**



**Skiers Paradise** – Just steps to the lifts from this five  
bedroom four bath chalet.  
**Offered at \$745,000 – Call Debbie Gibson**



## FEATURE LISTING

**Retro-Cool** – This home combines majestic  
modern with “retro-cool”, architectural glass and  
reclaimed barn board, 5 acres of privacy with  
awesome convenience for downtown Thornbury  
**Offered at \$895,000 - Call Matthew Lidbetter**





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SNOWBRIDGE

Unobstructed view of Mountain & golf course. Custom built 6100 sq ft post & beam chalet with 5 bedrooms & 5 baths.

\$1,295,000

MLS® #20112058



NIPISSING RIDGE

Contemporary custom built 3050 sq ft home/chalet with 5 bedrooms & 3½ baths. 2nd level deck with unobstructed views of ski hills.

\$1,295,000

MLS® #20114727



BASE OF BLUE

Custom chalet across from O Hill. 5200 sq ft, 6 bedrooms & 3½ bathrooms. Main floor master, finished lower level.

\$1,449,000

MLS® #20111289



THE ORCHARD

Large chalet backing on to ski hills with unobstructed view. Professionally decorated & landscaped, 6 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms.

\$1,049,000

MLS® #20113207



HISTORIC SNOWBRIDGE

Unobstructed golf course & Mountain views. 3600 sq ft of finished living space with 5 bedrooms, 4½ baths.

\$879,000

MLS® #20115066



BLUE MOUNTAIN

Immaculate chalet on cul-de-sac with path leading to South Base Lodge. Reverse floor plan with view of the Mountain.

\$749,000

MLS® #20114194



POST & BEAM

4 bedroom, 3½ bath home in Historic Snowbridge, backing onto 16th hole at Monterra Golf Course. Wood burning fireplace, finished lower level.

\$879,000

MLS® #20114141



SOUTH END OF BLUE

Custom chalet with incredible views from all rooms. 4000 sq ft home with many upgrades; close to ski hills, walk to Village.

\$899,000

MLS® #20113896



BLUE MOUNTAIN

Beautifully remodeled & upgraded 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths chalet. Excellent location, walk to ski hills and Village. Move-in ready.

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MAGNIFICENT IN ALL SEASONS

5 bedroom chalet on private, treed lot at base of Blue ski runs. Great layout for family & friends.

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MLS® #20113067



GREAT FAMILY CHALET

2870 sq ft 5 bedroom, 3½ bathroom chalet on cul-de-sac. Fenced yard facing Blue Mountain.

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SNOWBRIDGE

2050 sq ft chalet with 4 bedrooms & 3½ bathrooms. Open concept main level. Fully finished lower level.

\$764,900

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VIEW OF BLUE

Clean & contemporary 3200 sq ft chalet. 4 bedrooms & 2½ bathrooms. Centrally located, walking distance to hills & Village.

\$749,000

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COUNTRY ELEGANCE

21 acres on the Beaver River. Paved road, year round access. 4000 sq ft home with 5 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms.

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HISTORIC SNOWBRIDGE

2 bedroom 2 bath ground floor condo overlooking the 15th fairway of Monterra. Short walk to Village or use the shuttle service.

\$259,000

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LORA BAY

4300 sq ft bungalow on the Raven Golf Course. Main floor master, finished lower level. Also available as an annual rental.

\$749,000

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RIVERFRONT

48' frontage on the Nottawasaga River. Custom built 2800 sq ft home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, fully finished lower level.

\$499,000

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WATERFRONT

Inviting home with 118 ft of waterfront on the shores of Georgian Bay. 3840 sq ft home with 4 bedrooms, 3½ baths.

\$1,595,000

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ACREAGE WITH A VIEW

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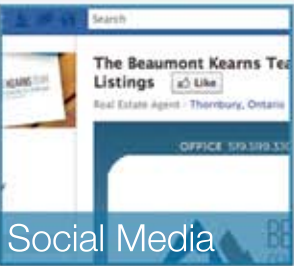
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CREATIVITY IS ALIVE AND WELL throughout this edition of OUR HOMES. Beautiful spaces always begin with brilliant ideas. Add some passion, know-how and teamwork and that idea becomes an incredible reality.

The two homes we unveil in this issue, designed and built by super talented local builders, take the creative process to a new level.

Thornbury's Bay House is the creation of Black Tusk's Bill Brown. This home is not too big, not too small, but just right. Every square foot counts and it's built on a smaller footprint using innovative materials and stunning finishes. The design makes the property easier and less expensive to maintain, making it even better for the environment. Meet the Bennetts, builder Bill and his talented wife Barb on page 94.

The first time I met Frank Wyssen, I was blown away by his energy and passion for everything he does. He's up at dawn everyday, feeding the animals on his farm before putting in a full day's work on his latest project. The home we feature started as a barn, was dismantled piece by piece and put back together at a new site. The transformation is incredible and Frank's attention to detail is legendary in these parts. See the house that Frank built on page 40.

I've always believed that when it comes to style, you either have it or you don't. Renée Desrochers, owner of Pamper and Soothe in Thornbury, has it in spades. Renée's charming apartment decorated for the holidays appears on page 80.

So are you ready for the festive season ahead? Silly question, I know. It's early and OUR HOMES wants to help make your holiday parties and family get-togethers fun and relaxing. Help is on the way beginning on page 60.

Every issue of OUR HOMES brings tasty recipes, original decorating ideas and new ways to transform your home. I know you will enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

As 2011 ends and a new year begins, I want to thank all of our loyal readers for supporting our magazine. The talented, dedicated OUR HOMES team works extremely hard to create a superior publication that celebrates all things home in Southern Georgian Bay.

Wishing you peace, joy and happiness this holiday season.

Sincerely,

*Georgette*

Georgette McCulloch, Editor-In-Chief  
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**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER** DAVID LOOPSTRA  
david@ourhomesmagazine.com

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** GEORGETTE MCCULLOCH  
editor@ourhomesmagazine.com

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** SHELBY HILSON  
shelby@ourhomesmagazine.com

**ART DIRECTOR** TARA CHATTELL  
tara@ourhomesmagazine.com

**ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR** SHEILA BRITTON  
sheila@ourhomesmagazine.com

**PRODUCTION DIRECTOR** LYNN DERRICK  
lynn@ourhomesmagazine.com

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** JANINE STONHILL  
janine@ourhomesmagazine.com

**GENERAL & FRANCHISE MANAGER** CHANDY A. RATTEE  
chandy@ourhomesmagazine.com

**ACCOUNTING** DONNA DUGGAN  
donna@ourhomesmagazine.com

**DISTRIBUTION** DON ORMSBY  
distribution@ourhomesmagazine.com  
705.444.0045

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Sheila Britton, Ashley Cipollone, Maria DaSilva, Jill Ellis, Bonnie Fox, Jim Fox, Jen Gilbert, Scott Hunter, Sandy MacKay, Stephanie Redmond, William Shelley, Irene Turnbull, Jude Wayland

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OUR HOMES™ is published four times a year (January, April, July and October) by  
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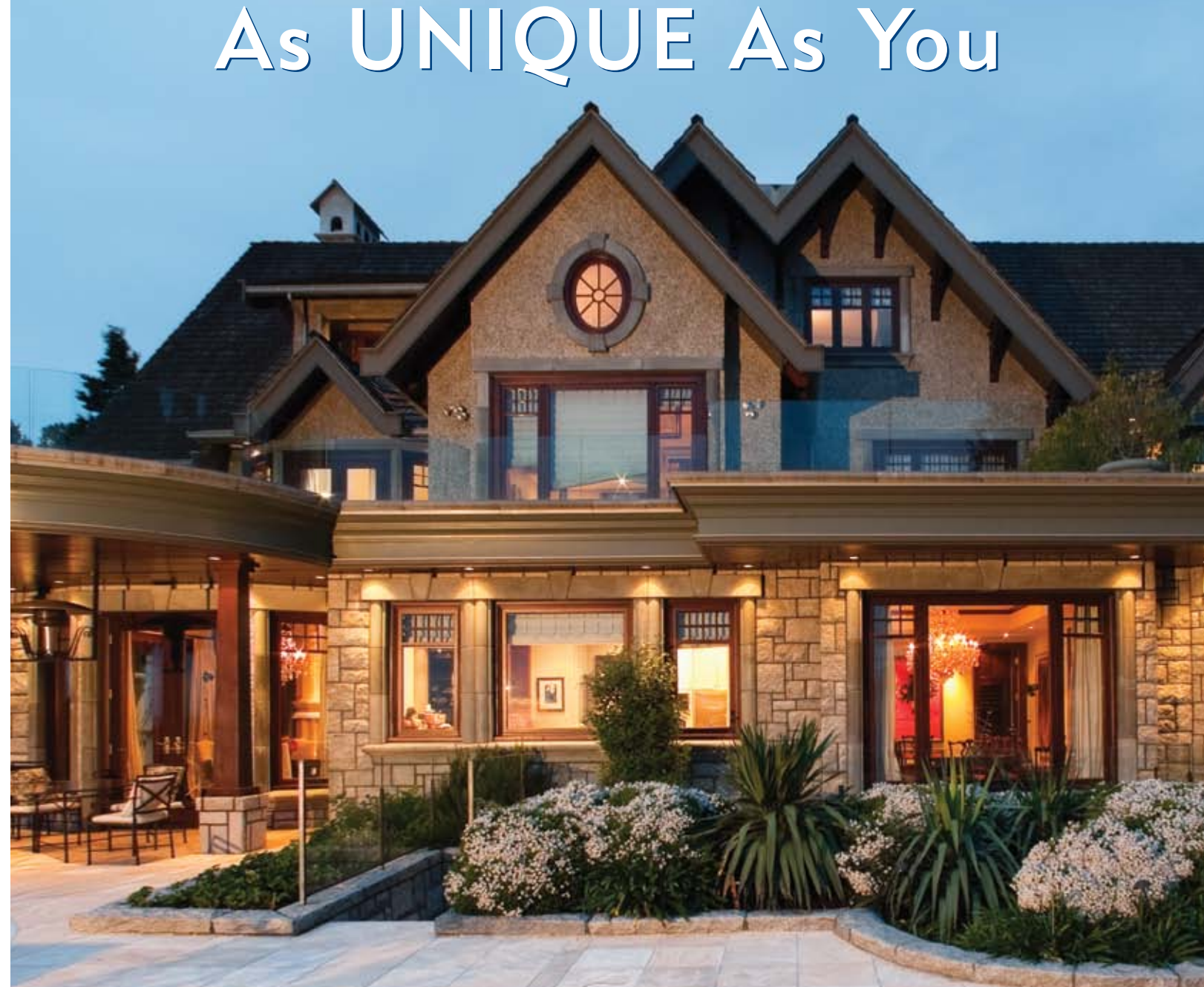
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## *fall*

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Sandy MacKay.



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# How to buy the **right** wood stove

*When you begin shopping for a wood stove, consider first what you need it to accomplish. Keep these questions in mind:*

How much space must be heated? How often will the wood stove be used? How much can I afford to spend? Will very young children be present when the stove is in operation – a possible safety hazard? Are there any other significant problems to consider, such as the ability of other family members to operate the stove when needed? What safety equipment do you need – how much does that cost? Will a wood stove be economical when compared to other types of heating systems?

The size of the area to be heated will determine the size of the wood stove you purchase. Remember that a stove that is too small will not heat the area adequately. One that is too large may release too much heat, causing you to reduce the air supply into the stove – a practice that reduces the stove's efficiency, wastes fuel dollars, and can cause safety and air pollution problems.

With many types of wood stoves and hundreds of models to choose from, the buying process can be frustrating. One way to simplify the process is to rely on the help of a knowledgeable and reliable wood stove dealer.



*Keep these questions in mind when you choose both a dealer and a stove manufacturer:*

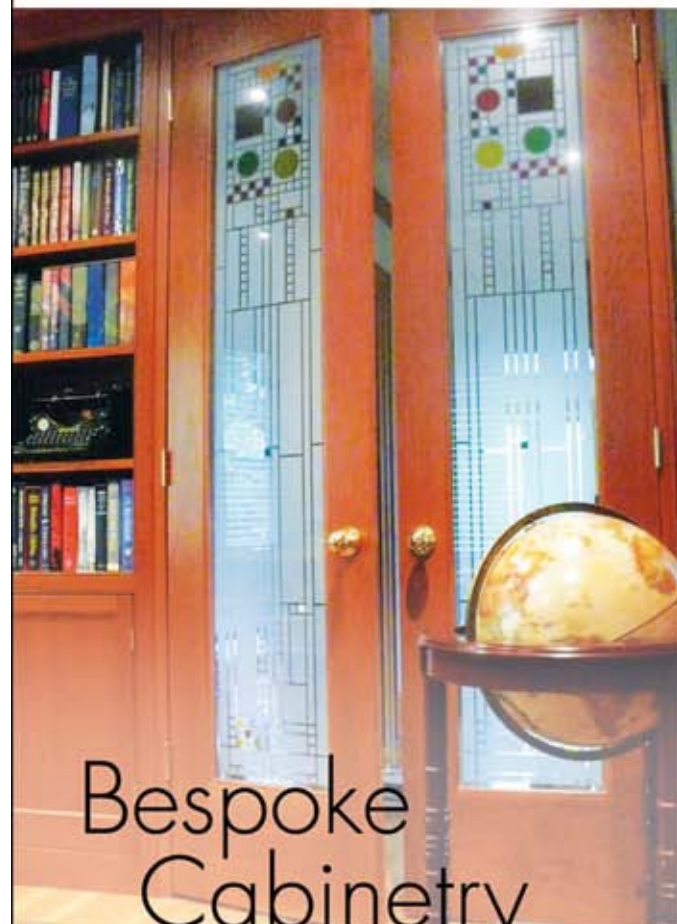
Does the dealer carry lines from several different manufacturers, so I can compare the features? How realistic are any claims made by a dealer about a particular product? Can the dealer help me choose the right size stove and help me place it in the optimum location in my house? Can the dealer deliver and install the product? Can the dealer repair each model sold? Are replaceable parts, service manuals and warranties available?

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advice

## MUDROOM *makeover*

We have decided to build an addition onto our home in order to accommodate a mudroom and more storage space. Do you have any tips or hints to help us make our new room work for our family? We have no idea where to even begin. – Carol



**QUICK TIP:** An easy way to add softness to your mudroom (and necessary storage) is by using baskets. When selecting your baskets, make sure they are just deep enough to fold a scarf or store a bulky pair of gloves. Things get lost at the bottom of deeper baskets and become disorganized too quickly.



Designer Stephanie Redmond answers your questions.

As much as I would appreciate my home always looking as though it's in the middle of a photo shoot, it is simply impossible. We have boots, mittens, scarves, strollers, keys, mail, grocery bags, backpacks, spare change and all things made to produce clutter. Unless we dedicate a space for each item, it seems to all end up at the bottom of a basket, on the floor and just plain lost. The mudroom, however, is my saving grace.

Some would argue that a mudroom is the busiest room in the house. They endure the ebb and flow of a household on a daily basis. Let's face it, it's constant abuse! If you're going to invest in an addition for your home, make sure you spend time planning. It will make that extra space go from functional to fabulous.

### DESIGNING YOUR MUDROOM

A well-designed mudroom is a well-planned mudroom. Look in closets and the garage and itemize what you will keep in your mudroom. Take into account the height of boots and number of shoes, the length of jackets, the size of purses and helmets. Instead of promising to take that trip to Goodwill, plan for what you've got.

Consider the following:

- **Seating** – to put on and take off shoes
- **Hooks** – a lower level is handy for children
- **Counter** – for mail and car keys
- **Broom closet** – for regular sweeping
- **Coat closet** – for longer items
- **Baskets, cubbies or drawers** – for mittens, scarves, etc.
- **Pet station** – for leashes, food and bags
- **Grocery bin storage** – for easy access on the way out

### BUILDING YOUR MUDROOM

Material selection is critical. Ensure that surfaces are hard-wearing to prevent scratches or water damage. Leave enough room in your budget for quality materials that will withstand the test of time and keep your room looking unsullied.

Consider the following:

- **Radiant heat** – this will dry the floor and your wet shoes
- **Drawers with soft closers** – to prevent slamming
- **Central vac** – install in the baseboard so you can sweep directly into it
- **Good lighting** – brighter is better
- **Slatted shelves** – for airflow so wet items can dry easily
- **Stone or slate floors** – thinner tiles could crack
- **Wood cabinetry** – a painted finish will eventually scratch or chip (but can be repainted)
- **Electrical outlets** – for charging phones

As utilitarian as this space may be, don't forget to make it chic. Just because it's where you keep your shoes doesn't mean it needs to look like a boring old closet. Have fun with it! **OH**



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What Does

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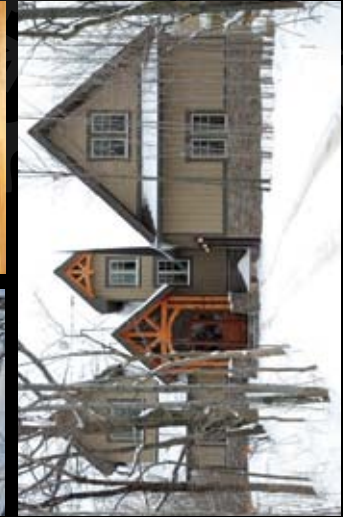
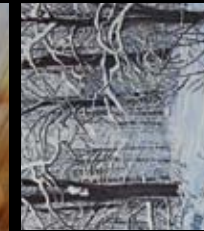
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#### ELEPHANT THOUGHTS

##### (7) Endangered Species Memory Game

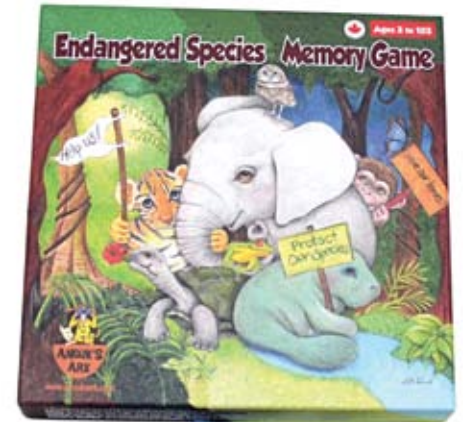
Teach your kids about the world's endangered species and challenge their memories with this fun, educational game. Made in Ontario using 100 per cent Forest Stewardship Council paper and vegetable-based inks, it's eco-friendly in every way.

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# ENSURING YOUR INSURANCE

BY JILL ELLIS // ILLUSTRATION BY SHEILA BRITTON

Catastrophes across the world have put the insurance industry under a spotlight over the past few years, with typhoons in Thailand, hurricanes along the U.S. Gulf Coast and earthquakes in Chile, just to name a few.

Homeowners may feel a sense of panic when empathizing with families in these unfortunate locales, but what level of insurance is reasonable when dealing with the kinds of weather-related emergencies that we experience in Ontario? Typhoons and hurricanes don't affect us, but landslides, floods, blizzards or tornados can and do happen regularly.

How much home insurance is enough?

"You need enough insurance to rebuild from the ground up, including debris removal," says Kevin Hodgins, secretary-treasurer, Southwestern Ontario Chapter, Insurance Institute of Ontario. This could be more than the price of your home because of the economies of scale: contractors get good deals on labour and material when building many homes at the same time, but rebuilding one home can cost much more.

Or it could cost less, according to Brian Maltman, executive director at General Insurance OmbudService. "You get overheated markets like Toronto, where homes in some parts of the city are selling for many times (more than) what it would take to rebuild them."

How much is too much?

No one wants to be "insurance poor," but being seriously over-insured is almost guaranteed not to happen, according to Maltman, because of the way insurance companies calculate the replacement value of your house.

What kinds of insurance do I need?

A package or comprehensive policy ensures that the building itself is insured, as well as the contents and the mortgage are all covered. Other types of coverage are also part of a comprehensive policy, like riders on special items or items of greater value. This type of policy also usually includes liability insurance.

Contents insurance is limited, according to Maltman, so it's a good idea to have expensive jewelry appraised (or other items that fall outside the normal range of value for your type of house) and covered with a rider.

"Be aware that there are limitations on things like jewelry, furs, computer software, collector items – and sometimes even bicycles and silverware. Go over the limitations with your agent or broker," urges Hodgins.

Mortgage insurance ensures that the lender is covered in the case of injury or death of one or more of the owners. It can also ensure that the house is paid off through insurance, so as not to be a burden to the surviving spouse.

One million dollars is the usual amount for liability within most comprehensive policies. This protects the homeowner in case someone is injured on their property. Some policies include \$2 million liability coverage.

What's not covered?

"Floods," says Maltman. "Because they are predictable (in some areas) and because they usually involve many houses."

He says, however, a flood due to a sewer back-up is usually covered by comprehensive policies.

What about deductibles?

A higher deductible means a lower premium and vice versa. This is because most claims are on the lower end, says Maltman. "Ask yourself, 'Could I afford to pay that first \$1,000 (if that's your deductible amount)?' That's the first question," he adds. If the answer is no, a \$1,000 payout would be tough, go with a lower deductible and higher premium.

What questions should I ask?

When buying a new home: "Question the seller about any water-related losses. If they have occurred, ask what steps were taken to ensure it wouldn't happen again," says Hodgins.

When renewing insurance annually: "Ask yourself if there's anything you should talk over with your broker or agent," cautions Maltman. Have you done extensive renovations that would affect the replacement cost of your home; have you purchased expensive art or jewelry; has anything changed in your home in the past year?

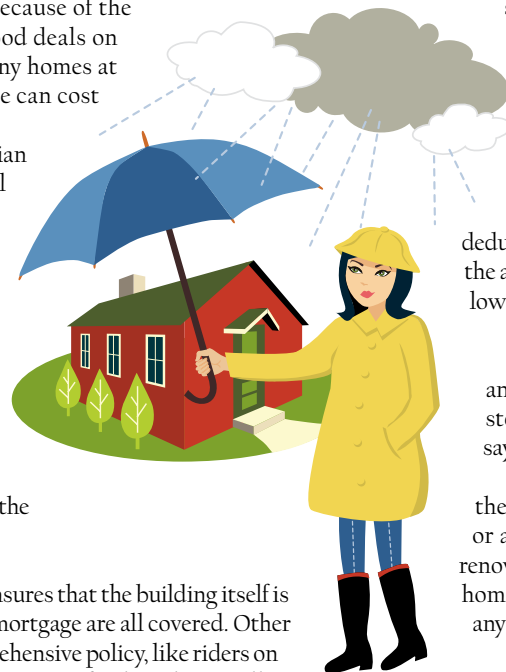
What should I be aware of?

There are discounts allowed if you have fire or burglary protection systems, being mortgage free and often for insuring your house and car with the same insurer, according to Hodgins.

Bottom line

"There are discounts for being and remaining claims free, so consider your insurance as protecting against disasters rather than a home maintenance policy," says Hodgins. **OH**

For more information: [www.giocanada.org](http://www.giocanada.org), [www.insuranceinstitute.ca](http://www.insuranceinstitute.ca)



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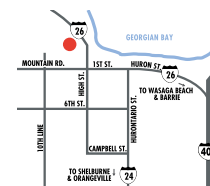
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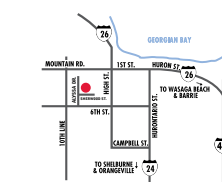
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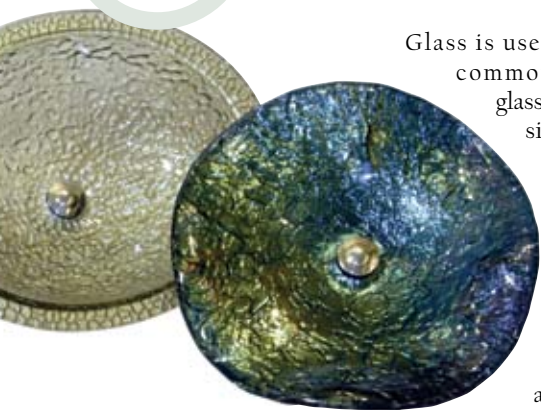


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# TOUCH OF *glass*

BY IRENE TURNBULL

Since man first witnessed the vitrification of quartz when lightning struck sand some 5,500 years ago, we have embraced the use of glass in our homes and buildings.



Glass is used for everything from common household items – glasses, bowls and bottles – to significant architectural components, allowing the manipulation of light and the enjoyment of its historical contribution as an art form. Not surprisingly, this very environmentally friendly and adaptable substance is an even more popular building material choice today

as a result of huge technological advances that offer seemingly endless design options.

In recent years glass has taken on a new architectural role, moving from its usual use in windows and doors to becoming an integral part of the structural design itself. Glass walls, floors, stairs and roofs are reshaping the nature of our living spaces. More and more designers are taking advantage of innovations in strength and durability to incorporate the light and sound-controlling properties of glass with creative flexibility.

Bend it... shape it... melt it... paint it... laminate it... or etch it. Only your imagination will limit how you can incorporate glass into your home decorating projects. However, each application requires professional know how. Glass production is a complicated business. It can evolve from the original production of sheet goods through additional manipulation with either heat, colour or surface etching.

Among the most exciting developments is the inclusion of additional materials within the interlayer of laminated glass, including

fabrics, coloured films, wood veneers, LED lights, stone veneers and papers and dichroic films. The results are definitely delivering the WOW factor at affordable prices with the added benefit of relatively seamless installations.

Sheet glass is particularly well suited for backsplashes, countertops and shower walls, offering clean, grout-free and maintenance-free, non-porous hygienic and stain-resistant surfaces, which can be custom finished to offer unique textures and colours. The reflective characteristic of the glass surface set over either a laminated or applied substrate can give a unique three-dimensional quality to the surface, particularly if textured. The surface can be reflective or matte depending on the finish chosen, and by further strengthening the glass through the tempering process, it is safe to use behind the cooktop.

So, if you think glass might be the answer for your next interior project, remember product knowledge and expert handling, from templating and fabrication to installation, requires specific skills. So be sure to choose your designer and supplier carefully to ensure many years of timeless, carefree “feel good” living with your touch of glass! **OH**



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Admiral Collingwood Place features The Admiral's Club, a uniquely designed rooftop amenity space that's simply beyond compare, featuring an indoor lounge with caterer's kitchen, a fitness centre, and a landscaped rooftop garden with a tranquil

water feature, pergola, private cabanas, BBQ's, a fire pit, and superb 360-degree views of Collingwood, Georgian Bay and The Blue Mountains.

Admiral Collingwood Place features an array of beautiful suite designs ranging from 1 bedroom + den layouts to luxury 3 bedroom penthouses with over 2600 square feet of living space. Suites are elegantly appointed with an exquisite variety of finishing options including gourmet kitchens, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances.

Collingwood is a high-demand destination, particularly for baby-boomers, as they seek an active, yet maintenance-free lifestyle. It offers an abundance of amenities, elegant fine dining, shopping, theatre, golfing, and culture and entertainment. With its ideal mix of small town charm and sleek sophistication, it's no wonder it's a destination to dream of.

Prices at Admiral Collingwood Place range from \$259,900 to over \$800,000 including an underground parking space and locker.

**With occupancy starting in fall 2013, the time to get in is NOW! Visit the Presentation Centre, (located at 290 Hurontario Street, Suite 105 in downtown Collingwood) today or contact us at 705-445-8885 / theadmiralcondos.com**



All renderings are artist's concept only.

Frank Wyssen and his crew dismantled a 40-by-60-foot barn and raised it piece by piece on a beautiful piece of land overlooking the Beaver Valley. The huge four-by-four foot airtight fireplace was built with stone from the barn's original foundation.

BY JUDE WAYLAND // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY // STYLED BY JEN GILBERT

# NATURAL GIFT

## home & builder

There's a spectacular work of art perched atop the Beaver Valley, replete with a tranquil man-made pond, and a stellar view of paradise. It's one of master craftsman Frank Wyssen's latest creations. And what a beauty it is.

The story starts with a Toronto couple who dreamed of living in a converted old barn. Referred to as "the honest builder," they immediately knew Wyssen was the man for the job. There was just something about Frank.

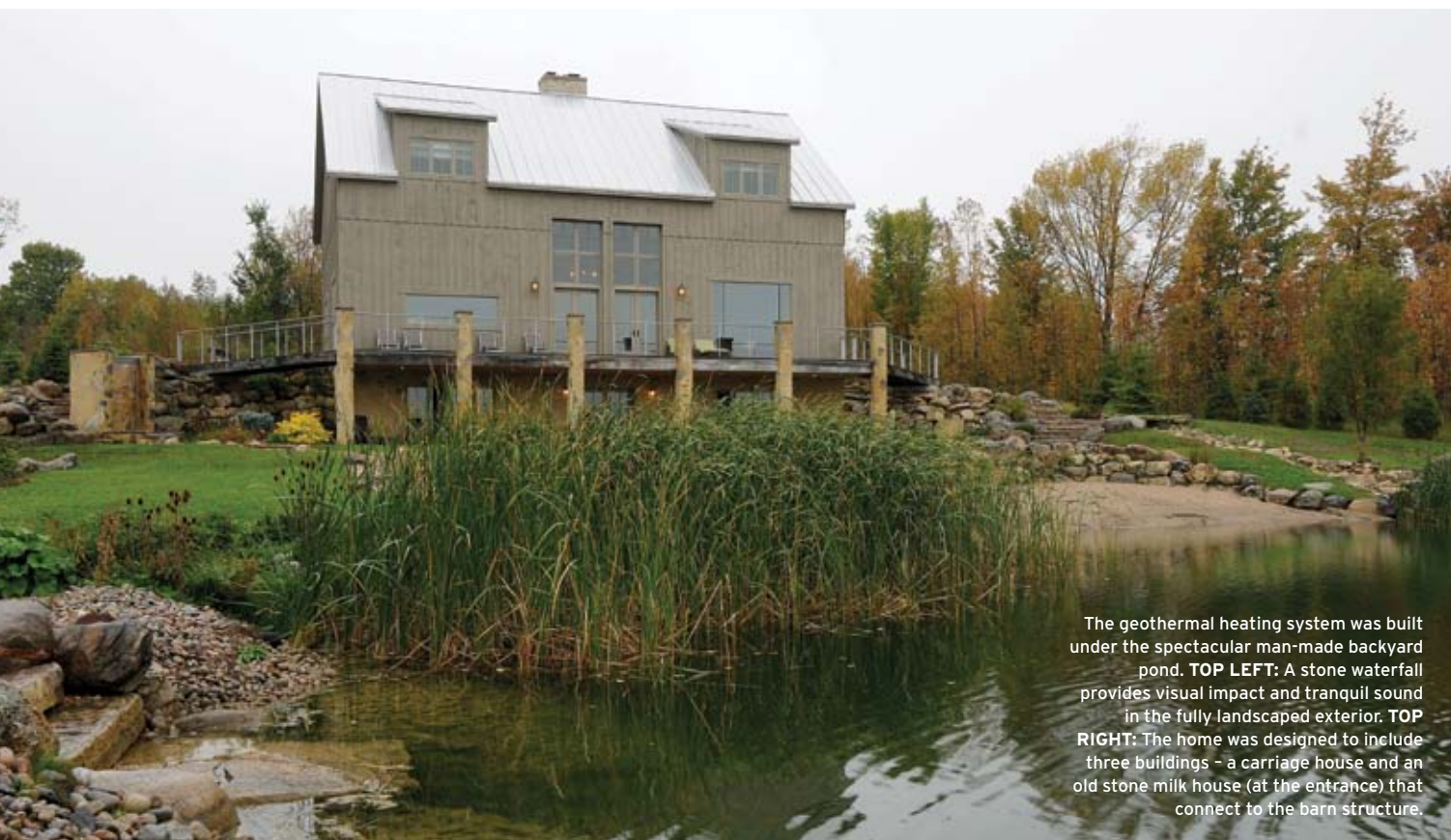
Wyssen, owner of **Creek Valley Inc.**, is no less than passionate about what he does. He's been building for 14 years, crediting local developers **Bill and Jane Lewis** for his start.

Converting a barn into a home was a first for Frank. For a year, Wyssen drove all over the countryside looking for a suitable structure. Then, friends in Duncan mentioned their barn was falling down.

Bingo. It was the ideal barn for the project. "I inspected it, and sure enough, this was the best barn I had seen in the whole year I looked for barns," says Wyssen. *Continued on page 45*



A view toward the entrance leading up to a cozy sitting area with a full bathroom. **RIGHT:** The enclosed mudroom just off the entrance has ample storage for gear. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The stone wall in the powder room near the entrance has a custom floating vanity and a stainless steel vessel sink. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Saved from the original barn, are bridle hooks built into the side of the fireplace.



The geothermal heating system was built under the spectacular man-made backyard pond. **TOP LEFT:** A stone waterfall provides visual impact and tranquil sound in the fully landscaped exterior. **TOP RIGHT:** The home was designed to include three buildings - a carriage house and an old stone milk house (at the entrance) that connect to the barn structure.





The foundation was crumbling, but the 100-year-old structure was beautifully preserved. All the posts, timber, purlins and braces were intact.

“Nothing was missing,” says Frank. “Nobody had ever cut into it or changed anything.” So he and his crew of five full-time Mennonite workers from Mount Forest (Orlin, Ray, Alvin, Mark, and Elmer) and Roy Genoe disassembled and moved the barn to its present location.

“We brought on a few extra Mennonites for the tear-down,” explains Wyssen, “and to erect the barn on this site. Once it was stripped, we took it down in one day, and after we reassembled it on the ground, we had the entire structure up in a day.”

A daunting undertaking to say the least, but from the look in his eyes, it’s clear that Wyssen is a man who embraces challenge. Like pouring concrete 30 feet in the air, building a unique sub-floor, crafting a handmade shower

drain, or creating a three-inch space between the concrete and the timber frame to house the electrical, plumbing and drains.

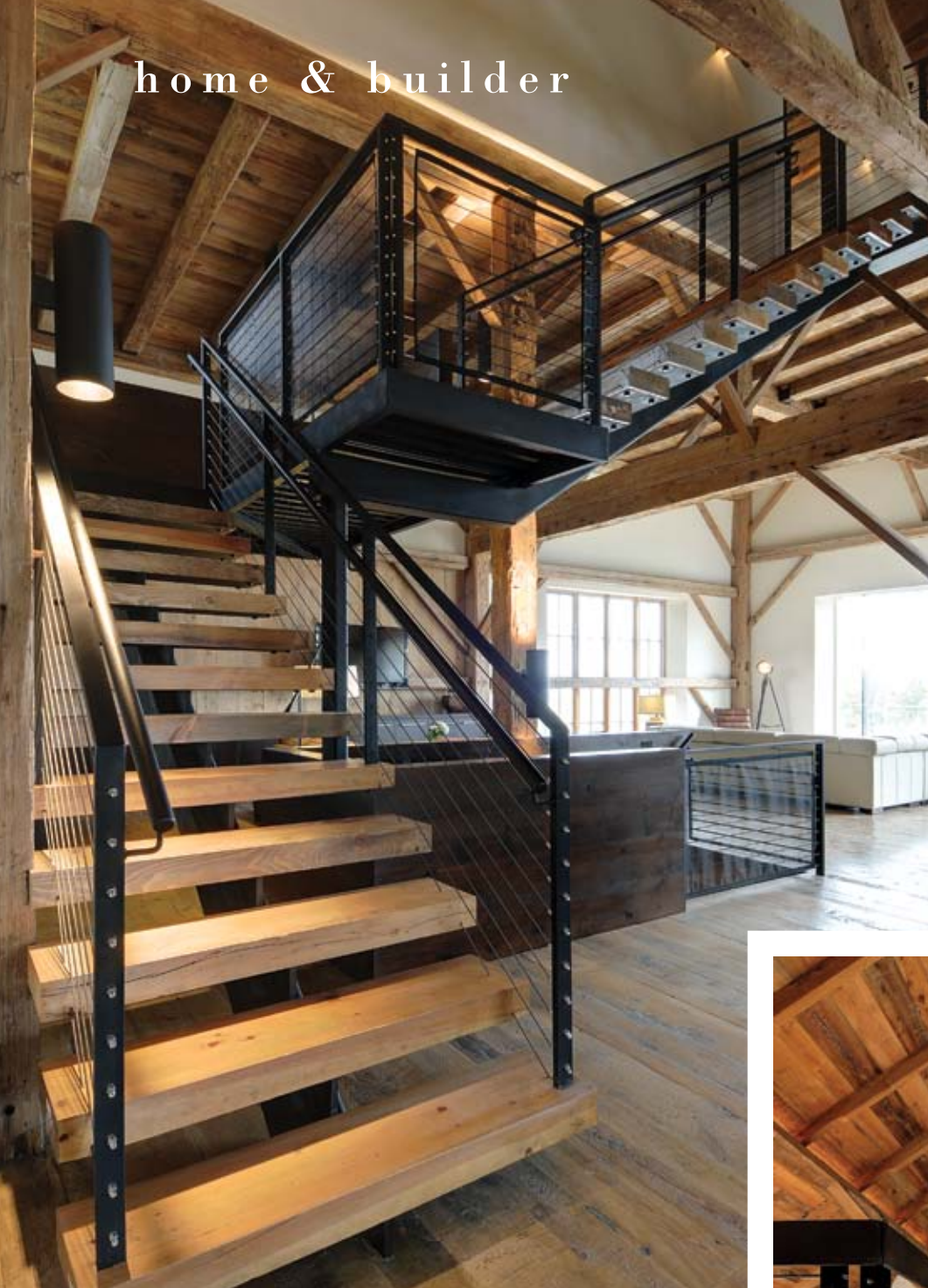
For Frank, reassembling and designing the layout of the new structure was like fitting pieces of Lego together. “Everything’s about the sequence of events,” he states, “and about what has to go first, second, and third.” His vision was to make the home resemble three buildings: a carriage house and an old stone milk house that connect to the barn structure.

The original footprint of the barn was 60-by-40 feet, or 2,400 sq. ft. on three floors. Add a breezeway and garage, and the result is a bright and airy 10,000 sq. ft. living space that highlights the splendour of the original framework. “The only thing we added was the black stair railing,” states Wyssen, “but everything else, the way the floor is built on top of the frame, and the way it’s all connected, you would think that’s exactly how I found the barn.” *Continued on page 46*



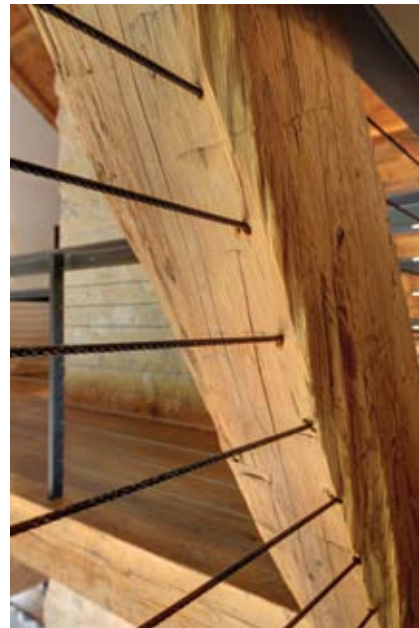
**TOP:** In the kitchen, horizontal elements bring the open space to life. The white marble waterfall countertop adds a contemporary feel to the rustic barn. Storage is found below in the island and lower cabinets along the back wall. **RIGHT & ABOVE:** The interior of the barn is a true architectural marvel brought to life by a master craftsman. All art, white leather sofa, lamp, sculptures, books and accessories are courtesy of Teras Art & Home. Cowhide rugs, saddle and harness courtesy of Evolution For Men, Thornbury.





**LEFT:** Frank designed and worked with a team to build the contemporary L-shaped floating staircase and steel railings. His staircases are his signature. The flooring is made of pine with a pickled finish.

**BELOW:** The second floor appears to float above the main level. There is no subfloor. Instead, Frank used three swing beams, plus timber, plywood and concrete to create a unique sandwich of layers.



An ICF structure encases the timber frame, including the walls around the perimeter of the building, and the upper gable ends and dormers. Steel brackets secure the posts and rafters into the concrete, mechanically connecting the concrete structure to the timber frame.

Every aspect of this lofty undertaking was cleverly conceived: from the geothermal buried in the pond, to the waterfall (sketched by Wyssen on a napkin) that recycles pond water, to the contemporary L-shaped, 6,000 lb. floating staircase, (a Wyssen design), that ingeniously complements the framework.

This particular timber structure is what is known as a four-bent barn. (A bent is the unit of barn timbers running from front to back). Says Wyssen, “the most incredible bent is the one with the 40-foot swing beam. For nine days, we chiselled, drilled and fitted to create this one-of-a-kind bent.” *Continued on page 48*



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# home & builder

**BELOW AND RIGHT:** The master en suite upstairs has a vessel tub, a separate shower and a toilet room, enclosed in frosted glass. Helen Thomson of HT Designs planned and designed all bathrooms and millwork. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The master bedroom is furnished with a contemporary flair with accessories from Terase Art & Home.



## LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

**Helen Thomson, HBA, ARIDO, of HT Designs** (Completed the design and space planning for the kitchen and bathrooms, designed all millwork, and selected flooring throughout the home.); **Rob Perry, Riverside Custom Cabinets** (Kitchen and bath vanities and foyer built-in); **Kevin Elwood of Clearview Nursery**, **Rob Gray of Belmont Landscaping & Design** and **Frank Wyssen** (landscaping and design); Wyssen's nephew **Scott Gilchrist**, **Jamie Ballard** and **Ed Seymour** (all stonework); **John Ferris** (pond); **Cook's Geothermal**; **Bumstead Brothers Plumbing & Heating**; **Wyeville Plumbing and Heating**; **Cedarport Window & Door Centre**; **Gary Lawrence of Gary G. Lawrence Enterprises** (living room feature glass window, mirrors, glass showers); Mennonite craftsman **Ervin Martin** (custom wooden stair treads); **Grey Northern Powerline**; **Antique Doors, Trim & Flooring**; **Thornbury Steel Fabricators**; **Blue Mountain Welding & Machine Shop** (staircase steelwork); **City Stone**; **Steve Prosser, Paintworks**; **Star Dust Cleaning Services**; **Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre**; **Dan Barill of Barill Engineering**; **Huronia Alarms**; **Melvin Martin of Desboro Doors** (interior doors); **Lester Martin of L-M Woodcrafts** (built-ins and dining table); **Bill Brown Woodworking & Supplies**.

Normally, when a barn is being converted, it has some type of subfloor. This barn had no second floor. To create the second floor, Frank used three swing beams, plus the timber he sourced from different suppliers. He resourcefully constructed a solid, four-inch "sandwich" of layers, including the ceiling, plywood, an inch and a half of concrete, another layer of plywood, and then the finished floor. It's totally unique.

Wyssen designed a wide-open living area to showcase the beauty of the original timber frame. Four awe-inspiring 60-foot beams that run from end-to-end are fully exposed. "They're only lost for a brief moment when they travel through the wall and exit on the other side," says Wyssen. "Nowhere did I bury anything in this barn." *Continued on page 50*

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This cosy sitting area with full bath is located in the "carriage house" above the garage.



A massive four-by-four foot airtight, two-sided woodburning fireplace, constructed from the original barn foundation, is the heart of the home. Soaring 33 feet to the rafters, Frank built a hot air chamber inside this 100-ton solid stone mass to radiate heat for hours, even tapering its sides to resemble a wine bottle.

Wyssen salvaged enough original barn board for the ceilings, and tastefully whitewashed antique pine floorboards of varying sizes to mimic the aged barn board. A combination of rope and up lighting dramatically illuminates the wooden beams.

It's evident that Wyssen cares about the people he works for, and about the work he does. And he has a "riot" doing it. Frank says there's no way he can do what he does without the support of his wife Angi and his children Isaac, Rachel and Sarah. Every job has been a referral from satisfied clients. And each was secured with a handshake, not a contract. His clients soon become his friends. "I always wish it was Monday morning, 8 o'clock," he says. That's how much Frank Wyssen loves his craft. **OH**

## Q & A WITH THE HOMEOWNERS...

**Where did you come up with the idea to convert a barn into a home? Why a barn?**

We were starting from scratch and wanted to try to blend rustic and contemporary in a way that would fit with the spectacular setting and be practical for us as a second home for our young family. While a barn conversion isn't a novel concept, we thought it might fit our needs. We brought it up with Frank and within five minutes we were standing in his barn and he was showing us his vision for how it could work.

**How did you find Frank?**

We have friends who have had a family home in the area for many years. Frank had built one of their family member's homes and they said we had to talk to him as they had never met anyone like him. We went on the "Frank tour," saw the amazing houses he built and met the people he's worked with. The final step was meeting his family - he was interviewing us as much as we were interviewing him and we liked that.

**What was it like working with Frank and his crew?**

Frank has a natural gift for architecture and design and was incredibly enthusiastic about bringing this very complex project to life.

**What's your favourite part of the home/property?**

There are so many incredible details that it's impossible to pick one. If forced to, it would be the staircase. But we'll give you a different answer tomorrow. **OH**

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**THE PLACE:** Greentree Gardens & Emporium Inc. is not your ordinary garden centre. Yes, Greentree sells a variety of trees, plants and flowers grown on site at its acreage off Hwy. 26, just west of Collingwood. It provides much more to interest prospective customers. Rhonda and Doug Green's rustic shop contains an eclectic mix of unique giftware, fur clothing accessories, jewelry and home décor items. Here, the sparkle of crystal chandeliers and the whimsy of French-inspired home decorations and tongue-in-cheek animal prints dazzle customers.

**THE STYLE:** "I have the freedom to carry what I want so we rarely carry the same thing over and over," says Rhonda. "Most of our customers get it. They know they're always in for a surprise." On the practical side, Greentree, whose present project is the installation of a massive putting green at the foot of Blue Mountain, offers customers a garden design and consultation service. Rhonda emphasizes that the nature of the garden business demands changing with every season. It's this constant change that gives her joy. She loves the variety it provides. *Continued on page 56*



# WINTER WONDERLAND

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

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**WHAT'S HOT:** "The fact that we grow our own annuals and perennials means that nursery stocks are always available," says Rhonda. "As far as emporium items are concerned, faux fur, brushed metals, bird-themed décor and one-of-a-kind gnomes are popular," she adds, "For people dressing their homes for winter we have decorative snowflakes, crystal accents and large-sized wall art suitable for a country home."

**SEASONAL:** For the winter holiday season, Greentree provides holiday wreaths that range from 12 to 48-inches in diameter, as well as fir trees to a height of 18 feet. In addition, Rhonda and Doug have plenty of fresh greenery that can be used to create garlands to enhance the holiday spirit in your home. They also have lots of ideas to share that will help you show off your home during the festive season. Every third weekend of November Greentree hosts an open house where people are invited to sip apple/cranberry cider and browse the shop and the greenhouse, where local artists will display their craft.

**FAVOURITES:** Customers love the array of French Lothantique soaps, zany animal prints and unique Christmas ornaments. In fact, every item offered in the shop is different from what you find in a big box store. Therein lies Greentree's charm. Rhonda's very own, handcrafted bird-themed pottery is a perfect example. She laughs, "We don't sell garden hoses because they don't sparkle!"

**WHERE:** 11555 Hwy. 26 W., Collingwood, 705.444.2146 **OH**



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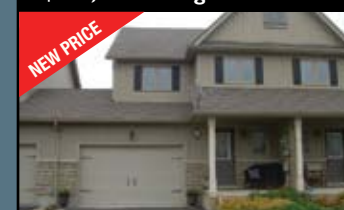
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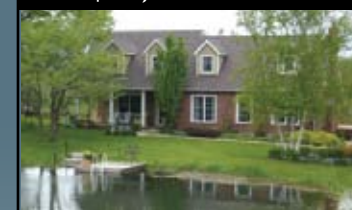
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**\$529,000**  
**ROOM TO ROAM!** Just under 25 acres just south of Singhampton. Over 3800 sq ft of finished quality living space plus oversized two car garage! MLS@20113752 **Vicki Bell** 705-446-4539 ringabell@RoyalLePage.ca



**\$998,000**  
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**\$229,900**  
**WASAGA BEACH** 4 bdrm, 2 bath/semi ensuite, lovely kitchen/slate floor, living room/dark hardwood, finished basement/10ft ceilings. MLS@20115220 **Phyllis Dineen** 705-445-5520 dineentall@sympatico.ca



**\$379,500**  
**WATERFRONT WITH MOUNTAIN VIEWS** 3 bed, 2 bath, 1700 sq ft furnished. MLS@20114871 **D. Barry Manchester** 705-446-8468 dbm@RoyalLePage.ca www.BuyCollingwoodRealEstate.com



**\$949,000**  
**GEORGIAN PEAKS SKI CLUB!** 3800 sq ft, 6 bdrm, 3 bath Log Home. Walkthrough online. MLS@20111176 **Chris Keleher** 705-888-4624 chriskeleher@me.com www.chriskeleher.ca



**CAMERON SHORES!** Cozy, 4 bdrm, 2 bath chalet with partial ownership of two beautiful beaches. MLS@20114065 **Chris Keleher** 705-888-4624 chriskeleher@me.com www.chriskeleher.ca



**\$849,000**  
**ELEGANTLY CASUAL** 3/1 bedroom home backing onto 17th fairway with sweeping view of the mountain. MLS@20115179 **Maggi Olson** 705-444-3342 www.MaggiOlson.com



**\$214,900**  
**AFFORDABLE COUNTRY RETREAT** 2.72 acres w/26'x40' outbuilding mins to Meaford & Thornbury. New metal roof, windows, septic, high efficiency wood stove. MLS@20115003 **Neil Thain** 416-998-5558 neil@realestatewiz.ca



**\$169,900**  
**MEAFORD** 3 bedroom, 1½ storey home, recently painted and new insulation on main floor. MLS@20112881 **Bob Muir** 705-443-0773 bob@CollingwoodLifestyle.com



**\$349,900**  
**GEORGIAN MEADOWS** 4 bedrooms, finished basement/entertainment area, 3.5 baths, fenced in backyard. MLS@20111539 **Phyllis Dineen** 705-445-5520 dineentall@sympatico.ca



**\$299,900**  
**C-1 COMMERCIAL ZONING** Downtown core. Allows various occupancies incl. offices. Updated heating, plumbing, electric, roof, windows. Cathedral ceilings upstairs. MLS@20115188 **Neil Thain** 416-998-5558 neil@realestatewiz.ca



**\$399,000**  
**SKI CHALET CONDO** 4 bdrm, main floor family room, finished bsmt, mud room backing to green space. Slate floors, stainless appl, reclaimed hemlock floors. MLS@20115079 **Karen Poshtar** 705-443-0351 kposhtar@rogers.com



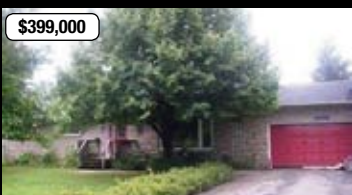
**\$275,000**  
**SKI CHALET CONDO** Build within easy walking distance of waterfront access on Teskey Drive, two lots available 230 x 152 or 100 x 180. MLS@20112940 **Karen Poshtar** 705-443-0351 kposhtar@rogers.com



**\$297,900**  
**NEW CREEKSIDE HOMES** "Hockley" Floor Plan from Award Winning Builder. 3 bdrm, 3 bath, \$15,000 upgrades, vaulted ceilings. MLS@20114978 **Sheila Shepherd** 705-441-6085 sheilashpherd@rogers.com



**\$309,000**  
**INTRAWEST VILLAGE INVESTMENT PROPERTY** 2 bdrm fully refurbished in popular Weider Lodge. True ski-in ski-out, w/private pool views from balcony. MLS@20115015 **Rick Wiles** 705-812-1469 rwiles@RoyalLePage.ca



**\$399,000**  
**SPACIOUS 4 BEDROOM HOME!** ¾ Acre lot, fenced yard, mature landscaping, saltwater pool. MLS@20114120 **Cindy Ryerse** 705-446-7254 cryerse@royalalpage.ca www.RealEstateatBlueMountain.com



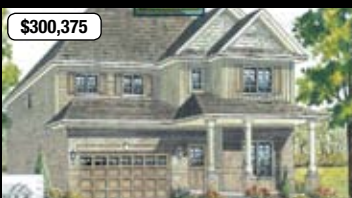
**\$498,900**  
**CHARMING 1800's LOG HOME** Offers all season enjoyment! 3 bdrms, 2½ bath, spacious master bdrm, & access to nicest beach in Blue Mountain. MLS@20114650 **Rick Crouch** 705-443-1037 rickcrouch@propertycollingwood.com



**\$410,000**  
**LORA BAY GOLF VILLA** Located on the 10th fairway of The Raven GC. Over 1,700 sq ft w/3 bdrms & 3+ baths. Turn key unit ready to move in & enjoy! MLS@20114349 **Doug Lindsay** 705-441-0850 dlindsay@RoyalLePage.ca



**\$530,000**  
**IN TOWN CHARMER** Stunning three bedroom home, with above grade in-law-suite and immaculate gardens on treed street in Collingwood. MLS@20113972 **Karen Poshtar** 705-443-0351 kposhtar@rogers.com



**\$300,375**  
**NEW CREEKSIDE HOMES** "Monterey" Floor plan, 3 bdrm, 2 storey design with extended great room, dinette & ensuite. MLS@20114979 **Mardy Van Beest** 705-441-4706 vanbeest@bmts.com



**\$675,000**  
**BASE OF BLUE MOUNTAIN!** Renovated top to bottom! 4 bedrooms, 2,600 sq ft. incredible views! MLS@20115166 **Ian Hawkins** 705-446-5136 ianhawkins@royalalpage.ca www.RealEstateatBlueMountain.com



**\$275,000**  
**LIGHTHOUSE POINT!** 3 bedroom 2 storey townhome, 1,278 sq ft, gas fireplace, central air. Excellent on-site amenities. MLS@20114915 **Jim Hanna** 705-441-5272 jimhanna@rogers.com



**\$1,150,000**  
**BEAVER VALLEY VIEWS** Outstanding log home on 59 acres. MLS@20114918 **Rick Crouch** 705-443-1037 rickcrouch@propertycollingwood.com



**\$480,000**  
**LORA BAY GOLF VILLA** 3 bdrm, 3+ bath, over 2400 sq ft overlooking 14th green of The Raven GC, views of Beaver Valley & Peaks Ski Club. All amenities of Lora Bay & area. MLS@20111877 **Doug Lindsay** 705-441-0850



**\$459,000**  
**FIVE BEDROOM FAMILY HOME** Nestled in the trees on a quiet street, separate entrance to the basement apartment, thousands spent on upgrades. MLS@20113515 **Wispy Boivin** 705-888-7212 wispy@RoyalLePage.ca



**\$292,900**  
**NEW CREEKSIDE HOMES** "Inglewood" Floor plan, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, features 9 ft. ceilings, and decorative pillars. Double garage & great living room. MLS@20114980 **Mardy Van Beest** 705-441-4706 vanbeest@bmts.com



**\$275,000**  
**SWISS MEADOWS "BEEHIVE!"** Unique opportunity to own an architectural wonder! 6 bdrm, 1,700 sq ft. MLS@20114764 **Ian Hawkins** 705-446-5136 ianhawkins@royalalpage.ca www.RealEstateatBlueMountain.com



**\$599,000**  
**FABULOUS ESTATE BORDERING THE BEAVER VALLEY** just minutes from Talisman Resort. 3+1 bedrooms. MLS@20112832 **Peter Holgate** 705-445-5520 ppholgate@RoyalLePage.ca



**\$439,900**  
**COMPLIMENTS GALORE** Prestigious, executive 4 bdrm home in beautiful Blue Shores. The lifestyle you have been looking for. MLS@20113644 **Paul Casey** 705-606-2510 paulcasey@RoyalLePage.ca



**\$1,695,000**  
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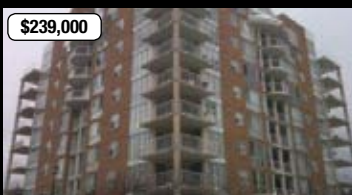
**NEW CREEKSIDE HOMES** "Black Ash" Floor plan, 2 bdrm bungalow design with extended dream country kitchen! MLS@20115012 **Sheila Shepherd** 705-441-6085 sheilashpherd@rogers.com



**\$239,900**  
**LIGHTHOUSE POINT GARDEN HOME** Quiet and private, new appliances. Upgraded 2 bedroom, 3 walk/outs, hardwood floors, attached garage. MLS@20113071 **Rick Wiles** 705-812-1469 rwiles@RoyalLePage.ca



**\$399,000**  
**CRANBERRY 4 BEDROOM CONDO!** 3,400 sq ft. Ideal for large family or 2 families to share. MLS@20114896 **Cindy Ryerse** 705-446-7254 cryerse@royalalpage.ca www.RealEstateatBlueMountain.com



**\$239,000**  
**RUPERT'S GORGEOUS VIEW!** 2 bed, 2 bath condo overlooking Georgian Bay & Collingwood Terminals. Enjoy sunrise AND sunset on your private terrace. MLS@20112221 **Vel Ivardi** 705-445-5520 Ext 235 allreal@RoyalLePage.ca



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**PRETTY RIVER VALLEY** Spectacular Georgian Bay views. One of the region's finest homes. MLS@20113644 **John Giffen** 705-888-6791 jgiffen@me.com



**\$465,000**  
**GREAT VALUE** Views @ the base of the ski hills. Chalet Townhome with \$50,000 upgrades. MLS@20114614 **Zig Glogowski** 705-888-3080 zig@royalalpage.ca



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*help* FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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**WHAT IS YOUR MOST POPULAR CHRISTMAS PIE AND WHY?** As a twist on our crowd pleasing Classic Apple Pie, we are excited to introduce a scrumptious and festive Apple Cranberry Sour Cream Crumble Pie especially for this holiday season. *Continued on page 62*



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## ► Linda Pease

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Try a delicious, local, boneless country smoked ham. And if you're still stuffing a turkey, come in and pick up some of our fresh farm sausage - it will make your stuffing extra special on an extra special day. *Continued on page 64*



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**WHAT'S ON YOUR HOLIDAY PLAYLIST?** Christmas with Pavarotti, The Manhattan Transfer Christmas album and a lot of jazz and blues holiday tunes. *Continued on page 66*



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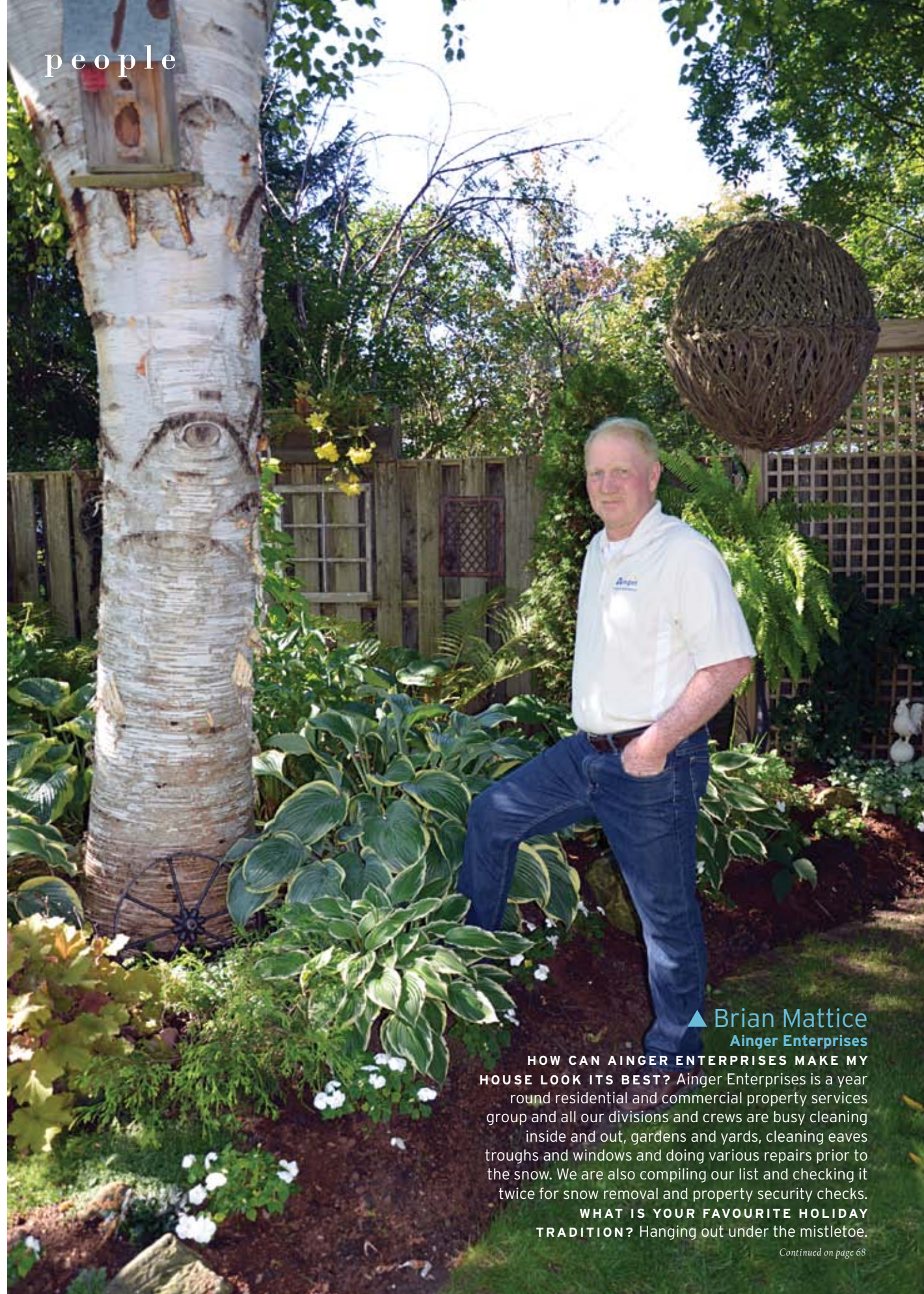
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**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?** Hanging out under the mistletoe.

*Continued on page 68*

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### ► Christine Collins

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**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RECIPE?** My favourite holiday recipe would have to be my mother's tourtière. The smell of the filling when it's cooking brings me back to the warmth of Mom's kitchen and her love of Christmas celebrations. *Continued on page 72*



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## ► Rachelle Gauvreau

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*Continued on page 74*



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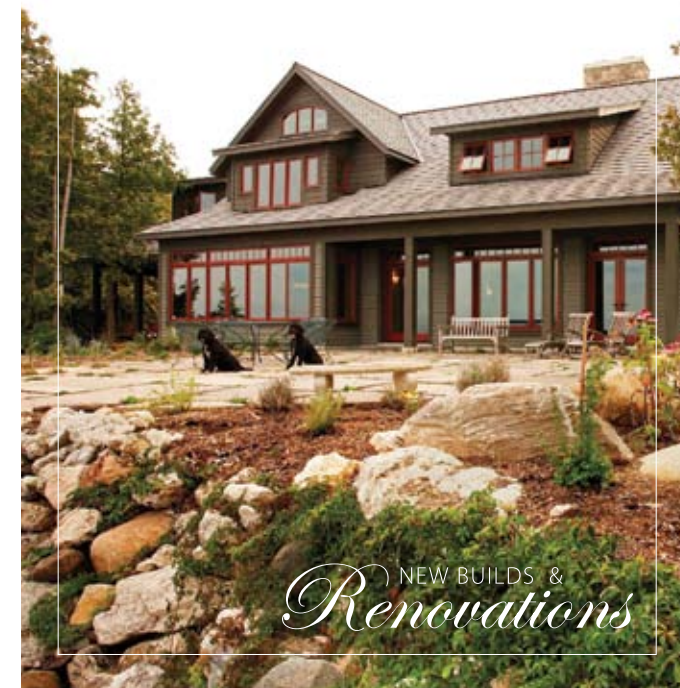


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*Continued on page 78*



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# FROM PARIS *with Love*

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY



**OPPOSITE:** A treasured painting of Second World War Spitfires hangs above a classic bergère chair, one of two in Renée Desrochers's living room. **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** (1) A painted mirror in the hall reflects a festive vignette. (2) Renée has a flair for adding whimsical touches to her Christmas décor. (3) An antique mirror is surrounded by some of Renée's family photos and favourite collectibles. (4) Père Noël greets visitors. (5) A lovely collection of perfume bottles and a carousel horse feather tree makes a statement in the bathroom. (6) An antique brush set blends beautifully with a bowl of antique Christmas balls. (7) In the kitchen, goblets, silver candlesticks and ice castles sparkle on an antiqued mirror table. (8) A fabulous antique console is dressed in bronze and gold.





OPPOSITE: In the kitchen, a crystal chandelier hangs over a sparkling holiday vignette on an antiqued mirrored pedestal table. **LEFT:** Fabulous red serving pieces and accessories add to the festive feel in the kitchen. The settee is a perfect perch for Renée's beloved pets. **BELOW:** Renée downstairs in Pamper & Soothe.



The hypnotic monochromatic watercolour in the apartment living room depicts Second World War Spitfires arcing, dipping and falling like grey ghosts in an illusive dream. The painting captures the dual passions that ignite the imagination of the apartment's owner, Renée Desrochers – her love of history mingled with a modern sensibility that reveals the story behind everything she sees.

Renée, owner of **Pamper & Soothe** in Thornbury, lives in a small, elegant flat above her shop in a turn-of-the-century Victorian brick house. Pamper & Soothe, like her living quarters, reflects those things that excite and impassion Renée.

She explains the source of her inspiration for business and life. "I have a European background. I grew up in an original fieldstone house, around which my uncle built our renovated home. So I've always been surrounded by historic elements from barnboard walls to a stone fireplace. My mom decorated with eclectic pieces that were in keeping with the overall style of the house where we lived... I guess I've picked up on that."

Provenance clearly influences Renée's style. "I have a definite passion for older things," she says. "When my business partner and I travel to Paris

to attend the trade show Maison&Objet to buy for our two shops, I love spending hours perusing the antique markets."

She also reflects her love of the festive season ahead. "Christmas is a tradition in my family," she says. "In my shop I sell real advent calendars and behind each door is a historic holiday scene. I love that traditional sense of being with family and the feeling of 'Peace on Earth.' Because it's the high point of the year, I like to see it reflected in my home décor."

True to her word, Renée's entire apartment is punctuated with hand-made candles from Europe and accessories that suggest the tradition and class of European culture. Luminescent crystal palaces and a historic map of Paris enhance the kitchen. The living room contains Bergère chairs for comfort and their traditional quality.

*Continued on page 84*



**LEFT:** Renée's reading nook. **BELOW:** The living room is decorated with Renée's favourite finds and reminiscent of a Paris apartment. **BOTTOM:** Renée's black and white living room is a charming mix of eclectic old-world gems. Fashion inspires the décor.



When questioned about what she likes to give or receive at Christmas, Renée embraces originality. "I don't follow trends. My focus for others is on the traditional and personal – European and classical pieces that feed one's soul. As for myself, I always appreciate beautiful body products. Pampering products and little luxuries."

Although Renée lives in a small space she is surrounded by beauty. She explains what prompts her choices of home décor. "I love classical, traditional pieces; furnishings with good bones," she explains. "My great aunt's silver collection is a pleasure to clean and when I do polish it I have fond memories of her and my great uncle. I love that nostalgia."

Patience is a virtue Renée embraces. "I don't decorate all at once," she admits. "I live with the space for a while. In a way it's organic. Whatever it is – a claw foot bathtub, a winter goose down duvet, a Vermeer print or an ornate mirror – requires thought beforehand."

As the charming proprietor of Pamper & Soothe, Renée finds it difficult to make a distinction between her work and her personal space. "I don't separate my work and my personal space," she explains. "Growing up I always had a dollhouse that I decorated. As a child, old leather-bound books that smelled of history surrounded me. I loved to leaf through those books. They had inscriptions from people from generations long passed."

*Continued on page 86*

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feature

**RIGHT AND BELOW:** In the bedroom, a painted canopy bed is the focal point of a room filled with treasures, each infused with wonderful memories. **BOTTOM:** Shelves in the bathroom are filled with the best soaps and lotions, all available in Renée's Thornbury store, Pamper & Soothe.



The past clearly plays a big role in Renée's life. "I carry my memories with me. They are with me in everything I do. People should pamper their body and soothe their soul. Decorate your place with what feeds your soul. Home should be filled with the heart and soul of what is important to you. That lets you step out into the world with confidence from the place you've come from."

Her philosophy also carries into Renée's business life. "My shop has an appreciation for antiques, whether real or reproductions," she says. "We intermingle the two. I like to fill the shop with eye-pleasing pieces that have heart and soul. When decorating, it doesn't hurt for people to throw in modern pieces with the more traditional. It just takes a little creativity to mix the two styles."

Renée achieves this creative integration in the choice of a Victorian home, the perfect setting for her shop and her home. As her cat, Charity, and dog, L.B. (Little Buddy) run downstairs at the sound of a customer's arrival, the homey atmosphere Renée fosters becomes real. **OH**

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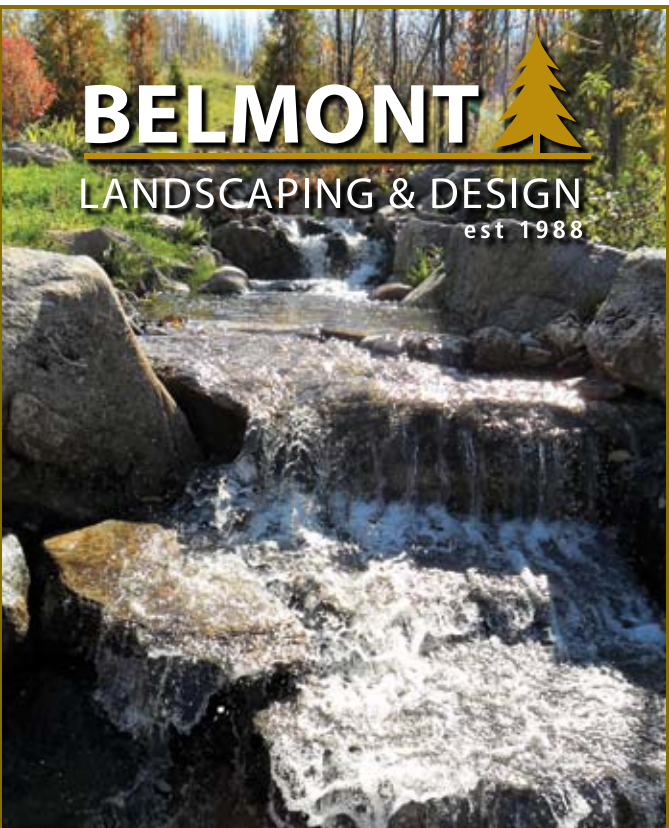
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# The BAY HOUSE

BY WILLIAM SHELLEY // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Thornbury's Bay House is a resounding success. The design, attention to detail, quality of materials and workmanship in this beautiful home make every square foot count. This approach offers pluses for both the environment and the homeowner, including fewer resources used, a smaller footprint, and lower energy and tax expenses.

It all started with a lot near Georgian Bay on a quiet Thornbury side street. The lot was narrow but deep and well-treed. "To find a lot in town that still looked like it was sitting out in the forest was pretty unique," says co-owner Lori Bennett. "It was the location that sold us."

"The Bennetts wanted the house to fit into the streetscape but still be very original," says **Black Tusk's** Bill Brown, who created the architectural plan. The end result makes a virtue of its small yard. It was always in the plan to keep the cedar tree cover, which offers privacy and year-round colour. **Tavis Yeats** and **Michael Chapman** of **Oasis North Landscapes** worked with Black Tusk on the landscaping plan and built the driveway, walkway, outdoor barbecue kitchen, elevated hot tub, patio living space and other features. *Continued on page 96*

The Bay House was built on a deep, narrow forested lot on a quiet street in Thornbury. The barrel-vaulted covered porch provides an eye-catching added touch.



**ABOVE:** A path along the right side of the home leads to a backyard landscape by Oasis North that includes a covered barbecue hut, a firepit with seating, a hot tub and a deck. **TOP RIGHT:** The Bennett family, daughter Jill, Mom Lori, son Andrew and Dad Dave. **RIGHT:** Tall pine and cedar trees frame the beautifully landscaped and very private backyard. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Step down into the living room at the back of the house where a roaring fire warms the bright space and large windows bring the outside in. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** The sunroom off the great room was a must. A second wood-burning fireplace makes this room a favourite all year long.



Complementing the existing landscape is a key theme for the Bay House. The two chimneys, built by mason **David Campbell**, are a dominant feature of both exterior and interior. The stone colour and texture echo the native boulders in the yard. The Pennsylvania Weatherledge Dutch Quality – placed by an expert hand such as Campbell’s – can fool the untrained eye into believing it is quarried stone.

Small but crucial design details distinguish the exterior from other post-and-beam builds. Take for instance the curved “eyebrow” on the front of the house, built by carpenter **Hugh Grafton** of **Sibbett Contracting**. “Fancy is what I do best,” says Grafton. For the front barrel-vaulted covered porch, Grafton and Bill Brown

employed the same curve motif. **Adam Burk** of **Due North Custom Carpentry** and **Sean Wood** of **Woodcraft Custom Carpentry**, framed the home, completed additional carpentry and built the outdoor barbecue kitchen.

For the interior, Lori Bennett mentioned to Black Tusk early on that she wanted to “bring the outside, in.” A key component is the millwork by **Jason Holman** of Clarksburg’s **JTI Custom Cabinets & Furniture**. Holman’s choice of kiln-roasted maple gives the interior a refined burnish. Along with apprentice **A.J. Carter**, Holman built the doors, panels, trim, cabinets, vanities and other interior detail of roasted maple. Apart from its beauty, this wood’s key feature is it needs only a clear-coat finish. *Continued on page 98*



The dramatic wall in the great room marries unique stone veneer and kiln-roasted maple. In the kitchen, oil-bronzed appliances match the patina on the custom kiln roasted maple cabinetry.



Holman added a custom touch using a different kind of wood for the island that separates the kitchen from the living room. For the live-edge top, Holman fashioned a board from an old ash tree that had been struck by lightning.

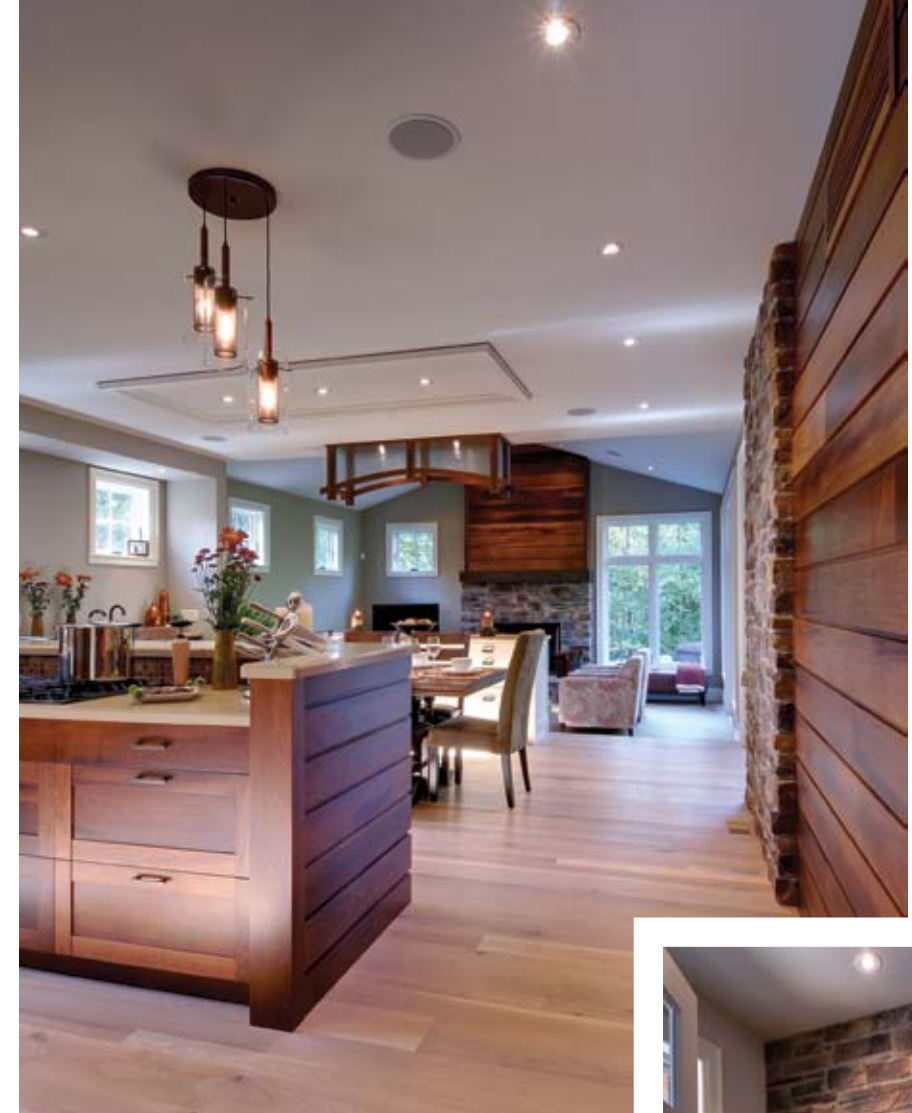
Above the island hang two dramatic clusters of pendant lighting at various heights provided by **Helen Labelle** of the **Georgian Design Centre**. This feature is three things at once: lighting, a room divider, and an art object.

Creative thought is evident in every room. The master bedroom on the main floor has transom-effect windows for light and privacy, a linear flame gas fireplace and a spectacular master bathroom with eye-catching tile work. The “wave wall” of gypsum formed tiles by Modular Arts, installed

by **John Lister** and purchased at **Desert Tile**, is another salute to the surroundings of the Bay House. Black Tusk’s Barbara Patton explains: “I was looking for a texture reminiscent of Georgian Bay waves. There are two commercial installations in Toronto but this is the first residential installation in Canada that we know of.”

**Sarah Osburn** of Georgian Design Centre provided plumbing fixtures throughout the house as well as the master bathroom’s freestanding tub. “It’s made of a rare volcanic limestone mixed with resin,” says Sarah, “making it a lightweight, highly insulated alternative to cast iron. The bathtub is not only a truly unique piece, but extremely comfortable as well – we made Barbara sit in it in our showroom to prove it – which isn’t always the case with luxury tubs.” *Continued on page 102*

**ABOVE RIGHT:** A large island provides lots of prep space and separates the well-appointed kitchen from the dining area. **RIGHT:** A built-in buffet with trough sink is a wonderful serving bar in the dining area. **FAR RIGHT:** The stone is carried into the main floor powder room with a floating vanity and vessel sink.



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Daylight and moonlight shine in from piano windows in the main floor master bedroom. **ABOVE LEFT:** Peeking into the master bedroom from the main-floor hallway. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The wave wall in the master en suite is the first residential application in Canada of this amazing new product.

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**FAR AND BELOW LEFT:** Orange is the surprising accent colour, found in the tile and towels, in the upstairs bathroom shared by the Bennett's two children. **TOP LEFT:** Andrew's room is uncluttered and simply decorated. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Jill's room is filled with memories from a recent trip to Europe. **BELOW:** Bill Brown and Barb Patton of Black Tusk Development Group in the second floor lounge.



The laundry room and kitchen feature appliances provided by **Tom Macdonald** and **Don Stevens** of **Macdonald's Countrywide Furniture & Appliances** in Meaford. "Bill and Barb came to us and said they were doing a unique concept house," says Macdonald. "For the kitchen appliances they wanted something different from stainless and we had just the line: Oiled Bronze from Jenn-Air. From there we just sharpened the pencil on price." The appliances make a perfect match with the kiln-roasted maple cabinetry. Upstairs are the children's bedrooms and the guest bedrooms, with a rec room between. The kids' bathroom has orange Murano glass drawer handles to match the shower tile laid by **Trevor Robertson** of **The Flooring Place**. As the project undergoes final touches, Barbara Patton reflects: "We

were able to complete the vision developed between Black Tusk and the homeowners and had a great time doing it. Dave and Lori Bennett were able to articulate to us their overall goals for their home – from general statements such as 'bring the outside, in' to working together on finer details. Throughout the project, there was trust and confidence on both sides, which allows for a great deal of creativity." For their part, the Bennetts are more than pleased with both the process and the finished product. "Lori and I have enjoyed it very much," says David. "It's probably been the least stressful of anything we've done and I consider this a major thing. We've had fun, we've had some laughs back and forth. Would I do it again? Absolutely, in a heartbeat." **OH**



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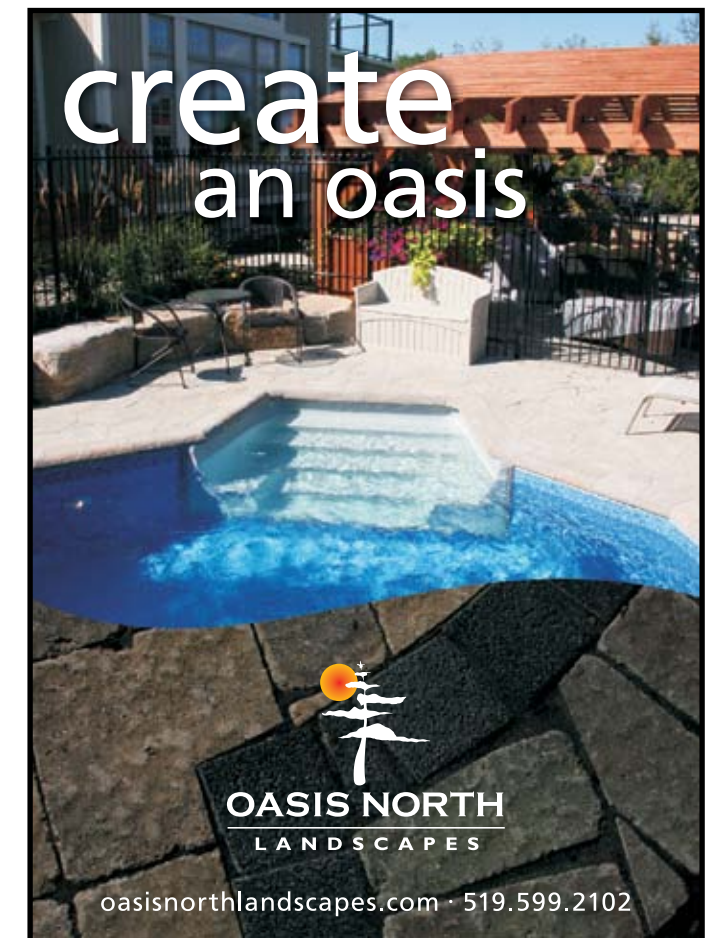
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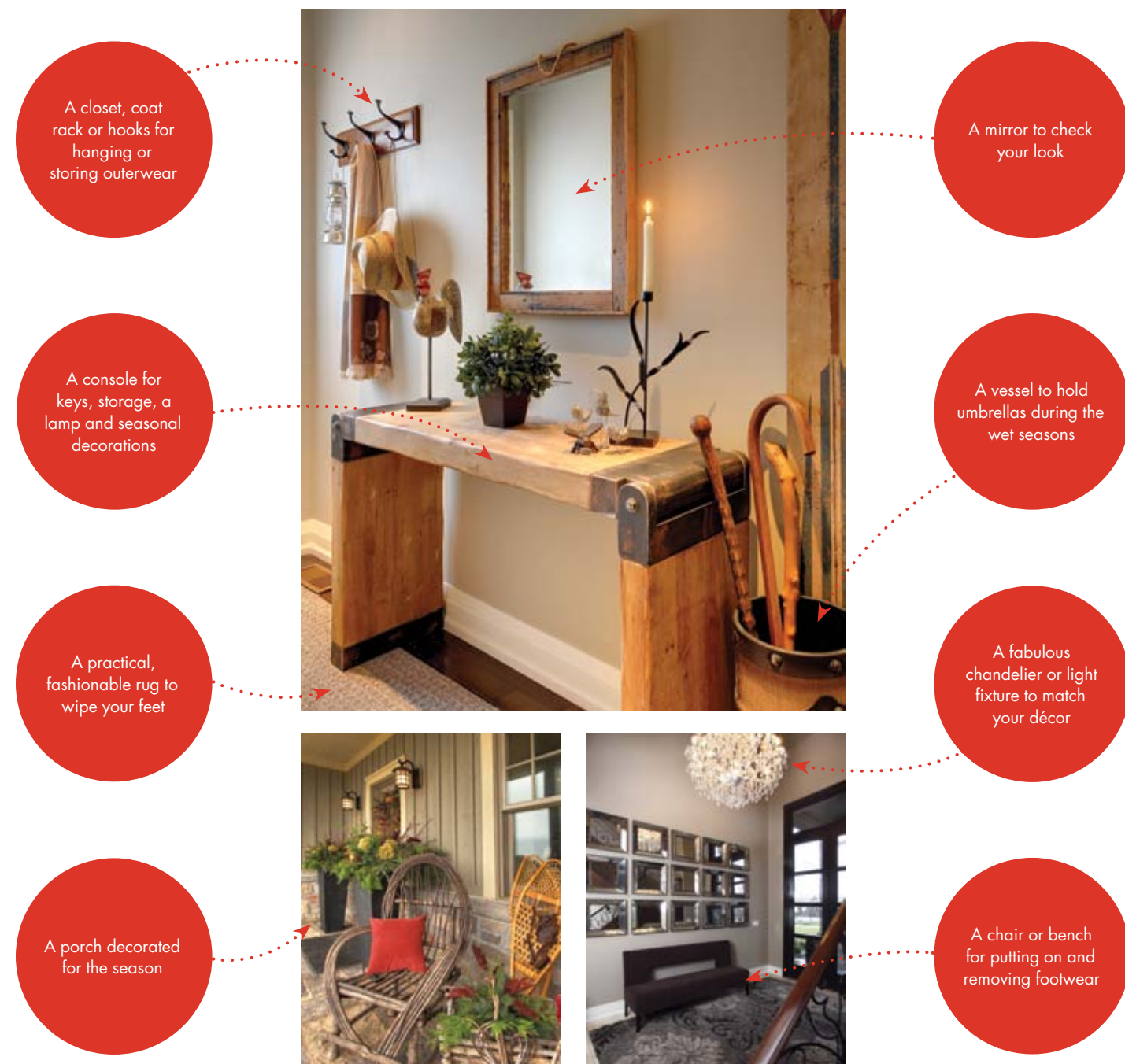
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# cooking at home

## STOCKING THE HOLIDAY PANTRY

BY MARIA DASILVA



The holiday season is just around the corner. It's a time to celebrate with family and friends. It's also the season for unexpected guests, impromptu dinner parties and festive entertaining. For some this is an exciting and enjoyable time, planning the menu, setting the table and organizing the bar and cellar. For others, the thought of entertaining brings nothing but sweaty palms and an increased heart rate.

Whether last minute or long-planned, entertaining doesn't have to be a panic-inducing nightmare. With a few trips to the grocery store and a well-stocked pantry, fridge and freezer you'll want guests to drop by throughout the holidays. And you'll be ready to set a table full of delicious treats at the drop of a hat.

A well-stocked pantry also means quick, easy meal times for you and your family when time is already at a minimum.

Here are some helpful ingredients to have on hand, and simple ideas on how to use them to make your holidays stress-free and fun.

### FROM THE PANTRY

#### For last minute entertaining

- **Nuts** - For last minute entertaining, simply put a few types of nuts in a bowl for snacking while sipping. When you have a bit more time, try different types of roasted and spiced or sweetened nuts, very impressive and very addictive!
- **Fig Jelly and Red Pepper Jelly** - These two jellies take a cheese tray from everyday to holiday - ready in no time.
- **Pickles** - An assortment of pickles (dills, beans, asparagus, beets, onions) make great snacking, even better when you've pickled them yourself or purchased them locally.
- **Crackers/Crispbreads** - These are essential for pairing with cheese, meat, marinated vegetables and dips. Select a few different types, and have at least one gluten-free option (there are many great ones) just in case.
- **Good Balsamic Vinegar** - A splash of aged balsamic vinegar drizzled over pieces of Parmesan cheese takes less than five minutes to prepare but feels oh so chic.
- **Bars of Good Chocolate** - Nothing makes dessert easier than a few pieces of good chocolate.
- **Dried Fruit** - Dried apricots, pears, prunes and figs not only look great on a cheese tray, they also complement the rich saltiness of aged cheeses.

#### For stress-free meals

- **Pasta** - Pasta is the perfect option for dinner when time is at a premium. While the pasta is cooking, sauté any vegetables you have on hand in olive oil for an easy sauce.
- **Rice** - Fried rice, risotto, one-pot chicken and rice, the options are endless, and speedy, for an easy weeknight meal.
- **Canned Beans** - Keep a variety of canned beans in your pantry for a quick chili, burrito filling, or to serve on toast or with rice.

- **Canned Tuna or Other Fish** - Tuna (or other canned fish) melts make satisfying and simple weeknight dinners. Or try it tossed in pasta.
- **Canned Tomatoes** - A tomato sauce is only 15 minutes away when you have a can of tomatoes on hand. Keep a few in the pantry for easy sauces, soups and stews all through the week.

### FROM THE FRIDGE

- **Olives** - A bowl of olives on the table is the perfect snack to nibble on while sipping cocktails. Set out a small bowl on the side for the pits so you don't find them in your planters at clean up time.
- **Cheese** - Everyone loves to nibble on cheese, making it the most appealing item to have on hand for unexpected gatherings. Keep an assortment of cheese in your fridge. The best cheese platters have three to five different kinds, ranging from soft to blue. And a large piece of cheddar will come in handy at meal times for anything from stovetop mac and cheese, to simple but satisfying grilled cheese.
- **Sliced Meats** - For easy entertaining an assortment of sliced cold meats, such as ham, salami and sausage make a great appetizer, especially with some cheese and crackers. Use the same meats for quick dinner sandwiches, or cooked in a simple frittata.
- **Marinated Vegetables** - Whether you spend some time to make your own, or purchase ready-made from the antipasto bar in the grocery store, marinated vegetables make great last-minute flatbread or pizza toppers, or sandwich fillers. They're also great on a platter with cheese, crackers and sliced meat.
- **Hummus/Bean Dip** - Arrange store-bought hummus in your favourite bowl with some crispbreads and say you just whipped it up yourself. Perfectly simple!
- **Smoked Fish** - Smoked salmon or trout adds a touch of elegance to an appetizer platter. Serve it on little toasts with a dollop of whipped cream, or for a simple dip whiz it in the food processor with cream cheese. For an easy supper, toss smoked fish pieces in cooked pasta with oil, capers and a squeeze of lemon juice.

### FROM THE FREEZER

- **Frozen Bread Dough** - Nothing welcomes dinner guests like the scent of freshly baked bread. Also keep a package, or two, of frozen pizza dough for quick weeknight dinners.
- **Cooked Shrimp** - Thawed cooked shrimp set in a bowl with cocktail sauce is a stress-free crowd-pleaser. Or toss thawed cooked shrimp in cooked pasta for a quick dinner.
- **Puff Pastry** - Sprinkle frozen puff pastry with herbs and cheese, fold in half, cut into strips and bake for instant and addictive cheese sticks. Your guests will think you're a genius.
- **Mini Tart Shells** - Mini tart shells are great for appetizer-size quiches or easy sweets. **OH**

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# EASY NIBBLES *for the holidays*

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER

Cocktail parties, family get-togethers and lots of unexpected guests can mean only one thing: the holidays are drawing near. And what better set of recipes to have in your collection than some easy, last-minute, quick-to-prepare spiced nuts. They offer a great snack to munch on while guests are arriving, they pair nicely with any cocktail or beer, and are even better with champagne or sparkling wine. Or make a double batch for simple gifts from your kitchen. Very versatile, very easy and very tasty. Now if only the rest of the celebrations could be so simple!

Happy Holidays!



## SMOKEY PAPRIKA ALMONDS

These delicious smokey almonds evoke Spanish tapas bars and are perfect for spontaneous gatherings or get-togethers. But the best thing is that they are super quick to prepare. If you like things more spicy, adjust the cayenne pepper to taste.

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

1 tbsp smoked paprika

1 ½ tsp sea salt

Pinch cayenne pepper

4 cups almonds, with skin on

In large bowl, stir together oil, paprika, salt and cayenne pepper. Add almonds, stirring until coated.

Arrange on baking sheet. Bake in 325°F oven, stirring once, until almonds are slightly darker and some of the skins are beginning to crack. Let cool for 10 minutes to enjoy warm, or serve at room temperature.

## FIVE-SPICE MIXED NUTS

Five-spice powder is a mixture of spices commonly used in Chinese cooking. The most common combination of spices is star anise, cloves, cinnamon, Sichuan pepper and ground fennel seeds. Look for jars of this fragrant spice blend in the spice aisle of most grocery stores.

2 egg whites

4 tsp five-spice powder

1 tbsp icing sugar

2 tsp soy sauce

4 cups mixed unsalted nuts

In large bowl, beat together egg whites, five-spice powder, icing sugar and soy sauce. Add nuts, stirring until coated. Arrange on parchment-paper-lined, or greased, baking sheet. Bake in 300°F oven until nuts are light golden, about 20 minutes.

Let cool enough to handle, then break up any clumps.

## SWEET & SPICY PECANS

The combination of caramelized brown sugar and chili powder is fantastic on roasted pecans. For an easy variation, substitute the pecans with unsalted walnut halves.

¼ cup packed brown sugar

2 tbsp butter

1 tbsp water

1 tbsp chili powder

½ tsp cayenne pepper

¼ tsp cinnamon

4 cups unsalted pecan halves

In saucepan, melt brown sugar, butter and water together over medium heat, stirring until sugar dissolves, about 2 minutes. Boil, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Stir in chili powder, cayenne pepper and cinnamon until combined. Add pecans, stirring until coated. Arrange on parchment-paper-lined, or greased, baking sheet. Bake in 350°F oven for 15 minutes. Let cool enough to handle, then break up any clumps. **OH**

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