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10
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11 SUNDIAL \$229,900



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NEW LISTING 35 CLARK



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PRICED
TO SELL

Our Feature Listing – \$499,000

133 Sleepy Hollow – This private treed lot is a beautiful setting for this lovely hand troweled stucco chalet located walking distance to Craigleith and just minutes to Blue Mountain Village, Alpine Ski Club, Northwinds Beach & Georgian Trail. Open concept kitchen/dining/family room with large stone gas fireplace for ambiance. Large living rm addition could have multiple purposes and is one of the highlights of this chalet along with a brand new deck off the kitchen. Lower level offers many choices. Ideal for guest area w/full walkout to decks & private yard. Mature gardens, multiple car driveway, large private deck all on a ravine lot. Come have a look to have the opportunity to make this chalet your own.

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

Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale. *Independently Owned and Operated E&OE **Award information available at Century 21 Millennium Inc.



MOUNTAINCRAFT



For those seeking a tranquil yet active lifestyle, Collingwood is the perfect choice. Its location on the shores of Nottawasaga Bay gives residents easy access to a huge array of sports and recreational pursuits. Along with excellent dining and shopping establishments and a vibrant business climate, there is truly something for everyone here.

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INVESTMENTS

CO-OWNING YOUR DREAM PROPERTY

50/50 Equity Partnerships Make Sense

Max Hahne – Luxury Property Advisor – Muskoka, Collingwood, Blue Mountain

Is your dream property a waterfront paradise in Muskoka, complete with private dock and guesthouse? Or, is it a luxurious ski-in/ski-out home at Blue Mountain where you can entertain your friends and business associates in style? Or maybe your dream property is a prestigious golf “getaway” in Collingwood with Ontario’s finest hiking and cycling nearby? How about an equestrian estate to raise the horses of your dreams and ride endlessly through magnificent adjacent parklands?

All these dreams are possible... and all these dream properties are available a short drive from Toronto... but they require a more precious commodity than the capital necessary to purchase and maintain them. They require the time... to utilize and enjoy them!

More and more people, who have the financial resources to invest in their dream properties, are discovering that time constraints of busy lives is forcing them to let fantastic opportunities pass them by. As a result, they are missing out on the most attractive recreational real estate investment opportunities that have existed in years.

The problem is not desirability or affordability. Many investors simply cannot “justify” a large capital investment in a lifestyle property they know their family will have limited time to utilize and enjoy.

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*Max Hahne
is Broker of Record,
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Private Office Advisor with
Engel & Völkers
Collingwood Muskoka*

For more information contact Max Hahne at 705-441-5800 or max.hahne@evcanada.com



Dan Stevens
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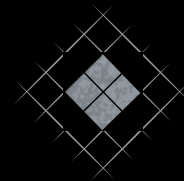


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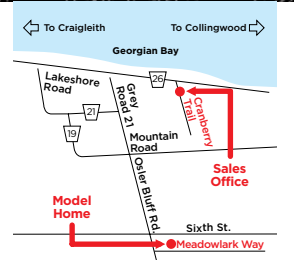
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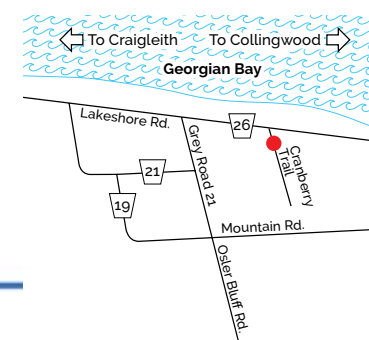
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🛏 3 🏠 2/1 3,464 Total FT²

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🛏 6 🏠 3/1 4,000 Total FT²

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3672 124 County Road
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🛏 5 🏠 4/1 4,542 Total FT²

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\$349,000

23 Sundial Court
Collingwood
🛏 4 🏠 4 2,460 Total FT²

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Collingwood
🛏 3 🏠 2 2,518 Total FT²

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🛏 4 🏠 4/1 6,483 Total FT²

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🛏 5 🏠 4 3,600 Total FT²

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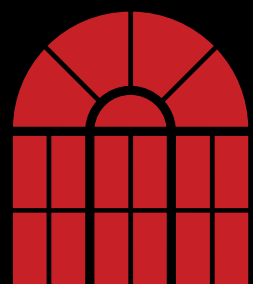
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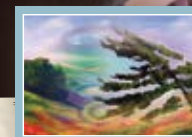
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WHICH COVER IS YOUR FAVOURITE?

There are 40 magazines from the last 10 years to choose from. Since 2006, you've seen inside at least 120 homes across Southern Georgian Bay. Big, small, mansions, farms, condos, log homes, cottages, mountain, beach, modern, heritage and everything in between. This region is not only full of incredible geography, but full of beautiful homes and stories about the people who designed, built, finished, landscaped and live in the homes.

And this region is also full of readers like you. OUR HOMES wouldn't be doing this without you. Whether you've been reading OUR HOMES since the beginning, or pick us up now and then, or maybe this is your first issue ever, thank you for joining us in celebrating our 10th anniversary.

In this special issue, we have some of the wonderful stories you've come to expect. Two winter home getaways – one minimalist and modern, and the other a chalet built for play. For those of you in the market for a new home, we showcase options from three developers in the region.

We've doubled down on our People profiles and bring you inside the homes of 20 home-focused professionals and business owners who have been with OUR HOMES in this region since the beginning. They share some of their own 10-year milestones.

This photo shows the dedicated team members who bring you OUR HOMES: publishers, editors, administrators, the art and production team, photographers and sales representatives. We are all looking forward to the next 10 years.

Cheers!

Laurel Fortin

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laurel.fortin@ourhomes.ca

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FRONT ROW: Publisher and Managing Director Jamie Jefferson, Editor-In-Chief Georgette McCulloch, Administrator Lisa Merrell. **2ND ROW:** Managing Editor Laurel Fortin, Associate Publisher Simone Sterio-Risk, Sales Representative Betty Ann Fawcett, Photographer Sandy MacKay. **3RD ROW:** Photographer Bonnie Fox, Head of Accounting Donna Duggan, Production Director Lynn Derrick. **TOP ROW:** Art Director Tara Chattell, Associate Art Director Georgie Donais, OHMGI Partner Glenn Henderson, Sales Representative Suzanne Strong. Missing from this photo are Associate Art Director Sheila Britton, Production Manager Kelly Donaldson, Administrator Roberta Markauskaite and Distribution Manager Ellie Shaw.



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Please send all letters and/or feedback to OUR HOMES Magazine,
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 All letters received are subject to editing for grammar and length.

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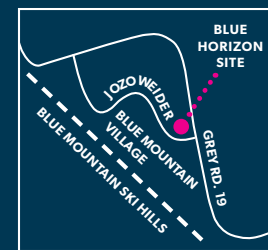
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Eggplant Lasagna



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publisher's note

10
YEARS



TIME SURE FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN.

Ten years ago, I was admiring a new publication that I pulled out of my mail box – OUR HOMES. It was published by David Loopstra, a guy I met through other writing I was doing at the time. I offered to help, Dave said Ok and off we went on a ride that picked up speed and rounded many corners over the years.

This past July, Dave decided to move on and sold the company to me, my husband

Jamie Jefferson, and partners Glenn and Scott Henderson. We couldn't be happier, and send thanks to Dave for all his hard work over the years.

This magazine, OUR HOMES Southern Georgian Bay, is our company's flagship publication.

In all, we publish 16 OUR HOMES magazines across Ontario; nine are corporately owned while the others are owned and operated by individual franchisees. Jamie started two of those magazines and brought them in-house when the company changed hands.

All the magazines are produced right here in Collingwood by a very smart, creative and talented group of people who live and play in Southern Georgian Bay. We are proud of our accomplishments and super pleased to be celebrating our 10th Anniversary.

At OUR HOMES we celebrate life at home. We all cherish the places we call home. It's where we nurture and feed our families and where we welcome and entertain friends. Home is where we unwind and find solace in our own private space. At home, we're free to express ourselves through architecture, design and furnishings. Our homes reflect who we are and how we live.

It has been a privilege and honour to be a part of OUR HOMES for the past 10 years. Our team values and appreciates our loyal readers and advertising partners and we will continue to provide exceptional value and local stories about all-things home. It's what we do – celebrate life at home.

Sincerely,

Georgette

Georgette McCulloch
Editor-In-Chief
georgette.mcculloch@ourhomes.ca

Jamie

Jamie Jefferson
Publisher and Managing Director
jamie.jefferson@ourhomes.ca



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TRIM DETAILS

Architectural details are an important part of your home's aesthetic, whether they stand out as a dominant feature or remain minimal and inconspicuous. Crown mouldings, door and window casings and baseboards all aid in defining your home's overall style. But what are they for anyhow? Does your home require trim or can you do without it? Let's look at the purpose of trim and how styles can change the look of your home.

The Basics

Traditionally, moulding serves a purpose. It is not just "make-up" for your home. Take baseboard (or skirting) for instance. A baseboard covers the gap between the bottom of your wall where it meets the floorboards or carpeting. Baseboard is traditionally composed of three parts – the base, the shoe and a cap. Using a more contemporary approach, the baseboard is one part and then a small shoe to cover the gap is applied. The more modern you go, the fewer parts you tend to use. Personally, I prefer a baseboard without a shoe mould, but in some instances it's unavoidable.

1. Crown
2. Architrave
3. Casing
4. Panel Mould
5. Chair Rail
6. Baseboard

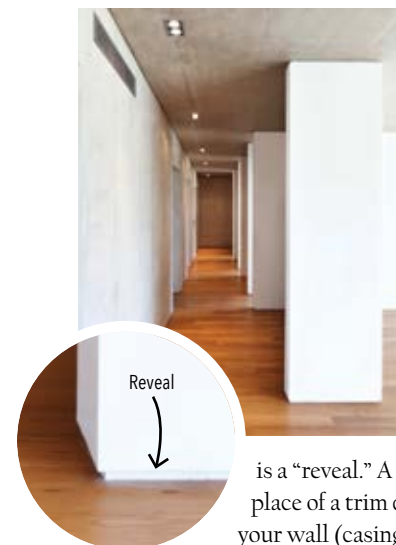


PHOTO COURTESY OF METRIE

Casing is applied around a window or door and covers the gap between the window and the wall, or the jamb. Typically, this area is insulated and the casing is a decorative piece of wood that can be assembled in several parts to include a sill and a header, or as a simple picture-frame style. The casing that surrounds your windows would also follow through to the interior doors. A general rule of thumb is that a more decorative casing means a more traditional style.

Crown moulding is the piece that covers the seam between the wall and ceiling. It generally rests against the ceiling and wall with a space in between. A crown (or cornice) is typically plaster or wood, but more modern materials like plaster and foam are also used. In a traditional Victorian home for example, the living and dining rooms would have larger-scale cornice in stained wood and the second floor would use a smaller scale. This gave the main entertainment space a sense of grandeur.

Architectural details go way beyond trim. They include wainscoting, ceiling beams, plate rails, chair rails, plinth blocks, or any piece of trim that you would apply to walls or ceilings to enhance or define a particular look. You need an architectural dictionary to learn all of the terminology!



A Modern Approach

So if all of this trim work has a purpose, how are modern homes going without? It actually takes (arguably) a lot more work to use NO trim than it does to use case, crown and base. And cost-wise, you may save on materials, but you will pay your drywaller much more for the finishing. And fair enough, because it's a lot of work!

A term that is very common in modern architectural detailing

is a "reveal." A reveal is a small gap that is used in place of a trim detail. Rather than adding pieces to your wall (casing), a reveal looks like an indent into your wall. This means that where the drywall ends, there is a small indent or reveal. All of this is finished in drywall with corner beads and a painted finish. This allows for a completely clean and simple look.

If you want to achieve a modern look, you have a few things to consider. First of all, budget! You may save on materials if you choose to omit casing, but you will likely spend more on drywalling. Don't assume that less detail equals less cost.

If the budget is tight but you still want modern, a common choice is simple flat stock. A simple three-inch board can make a very nice trim piece if done correctly. It is cost effective and has a contemporary look. Get quotes first before making a decision.

Choosing these details is tedious and does require a certain amount of thought and expertise. The scale of everything has to coordinate with the scale of the house and with other architectural details. The style should be continuous. Having a contractor bring samples to a site and create a mock-up is the best way to actually see what your choices will look like in your home. This is where hiring a professional has value! **OH**

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Continued on page 30

style picks



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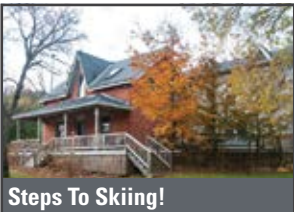
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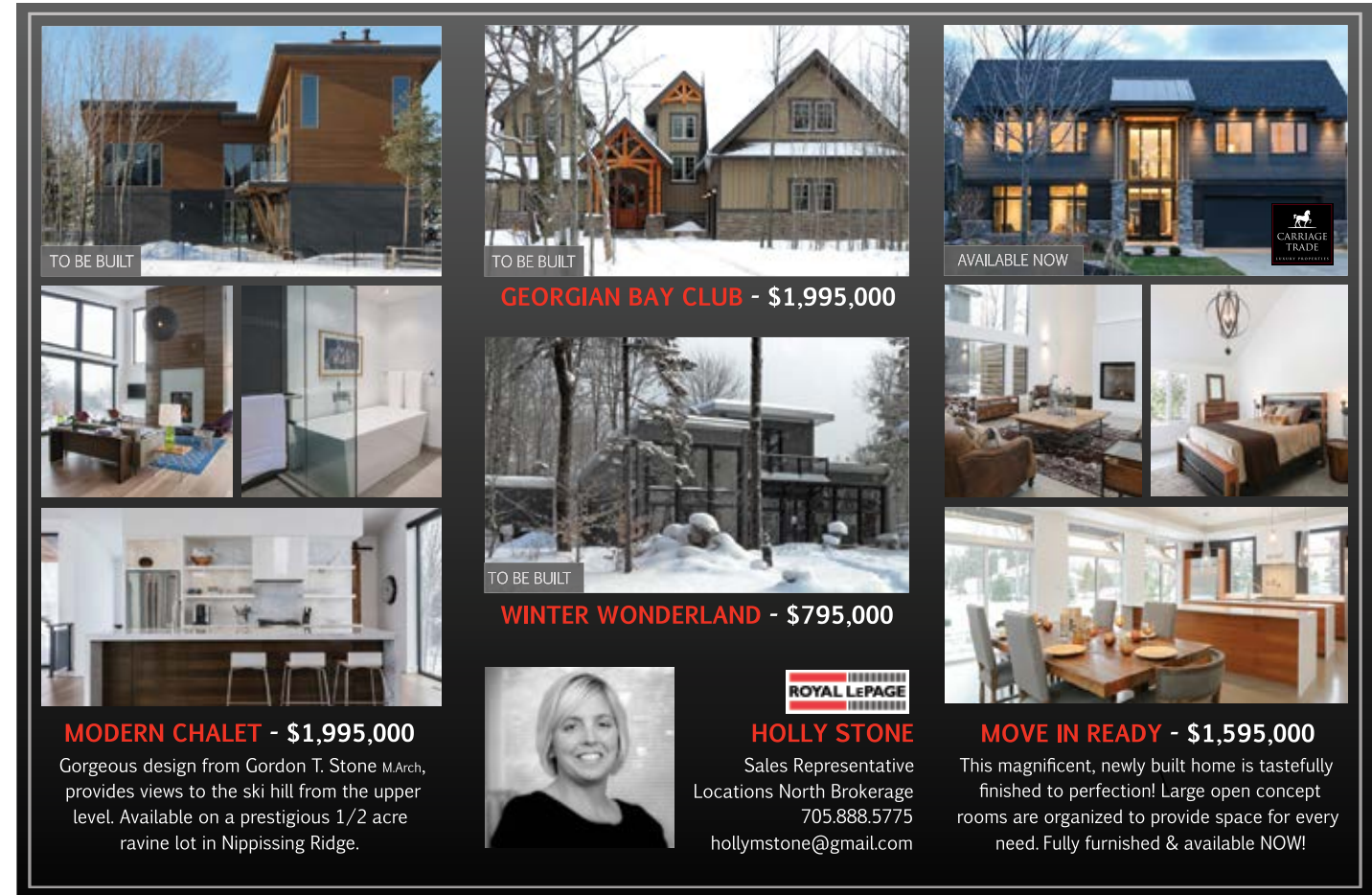


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Light It Up

STORY **MELISSA HARE**

Whether it's a dinner party or a weeknight meal, a formal dining room or a causal dinette, your dining space is an important part of your home.



No longer are you confined to a limited selection of chandeliers and pendants.



Choosing the right light will not only provide a visual focal point in your room, but will create the ideal atmosphere for each dining occasion. Before visiting your local lighting showroom, consider these tips to help narrow your search for the perfect light.

Measure

Before hitting the stores, consider the proportions of your room and furniture. The following three measurements will help determine the size of light that will best suit your room.

- **Ceiling Height:** The height of your ceiling will determine the approximate length of light you should be looking for. When hanging a light over your table, ensure there is enough space between the bottom of the light and your tabletop. Generally, this is about 30 to 36 inches.
- **Table Size:** A common rule of thumb is to choose a light that is one-half to three-quarters of the diameter of the maximum width of your table.
- **Room Dimensions:** If you're purchasing a light before picking your table, consider using the dimensions of the room to determine the right fit. A simple formula that many lighting experts use is to add the length and width of the room. The total of these two dimensions in feet will equal the appropriate chandelier diameter in inches.

For example: If your room is 12 by 14 feet, you will be looking for a light that is approximately 26 inches in diameter.

Continued on page 38



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Locate

You've made your measurements, now it's time to find your electrical box. Ideally you want the electrical box centred over your table, but sometimes this isn't the case. Here are a few options to correct an off-centre electrical box.

- **Swag It:** For a quick and easy fix, consider installing a swag hook above the centre of your table. This means you should be looking for a light with a chain, so you can drape it from the electrical box to the hook. When installing the hook, don't forget to secure it to a ceiling joist.
- **Hide It:** In some instances, the existing electrical box isn't far from the middle of the table. It's possible to create the illusion of a centred light by selecting a fixture with a long electrical box cover. This will allow you to conceal the location of the box and make the light appear to be hanging directly over the centre of the table.
- **Move It:** If you're willing to invest some extra money, consider having an electrician visit to discuss the option of relocating your electrical box. You may even want to add extra electrical boxes to accommodate several pendants over your table. Consult with your electrician to discuss your options before choosing your fixture.

Style

No longer are you confined to a limited selection of chandeliers and pendants. Today's lighting options include lanterns, orbs and a variety of geometrical shapes, allowing you to truly incorporate your lighting into the overall style of your home. Consider other elements in the space, such as hardware finishes, accent colours and design style, before narrowing your selection. Are there other ceiling lights, lamps or wall sconces nearby? If so, you may want to consider choosing a light with a similar metal finish or style.

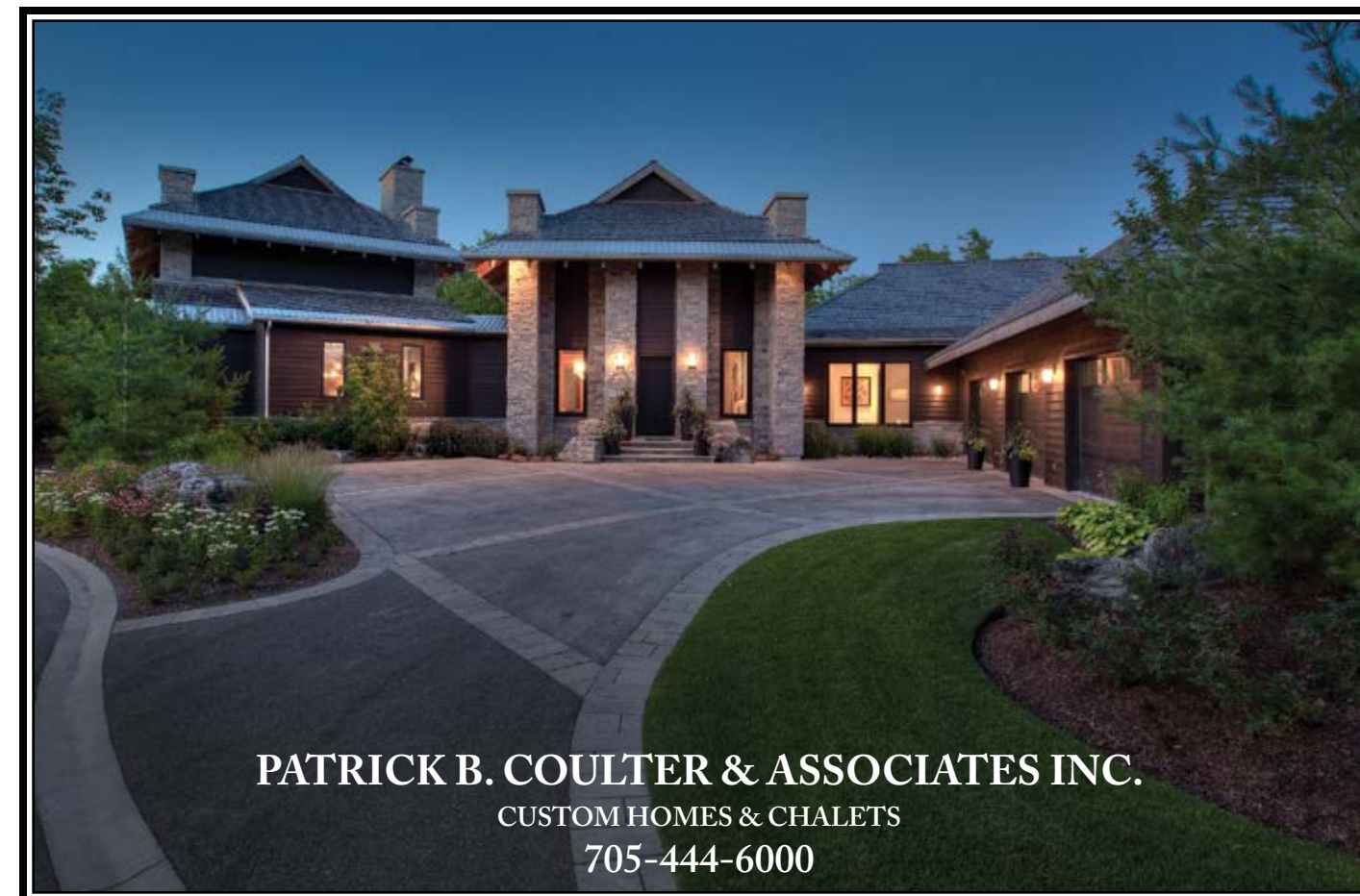
Illuminate

While style and aesthetics are important, you also want to ensure that the light you choose will provide the appropriate illumination for your space. If you're replacing a light fixture, check the current number of bulbs and wattage. Is it enough? Do you need more light? If you are satisfied with the amount of light you currently have, make sure you choose a light with equal wattage. When in doubt, choose a light with extra wattage. You can always install a dimmer switch that will allow you to control light levels for each occasion. Now is a great time to switch to energy-efficient bulbs if you haven't already. Speak to your lighting consultant about energy efficient lighting options for your dining space.

Budget

Dining room fixtures vary widely in price. It's a good idea to have a budget in mind when setting out to find the perfect light. A lighting consultant can help narrow down the options that fit both budget and style. It's also important to note that lighting showrooms will often offer a multi-product discount so it's a good idea to consider other upcoming lighting needs. **OH**

1. **FEISS:** Hobson 3-Light Chandelier 2. **HINKLEY LIGHTING:** Fulton Chandelier 3. **ARTCRAFT LIGHTING:** Castello Chandelier 4. **HINKLEY LIGHTING:** Karma Chandelier 5. **DVI LIGHTING:** Uptown Pendant 6. **FEISS:** Chateau 8-Light Single Tier Chandelier 7. **PROGRESS LIGHTING:** Trestle Four-Light Pendant



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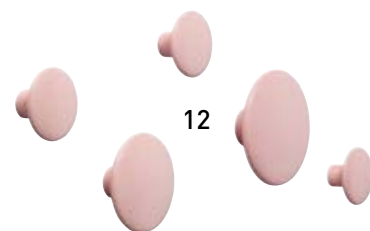
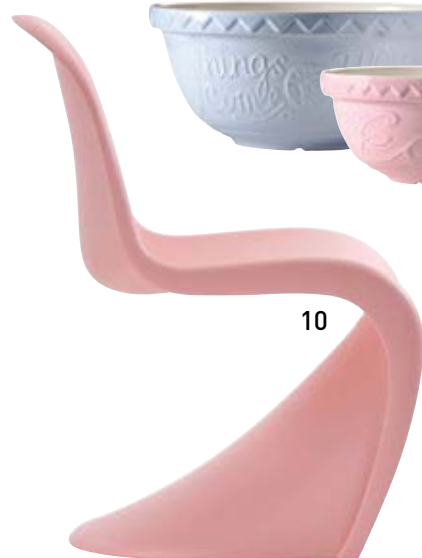




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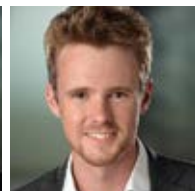
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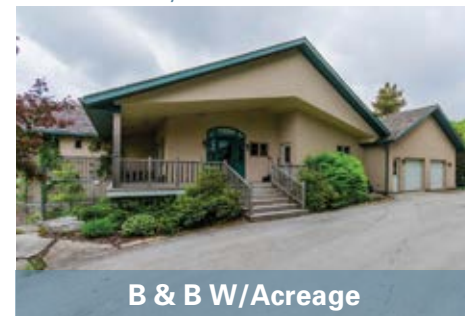
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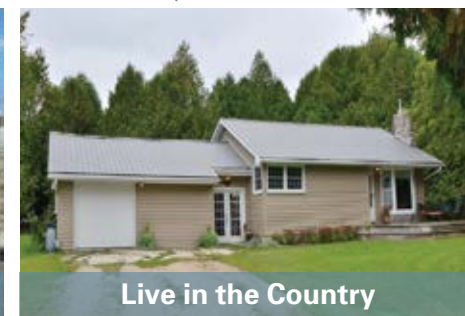
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DEFINING MINIMALISM

STORY **SARAH ISBISTER** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY** | STYLING **SARA MARTIN**

A pair of replica Chinese Ming dynasty chairs back onto the view from the square windows of this modern winter home. The home is filled with many such storied pieces, such as chrome E-1027 side tables by Irish modern designer Eileen Gray. Flower arrangement courtesy of Paperwhite Flowers.



ABOVE: Builder Rob Abbott of Village Builders Inc. opens the yellow door on the otherwise charcoal steel home. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** The main living space and garage are connected by the central entry. **BOTTOM:** The owners charge their electric car at a plug station in the garage.

An exercise in minimalism and sustainability, a corrugated-steel-clad 1,600 sq. ft. home for a Toronto couple stands dark against a snowy escarpment valley.

Rob Abbott oversaw the build, erected by his crew at **Village Builders Inc.** They worked in close collaboration with designers at Toronto-based Stark Architects Inc. who recommended the Creemore-based builders to the project knowing it would go up exactly to quality specification.

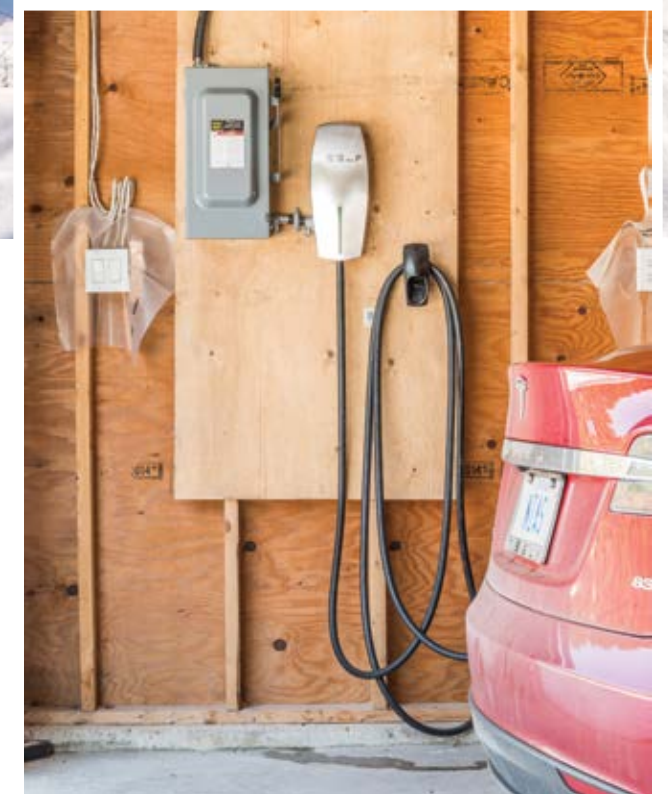
The home is not just aesthetically minimal, it is designed for minimal energy consumption and minimal maintenance. “The owners’ vision, down to the smallest detail, made the build process simple to execute and it shows in the finished product,” says Abbott.

The design of the house accomplishes many goals. The garage and house are two distinct, offset structures, connected by the entry foyer. End walls of both structures extend in parapets above the gabled roof – all clad in stock-coloured, factory-painted, charcoal steel, creatively installed by Village Builders. The house has an office at each end: one for each of the owners, a couple whose head offices are in the city. It provides a gallery to display their extensive collection of Canadian art. And, since the couple owns a second home nearby that can accommodate visitors, grandchildren and friends, this new primary residence could be modest in size to keep heating costs low.



End walls give a sleek face to the house by extending above the roofline.

The garage houses a Tesla Motors wall charger where the owners can recharge their electric car. The garage doors, sourced and installed by Peninsula Overhead Doors Inc., are service-station doors, made with polycarbonate semi-opaque panels. LED lighting is used throughout for low-energy consumption, and it was important to the owners to have minimal outdoor lighting. The front walk is lit with waist-high lights that point downward from the side of the house, and enough indoor light emits through the front windows and garage to light the way to the entrance. The owners wanted to comply with the area’s informal dark sky policy, which requests that homes cast little or no light upward in order to better observe the night sky. Robert Best of Best Contracting Ltd. completed the excavation, septic system and landscaping. The alarm and security cameras were installed by Ardco Systems Inc. from Parry Sound. *Continued on page 48*





LEFT: A mix of open shelving and white lacquer cabinets blend the kitchen workspace into living room storage and a television area.
BELOW: Stainless steel appliances pair with large, white backsplash tiles for a simple look.
OPPOSITE: Leathered granite gives an easy-to-clean counter surface in the galley kitchen. Oiled oak floors throughout the home are easy to maintain. A LED light fixture, elegant in its simplicity runs the length of the kitchen.



The entrance welcomes guests into a spacious hall and immediately opens into the dining room, living room and kitchen. There are large square windows on one side looking out to the valley and on the other looking out to the pines along the driveway; the windows were supplied by Mark Campbell of **ROSS Windows & Doors**. The linen draperies in the living room are unique in their design. Custom made by Kathy Komlos of Fine Craft Upholstery, they hang on plumbing-pipe rods and needed to be sized so that, when drawn fully open, the fabric folds in such widths that the windows are unobscured. Additional blinds in the offices, bedrooms, bathroom and entrance were provided by **Shades & Shutters Inc.** and can be drawn top-down or bottom-up.

Hobbs Home Solutions painted the

interior of the house in Benjamin Moore's 2016 colour of the year: Simply White, which is a favourite of the owner. There are no corridors in the house and few doors; doors that are installed are pocket doors, aside from the powder room and laundry room. The laundry is conveniently adjacent to the master bedroom. Ceramic tile from **Desert Tile**, installed by **Paolo's Custom Flooring**, is used in the bathrooms, front entrance, laundry and one office. The rest of the flooring is hardwood, engineered reclaimed structural oak from Majestic North Floors Inc. Carpeting in the lower level guest suite is from **Dean's Carpet One Floor & Home**. Baseboards and trim are just a few centimetres in height, and windowsills are finished with a drywall return rather than casings, giving a clean look. *Continued on page 52*





Custom LED-disc lights can be angled to adjust light direction.



A bookcase doubles as a sidebar and a custom-made steel light fixture is suspended by clear-corded wiring in the dining area. The owners are active art collectors, so the the wall leading to one of the home offices was incorporated as the only space in the many-windowed home to display a series of five favourite works.



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The kitchen is separated from the living and dining room by a dual-level counter in leathered granite. The reverse side is composed of open shelves finished with white lacquer and used for displaying artefacts and books in the dining room. In the kitchen, more open shelves in the same finish are featured for glassware and other attractive pieces. The cabinets were built by Dylan Barlow of Barlow Cabinetworks and the countertop is from **Di Pietra Design**. Plumbing here and in the bathrooms was installed by Andy Mueller of Mueller Plumbing Contractors and the fixtures are Aquabrass from Marks Supply Inc. Hardware everywhere was supplied by Upper Canada Specialty Hardware.

The LED dining chandelier and office fixtures were designed by Patrick Stark Design, as was the 12-foot kitchen light and hanging, LED disc lights throughout the home. The audio system was installed by ARDCO. *Continued on page 54*

RIGHT AND BELOW CENTRE: A pair of simple but efficient his-and-hers offices flank the main living space. **BELOW LEFT:** The grandfather clock keeps time by the main entrance. **BELOW RIGHT:** A narrow powder room with gold-framed mirror services guests on the main floor.



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LEFT AND BOTTOM LEFT: The master suite is separated from the main room by a simple floor-to-ceiling pocket door. **BELOW:** The en suite is practical, including a spacious walk-in shower and a large tub that sits under the window.



The mirrors were designed and fabricated to glide on barn-door-like hardware.



The lower level houses a guest suite, exercise space and storage as well as the workings of the house. The mechanicals include a top line HVAC system, on-demand water heater, air-to-air heat pump and a forced-air, propane-fired back-up, all installed by **Nottawasaga Mechanical**. The electrical system by **Bear Electric** has enough capacity to charge additional electric cars. **The Generator Guys** provided the Generac back-up system. In this minimalist design, Village Builders demonstrate what modern and efficient amenities are capable of: a low-maintenance, attractive home with a feeling of comfort and welcome. **OH**



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Hang sheers as wide as possible, covering a whole wall.

STORY YANIC SIMARD
PHOTOGRAPHY TED YARWOOD

Benjamin Moore:
OC-23 Classic Gray

Benjamin Moore:
2124-70 Distant Gray

BRINGING WHITE to life



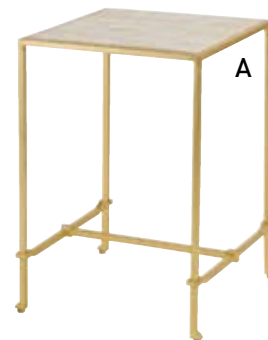
Here's a trick question: How do you make a stark white space feel like a cosy home? My first step is to cheat with a near-white shade, like Benjamin Moore's 2124-70 Distant Gray. If you love this clean but welcoming look, read on for 10 more tips to take your space from blank slate to beautiful.

PHOTO: BRANDON BARRE

Sumptuous Neutrals

1 One of the best ways to emphasize the crispness of white is to give the eye something to compare it to. A dash of cream or pale grey will let the white sparkle by comparison, while also giving your palette some depth. Try Benjamin Moore's OC-23 Classic Gray for a subtle contrast.

2 Gold is a must-have metal, and a classic way to warm up a chilly space without resorting to hot hues like red or orange (which can go out of fashion much more quickly). Switch out aluminum-legged tables or plain black frames with a gold upgrade to add a bit of unexpected but inviting sparkle.



How To: Use an off-white paint for details in the space such as cabinetry, window trim or banisters (which will also help hide fingerprints), and hang a few gold-framed mirrors for double depth.

Touch-Me Textures

3 Breezy sheers are virtually essential to creating a light and airy white-on-white look: they evoke the feeling of beach-front resort residences. Hang them floor to ceiling, even letting them puddle just slightly on the floor, for an easy, casual elegance.

4 Every space needs texture, especially a monochromatic one. Contrast light and soft materials with heavier fabrics (like rich velvets or rugged wool) so the tactile palette is diverse, even when the colour scheme is simple.

How To: Hang sheers as wide as possible (covering a whole wall for the ultimate European resort effect) and pile on plush pillows to round out the fabric palette.

Continued on page 58

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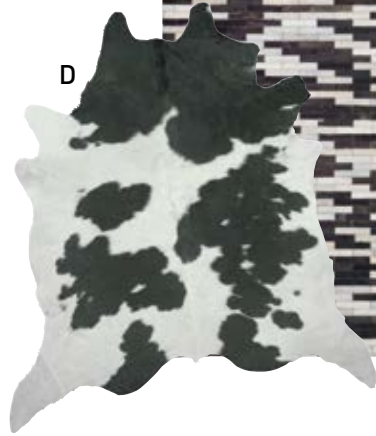
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C



D



E



Natural Materials

5 Wood floors work for virtually any sort of space, but they're especially essential to making a white room feel like home. Don't have hardwood to show off? Add some in with accents like woodblock side tables, wooden picture frames, a butcher-block counter or some simple driftwood art.

6 Marble, quartz and other stones are a rich source of organic patterning that adds visual interest and even more texture to a space, further highlighting the crispness of white while adding some perfect imperfections to keep the look from feeling clinical.

How To: Use stone and wood for surfaces like flooring, counters, backsplashes and tile, or introduce these natural elements through stools, chests, tables and other small furnishings.

Undercover Colours

7 Navy is a special kind of colour: it's a true neutral, but also a radiant hue. It's a perfect go-to when you want to add some interest to your palette without overwhelming other colours – plus it helps make whites look extra clean and bright.

8 Leafy greens are another option that feels like a neutral "non-colour" while actually sneaking a new hue into the room along with a sense of natural life. Grab anything from an oversized fiddle-leaf fig tree to a small easy-care cactus to give a room a breath of fresh air.

How To: Add navy upholstery, pillows, or accessories – and a living plant – to cheat some colour into an all-white scheme without disrupting the breezy ambience.

Finishing Underfoot

9 Spreading your colour palette throughout a space creates cohesiveness, and this is true even for white. Use rugs, ottomans, or other low pieces to add hits of white into the centre of the space, so it isn't only found on the walls – this way the entire room will feel tied together.

10 As a final touch, a bold black and white rug can't be beat. Even a clean white space can use some graphic black to punctuate it, and a geometric pattern adds some dynamic energy that keeps the space engaging, no matter where you look.

How To: A timeless black and white stripe works anywhere, from the living room to the bathroom to the foyer. For an alternate option, try a classic black-and-white cowhide, which can fit into small or odd-shaped spaces. **OH**

F



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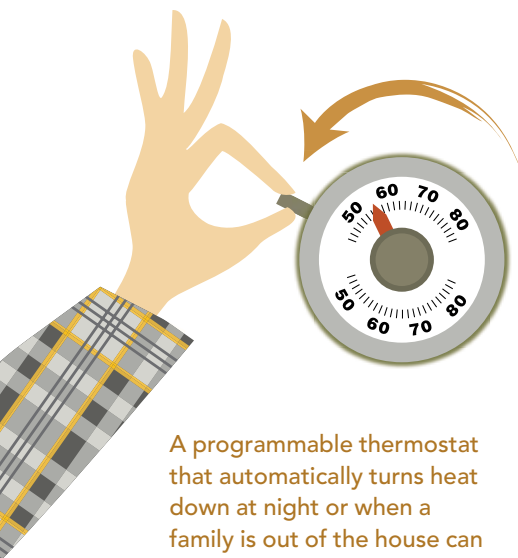
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HOW TO SAVE ON *high* ENERGY PRICES

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**
ILLUSTRATIONS **SHEILA BRITTON**

Soaring electricity bills and seesawing natural gas prices are spurring home energy conservation like never before.

In the past five years, Ontario's hydro rates have jumped 50 per cent for off-peak power and 77 per cent for on-peak energy. During the same period, natural gas prices have bounced year-to-year and currently sit at 24-30 per cent lower than in 2010. But in 2014, one major gas company was charging twice as much as it did in 2015.

Home heating takes the biggest bite of home energy costs in Canada and it's where homeowners can best pare expenses. Keeping cold out and heat in is the most basic and cost-effective method to do so.

Improve The Thermal Envelope

Improving a home's thermal envelope – the walls, windows and doors – with insulation, weatherstripping and caulking can cut heating bills. Double-pane windows and insulated doors also help. "The best way you can save energy in a home is the envelope," says Dale Tebby, owner of Team Tebby Air Conditioning and Heating. "Insulation is the best place to spend your money. There's no question about that," says Tebby, a home heating expert for 48 years. "If you get your heat loss on the structure low enough, it doesn't matter how you heat it. It's cheap."

Install A Programmable Thermostat

Small and inexpensive, a programmable thermostat that automatically turns heat down at night or when a family is out of the house can cut energy bills by as much as 10 per cent, Hydro One estimates.

Burn Wood

A clean-burning, energy-efficient wood stove or fireplace can save money on home heating, says Shelley Wallace, co-owner of Fireplace

& Leisure Centre. "Even using your wood-burning appliance in just the two coldest months of the year, January and February, can save up to 40 per cent of your annual heating costs," she says. A reliable firewood supplier, she says, is essential to getting wood in a timely fashion and dried properly or delivered early enough to be stacked and dried before the heating season. The cost of a wood stove and installation varies, depending on the type of stove, difficulty of installation and chimney height. "A full system, including product and installation, would range from \$4,500 to \$15,000," Wallace says.

Go Solar

Harnessing sunshine to make electricity can help to offset electrical bills. Under Ontario's microFIT program, homeowners can get a 20-year contract to produce solar energy and sell it to the power grid. Stuart Watt, general manager of Paid4Power, a firm that installs solar panel systems, estimates the average cost of a microFit project at \$36,000. He predicts it will generate a gross income of about \$80,000 over 20 years. "These systems pay themselves off after approximately seven-and-a-half years," he says.

Net metering is another method using almost the same technology. It has a two-directional meter that credits a homeowner's hydro bill with the solar energy produced for the grid, effectively lowering the monthly

Continued on page 62



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Harnessing sunshine to make electricity can help to offset electrical bills. Under Ontario's microFIT program, homeowners can get a 20-year contract to produce solar energy and sell it to the power grid.



electricity bill. “While it is impossible to eliminate the bill completely, a proper sized system can lower the bill by as much as 95 per cent,” Watt says. These systems pay for themselves after about 10 years, he estimates.

For those who want complete electrical energy independence, an off-the-grid solar power system that stores electricity in batteries costs an average of \$55,000 and takes about 20 years to pay for itself.

Increase Efficiency

If a home furnace is 15 years old or older, replacing it with a high-efficiency Energy Star model can save more than 30 per cent of annual heating costs, manufacturers estimate.

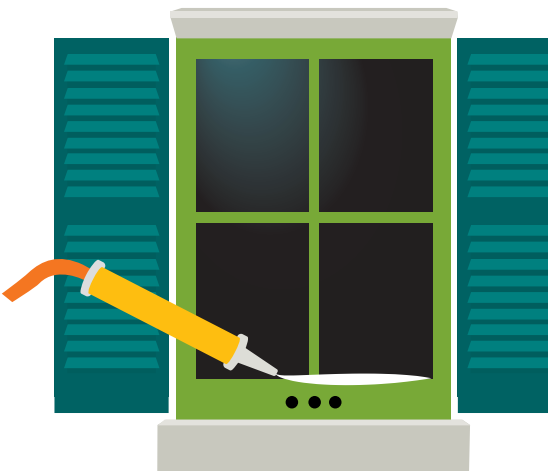
Tebby's heating company goes even further. “We wouldn't sell you a furnace that wasn't way better than Energy Star,” says the owner. “What we're selling now typically is 96 per cent efficient – two-stage furnaces that have an electronically controlled, variable speed

motor. We consider that a bare minimum,” Tebby says. “That's what's going to give everybody the best bang for their buck both in comfort and energy.”

He cautions against scrimping on the cost of the furnace itself. Someone who insists on a cheaper furnace might save \$100, but will promptly pay that saving to Hydro One or a fuel supplier within a year, he warns.

Total Control

For homeowners who want to control more than heat, smart technology, such as the Control 4 system, is an option. These systems can regulate thermostats, manage lights, adjust the blinds or draw the curtains. If the garage door is left open, the system can alert the homeowner and then shut it. It can turn off all the TVs in the house, lock doors and set alarms – all controlled from a touch screen, computer or cell phone, from anywhere in the world. **OH**



Improving your home's thermal envelope – adding insulation, weatherstripping doors and caulking windows – can cut your heating bills.

Turn your home on.

A photograph of a modern living room with large windows, a white sofa, and a fireplace. A smartphone in the foreground displays a smart home control app with icons for lights, music, temperature, and more. To the right, a list of smart home features is provided, along with the Redbrick logo and contact information.

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A photograph of the Farrow Arcaro Design storefront at night, featuring large windows displaying interior design items and a sign above the entrance.

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Susan McDonald and
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RAISING THE GRAIN

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

THE PLACE: At the southwest corner of Thornbury's Bruce and Louisa streets, **C & G Solid Wood Furniture Co.** entices you in for a look. While furniture is its namesake, five rooms inside are full of home décor inspiration. The shop opened in 2012, after owner Laureen Van Groningen thought Thornbury would be a great spot to open a satellite shop of her family's successful Cambridge store. "My family has been skiing in Southern Georgian Bay since 1998, and I knew this community would be a great fit for the beautiful furniture we make," says Laureen. With the help of Manager Susan McDonald, C & G has become a go-to for furniture in the region's homes, as well as the finishing touches for home décor.

THE SERVICES: "Our furniture is made with solid wood, and it's made to last," says Laureen. If you like what you see in the store, purchase it. But, what if you like the style, but it's too large, small, short or tall? C & G's carpenters can customize for you. "We love offering our customers the flexibility of getting the wood, finish, texture and hardware the way they want it," says Laureen.



THE STYLE: You'll find a broad range of furniture designs, including the industrial-style Distillery collection with metal pipe legs and the Millwright Beam collection. Railroad-spike wall-mounted coat racks and hall trees easily support heavy winter gear. Home décor complements the region's laid back style with playful, quality-made pillows, bedding and lamps.

WHAT'S HOT: Live-edge charcuterie boards in solid maple are hot. They come with optional engraved place names including Georgian Bay, Thornbury, Collingwood, Blue Mountain and more.



Figurines are making a décor comeback, like a trio of Brighton Beach-posed women, as are animals of all strokes – you'll find a ram and duck in driftwood and linen, or forest animals in glazed white ceramic. Vintage-look photography is also trending – crisply framed downhill skis and skiers bring a touch of colour into snowy scenes.

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20 HOME ACHIEVERS

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

To mark our 10th anniversary, OUR HOMES invited some familiar faces to help us celebrate. They've all been with us since the beginning. They share some of their own milestones from the past 10 years, and let us peek inside their homes.



**DAVID PATTERSON,
JOHN MEALEY
& DIANE SCOTT**
Cedarport Window & Door Centre Inc.

10-Year Milestones: Our three-person ownership group came together three years ago when John joined Diane and Dave, who had worked with Cedarport for 18 years and 30 years, respectively! We each bring something to the table so it has worked out well.

Success Secrets: We try to do what we say we will when we say we will do it. It's also been important to have a team that takes their positions to heart and genuinely care about the company and their co-workers.

Where Were You Photographed? In John and his wife Sue's lovely home that they renovated in 2014. The home is close to the Thornbury shop so we often have team meetings at this central spot.



**MELANIE & HAROLD
ROBISON, Principal**
Bob Armstrong Construction Ltd.

10-Year Milestones: We have had the privilege of working with wonderful clients to build for. It brings us real satisfaction to see our clients so happy. Personally, we built and moved to our home outside Thornbury.

Success Secrets: It isn't really a secret: honesty and good communication are key. Building homes in a clean and happy atmosphere along with good cooperation with our trades allows us to deliver the quality our clients expect.

Where Were You Photographed? In our kitchen, where our morning cappuccino together is a great way to start our day. We love to look out at the beauty we are surrounded by: the pond and waterfall in the front yard; deer, turkey and fox travelling through the back yard.

Continued on page 70



MARK BROWN

Owner, A.M. Contracting

10-Year Milestones: We have built some incredible homes and met some great clients along the way. Being able to sponsor local teams has been a way to show my appreciation and a fun way to get a community together.

Success Secrets: Luck and honesty. The capability to build great homes, which wouldn't be possible to do without an excellent crew. We've been in business for 15 years and most of our business is by referral.

Where Were You Photographed? At home in Meaford with my kids Travis, Jayli and Trayne on the upper balcony. My favourite place at home is the back yard – the pond where we kick back and relax, and the hockey pad where all three kids play.



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MARK & JENNIFER ROBINSON

Owners, Robinson's Paint & Wallpaper

10-Year Milestones: Acquiring wonderful staff members who understand the philosophy of good customer service. The business celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013. We have expanded the products that we offer as well as purchased a parcel of property for our parking lot behind the store.

Success Secrets: Offering good products to our customers. Having a good understanding of the products. Presenting useful information to the customer in a friendly, helpful way.

Where Were You Photographed? In front of our wall of paint sheet samples at our store. We've refinished this kitchen stool in a pale blue – one of the colour trends we're seeing for 2016. Changing or refinishing accessories in the kitchen is an easy way to update the room. For us, the kitchen is the lifeblood of the home.

Continued on page 72



ROGER & ANNA TOMLINSON, Owners Chantico Fireplace Gallery

10-Year Milestones: Personally, we've watched our sons grow into amazing men. In business, Chantico is turning 10 as well and has branched into a well-established business in the Georgian Triangle. The journey has filled our hearts with pride and joy.

Success Secrets: We don't measure success on material possessions. We don't believe in people working for us; people work for themselves and take pride and ownership in whatever they do. That's why we look for people who value honesty and trust, and have a strong moral compass to guide their decisions.

Where Were You Photographed? In our showroom. We get to update and be creative here – like with this horizontal fireplace and birch-motif wall – more often than we do in our own home!

DAVID & HELEN LABELLE, Owners Georgian Design Centre

10-Year Milestones: In 2007, we relocated, changed our name from Georgian Flooring to Georgian Design Centre and have been growing ever since. Personally, we've watched our children marry and share the greatest gifts: six grandchildren and more on the way.

Success Secrets: We are a locally and family-owned-and-operated business that focuses on customer service. Along with three of our children and our son-in-law, we have three other sales associates that are as close as family. We treasure Sundays as a family day with time to appreciate what matters the most.

Where Were You Photographed? In the dining room of our Collingwood home, which can be hard to resist updating frequently! We currently have a horizontal chrome chandelier above our table.

Continued on page 74



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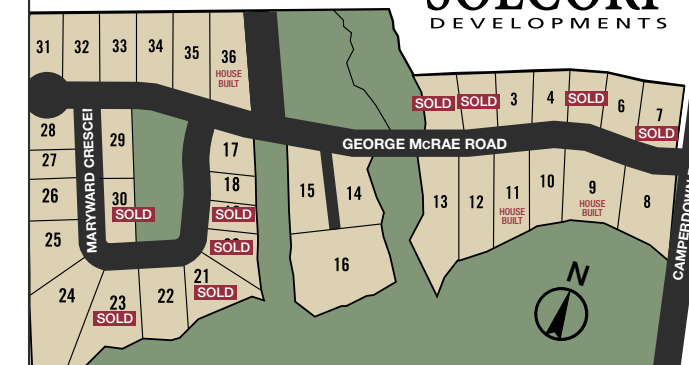


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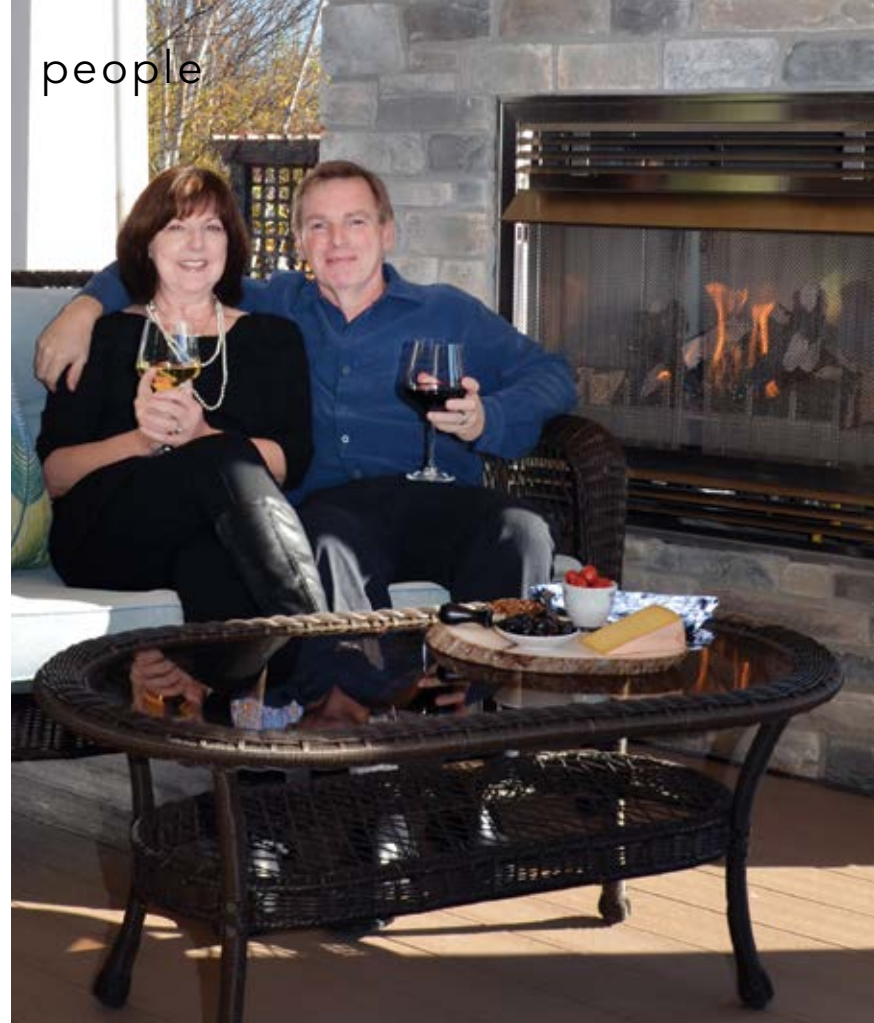
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WILLIAM BROWN
Architectural Design
BARBARA PATTON-BROWN
Interior Design
Black Tusk Development Group Ltd.

10-Year Milestones: Ten years ago Barb joined the company full time and we started building our designs in order to deliver a better experience for our clients. Today, we are building our new home, with less thought to resale and what's trending, it's all by design – just for us!

Success Secrets: After the financial crisis of 2008, our clients (and soon-to-be clients) paused, took a breath, then realized that their plans for a new home in Southern Georgian Bay were more important than ever. We rolled up our sleeves and dove in. For us it is very exciting to be part of our clients' plans and it reinforces why we choose to live, work, and play here.

Where Were You Photographed? Our covered porch is a favourite spot to start and end the day. It connects us to the outdoors and the fireplace takes the chill off those cooler evenings.

MARK HIGGINSON
Certified Landscape Designer/Owner
SHERREE HIGGINSON
Garden Design/Maintenance
Natural Stonescapes

10-Year Milestones: We're celebrating 25 years of landscaping in Southern Georgian Bay. In 2014 we were honoured with Landscape Ontario's Award of Excellence for residential pool/landscape construction.

Success Secrets: We have an innate feel for the geography and characteristics of the area. Sherree and I have a unique business partnership, where we've been able to provide our clients with proficiency in both soft and hard landscaping.

Where Were You Photographed? In the paddock at our Meaford farm with Bella, our 10-year-old Thoroughbred-Paint-Cross mare. There is a pony and a few horses pasturing out back. Sherree and our daughters used to ride competitively, but now we ride for enjoyment. We've lived on this property for 13 years with a few renovations and an addition as our family has grown.

Continued on page 76



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DAVE HARRINGTON

Owner, Absolute Craftsmen Ltd.

10-Year Milestones: Five years ago, my daughter Christine Harrington joined my company as project manager.

Success Secrets: Many years of hands-on experience. I'm at my sites every day.

Where Were You Photographed? My wife and I built this house three years ago at Long Point. I had been coming down to my buddy's house, who is now my neighbour, to go windsurfing since 1992. We have always wanted to be on the water.

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GARY NORDEMAN

President, The Landmark Group

10-Year Milestones: Winning two national awards for being #1 in landscape design and maintenance and the #1 provincial award in landscape construction two years in a row.

Success Secrets: No real secret, God is the reason for our success. Landmark is blessed with a very gifted and talented team of individuals. Every single person who works here truly expresses their passion for the industry, including our suppliers and sub trades.

Where Were You Photographed? My wife and I built our home in Meaford 12 years ago for the beautiful rolling hills overlooking a three-acre pond. Ferdinand was a request by our niece, who lives with us, to get a cow. We decided to begin with a "herd of one" and have enjoyed it so much, we will develop some pasture on our property and increase this herd size by at least 100 per cent!

Continued on page 78

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10-Year Milestones: We've grown into the #1 real estate company in the area, and then were first to break the \$100-million and then the \$150-million sales mark in the region.

Success Secrets: Our success is driven by an advanced understanding of how real estate is marketed in today's economy and a desire to be our client's trusted advisor to help them attain their real estate goals.

Where Were You Photographed? I love my home. My wife and I had it built 10 years ago. The location is close to everything, but has a feeling of remoteness that I find appealing. The kitchen table is where I work when I am at home. When the family is home, it is the centre of everything, and when I am working alone, I find the view inspiring.

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JULIE WALTHO, Owner
Molly Maid Georgian Bay

10-Year Milestones: I've worked with Molly Maid for many years and I was able to buy the business three years ago. In my personal life, I was able to go to my little brother's wedding in Japan, which was the trip of a lifetime.

Success Secrets: The Molly Maid name and colours – and the great clients who expect the difference that we are able to make.

Where Were You Photographed? I purchased my family home almost 10 years ago, along with most of my parents' belongings – I'm still finding ways to make the home my own! My favourite space is the lower level where my husband Rob and I love to entertain.

Continued on page 80

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URSULA ABBOTT

Financial Controller

DOUG ABBOTT

President

Village Builders

10-Year Milestones: A highlight for our company was renovating the old firehouse in Creemore into our current offices; we've enjoyed being a part of the town's growth. Personally, we celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary, and the birth of three grandchildren.

Success Secrets: Honesty, reliability and fine craftsmanship.

Where Were You Photographed? This is the first home we built for ourselves and have enjoyed it for 26 years. We have a few family heirlooms on display. We have a passion for all things outdoors, especially skiing. Our goal is to pass this appreciation of the outdoors and travel onto our children and grandchildren.

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KAREN JAMES, Owner

Ashton's Blinds Draperies Shutters

10-Year Milestones: The most memorable events are the wonderful people I have met and customers I have been privileged to serve along the way. A personal highlight was co-founding The Apple Valley Youth Chorus with a close friend four years ago in Thornbury. We teach children ages six-17 to sing in two-part harmony, read choral music and have recently added a percussion group. We have received tremendous support from the community.

Success Secrets: Treating people as I expect to be treated.

Where Were You Photographed? I love my home. It's cosy and inviting and has a sunroom that does double duty as a practice studio for my flute. Music is a way for me to serve the community through teaching and performing. I love my house, but I love my community more!

Continued on page 82



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PATRICK COULTER

President

Patrick B. Coulter & Associates Inc.

10-Year Milestones: Our firm has been awarded the most prestigious custom home building projects in the region. In my personal life, I married my beautiful wife Paula Zubek; from this single choice has come the greatest joys of my life.

Success Secrets: Team stability. The management group has been with me between 10 and 30 years. Our team has worked at this level long enough that excellence is now the minimum standard.

Where Were You Photographed? Paula and I are passionate about golf and wanted a west-facing home at the Georgian Bay Club to enjoy the sunset on the region's premier course. This foyer reflects our lifetime of collecting: geological samples sourced by my son and work from local and international artists.

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SHERRY RIOUX, Broker

*Clairwood Real Estate Corporation,
Brokerage*

10-Year Milestones: Since its inception, Clairwood has grown from a one-realtor operation (just me!) to a thriving business in multiple locations.

Success Secrets: My clients come first. Real estate is a seven-days-a-week business and no matter how big or how small the deal, I pride myself on going above and beyond the call of duty. A smile and a good sense of humour also helps!

Where Were You Photographed? In my Lighthouse Point condo with Strummer and Daisy May. When my husband and I moved here full time 12 years ago, our goal was waterfront living. Collingwood reminds us of our east coast hometown, Fredericton. After a busy day at work, coming home to the panoramic water and mountain vistas is our own little slice of heaven.

Continued on page 84

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MICHAEL D. LOUGHEED

President

Dean's Carpet One Floor & Home

10-Year Milestones: We celebrated 50 years of business in 2013. Our second store in Meaford opened in 2008, managed by my daughter, Sarah Lougheed. My son Justin Lougheed has also joined the business full time. We're now proudly a third-generation business. We have also expanded our Duntroon store and warehouse to 10,000 square feet.

Success Secrets: We have carried on the same dedication to honest principles, hard work, sound morals, high quality flooring products, exceptionally-trained installers and sales staff, personal customer service and the perseverance upon which the business was originally founded by my father, Elmer Dean Lougheed and mother, Millie.

Where Were You Photographed? In front of the Elmira stove in the kitchen of the original family home – it represents the heart of the house where family still gathers.

MICHAEL ABERCROMBIE

Clarksburg Contractors Ltd.

10-Year Milestones: In the last 10 years, we relocated from Clarksburg to Heathcote and this past year we surpassed 60 years in the business.

Success Secrets: We have a legacy of versatility, diversification, quality and integrity. We have a big team of licensed electricians, plumbers, sheet metal mechanics, gas fitters, refrigeration mechanics, and heating, venting and hydronic-systems technicians.

Where Were You Photographed? We have a comfortable sofa fireplace at our Heathcote shop. At home, my favourite place to entertain is the billiards room where I've inherited the centre table from the former Brownie's Pool Hall in Thornbury; it's a great place to relax.

Continued on page 86



BUYING / SELLING SNAPSHOT - 2015 IN REVIEW

For single family homes, S. Georgian Bay moved from a 2014 almost balanced market (48% of listings sold) to a 2015 Sellers' market with 60% of listings selling. The average price for a resale home shows an over 6% increase, \$342,674 compared to \$322,428. The majority of sales took place in the \$150,000 to \$300,000 price range, although the \$300-\$500K range soared over 2014 this past year. The price points with the biggest jumps over 2014 were \$600K – \$699K (33 more sales) and \$1M+ (21 more sales).

Our focus is on the 3 key trading areas in which we have the most expertise – Blue Mountains, Collingwood, and the areas of Clearview nearest to Collingwood. There were 1187 listings of which 724 sold – a 61% sale to list ratio (compare to 47.5% for 2014), and the average resale price rose almost 8% from \$417,749 in 2014 to the current \$450,805.

Collingwood highlights:

- A high sale of \$2.9M at Sunset Point and an eastside waterfront for \$1.325M
- Average resale pricing is up over 5% over 2014 at \$369K

The Blue Mountains highlights:

- 5 Reported sales over \$2M in 2015 – the high being \$2.525M near Georgian Peaks
- Average resale pricing was \$620K – up over 15% from 2014

Clearview highlights:

- 2015 had 5 Sales over \$1M down from the 2014 number of 7
- Average resale pricing was flat year over year at \$363K

General Observations

- Throughout the region May to October are the highest unit volume sales months, January and December are the lowest.
- Average Days on Market for Collingwood – 65, Blue Mountains – 109, Clearview – 93

We are again in a construction boom with numerous new housing projects both under construction and planned future development – ranging from small condominiums, rental apartments, mid-range to executive townhomes and many single family homes with retirees in mind.

All statistics gleaned from the SGBAR MLS system and believed to be accurate.
For more in-depth data or a personal analysis of your property, please contact the writers.



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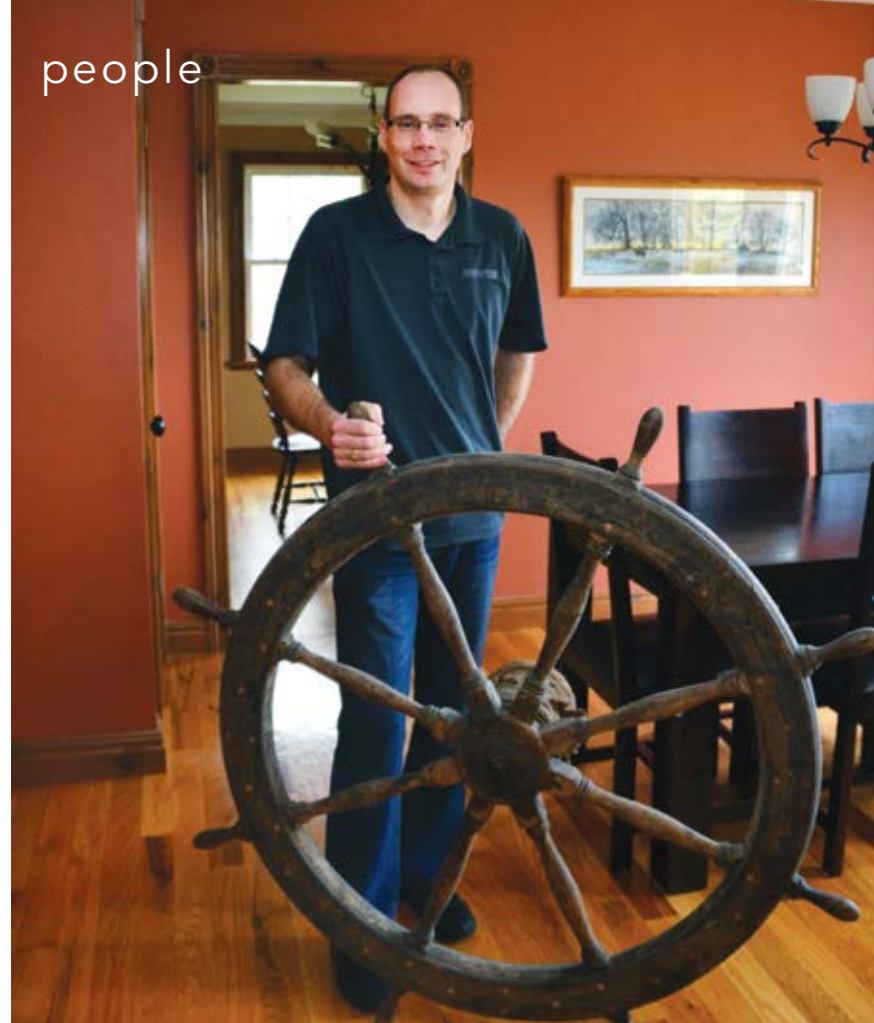
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TYLER KNIGHT
General Manager
Knights' Home Building Centre

10-Year Milestones: In June 2010, we relocated to a new location increasing to a 14,000 sq. ft. retail store. In 2012, we were named Young Retailer of the Year by the North American Retail Hardware Association, and Best Young Retailer of the Year by Hardware Merchandising Magazine.

Success Secrets: We owe our success to our employees: we run a family business and our staff becomes our family very quickly.

Where Were You Photographed? My wife and I purchased this home in Meaford three years ago to be closer to friends who live within steps of here. This ship's wheel has been in our family since my great grandfather's business manufactured it in the early 1900s. Our family has been building things in this region for over 100 years, from ship wheels to flooring and everything in between.



ROBIN SMITH
Owner/Operator
Paragon Carpentry

10-Year Milestones: I have had many interesting projects and fantastic clients in the past 10 years. The most memorable personal events would be our six beautiful grandchildren and the success of my wife and daughter's Thornbury store Gaia Boutique.

Success Secrets: As a licensed carpenter I take great pride in my work and truly enjoy working as a hands-on builder and personally overseeing projects from start to finish.

Where Were You Photographed? With Lucca the Chorkie (Yorkie-Chihuahua cross) and Leroy the Morkie (Yorkie-Maltsee cross) at home in Clarksburg. This house was built for family and thrives on being full of life. It's an early 1900s farmhouse on the Beaver River where we put on an addition, renovated and raised three teenagers. **OH**



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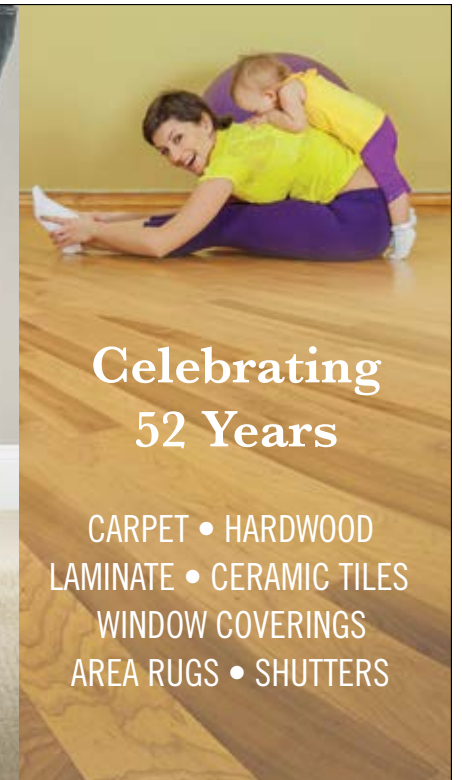
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STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**

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Once the round is over, do you trade in your golf cart for car keys? Or do you pull your cart up to one of the semi-detached luxury townhomes overlooking the 10th fairway?

The Private Residences At The Georgian Bay Club have broken ground on 56 units with some of the most spectacular views on the escarpment. We've got 10 reasons why you might like to make one of them your home.

1 Two-storey semi-detached models start at 1,900 sq. ft. with two bedrooms and two bathrooms and climb to 3,340 sq. ft. with four bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. All units have walk-out private patios.

2 The club is next door to the area's leading ski clubs and the Georgian Trail, and a short drive to Collingwood, Thornbury and the Village at Blue Mountain.

3 Developer **Georgian Bay Estates Limited** has brought together an exceptional team to design and build: architecture **Brad Abbott Design**; custom home builder **Patrick B. Coulter & Associates**; interior design **Redman Watson Inc.** and landscape installation and maintenance **The Landmark Group**.

4 Floor-to-ceiling 18-foot great room windows face the bay. Look up to 10-foot ceilings in all main-floor rooms and nine-foot ceilings on the second storey and in the basement.

5

The whole home is automated with a Crestron system including an option to frame a television above the fireplace with motorized artwork that lifts to reveal the screen.



6 Sound attenuation materials in the floor, walls and ceilings limit sound transmission. Standard flooring is seven-inch plank hardwood and stone or tile is found in the entry, bathrooms and mudroom.



7 Solid wood, fine kitchen cabinetry is produced by Downsview Kitchens and Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances are standard.

8 A private two-car garage has direct access to both the basement and the mud/laundry room. *Continued on page 90*



9 The main floor master suite spreads over 400 square feet, including a fireplace, walk-in closet and walk-out patio.

10 The 130 LED pot lights in the home draw only 600 watts of power. All bathrooms feature motion sensor lights and closets have automatic lights as well.

The Private Residences model home and presentation gallery is open Friday through Monday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment at privateresatgbc.com. **OH**

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



2

These homes have impeccable kitchen cabinetry and built-ins in the master suite, reading room and gear room.

3

Designing a smaller home that functions as well as a larger home requires experience and skill. "It is a greater challenge to design a smaller home that still feels big," says William, who is up for the challenge.

4

William's architectural designs consider site orientation and room flow to maximize natural light and the connection to the outdoors.

5

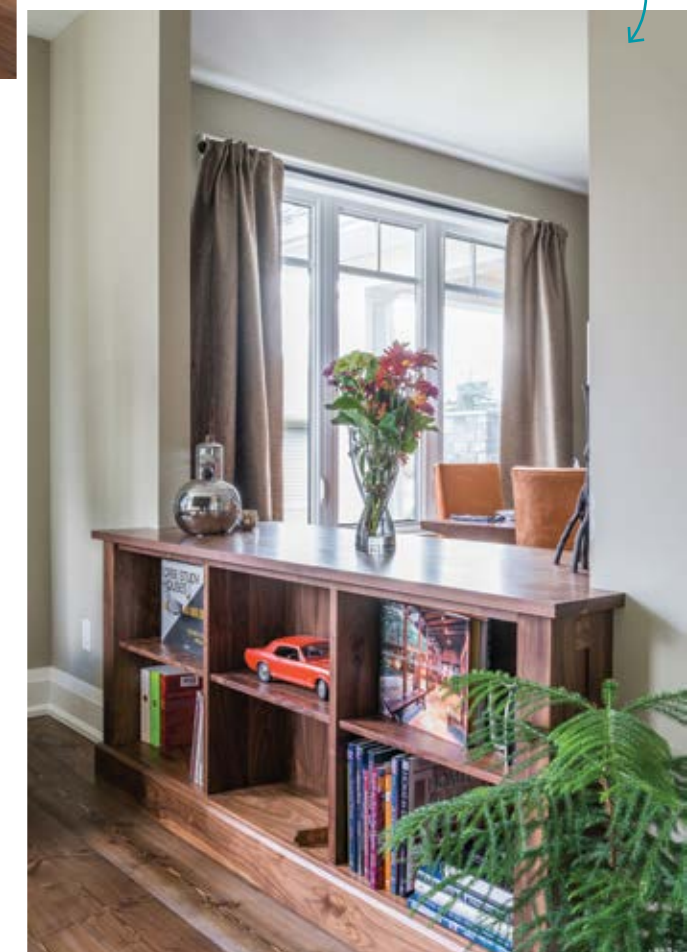
The home is open concept but uses partial walls to divide conversation spaces from the main living space. *Continued on page 94*

Black Tusk's William Brown and Barbara Patton-Brown have been quietly paving the road to Southern Georgian Bay for homeowners for over a decade.

Clients initially brought the Whistler-area builder to Collingwood for a single, custom-home build, which led to another project, which led to another – the region is now dotted with Black Tusk homes. The level of craftsmanship and quality Black Tusk offers their designs and custom constructions has given countless clients a happy home.

But the collaboration between William and Barbara, however, is leading them to a new kind of exciting home market: homes with more modest footprints that offer the excellence of a Black Tusk build. They're currently putting up a second prototype home in Lora Bay: 1,900 square feet of uncompromising quality in an active community. Here are 10 reasons why small is beautiful:

1 Homes with a smaller footprint use fewer materials and are friendlier to the environment: fewer materials and less waste equal a smaller carbon footprint. This is becoming increasingly important to clients who don't want to wait for retirement to enjoy the lifestyle Southern Georgian Bay offers, yet who realize they don't want or need an elaborate space.





6 Black Tusk's love of natural materials incorporates interesting wood and stone throughout the homes, such as reclaimed fir flooring or live-edge counters.

7 Bungalow living is the current trend for small homes, where amenities and the master bedroom suite are accessible on the main floor. Less frequently used spaces, such as bedrooms for visiting children and guests, are incorporated into a pleasant, bright lower level.



8 Barbara's interior designs synchronise with William's rooms, finishes and amenities for an inherently pleasing result – Black Tusk is a true concept-to-completion design build firm.

9 The prototype Lora Bay home showcases the possibilities in action rather than models with a set of features and upgrades.

10 The outdoors is accessible all year round – an important element to Black Tusk – via a four-season covered porch with outdoor fireplace (see it in Barbara and William's photo on page 74).

The Black Tusk show home is available for showings by appointment at blacktuskdev.com. **OH**

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FRONT ROW SEATS

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

The region's playground spreads out before you at **Windrose Estates**. It's located at the base of the escarpment and barely a two-minute drive from downtown Collingwood. The runs at Osler Bluff Ski Club beckon to the south and the lights of Blue Mountain shine to the north. The second-storey view from the **MacPherson Builders Ltd.** model estate home is an uninterrupted sightline across the mountain and surrounding fields. Here are 10 reasons to escort yourself to the front row seats of the region.

1 With numerous home floor plans to choose from, the Britannia model provides a taste of the workmanship and quality materials MacPherson brings to their builds. Plans range from 2,492 to 4,062 sq. ft. estate homes, including two bungalow options.



2 Two-acre or one-acre town lots offer more than enough space to create a private playground retreat of your own.

3 MacPherson's designer Michelle Pasquale works with all clients to select the optimal design and finishes.

4 The 4,000 sq. ft. Britannia model home has post-and-beam detailing with upscale finishes in a rustic tone to complement the surrounding geography.



5 A two-storey fireplace evokes the limestone on the escarpment.

6 The model home was customized by Pasquale to include a double-sided fireplace between the great room and the dining room. The dining space can optionally be built as an outdoor room by relocating the dining room to the front of the house, with the servery separating it from the kitchen.

7 A tongue-and-groove ceiling in the dining room creates continuity with the post-and-beam style.
Continued on page 98





8 Brushed-oak flooring creates depth and dimension in a neutral palette. Warm off-white walls contrast with the dark woods of the post-and-beam accents.

9 MacPherson’s designs are trending toward the same warmth and comfort of traditional ski chalets, but with the kind of contemporary touches you might find in more urban homes.

The model home at Windrose Estates is open Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. or weekdays by appointment at 705.446.7601 at 4 Meadowlark Way, Collingwood (south of Sixth St., east of Osler Bluff Rd.). OH

10 A bay window and open ceiling rafters emphasize the grandeur of the master bedroom. The luxury continues the en suite, with a built-in tub and glass, steam shower.



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



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KNIFE KNOW-HOW

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN**

Knives: they're an essential kitchen tool but most of us just guess as to which one we need at any given time. Choosing the right knife is about more than size – they're shaped the way they are for a reason, and caring for them properly is just as important as how you use them.

"Pay respect to the knife. It's a deadly object. It's too easy to cut yourself!" says Chef John Higgins, Director of the George Brown College Chef School.

Chef Higgins says his five essential kitchen tools are a serrated carving knife, an eight-to-10 inch French knife (a style of chef's knife), a paring knife, a potato peeler and a spatula. "I could go anywhere in the world and cook something with those," he says. His personal brand of choice is Victorinox, but says they may not be ideal for everyone – personal preference rules when it comes to knives.

PURCHASING KNIVES

When you're shopping for knives, Chef Higgins says it's important to consider what you're going to use them for. What do you like to cook? What do you need to accomplish? Then consider your budget. Most importantly, hold different knives in your hands. "A good knife is like a golf club or a baseball bat," he says. "It needs to feel good."

While you don't have to spend a fortune on knives, Chef Higgins says "you're not doing yourself any favours if you buy cheap knives. Not all knives are created equal." Invest in the knives you know you'll use and add others piece by piece as necessary. Again, "think of it like a set of golf clubs. Start off with the basics and add what you need as you go along."

THE SHARPER THE BETTER

According to Chef Higgins, nothing is worse than a dull knife. It's bad for the tools themselves, for your cooking and potentially for your safety. You shouldn't be hacking away at food. Even more important than investing in good quality knives is investing in a sharpening stone, he says. Learn how to hone the steel at just the right angle and you'll always have sharp knives that are easy to use.

STORING AND CARING FOR KNIVES

Contrary to popular belief, it's not essential to keep your knives in a knife block. In fact, Chef Higgins prefers to keep his in a tray in a drawer, free from other kitchen tools. This frees up space on his counter and is easier to clean.

Wash your knives in hot, soapy water. Don't dump them into the sink with anything else. Rather, keep them separate and get them into a drying rack on their own, too. Let them dry fully before storing them. Do not wash knives in the dishwasher.

CUTTING BOARDS

Just as it's important to use the right knife for every job, the right cutting board also makes a difference. Choose one big enough for your job so food isn't hanging over the edge or falling off. Chef Higgins also stresses only having one knife on a cutting board at a time to avoid disaster.

KNOW YOUR KNIVES
Stumped about what's what?
Here are the basic knives you'll
find in any set and the jobs
they're made to do.



4" Forged Paring Knife, Victorinox Swiss Army Inc.

Paring knife
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6" CLASSIC Utility Knife, Wüsthof-Trident of Canada Inc.

Utility knife
A close cousin of the paring knife, but slightly longer and thinner and good for chopping small vegetables and fruits.



8" ZWILLING® Pro Bread Knife, Zwilling J.A. Henckels Canada Ltd.

Bread knife
Large knife with serrated edge. Ideal for cutting soft foods that would be squished by a straight edge and for piercing crusts.



Classic 8" Chef's Knife, Shun

Chef's knife
A multi-purpose knife with a broad, strong blade. Ideal for all types of chopping, from herbs to vegetables.



7" Forged Granton Edge Santoku Knife, Victorinox Swiss Army Inc.

Santoku
This Asian-type knife performs almost any job, from preparing meat and fish to chopping veggies. Chop in an up-and-down motion, as opposed to the possibility of rocking back-and-forth with a chef's knife.



9" CLASSIC Carving Knife, Wüsthof-Trident of Canada Inc.

Carving knife
Longer and slimmer than a chef's knife with a fine edge. Use to slice meat thinly, including carving roasts.



Classic Steak Knife, Shun

Choose knives depending on your needs and your cooking style. You may also want a boning knife for cleaning meat off the bone, a long spatula with a rounded end for flipping pancakes or spreading icing, a cleaver for heavy-duty meat cuts or a filleting knife for fish.

double take

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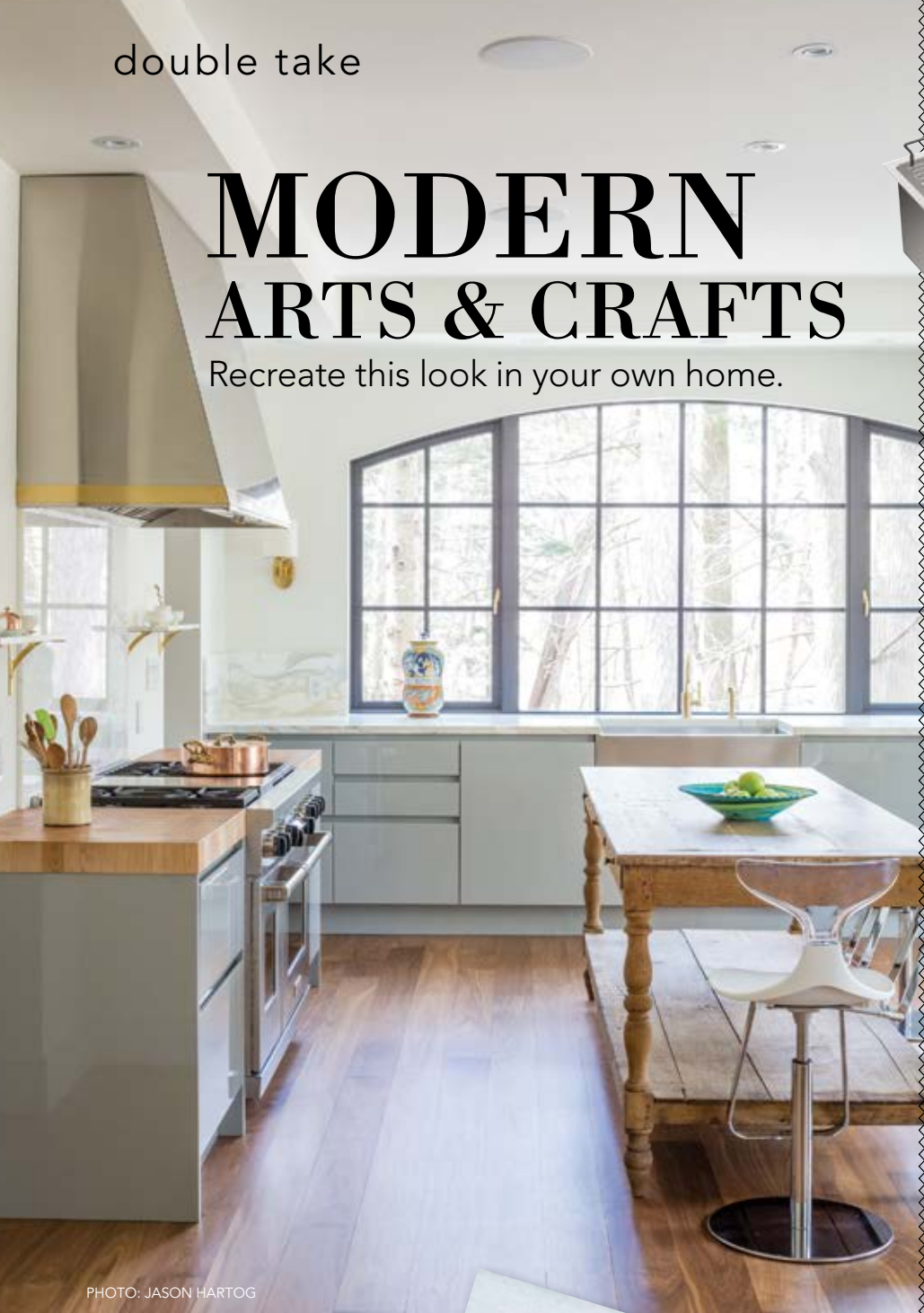


PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

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1



2



3



4



5



7



8



6

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(Please see ad on pg 79)



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(Please see ad on pg 61)



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(Please see ads on pg 85, 87)



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(Please see ad on pg 23)



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(Please see ad on pg 77)



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Visit the sales centre at 5 Cranberry Trail East (corner of Hwy. #26 and Cranberry Trail East) in Collingwood and tour the gorgeous model home. Hours are Wed-Sun noon to 5 p.m. Learn more at bluefairway.ca or call 705.293.2201

(Please see ad on pg 11)



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The Normerica chalet features a long deck to enjoy the view.
OPPOSITE: Knots in the pine beams and ceiling are drawn out by the dark window frames and stone fireplace in the great room. Metal is featured in accents like light fixtures, tables and a firewood rack.



APRÈS *play*

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

A 12-year-old post-and-beam home tucked into a tranquil forest gets a renovation.

Continued on page 108



When the property with views of both the mountain and the bay came on the market three years ago, owners Kathryn and Mark knew it was the one. “We had been looking for another home for a few years and loved this neighbourhood, but hadn’t noticed this secluded property. Knowing that our good friends would be our neighbours, we felt right at home from day one,” says Kathryn. The couple have been travelling to Craigleith from Toronto for more than 20 years, and owned a chalet a few blocks away. Avid outdoor lovers, they embraced the all-season lifestyle, skiing at Craigleith Ski Club, golfing at Georgian Bay Golf Club, and boating on Georgian Bay. Part of a large, extended family, the couple love to entertain, and saw their new home as the perfect venue. It just needed an update.

Before tackling major renovations, the homeowners turned to **Marina Farrow** and **Katherine Arcaro** of **Farrow Arcaro Design (F.A.D.)**, known to them through Craigleith Ski Club, to bring together the design elements. “They were terrific,” says Kathryn. “They came to us as a team, bringing different perspectives and different strengths. They kept us in mind when travelling, and emailed images of items we might like.” Meeting with the designers, Kathryn was quick to share their vision: “Modern chalet chic. A home – not a cottage. The comfort of a cosy chalet, but with elegance and some contemporary pieces. We wanted a space to comfortably entertain family and friends après ski or golf, but at the same time be very liveable for us.” *Continued on page 112*



LEFT: A wine and scotch-tasting room was fashioned out of the former kitchen pantry. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Homeowners Mark and Kathryn share a glass of wine with designers Katherine Arcaro and Marina Farrow. **RIGHT:** Mark relaxes in the tasting room. **OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT:** An arched window in the great room brings in the mountain views. **TOP:** Grape harvest barrels are used to display birch branches and come complete with original leather straps worn by Italian harvesters. **MIDDLE:** Nature is alive inside with a moss-covered side table. **BOTTOM:** Extra seating tucks away under the coffee table.



Slipcovered parsons chairs unify the dining room with the kitchen seating. **OPPOSITE:** White Italian tiles on the backsplash brighten the kitchen, while an enlarged dark island encourages casual meals.



A large, airy chandelier in the master bedroom is a focal point. The master suite walks out to the deck with access to a hot tub, enjoyed by the owners après play.



The F.A.D. design team went to work to create the magic, using **Blake Farrow Project Management Inc.** for the construction. “The home had a lot of pine and we knew we had to neutralize and break up the wood,” recalls Arcaro, “but we left the original knotty pine beams and important structures.” Doors, window frames, trim, stairs and banisters were toned down using Benjamin Moore paint colours (a rich espresso being a favourite) from **Robinson’s Paint & Wallpaper**.

The original flooring was replaced with 400-year-old, wide-plank, reclaimed, white oak. A decision to insert square pegs in each board proved labour intensive, but, “it was so worth it,” insists Mark. “The floor became the real anchor for design elements to follow, the canvas for everything else,” adds Kathryn.

A new space for entertaining was added off the kitchen: a pantry transformed into a tasting room. The space now houses the family’s wine collection as well as an impressive selection of fine scotch and whisky. Blake Farrow Project Management designed the wine rack system, and with F.A.D.’s help, the room took shape. An evolving project, the room will eventually be climate controlled. *Continued on page 114*

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RIGHT: A guest room is warm with silhouette bedside lamps and a nailhead-trimmed ottoman. **BELOW:** A wine barrel finds new life as a sink in the powder room.



F.A.D.'s work was inspired by the homeowners' love of skiing and the outdoors. "We wanted to touch on a ski theme, but not make it a main focus," says Arcaro. All furnishings, including custom crowd-pleasing sectional pieces and upholstered chairs, were sourced by F.A.D. and acquired through Lee Industries. The Rumford stone fireplace was updated with a reclaimed wood beam mantel. In the reconfigured kitchen space, the existing light maple cabinets and quartz counter remain, but new hardware gives it a more rustic feel. An Italian-tile backsplash, Caesarstone quartz and grey granite accents bring sophisticated warmth to the room. The enlarged island with reclaimed wood siding,

new granite top and comfortable seating quickly became "the place everyone loves to hang out at and socialize," says Kathryn. A multi-level deck off the kitchen offers private outdoor living and views of Georgian Bay. "Lighting is very important to me," says Kathryn, who understood the impact of light to illuminate and enhance. "It sets the mood and ambience in each room," she says. Unique light fixtures can be found throughout the home, each carefully chosen. The homeowners were delighted when F.A.D. presented two large chandeliers that worked perfectly with the vaulted ceiling. "They are the grand statement that we wanted to make in the main room," says Kathryn. *Continued on page 116*

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Contemporary artwork contributes to the sophisticated casualness, introducing pops of colour on the walls. Two acrylic paintings by **Jennifer Woodburn**, a local artist known for her vibrant local landscapes, were acquired from **Loft Gallery Inc.** in Clarksburg. A striking piece by local artist **Sue Tupy**, from the **Matilda Swanson Gallery** in Clarksburg, claims a commanding presence in the dining area. A custom, reclaimed-wood dining table, built for F.A.D., can easily accommodate 14 people, and has been the hub of many dinner parties.

The main-floor powder room has a charm of its own, with unique features sourced by F.A.D., including the wine barrel vanity, seagrass wallpaper and a barn door.

The master bedroom, en suite bathroom, built-ins and dressing room are on the main floor, and were updated with the help of the designers. Sliding doors lead to a secluded deck with outdoor living space, a hot tub and an outdoor shower designed and built by **Parklawn Landscaping**. “The main floor is where we live when it’s just us,” explains Kathryn.

What is next? Kathryn and Mark will tackle more landscaping this coming spring. In the meantime, they plan to enjoy their chic chalet every chance they get. **OH**



The recreation room on the lower level shows off some the many ways the owners enjoy the region: golfing, snowshoeing, skiing and playing pool.



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STORY **SHELBY HILSON**

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Often referred to as “hard cider” to differentiate from its non-alcoholic cousin, cider is experiencing a revival in Canada. But make no mistake, it has been around a lot longer than you and me. Cider was the choice beverage for early North American settlers and is documented as being enjoyed in England as far back as 55 BC.

At that time, there was no such thing as non-alcoholic apple cider. The Temperance Movement of the 1800s and Prohibition Era of the early 1900s inspired the non-alcoholic alternative that many of us still enjoy seasonally. After the end of Prohibition, beer became the favoured drink due to the population moving into cities and away from orchards, as well as the longer shelf life and easy transportability of barley.

Quite simply, hard cider is made from the fermented juice of apples, but not just any apples. Cider apples are also referred to as “spitters” because of their bitter taste. High in tannins, the fruit must also contain high sugar levels to encourage fermentation and raise the final alcohol levels, which generally reach five to seven per cent in North American varieties.

When cider fell out of favour with Canadians, many growers started producing cooking and eating apples rather than “spitters.” A few brewers persisted, and in the early 2000s, we began to see craft ciders popping up again.

The Ontario Craft Cider Association was founded in 2013 and has grown from seven to 19 members in less than three years. Not just for apples, some ciders brew with pears or other fruits to create unique flavours. Like every brew of beer and every harvest of grapes for wine, every batch of cider is different.

Its versatility makes it an ideal choice for entertaining. Try a sparkling variety in place of champagne at a celebration, add it to punch or use it to top up a cocktail. *Continued on page 120*

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good taste



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INGREDIENTS:

- 2L hard apple cider (not sparkling)
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp whole allspice
- 1 tsp whole cloves
- 1 orange, sliced into thin rounds
- 1 cup rum, apple brandy or whiskey (optional)
- 1 tsp lemon zest

DIRECTIONS:

- Combine all ingredients in a large saucepan and simmer gently for 30-45 minutes. Do not boil.
- Strain through a sieve and ladle into glass mugs.
- Garnish with apple slices, cinnamon sticks and/or star anise. **OH**



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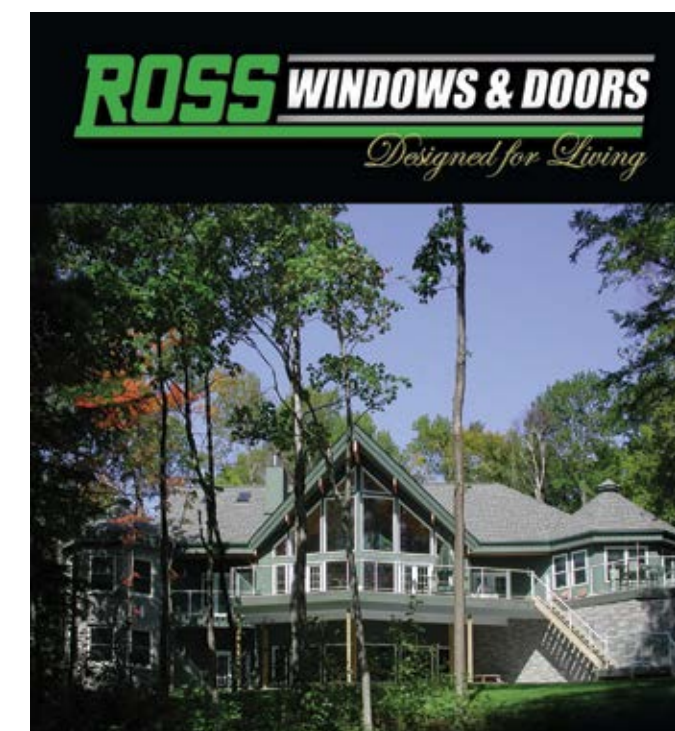
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cooking at home

INGREDIENTS

- 2 large eggplants
- 2 cups tomato or meat sauce
- 2 cups ricotta cheese
- ¼ cup Romano cheese, shredded
- 4 cups fresh spinach
- 1 egg
- Handful of fresh basil, chopped
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded
- Salt and pepper to taste

TO PREPARE:

- The first step is to prepare your eggplant. This process consists of salting the eggplant to draw out any bitter juices. Peel the eggplant and slice lengthwise into ¼-inch slices. Sprinkle each slice with salt on both sides and place them on a paper towel. Continue this process, layering the slices with paper towel.
- While the eggplant is sitting, preheat your oven to 400°F and then begin to prepare your ricotta mixture. Coat a pan over medium heat with a layer of olive oil. Begin to wilt the spinach in batches, adding more spinach as it continues to wilt. When all of the spinach is wilted, transfer it to a mesh strainer and press down on the spinach with a spatula to release all of the juices. Set the spinach aside to drain and cool.
- Rinse each eggplant slice with fresh water and pat dry. Layer the eggplant slices on a baking tray and coat with olive oil. Bake these in the preheated oven for about 20-25 minutes or until soft. Remove from oven and reduce oven temperature to 350°F.
- Place ricotta, Romano, egg and basil in a mixing bowl. Give the spinach one last good squeeze and chop roughly before adding to the ricotta mixture. Mix well and season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Once the eggplant is cool, it's time to begin assembling the lasagna. In a 9 x 13-inch pan, begin with a layer of tomato sauce, followed by a layer of eggplant, half the ricotta mixture and a third of the mozzarella. Repeat the following layer, ending with the mozzarella to cover the top of the lasagna.
- Cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes to an hour, uncovering the foil for the last 10 minutes, until bubbly and slightly browned on top. Let cool before slicing and enjoy! **OH**



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6



9



7



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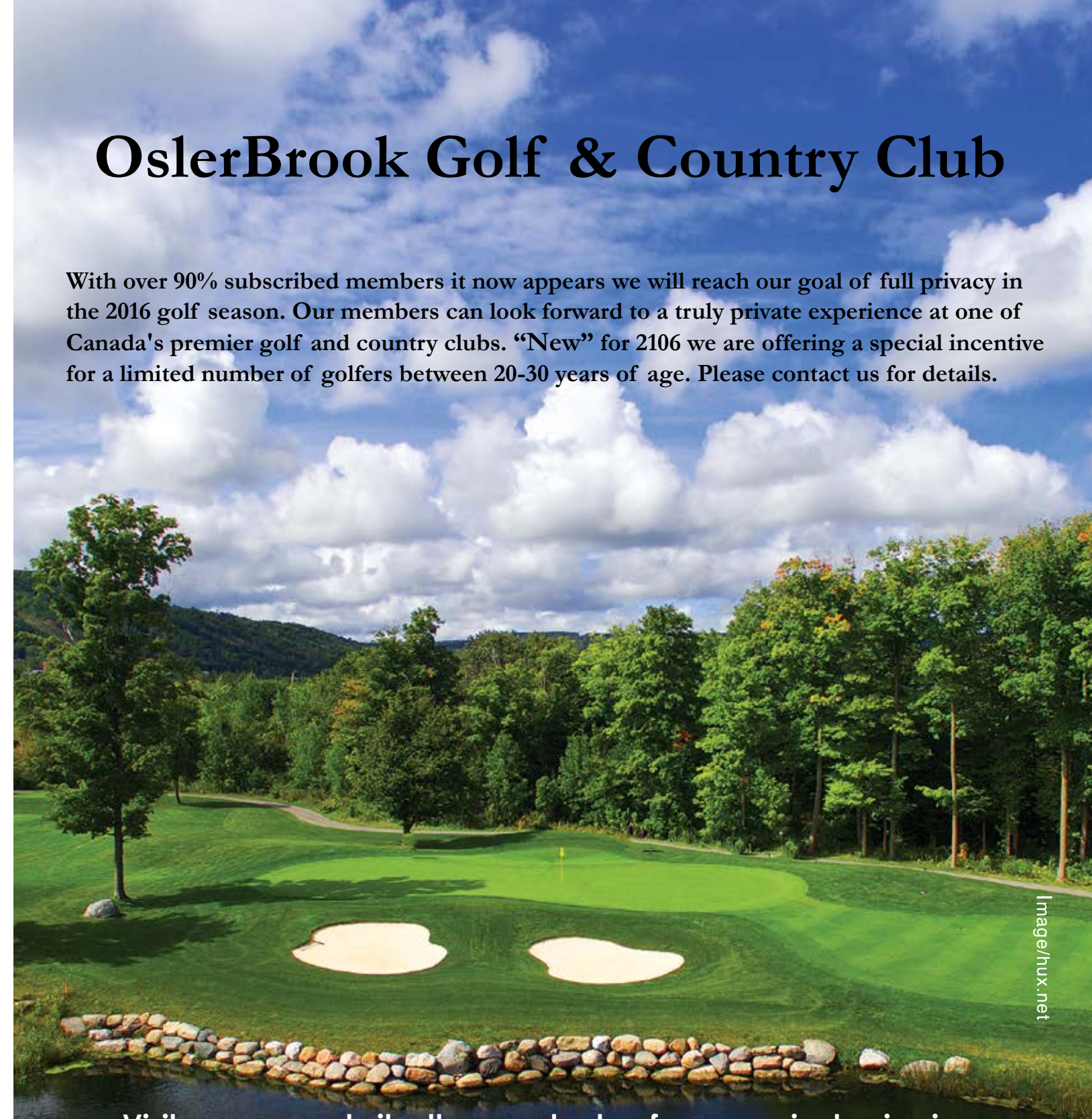
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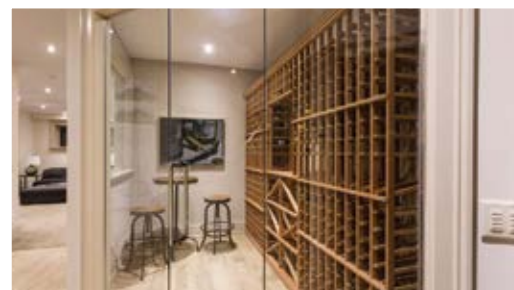
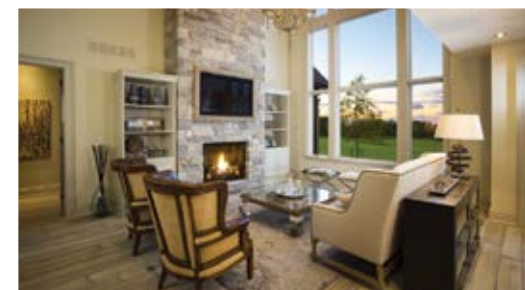
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