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THINKING ABOUT SELLING?
Local Sales are on the rise and we **NEED** properties to sell now!

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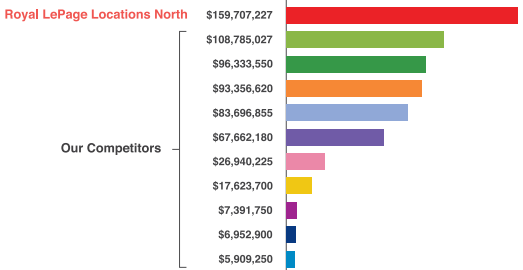
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A Message from Max Hahne Broker of Record at Engel & Völkers Collingwood Muskoka

According to the UNITED NATIONS, the world's urban population is expected to increase by 380 million by year 2020. In an urban housing perspective that is the equivalent of building 5 cities the size of Los Angeles including all the supporting services and infrastructure, every year between now and 2020.

What effect will that have on the GTA and what is the trickle down effect to our area of South Georgian Bay? Food for thought.

We've just had our first birthday at Engel & Völkers, Collingwood Muskoka. As I reflect back to my early days in Collingwood selling homes, I am impressed at how the Collingwood region has grown and become home to more and more wonderful people. The talent and sophistication of our citizens, labour force, businesses and industries, artists and inventors is world class and to be applauded, cherished and encouraged. Years ago I read a book about how the world is getting smaller and flatter and I remember thinking that it might be true for the larger centres but it will never affect our little Georgian Triangle. I was wrong. We are a natural destination for the migration of talented and thoughtful people.

Recent current events are causing us to pause and reflect on where we want to live, work and play and I believe that it will

create more desire and urgency to call our area the first or second home.

At Engel & Völkers we are proud to bring the Georgian Triangle to the International stage through our Global Real Estate marketing and our connection to 700 shops and 8000 real estate advisors in 37 countries. Believe me, we are being seen and talked about by Engel & Völkers advisors searching out the best places in the world for their clients to live. We are where our clients want to be...in the best places. We are not interested in having the most realtors or the most sales. We are interested in having the best, trusted advisors and the most comprehensive and unique menu of Real Estate services.

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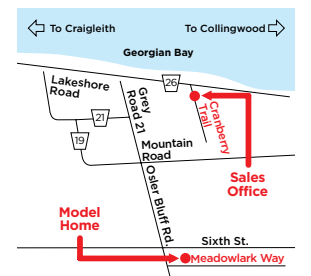


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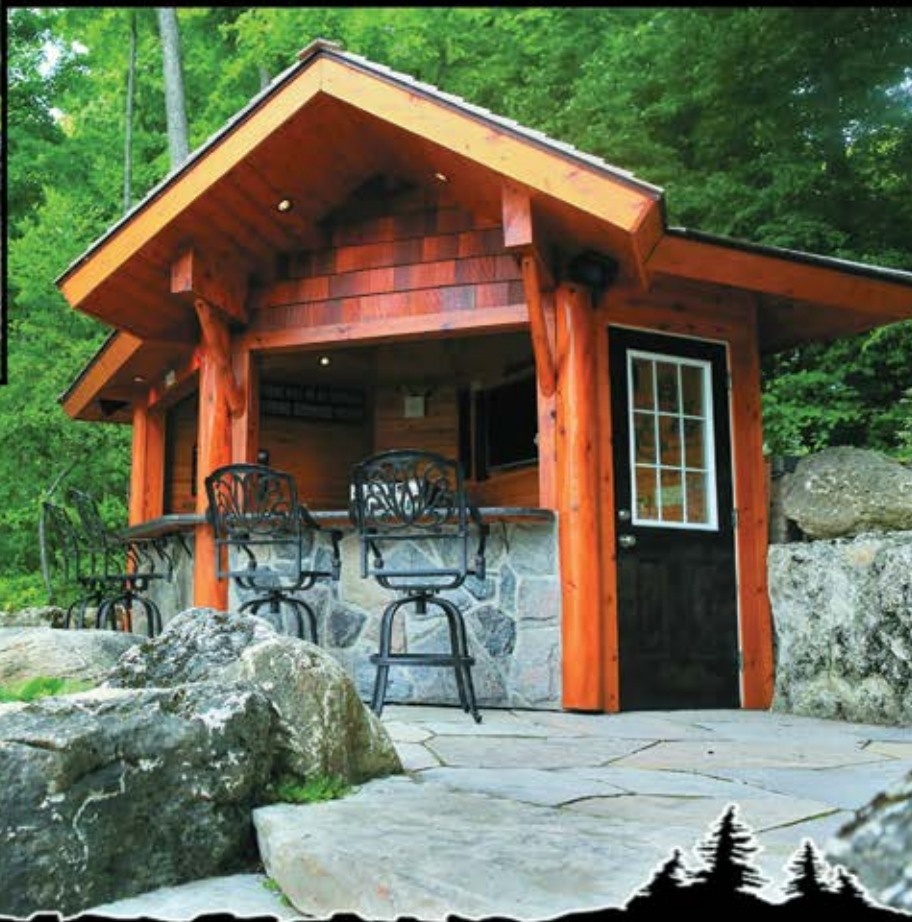




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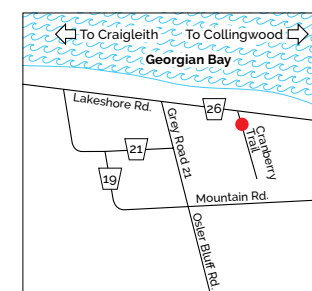


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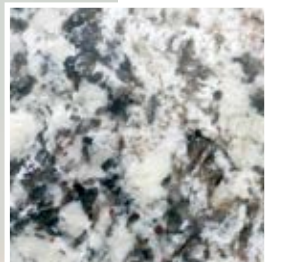
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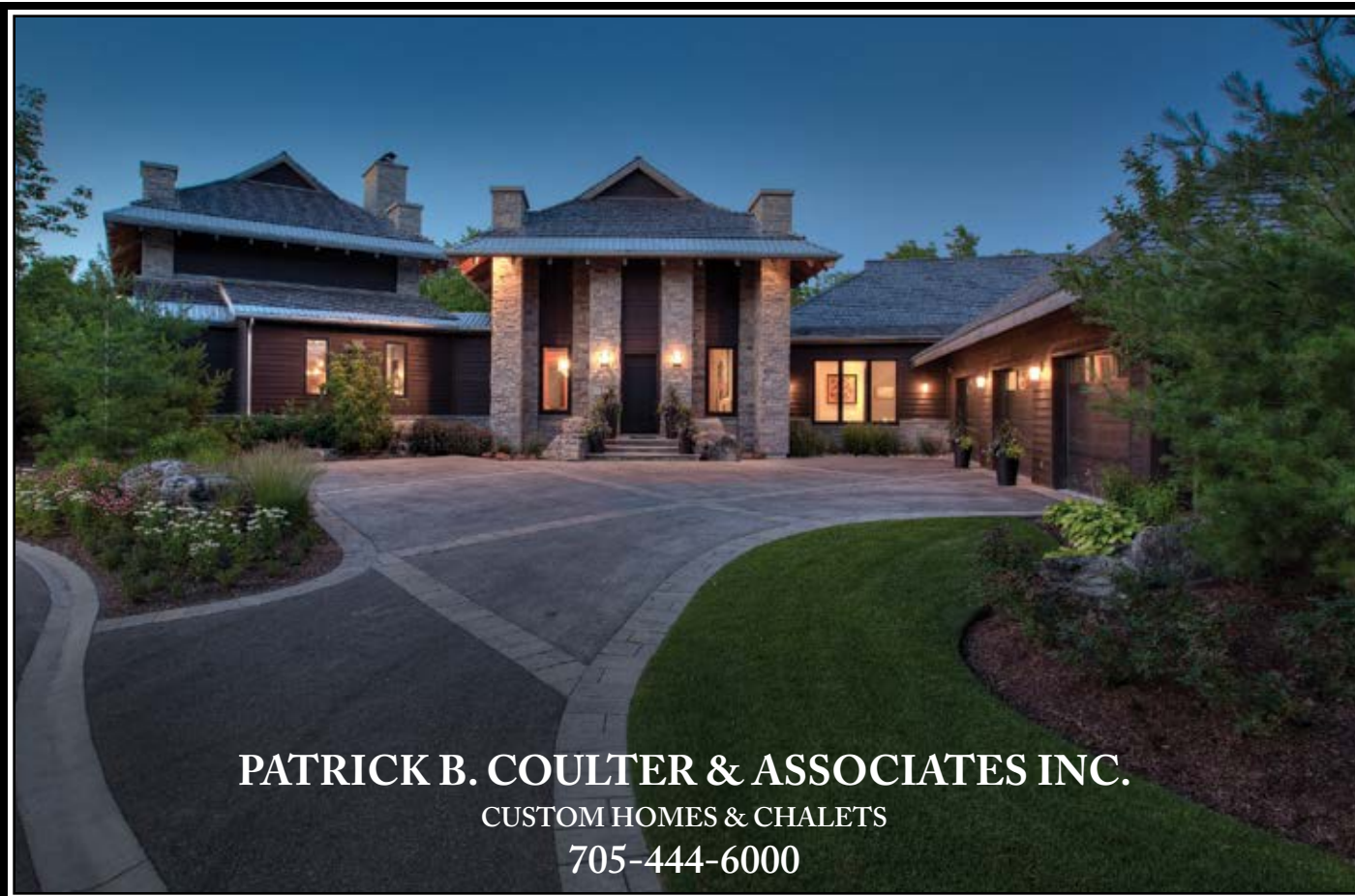
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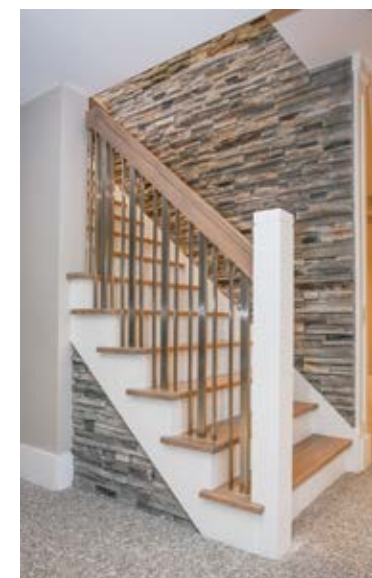
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ONE OF THE MAPLE TREES IN MY BACKYARD IS BEING REPURPOSED. It teems with life – three birdhouses, a tire swing, a hanging flower basket, the base of a zipline and half the support for a whole-family-fits-in-it hammock. My kids (and I!) each play with, on or around it at some point nearly every day in the summer. Branches from it were offered to one son’s elementary school for props in a school play. Shade from it cools us while we munch on berries that we pick in our garden. Twigs and trimmings from it stoke the flame in the fire pit that lights our August evenings. It will be three years that we’ve played and lived under the shade of our tree, planted a generation ago.

The 20-year-old, 30-foot sugar maple has just a handful of green branches. Leaves on the tips of those are browning and falling back, and some of these last branches will be dry by the end of this season. The maple may not return with greenery next spring. At some point in our home’s history, a garage was built on the rear of our property. It’s a wonderfully sound building, large enough for a vehicle and eight bicycles plus storage for the thousand things that a family needs to store. Possibly, when the building went up, or when the asphalt driveway went in leading to the garage, the roots of this maple were cut. Or possibly the earth was leveled around it and buried the roots too deeply. The tree hasn’t been able to come back.

One by one the branches may come down, but I already know that we will keep the trunk up as high as we can – it will hold fast as an anchor for bird feeders, zip lines and hammocks. Woodpeckers will carve holes in it, grackles will alight at the top of it to survey the territory and squirrels and children will chase each other around its trunk.

Whether you’re repurposing outdoors or indoors, may you enjoy celebrating life at home this summer.

Laurel Fortin

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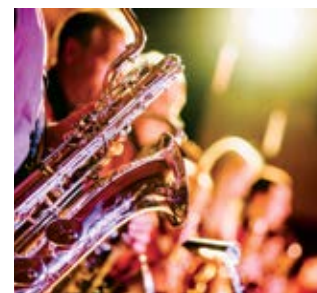
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Uplandish Open Space.
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Citrus-Marinated Chicken Artichoke Skewers

- 8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cubed 1"
- 1 14oz. jar artichoke hearts, cubed 1"
- 2/3 c. Lively Olive Blood Orange Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2/3 c. Lively Olive Meyer Lemon Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2/3 c. Lively Olive Traditional Style Balsamic Vinegar
- 4 cloves of garlic, quartered
- 4 red or green bell peppers, cut 2"squares
- 9-12 baby Portobello mushrooms, quartered
- 2 red onions, peeled, cut 2"squares

- Instructions:
1. Combine first 9 ingredients in a zip-lock bag, mix well, marinate 30 min. in the fridge.
 2. Remove chicken and vegetables from the marinade. Skewer the chicken and vegetable pieces alternately. Grill on Med./High heat (or bake in at 350° F), 10-15 minutes, turning often.
 3. Serve on top of rice or salad. **ENJOY!**



It's all a matter of great taste!



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publisher's note



Simone and new Associate Managing Editor Sara Martin keep their cool at a summer photo shoot.

THE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY IS ASTOUNDING.

We've seen that growth at OUR HOMES, this being our largest issue ever. We've expanded our editorial offerings – we tour two inspiring renovations and we introduce a new celebrity back page finale celebrating life “At Home With...” You'll even see some remodelling on our Contents page!

In our local features, our Home & Builder goes deep into the woods to a thoughtfully planned build by the owner

and executed by The Legendary Group. The young owner jumped on the property when it became available where he mountain bikes near Metcalfe Rock.

In the Home & Landscape feature, Designer Helen Thomson invited OUR HOMES into her own stunning residence. Tyler Speirs was chosen to landscape the breathtaking acreage. Oh, to sip on a margarita beside that lovely pool!

Our Feature home is a historic Thornbury Arts and Crafts-era house recently purchased by Matthew and Lisa Rotenberg. Lisa is a renowned Canadian artist, author, collector, coffee company owner, cigar aficionado... the list goes on and on.

Comfort Zone takes you to Kettlewells, a unique retail spot between Collingwood and Nottawa. Elaine Kettlewell has become our area's very own “picker,” bringing salvaged pieces from all over the countryside and beyond to you! She merchandises and repurposes in such a unique way. It's worth a visit.

Style Picks uncovers hot colours for the season. Our local People all work with water.

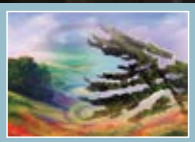
We've got loads for you to enjoy for the rest of this great season.

On a fall note, mark Saturday, November 12th into your calendar for the 5th Annual Collingwood Holiday House Tour. This year's one-day event promises to be better than ever! Tour spectacular local homes, attend a celebrity decorator seminar and fashion show and, new this year, chef demonstrations. There will be a silent auction and marketplace for all your holiday gift giving. All that, while doing good for our local charities. See page31 for early bird tickets sales and more details.

Until fall,

Simone

Simone Sterio-Risk, Associate Publisher
simone.steriorisk@ourhomes.ca



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FRONT ENTRIES

Much like your smile when meeting someone for the first time, your front door is the first impression of your home. It hints at the style to be found on the inside. Sometimes mess will permeate a front porch. Sometimes tidiness seems to glow from the inside out. There may be a hint of family life, a dog or kids, or a hint of artfulness – a homemade bench or a welcoming chalkboard. Whichever category you fall into, your front entry provides a clue to what lies ahead.

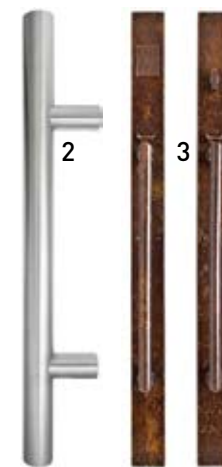
So how can we personalize such a small and seemingly important space?

A home will dictate the style of entry to a point, but it is also where you can add your own flair. For instance, you could add a glass door with a modern, lever handle to a red brick Victorian to give it a more contemporary edge. Eliminating the traditional, raised-panel, solid wood door will allow light to flow into your hallway and bring a modern touch to the outside of the home. For these changes to be made on a Victorian-style house, check with your local heritage society to ensure there are no restrictions on your updates.



ADD COLOUR

One easy tool for change is paint. For instance, an otherwise simple door redone in a bright welcoming colour can completely transform the feel of your home. Sometimes a good paint job is the best solution for a quick clean-up. Farrow & Ball has fabulous palette recommendations for window trim, shutters and front doors.



CHANGE HARDWARE

I really like the trend towards oversize door hardware. Rather than using a simple lever or knob, an oversize handle looks contemporary and unique. It defines the front door and provides a great design feature, dressing up an otherwise lacklustre, functional piece. The style works with modern and traditional depending on the finish of the hardware. See Rocky Mountain Hardware for a more traditional finish and Unison Hardware, Inc. for a more modern look.

IMPROVE FUNCTION

We are about to embark on a renovation and one of the items I'm most excited about is a steel grate at my front door (for inside too). This is a functional decision. We have a lot of gravel around our house and dirt seems to follow my kids and pets wherever they go. Insert a grate at the door so sand and gravel will fall right through and you can minimize your sweeping efforts. It also doubles as a slip-resistant surface.



UPDATE LIGHTING

Lighting is key for your front door. I prefer a very small and sleek light at the entry if it's coupled with some overhead LED pot lights to really illuminate the area. With LEDs being so small and versatile, lighting options have become much more creative. For a modern approach, use strip lighting under the nosing of your stairs to light up each step. It's a cool look and really useful on a dark night.

ACCESSORIZE

Last but not least, if you're into accessorizing, try contemporary style numbers for your house in a coordinating but contrasting colour. And you will probably have a plant and a mat. Every time we go away our plant dies at our front door, which is why I'm so intrigued by a self-watering planter. Maybe it's just laziness but I was one step away from purchasing a plastic plant and I think these are genius. Now, I just have to remember to fill up the water reservoir!



248⁶

One of the best ways to assess a situation is to stand back and take a photo, then look at the photo. What do you see that you don't like? Sometimes a new perspective is all it takes to gain a little creative insight. Good Luck! **OH**

1. FARROW & BALL: Rectory Red No. 217 Estate Emulsion 2. UNISON HARDWARE, INC.: Inox T-Shape Commercial Door Pull 3. ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARDWARE: Metro Entry Set 2-1/4 x 30" in Silicon Bronze Rust 4. HINKLEY LIGHTING: Luna Outdoor LED Wall Light 5. BARRACUDA INC: Dot Self-Watering Planter 6. NUMBER MY HOUSE: Modern House Numbers

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PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

1 LËUK

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124-126 Hurontario St., Collingwood
705.445.4694 | leukbijhermas.ca

2 FARROW ARCARO DESIGN (FAD)

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3 THE BODY BAR BY KALOLA BOTANICALS

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4 CLERKSON'S HOME STORE

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705.445.1988 | clerksons.com

5 TYME HOME CUSTOM INTERIORS & OUTDOOR PATIO

Patio Chair
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6 FRESH DESIGN

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705.446.6552 | freshdesigninteriors.ca

Continued on page 30



7 CHATTERSON'S HOME FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES

Clocks
Tell the time with a wooden, blue tray repurposed as a large clock, or add a dash of orange with a jumbo pocket-watch-style metal clock. Integrate a magnetic calendar into your décor with month, weekday and date displayed as well as time.

101 Pretty River Pkwy., Collingwood
705.446.3456 | collingwoodhomefurniture.com

8 LOG FURNITURE AND MORE

Canoe Wine Rack
This rustic canoe wine rack is the perfect place to store your wine, liquor and glasses at the cottage or chalet. It has a place to rest flat the red wine, stand the white wine and other liquor plus a shelf for glasses. Stained on the inside, it has a painted exterior finish.

logfurnitureandmore.ca

9 HABITAT INTERIORS INC.

Indoor Outdoor Rugs
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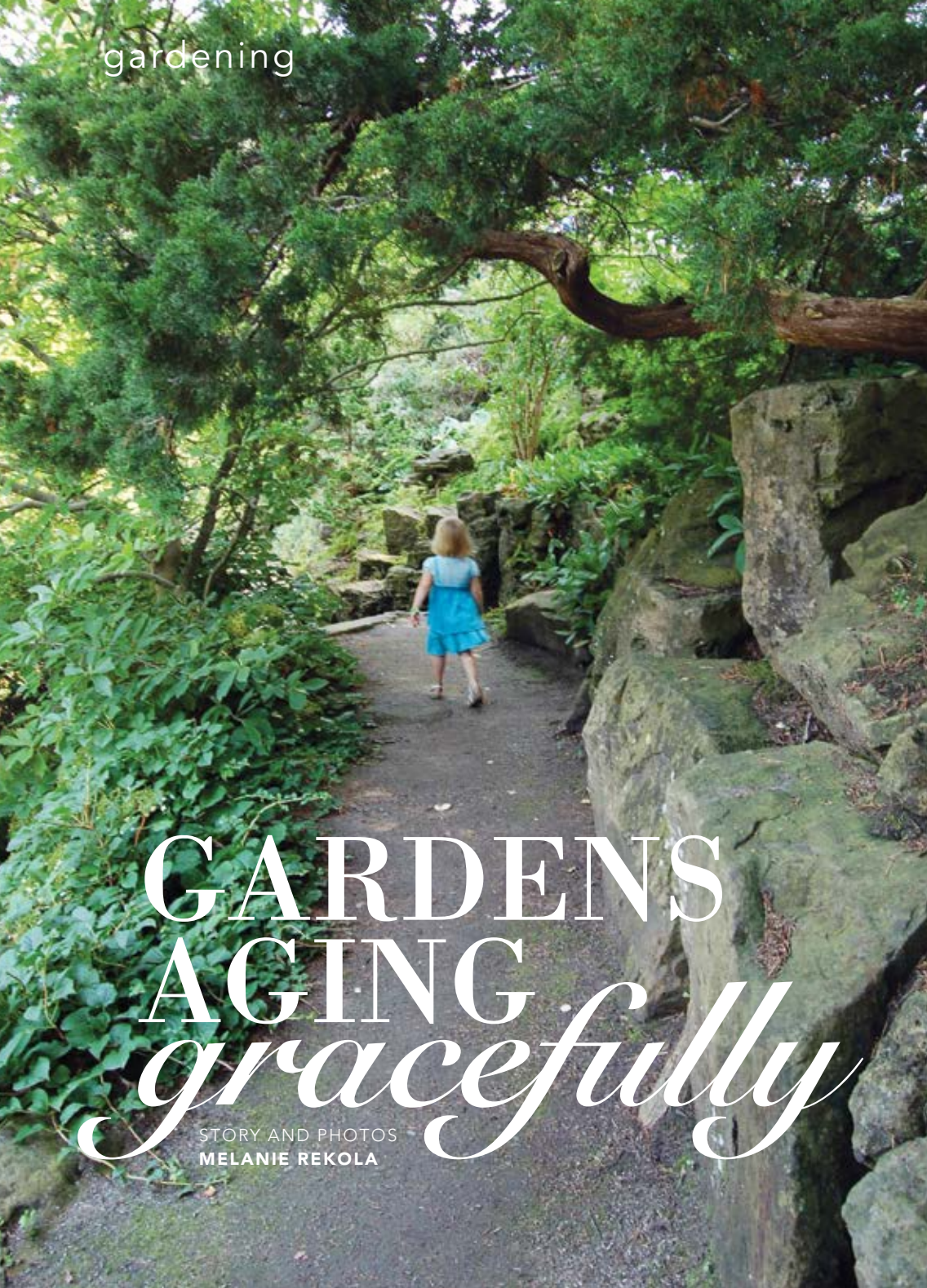
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GARDENS AGING *gracefully*

STORY AND PHOTOS
MELANIE REKOLA

In life, things change – there is no avoiding it. And the ability to accept and adapt to change often dictates success. As with life, so it is with gardens. It is through adversity that both evolve. With some maintenance, you can delight in watching your garden getting better with age.

Great results take great sacrifice and a ripened garden takes work to realize its full potential. Gardens don't necessarily evolve naturally in a way that is pleasing. Saplings grow into full-bodied trees and a once sunny spot filled with abundant blooms becomes a shady nook with sporadic blossoms atop straggly stems. Mortar crumbles, patios heave and wood rots. The casualties of pruning mishaps are evident in evergreens with bare spots and trees sporting right-angled branching. Misguided pruning shows in hedging-gone-wild and gargantuan shrubbery blocking pathways and windows. Invasive triflids slink into the lawn. Alien species choke out the more delicate likes. Sadly the garden then resembles the Amazonian jungle more closely than a beautifully planted property. But, with change comes great opportunity. Amazing and exceptional beauty can be preserved and expressed with a few simple tactics!

I Assess your landscape with fresh eyes. Look at your garden from the whole perspective to decide what should stay, what should go and what should be changed. Don't focus on the emotional value of individual plants or outdoor objets d'art. Search for great bones lurking in the depths, and place equal importance on function and beauty. Write it all down.

TIP: This impressive approach is easier said than done for many, so if the going gets tough, enlist a friend with good taste or hire a professional.

Continued on page 34

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gardening

2 Proper pruning can reinvigorate a well-established garden. To me, there is nothing as beautiful as mature wood, no matter if it's tree, shrub or vine. A lovely tunnel effect can be achieved by pruning out passageways and leaving overhanging branches above head height. This technique can also be used alongside a patio lending a divine feeling of walls and ceiling to an outdoor room. Where possible, remove only one-third of live wood at a time. Sometimes a shrub has grown so gangly there is no possible way to prune it aesthetically. In those cases the shrub can be lopped to the ground in hopes of rejuvenation. It's worth a try, as life wants to keep living!

TIP: Leave some dead wood, somewhere, to provide homes for our native stingless bee species that need our help by way of habitat.



3 Culling the garden can be a sensitive task, especially for those who place emotional attachment on vegetation. But realize many plants can be relocated, grown in a pot or given away. A struggling plant will require removal. Invasive plant species must go! Research your hostile offenders to choose the best course of eradication. Chemicals are not an option as a mature garden is a living, breathing ecosystem that many life forms have become dependent on. Digging and picking out the roots or layering newspaper with mulch placed on the surface may be the only option to stifle out noxious plants. Plastic is not an ideal choice as it will rob existing tree roots of needed moisture, often killing nearby trees.

TIP: Relocate any spiders and toads you disturb to retain their natural, pest-consuming attributes for your property ecology. Adding bat houses and attracting birds will also help keep down the mosquito populous that often plague shady yards.

4 Explore the world of new plants adapted to your garden's evolution when considering new additions. Shade gardens, though more discreet, can be as stimulating as sun gardens, but with more focus around foliage and form rather than flowers. Pale blossoms, markings and silvery foliage look especially beautiful in shade and glow in low-light situations.

TIP: The soil around conifers is naturally acidic, opening opportunity for plants that enjoy this environment, such as blueberry, blue hydrangeas and lupines.

It is said life brings us not what we want, but what we need. Case in point, patience is not a personality aptitude I naturally possess. But when it comes to the garden, I have infinite tolerance and endurance. Gardens, like fine wine, improve with age. Both are worth the wait. **OH**

online Get more in outdoors at ourhomes.ca/mag/outdoor



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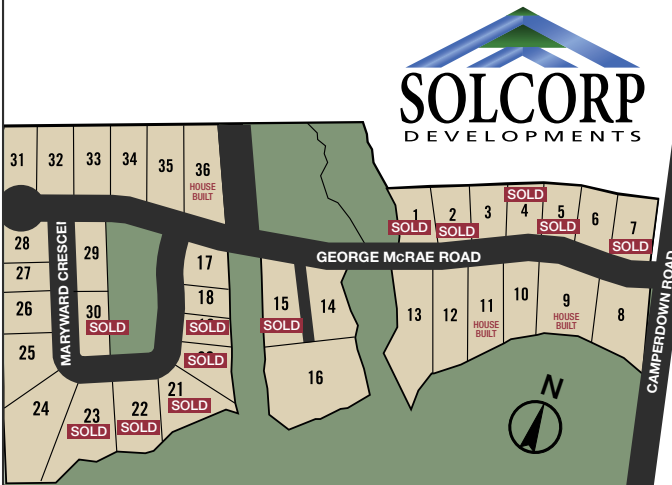


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TARA CHATTELL

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Rubber gloves

Mask

Safety glasses

2 buckets

Water

Measuring cup or scoop

Bowl, bucket or container to mix small batches of cement

Wooden spoon

Trowel

Fine sandpaper

Succulents, to plant

Potting soil

Continued on page 38

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crafty ideas



HOW-TO:

- Fill buckets with water. Use one to add water to your concrete mix, the other to store your tools while you're working so the concrete mix doesn't harden onto them.
- Select your moulds by pairing containers to create your planter form. Visit dollar or second-hand stores to find shapes that you like.
- Coat the inside of the larger container and the outside of the smaller container with non-stick cooking spray or Vaseline.
- Measure and mix small batches of concrete according to the package directions. Work quickly, especially with the Sakrete, or the mix will start to set.
- Pour wet mix into the larger container and apply quick taps to the bottom and sides to level the mix and release any air bubbles.
- Press the smaller container into the wet mix, being careful to leave a minimum half-inch thickness at the base; hold for 30 seconds. After 30 seconds, if the form rises when you release the smaller container, weight it down gently with water or stones. If mix overflows, skim the excess with a trowel.
- Allow mix to set for 24 hours or more to minimize cracking.
- Once your concrete planters are completely set and removed from the moulds, give the tops a quick sanding with fine sandpaper.
- Add potting soil and your succulent plants and display!

NOTE: Any materials used in this project should not be used again for food preparation. Be sure to wear rubber gloves during the entire process while concrete is wet. **OH**



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ILLUSTRATION HINKLEY LIGHTING

With a few beams of light, your outdoor spaces can sparkle underneath the night sky. Light fixtures in the right place will enhance your yard's style and extend your evening's outdoor entertaining. OUR HOMES shows you how to light your property and offers some style ideas.



1. Flush Mounts light seating areas, balconies or porches with lower ceiling heights.

2. Hanging lanterns hang over outdoor dining areas or on porches with high ceilings.

3. Wall lanterns commonly light exterior doors for increased visibility and safety.

4. Post/Pier lanterns are often used to light the end of a driveway or front yard. They can also be used on top of a deck or fence post (not illustrated above).

5. Spot Lights allow you to highlight features in your yard with uplighting, shadowing or grazing techniques.

6. Well Lights are commonly used in uplighting and grazing techniques but can also be used for shadowing.

7. Hardscape Lights highlight larger structures such as built-in seating, deck or fence rails or retaining walls.

8. Deck Lights are mounted to deck posts, pergolas or gazebos to light the space perimeter.

9. Step Lights guide foot traffic, especially where there is a change in elevation.

10. Path Lights illuminate a walkway.

HINKLEY LIGHTING: 5. 3W LED Cast Aluminum Spot Beam 6. 50W Brass Well Light 7. Nexus Small Aluminum Hardscape Deck Light 8. Hardy Island Cast Brass Round Eyebrow Deck Sconce 9. Luna Zinc-Aluminum Alloy LED Step Light 10. Atlantis Natural Cedar and Aluminum LED Path Light

Continued on page 42

CUSTOM BUILD



RENOVATION



SCOTTISH LONGHOUSE

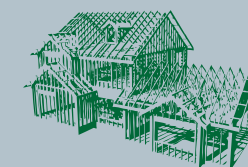


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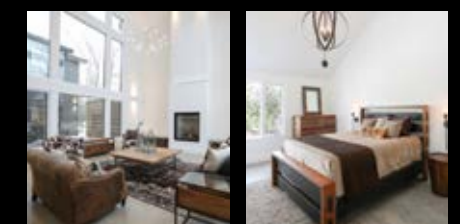
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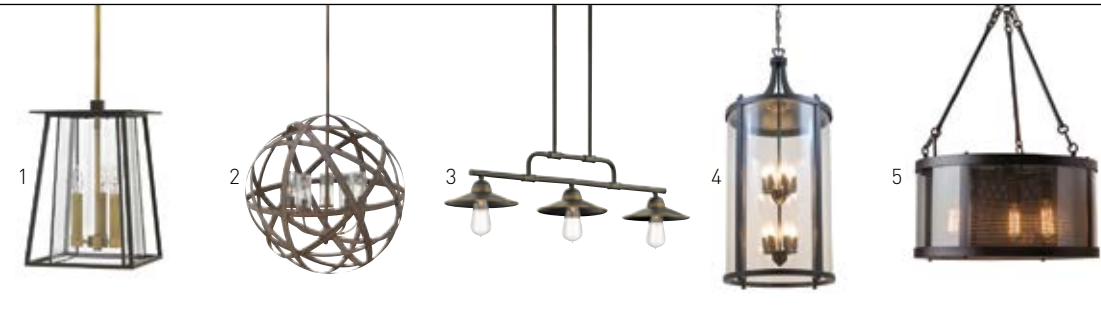
outdoor living

Some lighting inspiration for your outdoor space...

- FLUSH MOUNTS
1. HINKLEY LIGHTING: Cape Cod in Aged Zinc 2. KICHLER: Ashland Bay 3. FEISS: Freemont in Hi Gloss Grey 4. PROGRESS LIGHTING: Westport in Antique Bronze 5. DVI LIGHTING: Niagara in Hammered Black



- HANGING LANTERNS (LARGE)
1. HINKLEY LIGHTING: Walker in Buckeye Bronze & Heritage Brass 2. HINKLEY LIGHTING: Carson 26.5-inch in Iron Rust 3. KICHLER: Westington 3-Light in Olde Bronze 4. DVI LIGHTING: Niagara 35-inch, 12-Light 5. FEISS: Bluffton 3-Light in Oil Rubbed Bronze



- HANGING LANTERNS (SMALL)
1. ELK: Dune Road 2. HINKLEY LIGHTING: Dorian LED in Titanium 3. PROGRESS LIGHTING: District in Metallic Gray 4. PROGRESS LIGHTING: Botta Small in Antique Bronze 5. KICHLER: Venetian Rain 2-Light in Black with Gold



- WALL LANTERNS
1. PROGRESS LIGHTING: Brookside 12-inch in Cognac 2. KICHLER: Clear Point 1-Light 3. FEISS: Arramore 1-Light LED in Dark Weathered Zinc 4. FEISS: Freemont 1-Light in Hi Gloss Blue 5. HINKLEY LIGHTING: Aria



- POST/PIER LANTERNS
1. KICHLER: Halleron 3-Light 2. FEISS: Chelsea Harbor 7-inch in Storm Cloud 3. FEISS: Lighthouse in Brushed Steel 4. PROGRESS LIGHTING: Township in Oil Rubbed Bronze 5. FEISS: Menlo Park in Cinnamon OH



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good taste

THE RISE OF THE RADLER

STORY **SHELBY HILSON**

Last summer, at a craft beer festival (attended for my husband's sake), I discovered my calling in the world of beer.

Although I've always appreciated a cold brew after a hot day of yard work or a game of soccer, it's usually followed up with a glass of red wine or a tart cocktail; or at least it was, until I was introduced to a new summer favourite: the radler.

A radler is a mixture of light beer plus juice, sparkling juice or soda. The name comes from the German word for "cyclist" and its creation is presumed to relate to the desire for more refreshing, less-alcoholic beverages by long distance cyclists. Traditionally a 50:50 mix of beer and sparkling lemonade, a combination referenced in texts dating back to 1912, the radler is still in its infancy stage here in North America.

It won't be for long though. Craft breweries everywhere are launching new radlers for the summer season and national brands are jumping on the bandwagon too. Coors Light has released a Citrus Radler; Moosehead a Light Lemonade Radler and Rickard's a grapefruit radler.

My first taste was of Amsterdam Brewery's Blood Orange Sweetwater Squeeze Radler, a combination of beer, blood orange juice and a house-made soda. Their first limited run in 2014 sold out, but will now be more widely available across Canada. I've since enjoyed Waterloo Brewing Company's Grapefruit and Lemonade radlers, which are equally refreshing and perfect patio drinks.

There's some justified concern in the industry that the sweet nature of radlers will shift them away from the beer category and into the "alcopop" or "cooler" category. Given the history of large food and beverage companies increasing sugar content to widen appeal, this would come as no surprise. It is, however, a great reason to support our local craft breweries whose creative brews boast the ideal balance of sweet and malty.

Radlers on my shopping list this summer:



Central City's
Red Racer



Kichesippi's
Grapefruit



Mission Spring's
Lemon Ginger



Parallel 49's
Tricycle
Grapefruit



Waterloo Brewing Company's
Grapefruit



Amsterdam Brewery's
Sweetwater
Squeeze
Blood Orange



MAKE YOUR OWN:

You may not be a brewmaster, but you can create a tasty summer drink that everyone will enjoy, starting with this simple formula.

2 parts light beer (try a local pilsner, light ale or pale ale)

1 part club soda

1 part juice (try orange, lemon or grapefruit) OR

Share your own recipes with us:

[facebook.com/OurHomesMag](https://www.facebook.com/OurHomesMag)

CHESTNUT PARK REAL ESTATE LIMITED, BROKERAGE PRESENTS

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FROM THE BAY TO THE BRUCE



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Inside this Issue...

**MILLENNIALS
& BOOMERS**
HEAD NORTH

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FALL SHOWCASE
OF HOMES

SOME "MUST-DO'S"
IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY
& GREY BRUCE

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2015

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MILLENNIALS & BOOMERS HEAD NORTH

Droves of Millennials and Baby Boomers alike are moving north to Collingwood to take advantage of a more recreational focused living experience and the opportunity to escape Toronto's surging real estate prices and heated bidding wars. The Collingwood / Southern Georgian Bay area offers a vibrant engaged community of individuals that enjoy outdoor recreation, a growing abundance of restaurants and shops as well as an established arts and culture scene.

Most importantly to the Millennials, there is a growing jobs market in Collingwood. Savvy young entrepreneurs are seizing the opportunity to tap into the ever expanding local year round tourism industry and provide services to support the influx of retired boomers. In fact Collingwood was ranked within the top 10 of business friendly small cities across Canada in 2014.¹ The last few years have seen a surge of new breweries, wineries, distilleries, restaurants and new businesses that cater to the outdoor recreational market and retirees.



With a growing population, expanding employment opportunities, vibrant active community and affordable home prices there has never been a better time to invest in Collingwood real estate. The Southern Georgian Bay Western Region total sales dollar volume was up 21% in 2015 over 2014 and the 12 month average price of a residential single family home in Collingwood was up 5.4%³ in 2015 over 2014. And of course there is no denying the affordability of Collingwood's market over Toronto's: in 2015 the average home price for Collingwood was \$369,818 vs Toronto at \$622,121.² Furthermore, the Collingwood market is showing steady growth. In 2015 Chestnut Park's Real Estate's Collingwood office showed an increase in sales of 29% from the previous year.

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Collingwood residents John Price, Jennifer Price and their daughter Olivia moved up from Toronto in the spring of 2015 to enjoy a more recreational focused living based existence and reap the benefits of Collingwood's affordable yet growing real estate market.

There is a lot more opportunity for younger families to have their dream home and grow in Collingwood than Toronto. Toronto is not affordable for younger families anymore. The market is not even comparable. However, the Collingwood market is growing right now, I believe it will be the new "Toronto North".
- Jennifer Price, Collingwood millennial resident

Fortunately for millennials like the Price's, most of the retirees moving up to the Collingwood area are former weekend warriors who already own places. They are not creating competition for real estate acquisition. The Price's were actually able to buy the first home they looked at and bid on.

Jon and I built a ski cabin here 30 years ago. Collingwood is a familiar community for us and we know it will fit our lifestyle for years to come. After the kids moved out, we both retired and the housing market in Toronto was "hot" - it seemed like the right time to move up.
- Liz Ord, Collingwood Baby Boomer retiree

Do you enjoy an active lifestyle? Are you looking to escape Toronto's fiery market? Whether you are an active retiree or a millennial looking to establish roots, Collingwood might just be the right move for you.

We already spent every weekend here doing what we love and now I get to do those mid-week as well. We have had close friends move up at the same time as us and have made many new ones that all share our passion for the outdoors and active lifestyles we thrive on.
- John Price, Collingwood millennial resident

SOURCES

¹ (<http://business.financialpost.com/executive/c-suite/collingwoods-debut-in-top-10-on-ranking-of-business-friendly-cities-is-no-accident>)

² Based on statistics for the Toronto Real Estate Board Association of REALTORS® (TREB)

³ Based on statistics for the Western Region of the Southern Georgian Bay Association of REALTORS® (SGBAR)

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Magnificent Panoramic Views

COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO:
31 acres, 4,200 sq ft Country Estate w/ 4 bdrms, 4 baths. Reclaimed hemlock floors, expansive windows w/ panoramic views to Georgian Bay, The Peaks & Beaver Valley. Manicured grounds & pond & a large stamped concrete patio. Exceptional craftsmanship. MLS®1615130



Ron Picot*, Barb Picot*
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www.ThePicotTeam.com
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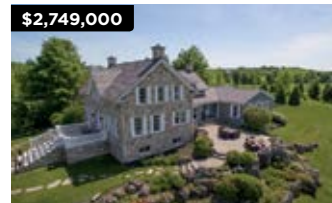


\$4,900,000



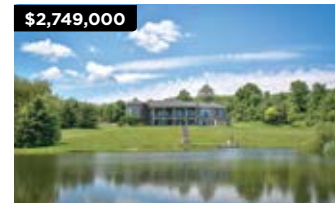
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Newly constructed rustic contemporary on 70 acres of professionally landscaped lands. 50-mile panoramic views. Just south of Creemore.
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705-446-8005

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NATURE'S HIDEAWAY
• 50 acres
• 5,970 sq ft
• 5 bdrms / 4 baths
• Beautiful views • Outdoor terrace
• MLS® 1605586
Barb Picot*
705-444-3452

\$2,749,000



GRACIOUS FAMILY HOME
• 1.3 acres
• 7,200 sq ft
• 6 bdrms / 5 baths
• Serene pond • Outdoor terrace
• MLS® 1548289
Ron Picot*
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\$2,299,000



CUSTOM BUILT HOME
• 6,200 sq ft
• 5 bdrms / 5 baths
• Beautiful Georgian Bay views
• Georgian Bay Club
• MLS® 1600966
Barb Picot*
705-444-3452

\$1,849,000



NATURE'S RETREAT
• 50 acres
• 4,480 sq ft
• 4 bdrms / 5 baths
• 60x30 workshop • Scenic views
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Amazing views, lovely woods, trails & pond on 44 acres. Log house w/ 5br, 3ba, garage w/ heated studio, 5 mins to Creemore.
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Visit www.fallshowcaseofhomes.com throughout the summer for updates



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– SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY & GREY BRUCE ISSUE –



Million Dollar Views

MEAFORD, ONTARIO:

A “ground up” restoration has earned this solid stone home a historical award. Located on 99.75 acres known as SCOTCH MOUNTAIN, the home features 4 bedrooms, all w/ ensuites, Stunning views, 4040 sq.ft. plus a shop/barn & triple car heated garage.



Dave Armstrong*
905-713-9414
dave@chestnutpark.com

OFFERED AT \$1,999,000



– SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY & GREY BRUCE ISSUE –



Enchanting Lake Huron

LION'S HEAD, ONTARIO:

Luxuriously built of the finest materials and expertise. Contemporary open concept home features soaring ceilings, hardwood flooring and a high end commercial kitchen. Other features incl. wood burning fireplaces indoors & out, large plunge pool, flag stone pathways & patios, water front docks and decks. Enjoy the protected waterfront of Myles Bay.



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Contemporary luxury on 4.5 private acres 4 br, 4 ba. Gorgeous landscaping w/ swimming pond, 1km to Creemore.

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PIECE OF HEAVEN

English country home on Berford Lake with 40 acres & a mile of shoreline. Private & luxurious.

www.garytaylor.ca
Gary Taylor**
519-378-4663

\$1,299,000



SNOWBRIDGE HOME

- 5,470 sq ft
- 5 bdrms / 4 baths
- Pegged Elmwood floors
- Views to the ski hills
- MLS® 1600079

Barb Picot*
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\$1,175,000

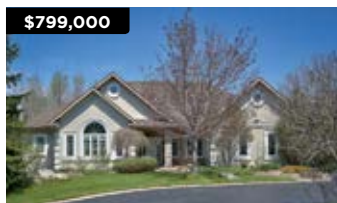


WATERFRONT OASIS

Stunning log home with captivating Lake Huron views. Loaded with character & charm. Your personal oasis awaits.

www.garytaylor.ca
Gary Taylor**
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\$799,000

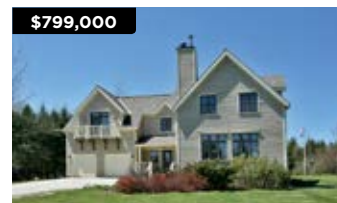


EVERGREEN ESTATES

Exceptional ranch bungalow on .8 acre lot backing onto forest in prestigious enclave of fine homes. Midway between Collingwood & Blue Mountain.

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705-441-6709

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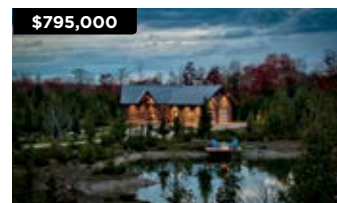


PEACEFUL ENCLAVE

Post & Beam -1 acre in Castle Glen. 4 bdrms / 4 baths. Open concept main floor with wood burning fireplace. Minutes to Collingwood / Osler Bluff Ski Club.

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3 Bed / 3 Bath, Custom Log Home constructed impeccably. 9 Acres, stocked swimming pond & dock.

Read Hilton*
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\$750,000



750 FT WATERFRONT

4 bdrm 1,376 sq ft cottage on Georgian Bay. New town water & hydro. located just south of the village of Leith.

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519-378-6336

\$1,075,000

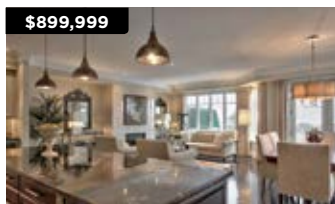


LAKE HURON HAVEN

Quality custom built log home on Lake Huron. Features expansive great room & custom decking.

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Gary Taylor**
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WATERFRONT CONDO

- 2,153 sq ft
- 3 bdrms / 3 baths
- Beautiful bay views
- Gourmet kitchen
- MLS® 1600765

Ron Picot*
705-446-8580

\$859,000



HIGH ABOVE THORNBURY

- 3,000 sq ft Nature Retreat
- 4 bdrms / 4 baths
- Gas Fireplace
- Salt Water Pool
- MLS® 1615447

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HOME OR DEVELOPMENT

- 2.3 acres
- 2,620 sq ft
- 3 bdrms / 2 baths
- Renovated Century home
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Barb Picot*
705-444-3452

\$695,000



GREAT POSSIBILITIES!

This is a unique country property, in Collingwood offering 2.9 acres of land with potential of 36 condos or 5 residential lots.

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705-606-0320

\$649,000



MONTERRA ESTATES

Impressive home in exclusive golf community at Blue Mountain.

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\$649,000



OPPORTUNITY!

You could operate a home business with all the space in this 2.5 storey, 9 bdrm home in the heart of Collingwood on an oversized lot.

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\$629,000



THE BEAVER VALLEY

Full Timber frame, 3 acres, 4000 sq ft, 6 brms, 4 baths, geothermal heating, air conditioning double detached garage.

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– SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY & GREY BRUCE ISSUE –

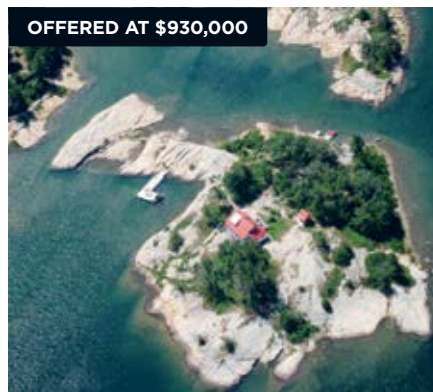
Lockie Island, Parry Sound

PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO:

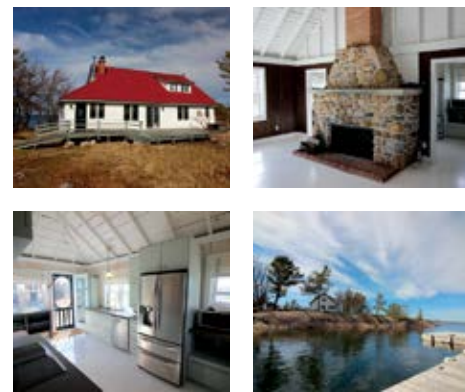
Beautiful private island, just under 3 acres w/ 360 vistas of Georgian Bay. Lockie Island cottage, circa 1932 combines the best of both worlds. Charm of the old with comforts of new. Lots of recent upgrades.



John M. Kacmar**
705-446-4152
john@johnanddi.com



OFFERED AT \$930,000



Country Estate Featuring Two Homes

CHATSWORTH, ONTARIO:

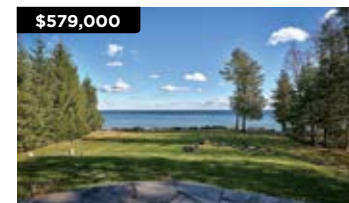
Set amongst lush landscape, this exceptional property has 2 custom built homes, 1-3 bedroom and the other 2-bedrooms, on 45 acres with hardwood bush and a 5 acre spring fed pond + 5 stall barn. Truly a special property.



Dave Moyer**
519-379-1996
davemoyer@chestnutpark.com



OFFERED AT \$859,000



\$579,000

WATERFRONT

Peace & Plenty combine in this unique 4 season cottage on the shores of spectacular Georgian Bay. Meticulously maintained.

Dave Moyer*
519-379-1996



\$575,000

CHARM & PRIVACY

4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 gas fireplaces, abundant natural light, 2 walk outs, sought after Collingwood location.

Sue Mallett*
705-444-7181



\$550,000

THE ROCKLYN INN

An incredible opportunity to operate a successful inn. 8 BDRMS/ 3.5 BATHS. Most furnishings included.

David Rowlands**
705-321-8717



\$550,000

CIRCA 1890 THORNBURY

Past meets present in this home where unspoiled antique & various upgrades join stunning park-like setting.

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705-444-7181



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2940 sq ft chalet inspired home is ideally situated in the highly desirable community of Blue Water on the Bay, nestled by the shores of Georgian Bay.

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705-765-6565



\$460,000

BRENDANTHOMSON.COM

Need a home for all of your toys? This 2800 sq ft home on 6.4 acres, 24x60 heated garage, 21x21 games room. 4 bdrms too!

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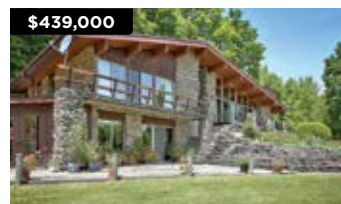


\$450,000

THE WOODS IN THORNBURY

2000 + sq ft 4 bdrm 3.5 bath w/ finished rec room , 2 gas fireplaces and sauna.

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\$439,000

ISLAND VIEW DRIVE

An architectural masterpiece. 3 bedrooms, 5 baths and timeless features.

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– SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY & GREY BRUCE ISSUE –

Home Well Suited For Two Families

COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO:

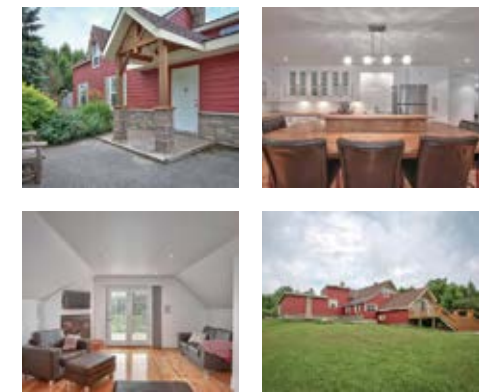
23 acres. Severance applied for and approved but not exercised. 40 x 45 ft barn that could have multi-uses. 2 separate living areas, each w/ kitchen & family rooms. Hot tub, sauna. Ponds and mature trees. MLS*1549164



John M. Kacmar**
705-446-4152
john@johnanddi.com



OFFERED AT \$649,000



Blue Mountain Living And Lifestyle!

BLUE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, ONTARIO:

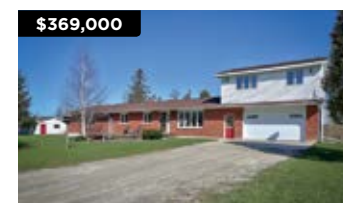
Blue Mountain Village offers a variety of real estate options including resort condos in the Village or townhomes, single family and mountain homes on the surrounding Monterra golf course. Full time or recreational. Choose your living and lifestyle!



Ellen Jarman*
705-441-2630
ellenjarman@rogers.com



OFFERED AT \$139,000 TO \$989,990

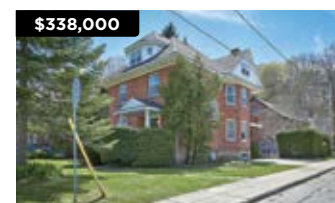


\$369,000

TRANQUIL SETTING

Wonderful country property, lovingly cared for. Start making memories today!

Dave Moyer*
519-379-1996

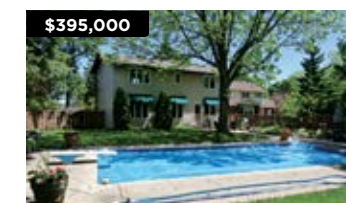


\$338,000

HISTORIC HOME

Edwardian classic on desirable street in Owen Sound. Gorgeous details and modern amenities.

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Across the road from Georgian Bay, meticulously maintained, with many, many upgrades.

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\$299,900

RED BRICK ON 1.66 ACRES

Century home on town corner lot, close to Bighead river.

Michael Biggins**
519-378-6336

SOME "MUST-DO'S" IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY & GREY BRUCE JULY / AUGUST 2016

BARD ON THE BAY



**JULY 28-AUGUST 7
COLLINGWOOD OUTDOOR
AMPHITHEATRE**
Honour the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death by attending The Bard on the Bay Shakespeare festival in Collingwood. Proudly Co-sponsored by Chestnut Park, Twelfth Night will be presented by Theatre Georgian Bay.

www.theatregeorgianbay.com

JAZZ AT THE STATION



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
Chestnut Park is proud to support arts and culture in Southern Georgian Bay. Join us EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING all summer long from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Collingwood Museum for Jazz & Blue.

www.collingwoodjazz.ca

WILD WONDERS



**AUGUST 20-21
BLUE MOUNTAIN**
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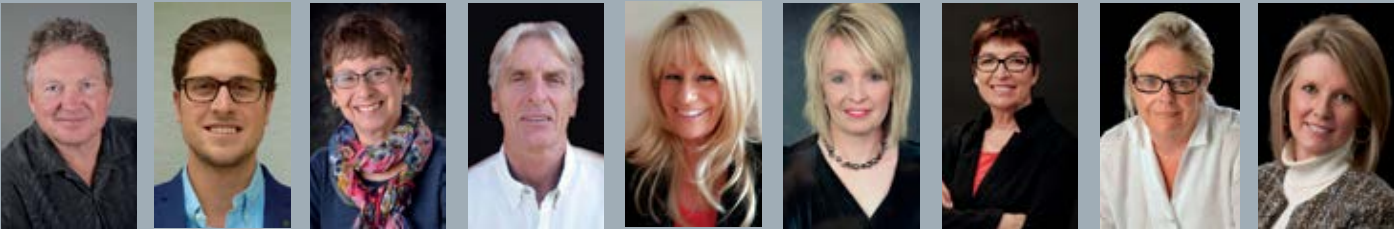
Christie's International Real Estate is honoured to announce that Chestnut Park has been selected as its International Affiliate Of The Year. CHESTNUT PARK WAS SELECTED FROM 145 BROKERAGES IN 43 COUNTRIES WORLD-WIDE.



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Joan Malbeuf* Sue Mallett* Rob McAleer* Dave Moyer* Barbara Picot* Ron Picot* Jennifer Ridsdale** Sandee Roberts** David Rowlands**



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Osler Brook

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All of us at Oslerbrook wish to thank you for the trust and support you have given us during our first two seasons at Oslerbrook Golf & Country Club.
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www.oslerbrook.com



FIRE WATER ART + personality

STORY **ANNE TAIT**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
STYLING **SARA MARTIN**

Two years after building her family home on Old Mail Road, high on the Escarpment in Grey County, **Helen Thomson** was ready to landscape.

Designer and owner of **HT Designs**, Thomson's spectacular 35-acre property is tucked away from busy roads at the end of a long driveway amidst rolling hills and cycling trails. Noticing signs around the area, she contacted landscape designer **Tyler Speirs**, principal of **TS Design Build**. They met to chat and the creative energy grew.

The landscape would be designed around her home, a 5,000 sq. ft. modernist twist on a country barn. With stunning architectural work by **Rockside Campbell Design**, the house was built by **Creek Valley Homes** in 2010. "It was a great build," says Thomson.

There was much to consider before drawing up a landscape plan. Speirs is an award-winning landscape designer with a hands-on approach to his work. "Tyler is wonderful to work with," offers Thomson. "He gives off good energy, really listens to his clients, follows through and puts his heart and soul into the project."

Continued on page 56



This modernist twist on a country barn gets a refreshing blue pool, smooth concrete deck and custom pergola designed and installed by **TS Design Build**. **OPPOSITE:** A circular drive ringing a mature maple welcomes the family and visitors. A trio of poplar trees show their white bark against the dark, horizontal fence slats.



When Speirs first approached the property, he was drawn to its unique qualities. “I saw fields of corn flanking a contemporary home on the Escarpment,” he recalls. “There were great vistas with a forest-like setting behind, and it was quite secluded.” Thomson and Speirs had the same vision: To create an outdoor living space that would blend and flow well with Thomson’s design taste and style, and create a balance between the modern elements of the house and the natural outdoor setting.

But Thomson had a longer wish list, which evolved over the three-month project: A pool with a patio area, a spa/hot tub with decking extending over the pool, a pergola to shelter the dining area, a barbecue and bar area, a fire pit with a seating area and plants. With the plan in place, Speirs and his team of four got to work. Says Speirs, “No landscape is complete without fire, water, art and personality,” and this project has it all.

Thomson envisioned the hardscaping as solid, clean lines and the softscaping as low maintenance with large swaths of soothing colour in mass-planted garden beds. A broad assortment of perennials, including salvia, Russian sage, lavender, creeping thyme, maiden grass, iris, euonymus and fountain grass offer a cool palette of blues and purples in late summer. A single white paper birch tree further defines the space. Irrigation managed by **The Sprinkler Guys**.

There were privacy considerations. Fencing was needed for the pool, but also to deter visiting wildlife, including deer, foxes, coyotes and wild turkeys. With the forest offering some privacy, the homeowners wanted an enclosure that felt open and did not obstruct views. Speirs designed a unique fence using galvanized steel mesh, framed by cedar posts stained black. A horizontal wood fence blocks the nearby circular driveway from the patio area.



Custom fencing with galvanized steel mesh and cedar posts stained black lets the view in but keeps the wildlife out.

TOP: Tyler Speirs of TS Design Build pauses among his salvia plantings off the pool deck. **RIGHT:** The hot tub deck is stained to match the home’s siding, and the tub is tiled with steps to allow easy entry from ground level. Pool maintained by Reid Aquatics. A cement fire pit off the end of the patio brings the fire to eye level. Fields and forest beyond provide great vistas year-round.



ABOVE LEFT: Board-formed concrete creates a bar with floating countertop, reminiscent of the home’s interior design. The opposite side of the bar holds a large barbecue and food preparation area. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The custom fir pergola uses canvas overhead for added shade. Aluminum bar stools and dining chairs are practical and add to the industrial vibe. **RIGHT:** Hot pink chairs with footstools bring the interior colour scheme outdoors.



Speirs created custom concrete pool decking, poured and made smooth but with texture to prevent slipping. The hot tub surround is heat-treated ash, a popular maintenance-free option, and LED lighting glows from beneath the spa steps. A waterfall feature flowing gently into the pool was later added to the hot tub wall. The custom pergola is constructed of fir posts and beams, with a canvas shade overhead. A floating concrete countertop designed by Speirs completes the barbecue and bar area. Board-formed concrete, consistent with design details in the home’s interior, was used for the barbecue area, pool retaining wall and fire pit. Muskoka chairs and a custom bench by Speirs cluster around the fire pit, on a bed of pea-stone gravel.

Continued on page 58



Entering the house, visitors are struck by the bold and innovative design details, enhanced by the interaction of light, glass, concrete and wood. The south-facing main floor is bathed in natural light through floor-to-ceiling windows and doors (**Cedarport Window and Door Centre Inc.**), and a partial glass floor acts as a skylight to the lower level.


Board-formed concrete, antique pine and reclaimed-wood accent walls seamlessly blend with outside landscaping. There are some surprises, such as the use of hot pink as an accent colour. “My daughter and I love pink,” says Thomson. “And as a designer, I know interior colour choices are often influenced by what colours actually look good on my clients.” *Continued on page 62*

TOP LEFT: Inspiring the landscape design, the interior features board-formed concrete, dark wood, metals and hits of pink. The main-floor powder room is housed in its own structure within the high-ceilinged space, leaving an open feeling to the main level. **TOP MIDDLE:** A stunning floating staircase in pine with glass and metal railings links the main level with the upper and lower levels. **TOP RIGHT:** The kitchen island (countertop by City Stone) overlooks the dining area and out to the pool and outdoor space beyond. Black-framed windows throughout from Cedarport Window & Door Centre receive blinds sourced at Ashton’s Blinds Draperies Shutters. **RIGHT:** A wall of dark cabinets by Riverside Custom Cabinets Ltd. separates the kitchen from the living room space. Five metal low-back stools with white seats coordinate with the island cabinetry and dining table seating. The master suite is visible beyond the living room at the end of the home.




“My daughter and I love pink and as a designer, I know interior colour choices are often influenced by what colours actually look good on my clients.”

Despite concrete and an open-concept space, this living room is cosy and inviting with its friendly accent above the fireplace and cowhide rug softening the hardwood underfoot. The wall is open to the upper level, where a balcony half-wall brings in light from below.



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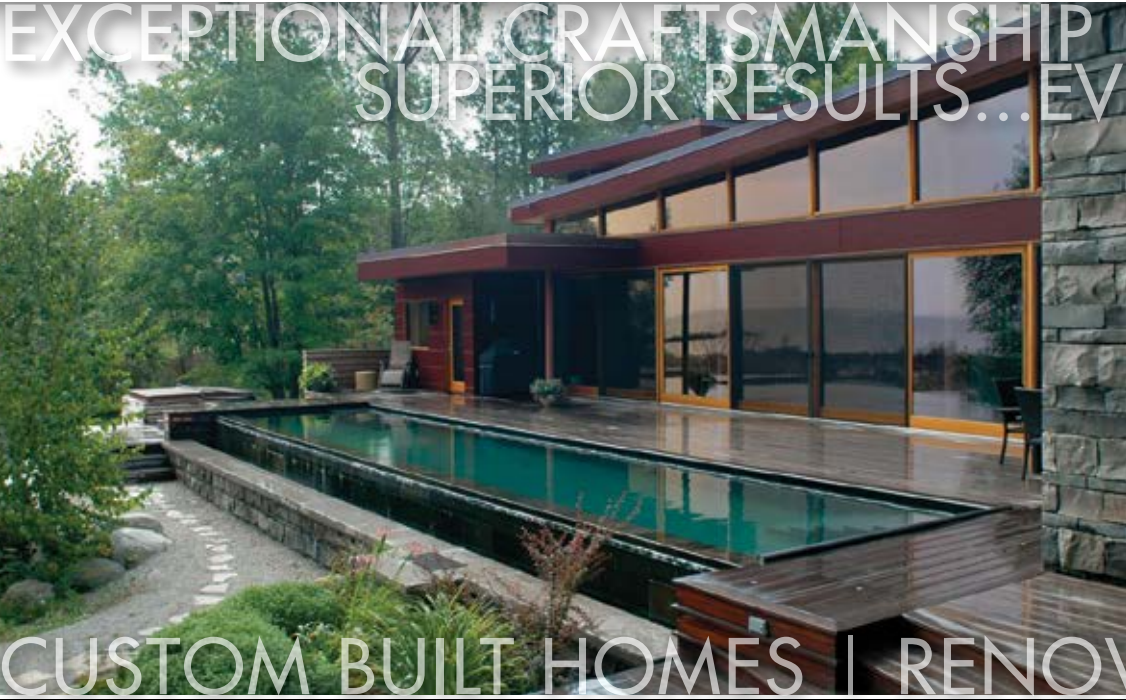
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A porcelain stone floor in the front entrance butts up with grey, elm flooring in the open-concept main level, adding to the illusion of more space. A dramatic fireplace by **Chantico Fireplace Gallery** creates a focal point for the family living area. All interior painting was done by **Student Works Painting**, a company owned by Thomson.

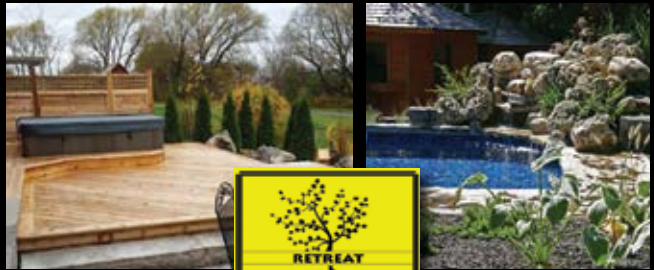
“You can’t always buy what you need,” adds Thomson, pointing to the dining room table and side table she herself designed. Two dramatic chandeliers, some of the few man-made light sources in the home and sourced by HT Designs, define the dining area. The sleek custom kitchen cabinets and built-ins were provided by **Riverside Custom Cabinets Ltd.**

ABOVE: A guest room on the lower level has heated, polished concrete floors and a dark feature wall. A long rattan bench stretches under the window. **BELOW LEFT:** Pink appears again in the homeowner’s daughter’s room. Floor-to-ceiling draperies are courtesy of Bouj Custom Design Studio. **BELOW RIGHT:** The upper level has loft work spaces that are open to the lower level.

Continued on page 64



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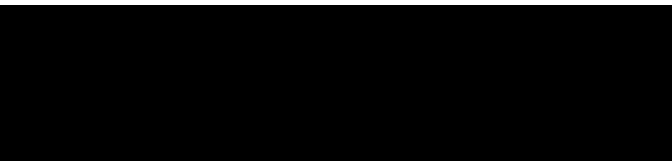
PERMACON



LEFT: With thoughts of planning for the future, doorways are wide and the shower door has a minimal transition lip. Arrangement by Paperwhite Flowers. **BELOW:** A glass panel provides transition from the concrete to wood-clad walls in the master suite, and allows light into the bath. **BOTTOM:** A headboard built into the reclaimed board wall supports three mirrors to reflect light. The master suite has a balcony overlooking the forest, pool and yard.



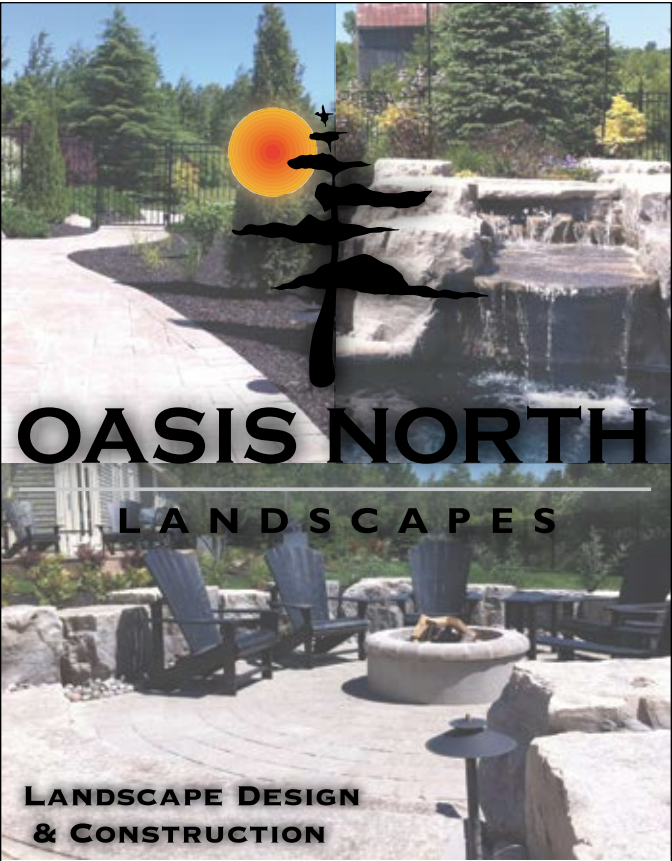
Floating stairs of pine and glass, with custom metal railings (**Thornbury Steel Fabricators**) link the three floors. “From the upper level in winter, you can see the bay and Georgian Peaks,” says Thomson. The couple’s grown children enjoy their private spaces, each with a view, when they are home. “Working with Thomson and her husband was a great experience and we soon became friends,” adds Speirs. “I enjoyed the opportunity to work on such a unique property, and will continue to watch it grow with maintenance and a few small projects to come.” **OH**



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OUTDOOR STYLE



HAUSER: Dansk Lounge Chair



STORY **JACKIE GLASS**

It's time to reclaim our outdoor spaces and transform them into easy-living summer rooms that transition seamlessly from inside to out. Today, there's no reason why you can't design your outdoor living spaces as beautifully as those you've created indoors.

If you're like me and enjoy making the most of our short fair-weather season, you already know the importance of creating outdoor living spaces that are perfectly situated, attractive, comfortable and easy to maintain. It all comes down to clever planning and smart buying.

Whether you're simply updating and refreshing your existing garden furniture or shopping for a whole new look, it's important to know what to look for when buying durable and stylish outdoor furniture and how to properly maintain your investment. These key tips will have you dining al fresco, day or night, and spending more time outdoors enjoying the experience with family and friends.

This season's patio furniture offers the convenience of superior weather-resistant, low-maintenance materials and is designed to be lightweight for easy portability and storage at the end of the season. From traditional natural teak and powder-coated aluminum to natural and all-weather wicker and innovative plastics, today's durable outdoor furniture will create instant style, comfort and function in any outdoor living space no matter the size of your space or budget.

Plan, Budget & Measure

My best advice as a designer is to budget and plan before you buy. Just like you would when designing an interior space, determine a style and how you want to use your outdoor space. Do you cook, dine and entertain regularly outdoors or do you simply want a private, shady spot in the garden where you can get away and relax? If your yard is large you may want to consider creating multiple outdoor spaces, each focused on a different activity.

Once you've determined your style and needs, grab a tape measure and measure your outdoor "rooms," taking location into consideration such as the proximity to the kitchen for a dining area, sun/shade exposure and the quietest spot in the garden. Make some notes then look for inspiration to get an idea of style, scale, construction, availability and pricing before heading out to buy. Smart planning and shopping will help you find exactly what you're looking for and avoid disappointment and costly, time-consuming mistakes.

Continued on page 68



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Make It Last

Buy the best quality outdoor furniture you can afford and keep these quick tips in mind to maximize the life expectancy of your furniture.

- When in doubt, hire a professional designer and landscaper to save time and money in the long run.
- Ensure all fasteners (nuts, bolts, washers, etc.) are rust-proof stainless steel.
- Choose furniture that's made of weather-resistant material (see "Select Your Type").
- Choose only tempered glass for tabletops for safety and make sure they are scratch, impact, and heat-resistant.
- Fabrics for cushions should be labelled UV tested and made of acrylic materials that are water-resistant.
- Look for cushions with foam cores wrapped in water-resistant, breathable synthetic fibre padding.
- Accents like rugs, lights and heaters add comfort and extend the use and enjoyment of your outdoor living spaces.
- The more you shade your furniture, the longer it will last while providing comfort for you and your guests. Consider adding trees, umbrellas, gazebos and shade structures.
- Clean with a soft cloth using only mild dish soap and warm water or cleaners specifically formulated to protect fabrics and all outdoor furniture, including aluminum, plastic, steel, resin, wicker, wood and rattan.
- Wipe down furniture after it rains to reduce water exposure and wipe away food and spills immediately.
- Cover all furniture when not in use.
- For fast and easy end-of-season storage, consider choosing folding or stacking dining chairs and tables.
- Clean, dry and cover all outdoor furniture and cushions before storing to avoid mould, cracking and rot.

Select Your Type

Choosing the right type of outdoor furniture to suit your style, location and lifestyle all starts with knowing how and where you plan to use it. For small, protected spaces like a covered balcony or porch that aren't exposed to heavy rains or high winds, you can consider small-scale, lightweight pieces. Heavier, full-size, more durable furniture should be considered for large, unprotected outdoor areas that get used regularly for entertaining and dining.

Although design options and construction of all-weather furnishings have come a long way, remember that, unlike interior furniture, outdoor furniture will inherently be exposed to much more abuse by both people and the elements so invest in the best quality, construction and materials you can afford. Consider the following for the most durable and popular types of outdoor furniture available today.

Wood: For a relaxed, rustic look, hardwoods such as teak are naturally sturdy and offer high resistance to the elements. Wood furniture is best stored indoors during the winter months.

Iron: Iron patio furniture lends a traditional look, is almost impossible to damage and won't topple in high winds. Add cushions for comfort and protect with rust-resistant paint.

Aluminum: Durable powder-coated aluminum sets give a modern look, require minimum maintenance and are lightweight for easy portability. Most are stackable for easy storage.

Steel: For a contemporary design theme, stainless steel furniture is a bit lighter than iron and offers an appealing lustre that resists corrosion. Highly durable and easy to maintain and clean.

Wicker: Offering a romantic natural look, lightweight yet durable natural wicker furniture is typically made from bamboo, cane or rattan. All-weather wicker is made from synthetic resin fibres woven around the frame, and then coated with durable weather-resistant finishes.

Plastic: 100 per cent recycled, high-density polyethylene furniture is non-porous, wipes clean with soap and water and is available in a wide range of fade-resistant colours. This material can be left outdoors year-round. **OH**



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take a sip



Summer CORDIAL

STORY AND PHOTOS **PAT CROCKER**

This cordial is one of a few homemade drink syrups that give my entertaining a very personal flavour. I enjoy having this on hand for mixing tall, summer iced refreshers and winter cocktails.

Combined with carbonated mineral water or chilled white wine, it makes a light and fruity drink. Mixed with spirits, the result is a dark and mysteriously delicious drink with plenty of panache. Brandy adds an alcohol dimension to this rich, dark syrup, but is not required, especially if you want to keep your drink options open and use it in a non-alcoholic punch.

BLACKBERRY CORDIAL (Makes 4 cups)

- 3 lbs blackberries
- 1-½ cups water
- 1 tsp whole cloves
- 1 tsp freshly grated or ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 3 cups granulated sugar
- ½ cup brandy, optional

- In a large stockpot or canning kettle, combine blackberries, water, cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon. Cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat and simmer for 15 minutes, or until the blackberries are very soft.
- Strain through a cheesecloth-lined sieve, allowing the juice to drip into a non-reactive bowl or pan overnight. Combine the strained blackberry juice, lemon juice and sugar in a large saucepan or canning kettle. Bring to a boil over high heat and boil for 1 minute.
- Skim and discard any foam. Stir in brandy if using. Pour into 2 pint or a 1-litre jar, cap, label and let cool. Store cordial in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

NOTE: If you fill Mason-type jars, cap with 2-piece canning lids, cover them with boiling water and keep the water boiling for 10 minutes and the cordial will keep for up to 1 year. Refrigerate the cordial once the jar is open.



Use: Blackberry Cordial is perfect for making Kir: combine 2 Tbsp Blackberry Cordial with 1 cup white wine or champagne. I have tossed it with fresh fruit as a quick dessert and

it is a great base for Blackberry Granita: in the bowl of a blender, combine ½ cup Blackberry Cordial with 10 ice cubes. Process on “chop” until ice is blended with the cordial. Serve with a spoon. **OH**

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

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STORY **LAUREL FORTIN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

THE PLACE: Elaine Kettlewell’s hand-picked collection of repurposed, vintage and reproduction items spill out of the doors of her shop, **Kettlewells**, just south of Collingwood on Highway 124, as though they can’t wait for you to swoop in and take them home. Interspersed through the shop are flowering baskets and hanging planters that Elaine nursed in a greenhouse on the property. The greenery breathes easy, effortless style into the upcycled treasures.

THE STYLE: Contemporary vintage living. Elaine goes junking in the shoulder seasons, travelling across Canada and the United States to fill her trailer at auctions and salvage sites. She returns to refurbish her finds, including French country furniture, chunky wood pieces and metal light fixtures. Vintage items are layered with new pieces. She brings in reproduction items that share a similar mood, such as enamel bar carts, wrought-iron garden obelisks, wire baskets and galvanized buckets.

THE SPECIALTIES: Kettlewells is a feast for indoors and out. A demure feminine garden statue and a pair of regal lions await their places in the spotlight at a gorgeous outdoor garden. Inside are incredible treasures such as a carved, huntsmen’s bureau, finials, light fixtures and wine demi-johns. Find architectural salvage like rusty garden gates, columns and weathered, wood windows and doors.



WHAT’S HOT: An antique, laundry mill cart on casters stamped J.J. Turner of Peterborough is topped with a chippy door and becomes a kitchen island. A set of four Francois Carré Sunburst chairs, a style that became classic after their appearance in the 1942 film Casablanca, are in immaculate condition and still have their bounce. Yellow pops from a 1930s Mother Goose child’s swing that

likely originated on a midway ride. A chipped, white, vintage Fermob folding bistro chair reveals its original shade of Paris park green underneath. Kettlewells is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.

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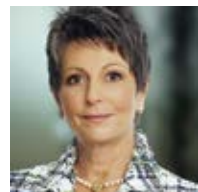
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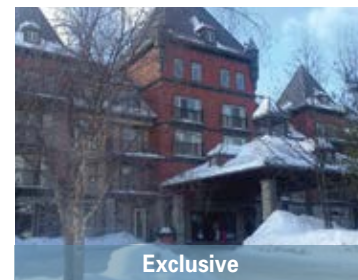
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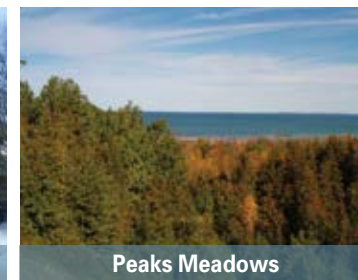


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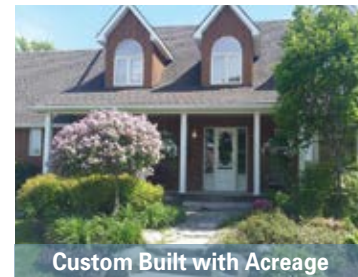
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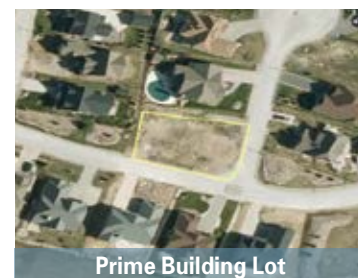
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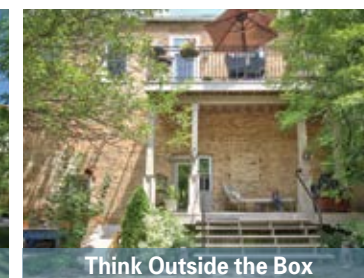
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PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

These 10 local businesses can help you manage one of the most precious natural resources in your home – H₂O – whether you drink it, swim in it, wash with it or simply enjoy your time with it.



water way #1

Excavate for septics, ponds or trenching

IAN & JOHN FERRIS
Ferris Trucking & Excavating Ltd.

Tell us about residential excavation: Whether you're planning for a pond or septic system, or need trenching or shoreline dredging, we have the equipment and expertise to help. Ian and John are licensed designers and installers of septic systems and maintain active membership in the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA), helping us to stay current on evolving industry information and improvements in technologies and processes.

Tell us about Ferris Trucking & Excavating Ltd.: We're a family-owned business with extensive experience in residential, commercial and municipal settings and we have worked in highly sensitive areas, including escarpment and shoreline. We understand local soil types and geological conditions and we are well versed in environmental policies and guidelines. We ensure that your job will be managed to your specifications with efficiency.

water way #2

Design a swimming feature with a spa grotto

DANIEL, JOSHUA, LINDA & MARTIN ZENG
Zeng Landscaping

Tell us about this pool: Daniel designed this pool for a modest town lot. It has it all: a wading area with infinity edge, four-foot deep splash area with built-in natural-stone seats and a swim-up bar, seven-foot deep swimming area, waterfalls concealing a swim-in five seater grotto with therapy jets and a gas fireplace. Atop the grotto at the source of the waterfall you will find a pair of built-in stone lounge chairs. Wiarton limestone was used throughout. Attention to detail is revealed with the on-site precision cutting, fitting and polishing of the stone product. Surrounding landscaping with plantings and finishing touches will complete this backyard oasis this summer.

Tell us about Zeng Landscaping: (Martin): I've been landscaping for more than three decades and have always implemented the latest products and methods, but it has been exciting to see the imaginations and fresh input of Joshua and Daniel pushing creativity to new levels. As one of the longest established landscape companies in the area, we continue to create exciting landscapes for outdoor lifestyles that endure. *Continued on page 78*





water way #3

Dive into the pool

SHARON OWEN & BROOKE SATCHELLE

Thornbury Clear Choice Pools & Spas

Tell us about this pool: This pool curves around the back deck of a home and has two sculpted stone waterfalls. It's surrounded by natural boulders and stamped-concrete decking. We're using a Pool Buoy, which can hold up to four drinks and balances an umbrella; it's a smart addition to bring portable shade right into the pool with you.

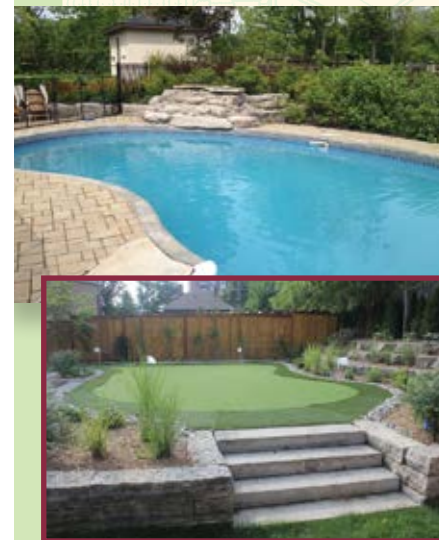
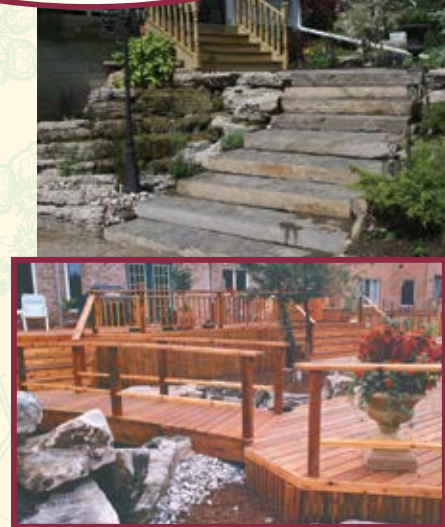
Tell us about Thornbury Clear Choice Pools & Spas: We specialize in the sales, service and installation of swimming pools, spas and accessories in Thornbury and the Georgian Triangle. We offer at-home analysis of your hot tub and swimming pool. Our team will keep your pool, spa water and related equipment in the best operating condition with a service program that meets your needs.

Continued on page 80

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water way #4
Relax with a waterfall

DARLENE & KEVIN
HACKSON
Hackstone Landscapes

Tell us about this water feature:
We built a private escape for the Reynolds family in Thornbury: a landscaped berm integrated with a multi-stage waterfall feature. Plantings of grasses, coniferous trees and dwarf shrubs ensure there is greenery year-round, while limestone, riverstone and beach pebble give it a natural look.

Tell us about Hackstone Landscapes: We believe that the best things in life are not things. They are family and friends, living life and making memories. We create the setting for you, through our craftsmanship and character, to enhance your life and your style.

Continued on page 82

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people



water way #5

Get wi-fi on your waterfront

DOUG JOHNSTON, CARTER NICOLL & CARLA NICOLSON

Red Brick Group

Tell us about this wi-fi: Our client had a waterfront home in Thornbury and wanted to have the option of staying wirelessly connected around their property and at the beach. We installed cabling to support strategic, weatherproof, wireless-access points so they can connect with their whole-home system to play music, check email and have full access to the Internet.

Tell us about Red Brick Group: We turn your home on. Whatever your needs may be: structured wiring, security systems, whole home audio/video, home theatre or even beach wi-fi, you benefit most when a solid understanding of technology and the newest innovations are paired with a one-on-one client relationship. With Red Brick Group, you receive a system design and implementation that works for you and your budget. *Continued on page 84*



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water way #6

Update your faucet & kitchen

JUSTINE BURNS
*Kitchen & Bath Design,
Collingwood Home Hardware
Building Centre*


Tell us about this kitchen: The matte black STo faucet from Moen is a favourite for many new kitchen renovations; not only does it look great, it masks fingerprints and water spots. It sits with a stainless, double-undermount sink that's fitted into a Caesarstone counter in Frosty Carina. We've coordinated this kitchen with high-gloss dolomite cabinets and for a further modern look, used top hinges on the upper cabinets.

Tell us about the Collingwood Home Hardware Kitchen & Bath Design Centre: Our extra-large Kitchen and Bath displays allow you to fully visualize your design and renovation choices. Justine or her fellow designer Sarah Cyr will sit with you and discuss your project in detail. We offer free home visits to ensure that every measurement and detail of your renovation is perfect. From the DIY'er to the contractor dealing with large projects, we have the expertise to help you get your projects completed, no matter the size.

Continued on page 86



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water way #7
Service your septic

GILES & KATRINA ARDIEL
Ardiel Septic Services

Tell us about this septic system: This septic tank uses a riser kit that elevates the lid to sit flush to the ground. The lid is green to blend with your lawn and is durable enough to allow a lawnmower to easily pass over it, making for easy access and yard maintenance. This tank has an effluent filter to help protect a tile field. The filter is cleaned annually and the tank is pumped out every three years to maintain the health of the tile field and prevent problems in the home.

Tell us about Ardiel Septic Services: Ardiel Septic Services has been family owned and operated since 1975. We are proud to be a part of this community, providing local septic service and maintenance to help you protect your land and your water. Eliminate any worries you have about your septic system with an individual septic-system maintenance schedule. We can help with concerns, including cleaning your sewer pipes, odour elimination, system assessments for building permits, system location with sewer camera and tile field rejuvenation. We also provide fast, comprehensive septic-system real estate inspections at the time of a home purchase.

Continued on page 88

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waterway #8

Enjoy a babbling brook

PETE ZWART
Zwart's Topsoil & Landscape Supplies Ltd.

Tell us about this water feature:
This 92-foot stream has a river-stone bed and two flagstone bridges. It was built into a natural swale beside this home in an area that had proven awkward to maintain as lawn. We enhanced the natural flow of water runoff on the property and dug a five-foot pit to store the 2,200 gallons of water that flow through the system. The sounds of the water can be heard around the property from the home's entertaining spaces.

Tell us about Zwart's: We are a family-owned business and our famous retail yard in Thornbury is home to a large selection of natural stone, soil, topsoil, mulch, flagstones, limestone, granite, patio stones, interlock, boulders, wood chips, sand, aggregates, landscape and garden supplies. Our business has grown to include landscaping services, indoor flooring, fireplaces and stone walls. We are proud members of Landscape Ontario and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association. *Continued on page 90*

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water way #9
Update your shower

NORM GLAS
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Centre

Tell us about this shower: This is an interesting new product that makes replacing your shower incredibly easy. Utile by MAAX are wall panels that have the look of tile with the integrity of a solid wall. Build your shower by selecting prefabricated tile or glass panels, add a sliding glass door, connect them to the shower base and your shower is ready to go within hours. We also recommend the thermostatic shower faucet column by Phister with an integrated rain head. Install it to your existing plumbing and adjust it to any height you need without having to move pipes.

Tell us about Knights: Knights is a family-run business in Meaford. We not only offer support for plumbing and electrical supplies, we carry lumber, paint, hand and power tools and all manner of building materials. Our installations program makes it easy to get your projects finished.

Continued on page 92



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water way #10

Drink up

STEVE & ISABEL LOUNDS

The Water Store

Tell us about this drinking water:

We are proud “brewmasters” of our own water, which we filter and store in tanks at the store. Clients visit our U-Fill Centre to get the best in reverse osmosis water – it has between zero and one part per million of dissolved solids. We start with Collingwood city water and remove the dissolved limestone from the water via a water softener. From there it goes through an activated carbon filter to remove chlorine followed by reverse osmosis to remove dissolved solids from the water. Our water is ozonated in both the tanks and out of the taps. The final stage of the filtration process is the water runs through an ultraviolet light to ensure there is no bacteria present.

Tell us about The Water Store: You will find more than just water at our store. We believe that your wellbeing is most important. We help families that have concerns about their water, from staining caused by water hardness and iron, or smells such as chlorine and sulphur, or bacteria or brown, discoloured water from tannins. We offer in-home water testing and will provide a quote to remedy your water situation. **OH**

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—Jana Temple on the second home recently built for her and her husband by Paragon Carpentry.



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UPLAND INNOVATION

STORY **JENNIFER SCHLEICH**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
STYLING **SARA MARTIN**

Nothing but windows for this south-facing home. Open rafters and built-in storage keep the sight lines of the Kolapore Uplands' Metcalfe Rock visible in the distance. Tin planters courtesy of Paperwhite Flowers.



Sequestered down a maze of dirt roads ringing the Kolapore Uplands sits a new home, the product of Scandinavian inspiration, smart engineering, a thirst for sustainable design and the cooperation of university alumni. The home of Martin Mansikka and Sara Woodward is perched high in the Uplands, a nature preserve surrounded by undeveloped land with Metcalfe Rock as its focal point.



ABOVE: Homeowner Martin Mansikka and builder Milan Smeh of Legendary Group connect on the covered deck. **LEFT:** Pine tongue-and-groove ceilings on the deck blend seamlessly with the interior. Cords of wood heat the home in the colder months on the few days that passive solar heat isn't enough. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** A Scandinavian aesthetic gives the Uplands home a minimalist look while offering an efficient and functional house. **BOTTOM:** Not a single residence or light at night is visible from the home's secluded vantage point.

Not far from the four-bedroom home is the **Legendary Group** shop in Collingwood. A hive of year-round activity, Legendary Group is a leading-edge manufacturer of prefabricated custom homes. Inside that shop is founder **Milan Smeh**, a civil engineering alumnus of Martin's at Western University. Together the duo developed a pared-down white-on-wood modern design for Martin and Sara to call home. The popularity of this style of home among Milan's clients would come to inspire Legendary Group's new Mod³ collection, which features innovative design concepts and optional heavy steel construction for even larger room spans and increased design flexibility. *Continued on page 98*



A bottle-cap opener gets a prime location with a stainless steel bin to catch caps.

THIS PAGE: An open galley kitchen gives the chef full view of the home and beyond. White cabinets, wormy maple counters and stainless steel appliances and stools keep the look clean.

OPPOSITE, TOP: A graphic from Finnish textile maker Marimekko in red, black and white hangs in the stairwell. **BOTTOM:** A cowhide rug, wood stove and low sofa and coffee table add to the home's Scandinavian touches.



With Martin manning the helm as designer and general contractor, Milan led the charge in the development of the 2,700 sq. ft. home with his company's prefabricated hybrid wall systems. Together they produced a home beautiful for its authentic minimalism, simple materials and breathtaking view. From the seamless concrete of the basement, to the wall-to-wall glazing, the home is endearing in its bare-it-all attitude.

"The modern design of Martin's home is reflective of our system," says Milan. "Martin was very interested in green building and energy efficiencies, and our system follows those mandates of sustainable design. Our roof system is super insulated and he spent a lot of time working on passive solar heating to develop a very economically heated home. We also work with Ontario wood products and use Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified lumber."

The passive solar heating is so effective that, in conjunction with radiant in-floor heating on the lower level and a wood stove from Hearth & Leisure upstairs, the home's back-up, forced-air furnace ran for only five days this past winter. Well-designed roof overhangs that anticipate the sun's seasonal shift eliminate heat gain in the hot summer months.

Legendary Group fabricated the 10-foot high wall-panel systems (pre-finished with exterior siding and windows), roof panels (pre-finished with pine tongue-and-groove on the ceiling) and heavy timber trusses and gables in the factory, and then assembled the home on site with a crane (Vanwyck Crane Service Ltd.) in an unbelievable two days. Following site work in the first week of November, Martin and Sara were living in the home by February – a shocking feat during a Grey County winter.



"It's a lighter impact footprint on the site," says Martin. "They were only here for two days, comparing that to 40 guys with their trucks hanging around for a few months. Materials don't get damaged by the weather and there isn't the material wastage you get on a conventional job site." Martin adds, "It's pretty sensitive land here. We had to do a deer study and a walk-through with a botanist to look for endangered species on the whole 25 acres."

In contrast to a conventional build, the Mansikka home was constructed in a controlled environment that facilitates quality and predictability. All the components are built more precisely, without exposure to the elements, which ensures the air barrier remains intact and delivers an air-tight building envelope. Everything is inspected before it leaves the Legendary shop floor.

"Prefabricated homes are a smarter way to build," extols Milan. "The greatest benefits are that prefab homes guarantee quality and are 100 per cent predictable with respect to both time and cost. Our home package costs are fixed, so there is no risk of cost over-runs and no time delays. The delivery time and cost is always fixed, and people are always comfortable with that." *Continued on page 100*



The homeowner collected these four tribal masks while travelling.



home & builder

With solid planning, Martin and Milan were able to plan to hide away plumbing and electrical inside the home's few interior walls, while leaving the ductwork and structural floor exposed from above and below in order to establish a clean design.

Natural materials predominate, including striking wormy maple that Martin sourced at **Bill Brown Woodworking & Building Supplies Ltd.** to produce a half wall in the front foyer, butcher block waterfall kitchen countertop and the modern harvest dining table. Paint throughout the interior is Behr's Premium Plus Interior Flat line, a zero-VOC paint in Ultra Pure White (1850). Outside, the couple went with the low-VOC Behr Marquee Exterior Flat paint in Carbon (N520-7).

"The exposed heavy timber structural floor was a great way to minimize material usage," adds Martin. "I have LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) credentials, so I tried to incorporate a lot of those principles into the house design."

The open-concept floor plan is facilitated by the heavy timber trusses, wide passageways and few doors. Only the bedrooms and bathrooms are closed off, while sight lines to the laundry and mudroom, front foyer and even the principal bedroom walk-in-closet are broken only by right-angle walls. Many of the walls themselves are absent of trim, lending to the seamless minimalist sensibility. *Continued on page 102*



ABOVE: Both homeowners wake up in the treetops of the Kolapore Uplands. A ceiling fan disperses heat.
LEFT: The master en suite and kitchen have the only half-walls of windows on the south side of the home.



An off-cut of the same wormy maple Martin worked with throughout the home becomes a bedside table. A green lamp adds a bit of primary colour.

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FAR LEFT: More Marimekko graphics brighten the guest room on the lower level. **LEFT:** The homeowners are avid cyclists. Laundry machines are tucked into the space under the stairs. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The exposed heavy timber structural floor above becomes a beautiful lower-level ceiling. **BELOW:** Because the home is built into a slope, the lower level walks out onto a concrete patio. A fire pit was set into the cement, flush with the ground.



“The absence of trim is done with a J-moulding, so wherever the wall system meets the floors or the doors, you get the really clean look of no trim and it produces that nice shadow effect,” notes Martin. “I really like seeing the physical elements of the house.”

Legendary Group was a natural ally in the construction of Martin and Sara’s home. Not only is Milan an excellent problem solver, according to the homeowners, but the product Legendary Group produces is top-of-the-line quality, adhering closely with industry trends. Trend-awareness was particularly important for Martin and Sara,

as they strove to construct a contemporary modern-inspired home.

“We are aware and open to current design trends, and respond by engineering products, homes and system components that satisfy that product need,” explains Milan. “We see a demand for modern homes and have come up with ways to accommodate those ultra-modern designs. Our Mod² line of prefabricated modern homes is what Ontario wants right now.”

It’s definitely what Martin and Sara wanted. Their welcoming Scandi home is a true haven from a busy life. **OH**

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KITCHEN WHITE

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



PHOTO: BRANDON BARRE

The coveted white kitchen: it may sound strict, or even boring to some, but if you start with a solid base, this classic scheme actually leaves lots of room to add personality, drama, and yes, even colour. Read on to learn how to do a white kitchen the right way – your way.

Never Run-of-the-Mill

Cutting corners with your millwork will usually show in the long run: good solid cabinets in a classic style can always be repainted or touched up, while low-end or trendy options will grow dated much faster as materials are dinged or peel. A good investment here will anchor the space for years to come.

TRY: Flat slab drawer/door fronts for a sleek modern look, with a lacquer or ultra-matte finish that highlights the beautiful simplicity. For a balanced transitional appeal, opt for shaker doors with a simple frame-like border, which can then be dressed to look more traditional or more contemporary with hardware. *Continued on page 106*



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design ideas

Hard to Forget

Often, cabinet hardware goes overlooked, but good knobs and pulls can be the jewelry of the kitchen, so don't be too quick to settle for plain factory options. I often like to add variety by using different styles on the lower and upper cabinets, such as brass pulls and glass knobs – but play it safe with just two styles.

TRY: Brass or copper cabinet pulls for warmth, gem-cut glass or crystal for boutique elegance, or fun, patterned knobs for a trendy indulgence. To go minimal, use knob-free reach-in fronts, or try inset finger-pulls for a traditional upscale touch.



BALDWIN HARDWARE: 1. Swarovski Crystal Cabinet Knob in Polished Brass 2. Severin Fayerman Knob in Polished Brass 3. Cup Pull in Polished Brass

Colour Chameleon

The white kitchen endures because it's so adaptable: a strict palette of neutrals for the fixed finishes still leaves room to update and accessorize the look endlessly. A hot trend for 2016 is to mix white with warm off-whites for a subtle richness, but a crisp white will work with virtually any favourite hue. When in doubt, keep the major investments neutral and add spice through non-committal accents.

TRY: Colourful tea towels (like this Bumble Bee Dish Towel from CB2), containers or appliances (like a KitchenAid stand mixer in Blue Willow), and be sure to leave room for a natural element like fresh flowers or fruit. Choose glass inserts for a few upper doors to let beautiful dishes and glassware add even more personality.



Contrast Control

A colour pop isn't the only way to make a statement – lighting from unexpected sources, such as under-cabinet light pucks, floating shelves with LED strips, or inner-cabinet lights (with a windowed door) add interest and functionality. Consider mixing in a darker element such as espresso floors or smoky, stone counters for a pleasing contrast, and finish the scheme with a dimmer to change the mood at whim like a filter on Instagram.

TRY: Oversize pendant lights (like the Mason Wide Pendant from Arteriors) to add evocative points of interest without a single new hue.

WHICH KITCHEN WHITE IS RIGHT?

Try one of these Benjamin Moore hues to suit your white kitchen style.



Chantilly Lace (2121-70):

A long-time favourite, and an ultra clean and fresh white tone. This is a safe bet to avoid difficult-to-match undertones and just a breezy all-over colour for walls, cabinetry – everything.



Cotton Balls (OC-122):

A faintly yellow-tinted off-white with a heritage character that works for elegantly traditional kitchens, or paired with a cleaner white to add sophisticated interest in an otherwise stark modern space. Try it for just cabinetry, where it will also hide a few fingerprints.



Distant Gray (OC-68):

A barely-there grey, with ashy crispness that grounds bright white or offsets warm woods. Try it for just the walls, especially paired with a veiny stone backsplash, to make the cabinetry look extra crisp.



Simply White (OC-117):

Benjamin Moore's 2016 colour of the year, and a warm just-off-white. Try this for painted floors or wood panelling (on, say, the front of an island) to give a cottage-inspired feel, or use it on walls with warm wood accents like exposed beams or floating shelves. **OH**



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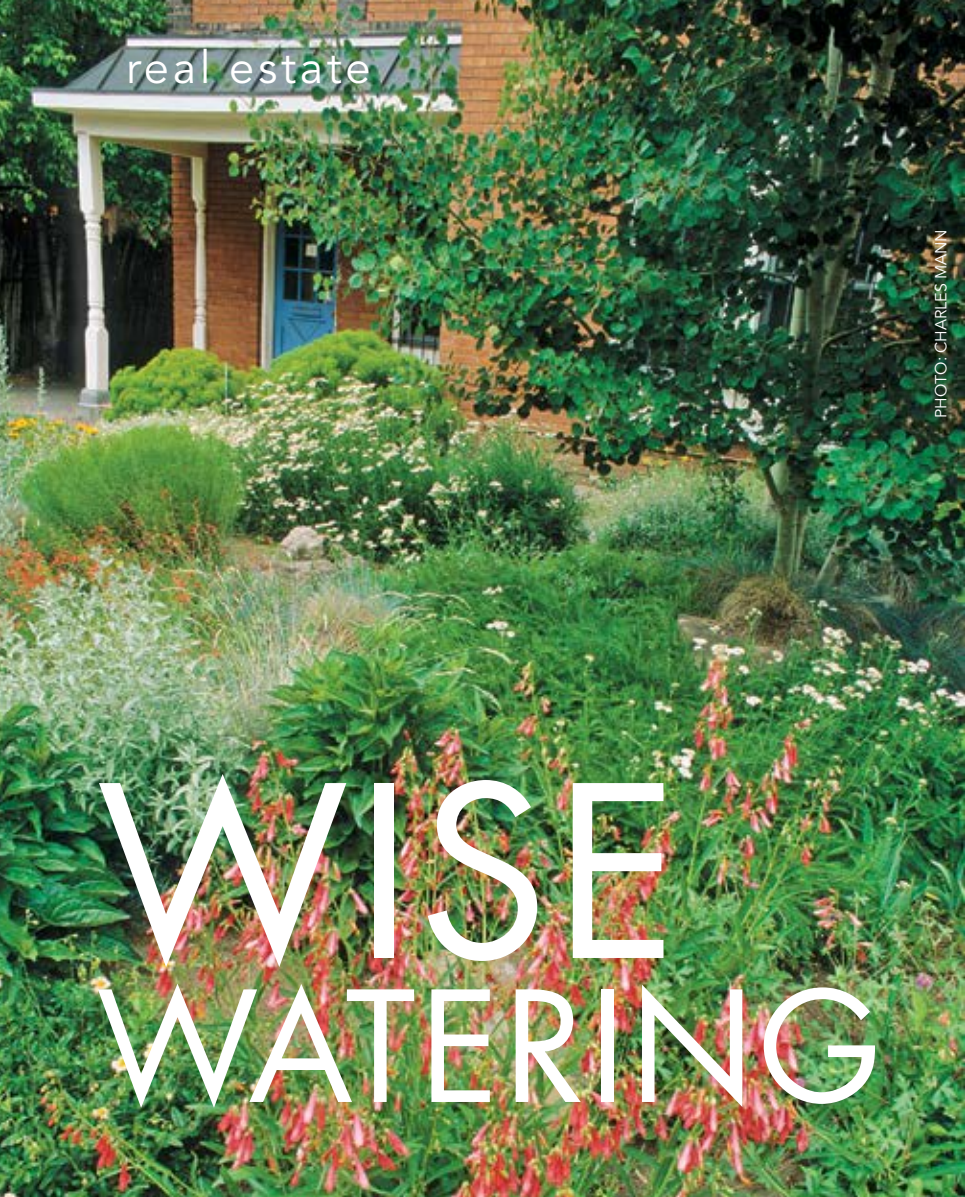
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WISE WATERING

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN**

No doubt everyone in your neighbourhood has a different approach to watering plants through the summer months: there are those who over-water, those who let their gardens dry up to desert-like states and many variations in between with endless methods of water application.

This summer, help your plants thrive and add value to your property by adopting some water-smart gardening practices. Your yard, the environment and your wallet will all thank you.

"In a nutshell, a water-smart garden is a sustainable garden, where conserving and nurturing all natural resources leads to a healthy, mature landscape," says Diana Maranhao, author of *Water-Smart Gardening: Save Water, Save Money, and Grow the Garden You Want*. Anyone can achieve this through a combination of conservation methods and good gardening practices that will help maintain, preserve and nurture soil and water supplies. Once plants have what they need to grow to maturity, she says, "they can survive and thrive on what Mother Nature provides!"

INCREASE YOUR PROPERTY VALUE

According to Maranhao, "Planting, nurturing and growing healthy trees adds assessed value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 to properties," depending upon the maturity, type and number of trees. Similarly, she adds, "Developed landscapes add as much as 20 per cent to total property values – not to mention the energy savings from the cooling effect of mature trees around a home." So what are you waiting for?

START SAVING: 3 STRATEGIES

Although Maranhao outlines in her book countless ways to save water and grow a garden destined for longevity, she offers her top three water-saving strategies:

1. Apply and Re-apply Mulch

If you only do one thing for your garden this year, says Maranhao, make it mulch. A thick layer (about three to five inches) of organic mulch across your whole garden will conserve water immediately. It seals in moisture, cools the soil and plant roots, creates a layer of darkness that discourages weed-seed germination, reduces sun damage on plants, diminishes erosion and protects soil from drying winds.

"Chipped tree trimmings, pine needles and shredded bark are my favourites in the landscape," says Maranhao. "Allow leaves that fall from trees to lie where they fall or rake them up if they shade the lawn and spread them elsewhere in the garden. Use straw in the veggie garden – it's good for at least two seasons before you can rototill it in." *Continued on page 110*



Photo By: Wendy Webb Photography

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2. Share the Resources

Zone your plants so you can water sections of your garden accordingly. Group low-water need plants together, plant shallow-rooting shrubs and flowers under trees with deep root systems and try incorporating your edibles into your wider landscape so they can help each other out.

3. Capture, Direct and Slow the Flow of Water

This is the year to finally install a rain barrel! Capture the free stuff falling from

the sky. If you already have a rain barrel and are looking for more ways to minimize your water bill, Maranhao suggests creating and moulding the landscape that will best direct the flow of water where you need it: berms, basins and swales can all work to your advantage.

STOP WASTING

Being water smart isn't just about installing rain barrels or irrigation systems. It's also about changing bad habits that waste water.

Give plants the space they need to grow to maturity and water them slowly and deeply to the entire root zone during their developing years so they can put down solid, deep roots and better fend for themselves.

"'Right plant, right place' means considering all of the environmental needs of the plant before selecting and then siting the plant so that it can grow naturally to its mature size and form – the best horticulture practice to have a healthy plant," says Maranhao.

TOP PLANT PICKS

For Ontario gardeners, Sean James, President of Fern Ridge Landscaping & Eco-Consulting, Chair of Landscape Ontario's Environmental Stewardship Committee and Master Gardener, prefers to use native species whenever possible.

HERE ARE HIS FAVOURITE PLANTS FOR LOCAL GARDENS:

Shade Plants:

- Polygonatum (Solomon's Seal)
- Rubus Odoratus
- Geranium Macrorrhizum

Sun Lovers:

- Little Bluestem Standing Ovation, interesting all-year round
- Common Milkweed, attracts monarchs
- Purple Dome Aster, long-blooming
- Blood Brothers Switch Grass, small with nice colour in late summer
- Fireworks Goldenrod, "Folks still don't know that goldenrod doesn't cause allergies," says James. "This is a spectacular plant for late-summer/fall flowers and good winter interest."

Ask your local garden centre about native trees and shrubs and their requirements to make sure your yard is a good fit. **OH**

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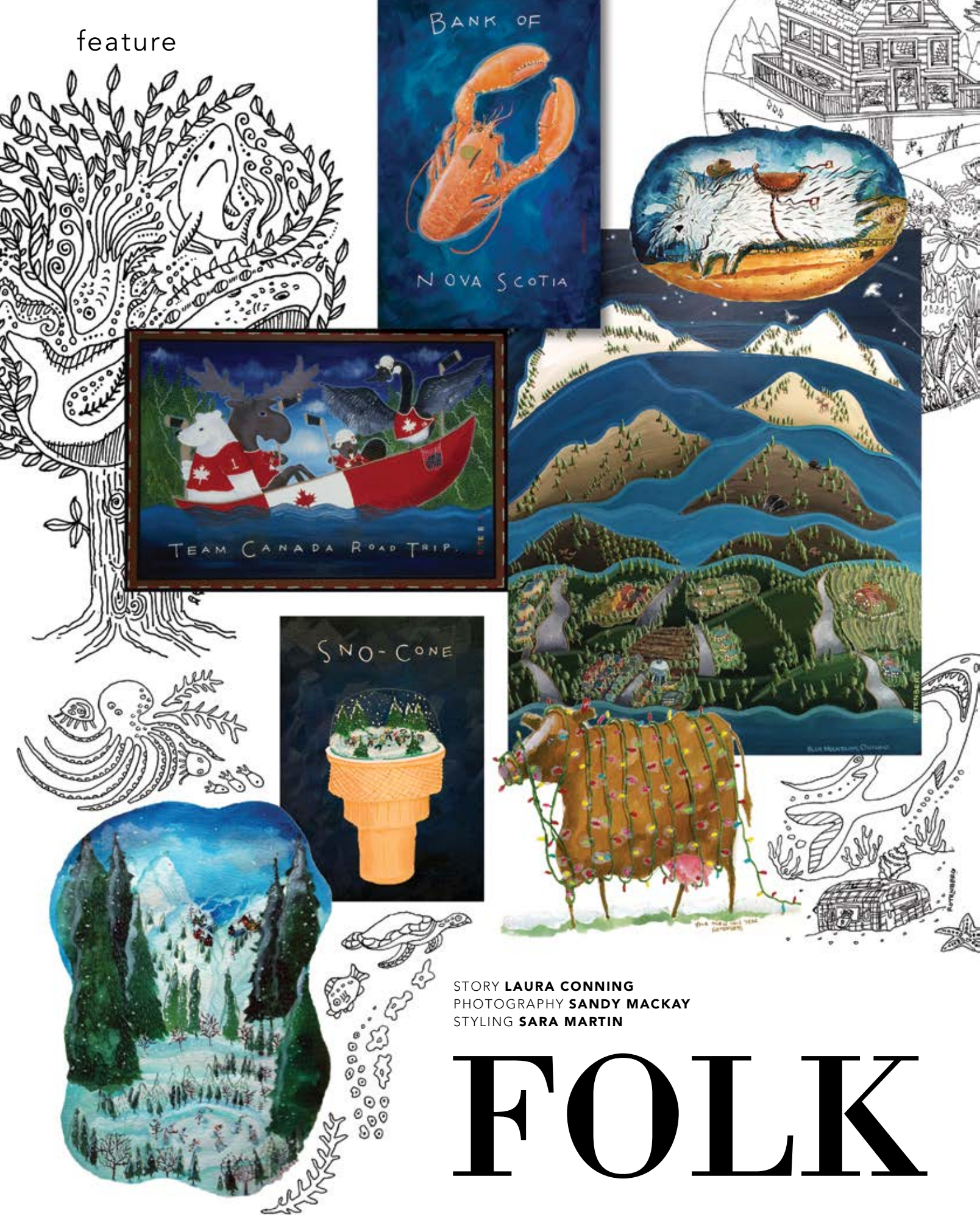
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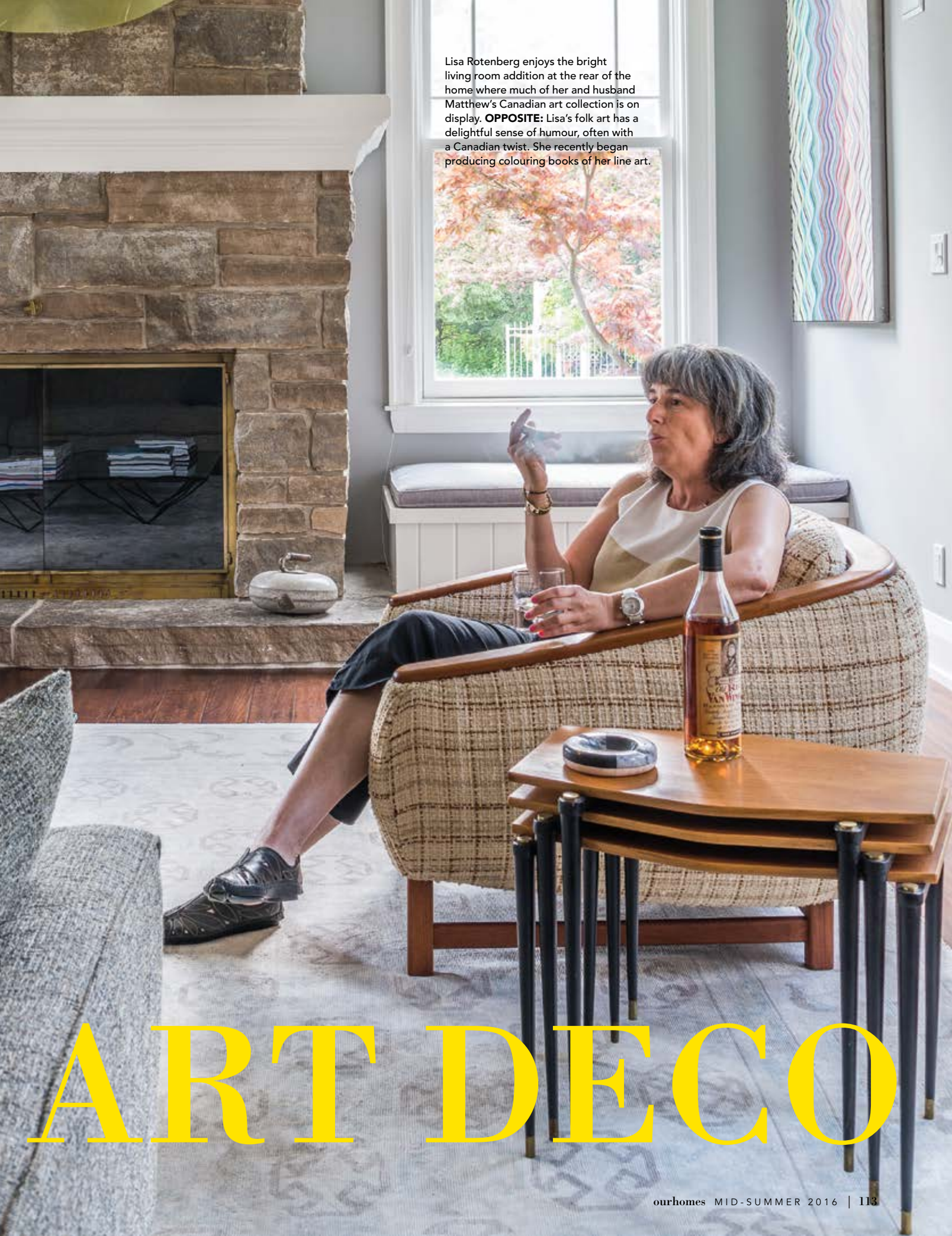
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STORY **LAURA CONNING**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
STYLING **SARA MARTIN**

FOLK



Lisa Rotenberg enjoys the bright living room addition at the rear of the home where much of her and husband Matthew's Canadian art collection is on display. **OPPOSITE:** Lisa's folk art has a delightful sense of humour, often with a Canadian twist. She recently began producing colouring books of her line art.

ART DECO



A Hitchcockian wrought-iron gate swings open to the brick, Arts and Crafts-era home of Lisa and Matthew Rotenberg.

The architecture of the Thornbury house remains traditional to 1928, when the home was built, and Lisa, Matthew and their silver lab Blue, are just the third homeowners. The couple transplanted from Toronto in July 2015, but Lisa says that she already feels like a local. With a history in the Grey Highlands and a passion

for Canadian art and the southern Ontario landscape, she is well versed in the area.

Lisa is a prolific folk artist. She is currently represented by Gallery de Boer – Fine Art in Owen Sound, and has a multi-decade background in a variety of artistic positions. After graduating from the Ontario College of Art and Design, Lisa worked in graphic design, and became an account director. “I needed a creative outlet, so I began painting at night.” This turned into a full-time career. Her vibrant paintings have evolved time and again, but have maintained the ability for commercial application. She has illustrated with several companies, painted the labels for her own

coffee company, rocketfuelcoffee.com, and even wrote and illustrated a children’s book, *Rodeo Pup*, published in 1999. Many of Lisa’s paintings are hugely inspired by the southern Ontarian landscape and culture, capturing the beauty of the area and the people’s history.

Today, Lisa’s studio is tucked behind carriage-style doors in the home’s carport. Easels, paints and recent work fill the space. Inside the house, Lisa and Matthew’s passion for Canadian art is on display. Recognizable Canadian artist Norval Morrisseau commands attention on the walls, alongside Flo Campbell, Robert Markle, and Travis Schilling, to name a few. *Continued on page 117*



Cigar aficionados Lisa and Matthew have a humidor to store and preserve their collection.



THIS PAGE: Lisa and Matthew have converted the home’s carport into Lisa’s art studio. Carriage doors open to fill the space with natural light. Lisa’s works fill the walls. **OPPOSITE:** The 1920s brick home is styled with accents such as the eyebrow arch over the front door. The roof in red metal looks like terracotta tile from the era.



feature

RIGHT: Stained-glass transoms in the home's addition were created to match those on the original front windows. **FAR RIGHT:** A Scandinavian room divider is an impromptu library. B.C. artist Christina Nick's metal sculpture of a golden retriever greets visitors at the side door. **BELOW:** Mid-century modern furnishings work in the transitional room. Pedie Wolfond's large pink canvass and Angela Leach's wavy *Vertigo* brighten the room.

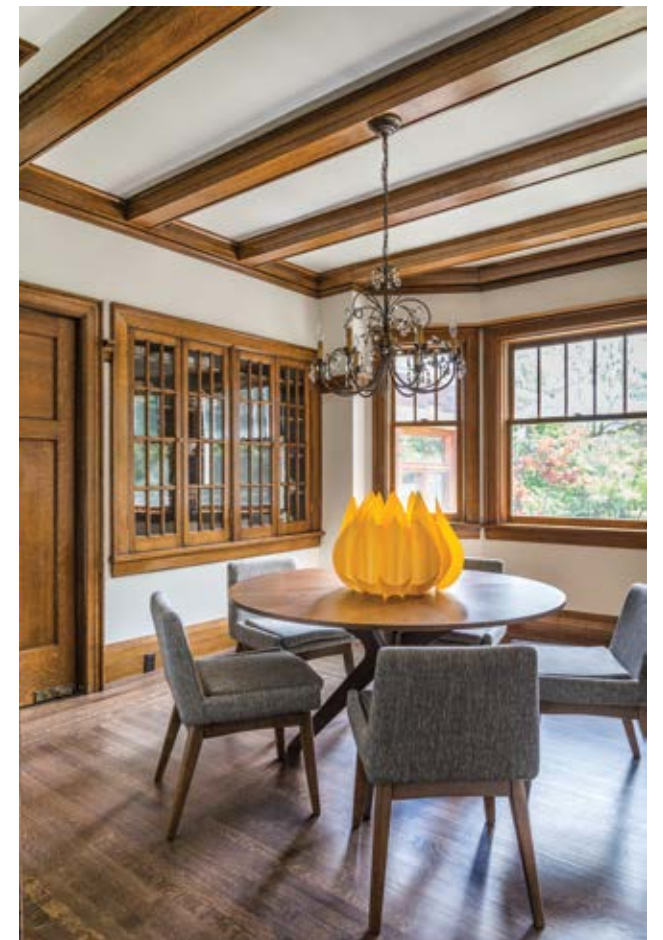


RIGHT: The kitchen addition in greys and stone is a chef's delight. The breakfast table pops with the brightly upholstered Kartell dining chairs. **BOTTOM:** Original solid wood trim and artisanship can be seen through the main floor, including the double swinging door that connects the dining room to the kitchen.



Twenty-five years ago, a modern addition was put on the back of the home. The combination of mid-century modern style with the original architecture brings unique character to the space. Lisa credits **Lindsay Herbert** of **Baywood Designs** for the interior colour palette. Dark hardwood floors contrast with a neutral wall palette of white and pale grey, a backdrop for the Rotenbergs' art collection. The modern kitchen on the back addition of the home – “Matthew’s kingdom,” describes Lisa – adds contemporary sophistication against the traditional architecture of the front portion of the house. Unique Kartell dining chairs are works of art on their own, with varying abstract prints upholstered onto clear plastic bases. A few steps down into the living room, a mid-century occasional chair and curved sofa surround a coffee table covered in art books (Kandinsky and Matisse among them).

In the cosy, square dining room off of the kitchen, a round, wooden table is accented with pale grey upholstered dining chairs. The centerpiece is a yellow lighting fixture that Lisa and Matthew repurposed, which elevates the traditional room and brings a bright pop of colour to the space. *Continued on page 118*





A bound copy of the home's original builder's specification is a treasure of the owners.

At the front of the house are two smaller rooms with atmospheric charm. Vintage mid-century furniture fits in the music room, including a miniature salesman sample chair placed beside an antique piano. A portrait of a hockey player by Charles Comfort, purchased by Lisa and Matthew as a special anniversary present to themselves, is proudly hung in their “scotch and bourbon library,” the name a play on New York City’s Brandy Library in Tribeca. This is where Lisa displays her impressive whisky collection, and a sleek, modern grey sofa from **Leuk Bij Hermas Interiors** sits underneath the large front-facing windows.

Between the library and music room is the front door to the house, accented with original stained glass. A whimsical owl sculpture by artist Viktor Tinkl greets visitors, and contemporary work by Heather Cook hangs on the wall.

“It’s the most incredible hide-and-seek house,” says Lisa. Secret doors, rooms, quarter-sawn oak finishings, narrow doorways and unexpectedly large closets are some of the many vintage charms that come with owning a nearly century-old house. She gushes, “Sometimes Matthew and I look at each other and I say, ‘Can you believe we live in this house?’ ” *Continued on page 120*



Yellow and orange mid-century chairs work with the leaded glass and large trunk in the front sitting room. **OPPOSITE TOP & BOTTOM MIDDLE:** The home’s original library now houses the owner’s scotch and bourbon collection from around the world. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Each room in the original home has its original door knob; keys are tagged and kept in a small, discreet cupboard built into the woodwork in the hall. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The front entry hall showcases beautiful woodwork and high wainscoting of the era. A metal owl by artist Viktor Tinkl spreads its wings in invitation to visitors.



Upstairs, the master bedroom oozes calmness. A south-facing balcony is steps away from the bed, flanked by portraits of the couple photographed in 1983. Lisa describes their morning ritual: “Whoever goes and gets the dog in the morning has to make coffee and bring it upstairs. Then we sit out here and have coffee. It’s like being in a hotel.” The balcony overlooks the mature backyard with its intimate trees, lush gardens and bright blue pool. A rare butternut tree is thriving.

When the Rotenbergs began the restorations in the garden, they wanted to keep the original home in mind. What would the gardens have looked like in 1928? Skilled gardeners worked with the couple using this vision during the planting and re-establishing process. The home is surrounded by a multitude of perennials: peony, hydrangea, fuchsia, 40 varieties of tulip and nine varieties of narcissus (daffodil), for starters. Original rosebushes remain lively, having been nurtured over the years. Lisa plans on having fiddlehead ferns and mint planted in the front gardens this year. *Continued on page 122*



TOP: Double doors in the master bedroom open to a balcony overlooking the rear gardens. Arrangement courtesy of Paperwhite Flowers. **ABOVE:** This willow chair beneath the rare butternut tree in the backyard has grown into the surrounding gardens. **TOP LEFT:** Pink petals descend to the pathway leading to the gazebo and swimming pool. **LEFT:** A fire pit table from Squire John’s brightens and warms the evenings spent under the gazebo.

2016 MARKET SNAPSHOT - 2nd QUARTER IN REVIEW

For residential single family homes and condos, the WESTERN DISTRICT of Southern Georgian Bay continues the one year trend of a Sellers’ market with the lowest level of inventory in more than a decade and down 37% from Q2 ‘15. 5 years ago, we needed over 12 months to sell all listed inventory, now it would take only 2.7 months. Values are up - June ‘16 surpassed \$150M for residential transactions - a first for our area, and sales are brisk - 62% of listings sold. The average price for a home is currently \$362,232, up 11% from a year ago. The majority of sales took place in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 price range but the \$900K-\$1M category doubled its unit sales numbers. The luxury market (\$1.5M+) is up 70%.

Our focus will be on single family homes and condos in the 3 trading areas in which we have the most experience: Blue Mountains, Collingwood, and the areas of Clearview nearest to Collingwood & Blue. There were 169 listings of which 113 sold - a 68% sale to list ratio (was 64% for Q1 ‘16), and the average property price is currently \$384,463 or about 6% higher than the Western District’s average. The average amount of time between listing and selling was 69 days on market (DOM), no change from Q1.

Collingwood highlights:

- The high sale of Q2 was a downtown Heritage home for \$1,106,000. Worth noting is a condo sale in Lighthouse Point for \$1,100,000, a first!
- The low sale was an east side of Town small condo at \$102,000.
- The average price for a resale residence in Collingwood was: detached - \$403,404, condo - \$281,578.
- Q2 (vs Q1): Condos - 30 listed, 30 sold (25 listed, 12 sold); avg DOM 37 (63); avg sale to list price - 98.6% (98.4%)
- Single Family Homes - 55 listed, 36 sold (22 listed, 22 sold); avg DOM 31 (35); avg sale to list price - 98.6% (97.8%)

The Blue Mountains highlights:

- The high sale of Q2 was a waterfront home near Christie Beach, Thornbury at \$1.6M.
- The low sale was a bachelor in a condo-hotel at Blue Mountain for \$109,000.
- Q2 (vs Q1): Condos - 20 listed, 17 sold (15 listed, 6 sold); avg DOM 164 (143); avg sale to list price - 96.7% (95%)
- Single Family Homes - 25 listed, 15 sold (24 listed, 8 sold); avg DOM 80 (107); avg sale to list price - 94% (93.4%)

- The average price for a resale residence in Blue Mountains was: detached - \$538,582, condo - \$308,429.

Clearview highlights:

- The high sale of Q2 was a new, modern home on 50 acres near Devil’s Glen for \$2.5M.
- The low sale was a 2 bedroom, 2 bath home near Creemore for \$200,000.
- The average price for a resale detached residence was \$628,260.
- Q2 (vs Q1): Single Family Homes - 11 listed, 11 sold (9 listed, 5 sold); avg DOM 105 (41); avg sale to list price - 94% (92.4%)

For a detailed analysis of the property you wish to sell or buy, please contact us at your convenience. We are here to help and to save you time.



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LEFT: Interlocking brick pathways wrap around the side and backyard of the home. Mature trees blend with bursting annuals on the grounds. **BELOW:** Two sets of double french doors open off the rear addition to the tea garden. Gorgeous woodwork and stained glass transoms match the style of the original home. **BELOW:** Bird feeders and a bird bath draw in winged visitors, while the boxwood hedge is a sanctuary for the resident groundhog.



Their lawns are cared for by **Georgian Bay Landscaping & Property Maintenance**, **David Whalen** of **WillowStone** is responsible for the care of trees, bushes, and gardens, while arborist **Tobias Effinger** of **Arboreal Tree Care Professionals** handles any pruning. Just behind the house, an outdoor dining area sits amongst a tea garden, complete with boxwood hedges and a garden of rabbit's ears, poppies, and juniper. **Jessie Frey** has been taking care of the interlocking brickwork throughout the backyard. The garden is an inspiring backdrop for the couple and the neighbourhood. **OH**



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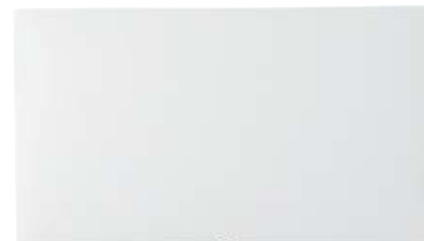
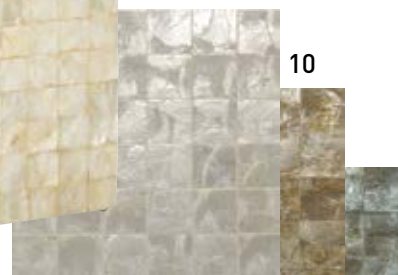
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We look forward to sharing our project portfolio with you and sitting down to discuss the details of your dream renovation or build. **Please contact Kevin Ralph for more information regarding Lavender Hill Homes 705.466.6443 kjralph@yahoo.ca (Please see ad on pg 81)**



DÉCOR DESIGN

Décor Design has expanded their studio and offer an abundance of resources that will turn any home into a beautiful sanctuary! Whether you're renovating or planning a new build, our designers can assist you throughout the process. Our unique and welcoming consulting stations makes each visit an enjoyable experience.

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Décor Design is a Hunter Douglas Showcase Dealer, which includes the gorgeous Alustra Collection. New at Décor Design is Sure Strip wallpaper – no more water trough, just spritz and hang! The best part of Sure Strip is how easy it is to remove – just peel and wipe away the residue. Our newest addition is "Silva". This Canadian-made furniture includes Sarah Richardson and Cobi collections.

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(Please see ad on pg 63)



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Collingwood home sales are at an all-time high and **Blue Fairway's** chalets are leading the way, with an unbeatable combination of luxury and affordability. "We've clearly struck a chord with buyers looking for value in a great location," observes sales representative Jennifer Wootton.

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DINING *on the* BLUFFS

STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Bill Leimgardt has been cultivating his trade for 30 years, coordinating renovations, additions, repairs and maintenance for homes from Stayner to Singhampton and beyond. Working alongside his father before him, and now with his son Justin managing projects, the **Bill Leimgardt Construction** team thrives on the variety and creativity that their work entails. One such creative renovation was done on a family getaway backing onto the Nottawasaga Bluffs outside Singhampton. The Leimgardts had built the homeowners' original weekend home on the scenic site in 1999; 15 years later, the owners were ready to add on and knew who to call.

With the view being a primary focus for the home, the owners' main living space is on the upper level. The Leimgardts added an open kitchen-dining area to that level, while the extra space on the lower levels is dedicated to additional guest rooms.

An open-concept dining space and large kitchen with centre island was added to the home. The homeowners entertain their large extended family for holidays and enjoy hosting friends. Minimal upper cabinets keep the space open, with large windows from Ostaco Windows and Doors providing a high vantage point of the front yard for anyone using the under-mount sink.

» Father and son team Justin and Bill Leimgardt are active in the surrounding community. Justin is a volunteer firefighter with Clearview Township and Bill's handiwork was entrusted to raise a new cross on St. Patrick's Church in Stayner. After 7,200 hours of apprenticing with Bill, just a few short years after completing high school at Collingwood Collegiate Institute, Justin became a licensed general carpenter in 2013.



Floating display shelves sit astride the stove underneath a pair of high windows.

» A stainless-steel range hood and matching stainless-steel backsplash coordinate with appliances throughout the kitchen. Transitional cabinet hardware with wide, brushed-nickel pulls, make for easy opening of drawers and doors while breaking up the dark tone of the woodwork.



The slim spice rack beside the stove slides out, giving the chef easy access.



« The island granite in neutral hues brings light into the centre of the kitchen. Surrounding counters are in an easy-to-care-for matte black granite that doesn't show fingerprints. Above the island, two nautical pendant lights in chrome are lined with metallic copper, providing a golden tone. There is space for three nail-head-trimmed, dark-brown leather bar seats at the island for casual eating or to keep the chef company during meal preparation. *Continued on page 132*



« In the pantry off the kitchen, a second oven ensures all the side dishes can also cook when a turkey or large roast fills the main oven. A second sink and dishwasher handle extra cleanup. There is ample storage for seasonal dishware and small appliances.

» The homeowners worked with designer **Marina Farrow** of **Farrow Arcaro Design** to design the space. Eight-inch reclaimed ash flooring stained black bean was sourced at **Dean's Carpet One Floor & Home**. A nine-foot trestle harvest dining table is dark to match with a coordinating bench seat, softened by a sheepskin. A set of black, arched-back Windsor spindle chairs completes the table. A large, vibrant impressionist-style painting by a local artist fills the wall. An oversize drum pendant with a chrome shade illuminates the table.



» Olive tones on the wall around the dining-room sideboard and artwork in whites and browns play on the dark tones of the cabinetry. A section of glass-panelled display cabinets showcases wine glasses and barware. **OH**



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SUITE

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STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

Sometimes, when work needs to be done on a home, it's better to do it all at once, which is what the owner of a nine-year-old home in The Orchard at Craighleith decided to do after seeing the plans for the kitchen makeover she had requested. **Corinthian Kitchen & Bath Studio** had presented materials and concepts for the kitchen. The owner liked what she saw so much that she asked them to turn their eyes to her master bedroom en suite (and later on to the rest of the home). Corinthian designer **Katrine Barnstaple** worked closely with the homeowner and her decorator to plan the en suite. Katrine saw much potential. An awkward shower had been tucked behind the door, which Katrine suggested would be a more suitable space for the toilet. The existing bath could then be extended and integrated with a glass-walled shower to fill the entire far wall, and a double vanity could be replaced by a pair of vanities sitting on opposite sides of the room. The finished space is luxurious, while organic touches – such as incredible light fixtures in gold-leafed branches with crystal leaves – and mixed metals give it a comfortable air suited to the chalet atmosphere.

« This master en suite is the pinnacle of style-meets-function-meets-comfort. With minimal shifting of plumbing, some gorgeous basalt and tempered glass, the homeowner gets a luxe, pampered bathroom to ready herself for a day on the slopes or a night in the village. Gorgeous tempered glass from **G. Lawrence Enterprizes** runs the room's full 10-foot height. A custom sliding panel closes the shower.



Soft, warm grey walls work with the dark grey basalt tiles and white vanities. The eye is drawn to cheery, colourful artwork such as a red and gold acrylic heart.

» The greys of basalt feature in the room. The dramatic, fine-grained, volcanic rock is formed from cooling lava and quarried from the Atlantic basin – either on the eastern coast of North and South America or the western coast of Europe and Africa. A honed, dark slab surrounds the tub and extends into the shower as a seat. On the floor, large, honed rectangular tiles from Olympia Tile are heated to keep the en suite warm in the cooler months. Small, rectangular tiles cover the full rear wall of the room as well as the face of the tub and interior of the shower.



« A pair of solid maple vanities are painted white and topped with Casearstone in Pure White with white undermount Toto sinks. Light fixtures coordinate throughout the master suite, where gold-leafed, branch-theme, crystal-leaf pendants hang in both the bedroom and bath, and wall sconces on either side of the vanity mirrors host small, white shades. Mixed metals add a casual feel to the space – lighting in gold, faucets and towel bars in chrome, Berenson cabinet hardware in nickel and the door's knob in antique bronze.

A chrome rain showerhead matches the Kohler faucets throughout. A tiled shelf stores shower essentials.

Continued on page 136



Square, brushed nickel Berenson hardware on the vanities contrasts wonderfully with gold light fixtures.

⤴ Chrome plays against the dark-grey basalt tub surround. Crisp, thick, white towels keep the look in the bathroom simple and easy to care for.

» A cooler violet coordinates on the walls of the bedroom outside the en suite. A walk-in closet buffers any sounds to the bedroom. **OH**

» Relocating the toilet into the former shower alcove beside the en suite door not only offers added privacy, but lends a wall for personalized art.



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cooking at home

STEAK TACOS

with
CHIMICHURRI
& AVOCADO SAUCE

STORY AND PHOTOS
JENELLE MCCULLOCH

Try these steak tacos for an easy, yet impressive, summer entertaining meal. Charred skirt steak is topped with refreshing chimichurri and an herbed avocado sauce.



MARINADE

2 lbs flank or skirt steak
juice of 1 lime
1 Tbsp soy sauce
¼ tsp dried chili flakes
1 clove garlic, crushed

ADDITIONAL TOPPINGS (Optional)

Radish, thinly sliced
Jalapeno, thinly sliced
Queso Fresco

PICKLED RED ONIONS

1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, smashed
A few slices of jalapeno or a dried chili
½ tsp peppercorns or pickling spices
½ tsp sugar
½ tsp salt
½ cup white vinegar
Boiling water

CHIMICHURRI SAUCE

1 bunch of parsley
¼ medium onion
2 cloves garlic
½ cup olive oil
juice of 1 lime
2 Tbsp vinegar (red wine, apple cider or white)
salt to taste

AVOCADO SAUCE

2 large avocados
4 cloves garlic
¼ cup onion
handful of watercress
handful of basil
olive oil, as needed
water, as needed
salt to taste

MARINADE

- Mix together ingredients for the steak marinade, pour over steak and set aside.

PICKLED RED ONIONS

- Bring 2-3 cups of water to a boil.
- In a large bowl, mix together garlic, jalapeno, peppercorns or pickling spices, sugar, salt and white vinegar.
- Place thinly sliced red onion in a mesh strainer and pour the boiling water over the slices, letting them drain in the sink. This par-cooks the red onion before pickling.
- Once strained, add the red onion to the pickling mixture and set aside.
- This can be done in advance, but let pickle for at least 30 minutes.

CHIMICHURRI SAUCE

- Finely chop parsley, onion and garlic.
- Mix together with lime juice, vinegar and salt, and set aside.

AVOCADO SAUCE

- Add garlic to a food processor with a teaspoon of salt and pulse.
- Add onion, watercress, parsley, basil and avocado flesh.
- Blend together and slowly add olive oil while processor is running. If the sauce is too thick, add water as needed. Season with salt to taste.

COOK AND ASSEMBLE

- Preheat a cast-iron skillet over high heat, or preheat your outdoor grill, and coat with a layer of cooking oil.
- Once heated, pat the steak dry and sear on each side for 4 minutes for rare (cook longer if preferred).
- Remove steak from heat and let rest 10-15 minutes.
- Thinly slice meat against the grain.
- Serve with flour tortillas, sauces and optional toppings, including radish, jalapeno and Queso Fresco. **OH**

double take

SWEET slumber

Recreate this look in your own home.



PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

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PHOTOGRAPHY **STACEY BRADFORD**

SARAH RICHARDSON

Designer and television personality Sarah Richardson creates timeless and elegant home designs. Her new collection of 100 per cent cotton bed linens and accessories, a new book, *At Home: Sarah Style* and television show *Sarah Off The Grid* are keeping her busy. For a break, Sarah, husband Alexander and their two daughters escape to their farmhouse in Creemore.

OH Why did you choose Creemore for your country home?

SR Creemore is the perfect country setting for us. It's less than two hours from the city, the town is small and charming, with great shops and restaurants, and the area is filled with interesting scenery, beautiful vistas, and delightful people... plus it's close to Collingwood for any bigger city needs. We love the peace, tranquility and privacy of Creemore. The first property we bought in the area had views of the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay – what could be better?

OH What's a kitchen gadget you can't live without?

SR My Nespresso machine – it's my first go-to every morning, makes just the amount I need and is stylishly designed to boot!

OH What's your go-to meal or appetizer when entertaining?

SR Fresh and delicious food, simply prepared and shared with friends. I shop for local produce at the Creemore 100 Mile Store and Blue Ridge Meats. I actually added a recipe section to my latest book *At Home: Sarah Style* that has 45 recipes that I make when entertaining at home. One of my specialties is a delicious barbecued turkey (or chicken).

OH Which room is your favourite?

SR I like the living room in our current spot as it gets beautiful light, it's open-concept and done in pale tones of grey and white. But I'm really going to LOVE the open-concept main floor of the new home we're building.



OH What do you plan to redecorate next?

SR I'm always dreaming of redecorating something, but right now all my thoughts are consumed with planning the house we are building for my new TV series, *Sarah Off The Grid*. We are building a classically inspired modern farmhouse that will run off the grid. I've been tied up with all the major planning that goes along with creating a new show, but I need to get to work on the interiors because there's a million decisions to make and I want to have the time to find all the great, unique, vintage pieces that are signature to my taste and style.

OH What was your most recent local decorating purchase?

SR I bought a watercolour painting of a poppy for my mom (as a thank you for all the help and inspiration she's given me with my garden at the farm). Our daughters chose it for her at Seasons in Creemore.

OH Tell us about your latest DIY project:

SR I've been really busy over the last year with my new home textile collection. It may not be DIY in the typical definition of a small project, but I've designed and produced two full collections of beautiful 100 per cent cotton products that include bedding (sheet sets, duvet cover sets, euro shams), throws, drapery panels, accent pillow covers and table linens. It's been a labour of love and a ton of work but I'm thrilled with the outcome!

OH What local activities do you and your family enjoy?

SR We hike, explore the country roads and take advantage of Georgian Bay by boat when the weather beckons. We can usually be found working away on our property doing something really glamorous that involves a tractor. We ski all winter, snowmobile and cross-country ski. **OH**



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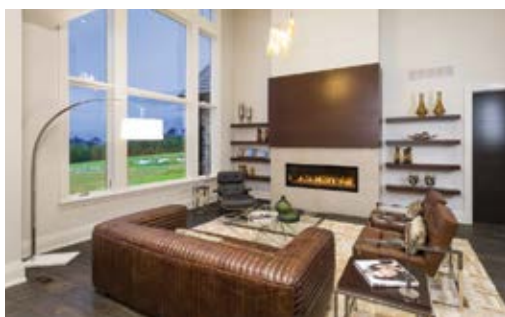
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