

comfort zone



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.

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WINTER WONDERLAND

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

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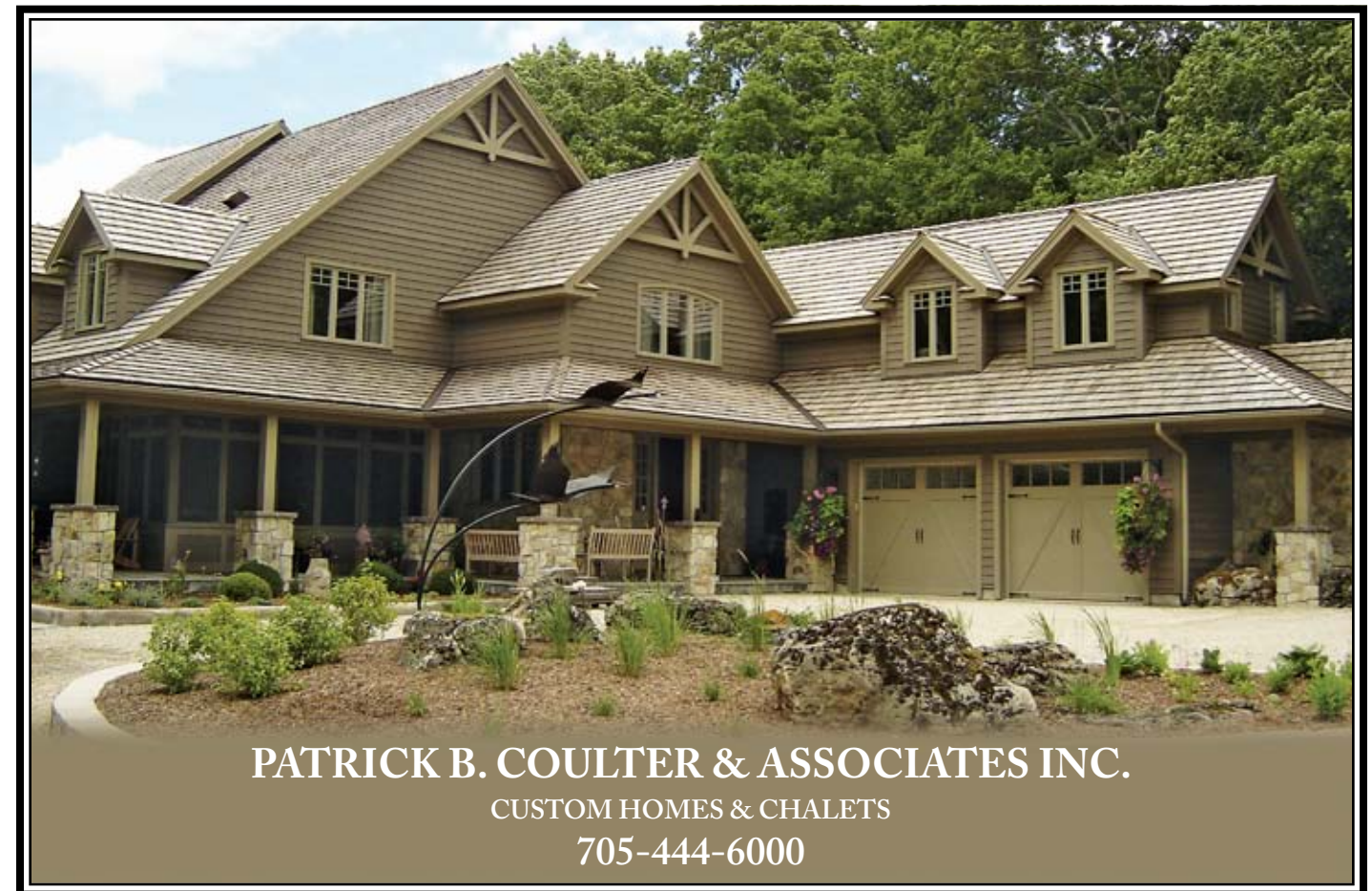


WHAT'S HOT: "The fact that we grow our own annuals and perennials means that nursery stocks are always available," says Rhonda. "As far as emporium items are concerned, faux fur, brushed metals, bird-themed décor and one-of-a-kind gnomes are popular," she adds, "For people dressing their homes for winter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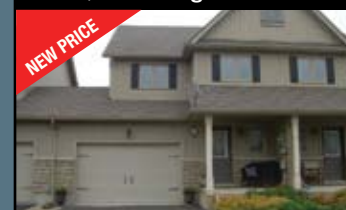
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