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**HOT
COLOUR**
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**VALLEY
VISTAS**
pg 48

*fitting
in* **CREEMORE**
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plus
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DECORATE WITH OUR CHEAT SHEET
pages 24 & 30



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FEATURE LISTING - 183 Alta Road - \$1,395,000



Custom built 4400 square foot Ski-in/Ski-out home at the base of Alpine Ski Club. Located in the prestigious Alta subdivision and surrounded by wonderful views of both the mountain and Georgian Bay. 5 spacious bedrooms and 4 bathrooms.

Tyrolean Lane - Triplex



Income potential & priced to sell. 19 bedrooms total.
Only \$629,900

106 Happy Valley



Build your dream chalet with views of Georgian Bay.
From \$550,000

100 Acre Farm



50 workable acres and large pond in Melancthon.
\$549,900

Clarksburg



Beautiful Century home on a quiet corner in Clarksburg.
\$375,000

169 Robinson



Downtown 4 bedroom home with great potential.
\$239,000

Cachet Crossing



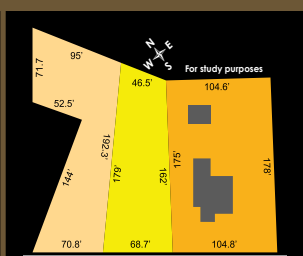
Multiple units right beside the Village at Blue. Hill side.
\$215,000 to \$264,000

Mountain Springs Resort



1 and 2 bedroom units available.
\$124,900 to \$139,900

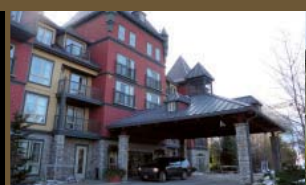
Chalet and building lots | Ann Heggveit Drive



Ski-in/Ski-out Chalet and 2 building lots available. Prime location only steps from the Park at Blue Mountain.

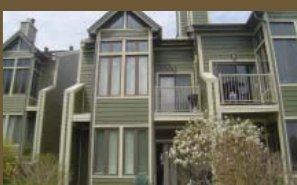
\$425,000 to \$725,000

Grand Georgian



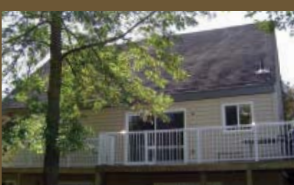
Large one bedroom top floor with views of the Bay.
\$225,000

Chateau Ridge



Upper and lower units available. Hill side location.
\$219,000 to \$279,000

Condo Units



Dawson 4 bedroom, Trott upper 2 bedrooms.
\$134,900 to \$159,900

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- ✓ Wide variety of both MLS® and exclusive building lots.
- ✓ Prime lot locations throughout Blue Mountain and surrounding areas.
- ✓ Working knowledge of local trades & building requirements.

2 lots at Lora Bay **\$179,000 & \$425,000**
Ann Heggveit Drive **\$425,000**
108 Craigmere Crescent **\$179,000**
67 acres in Grey Highlands **\$159,000**
Craigleith **\$144,900**

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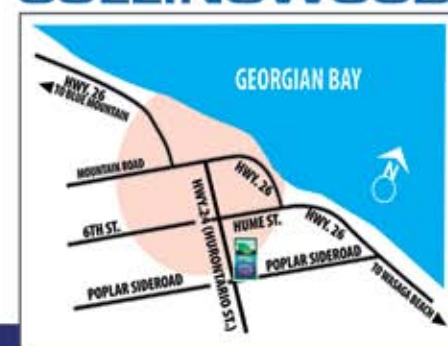
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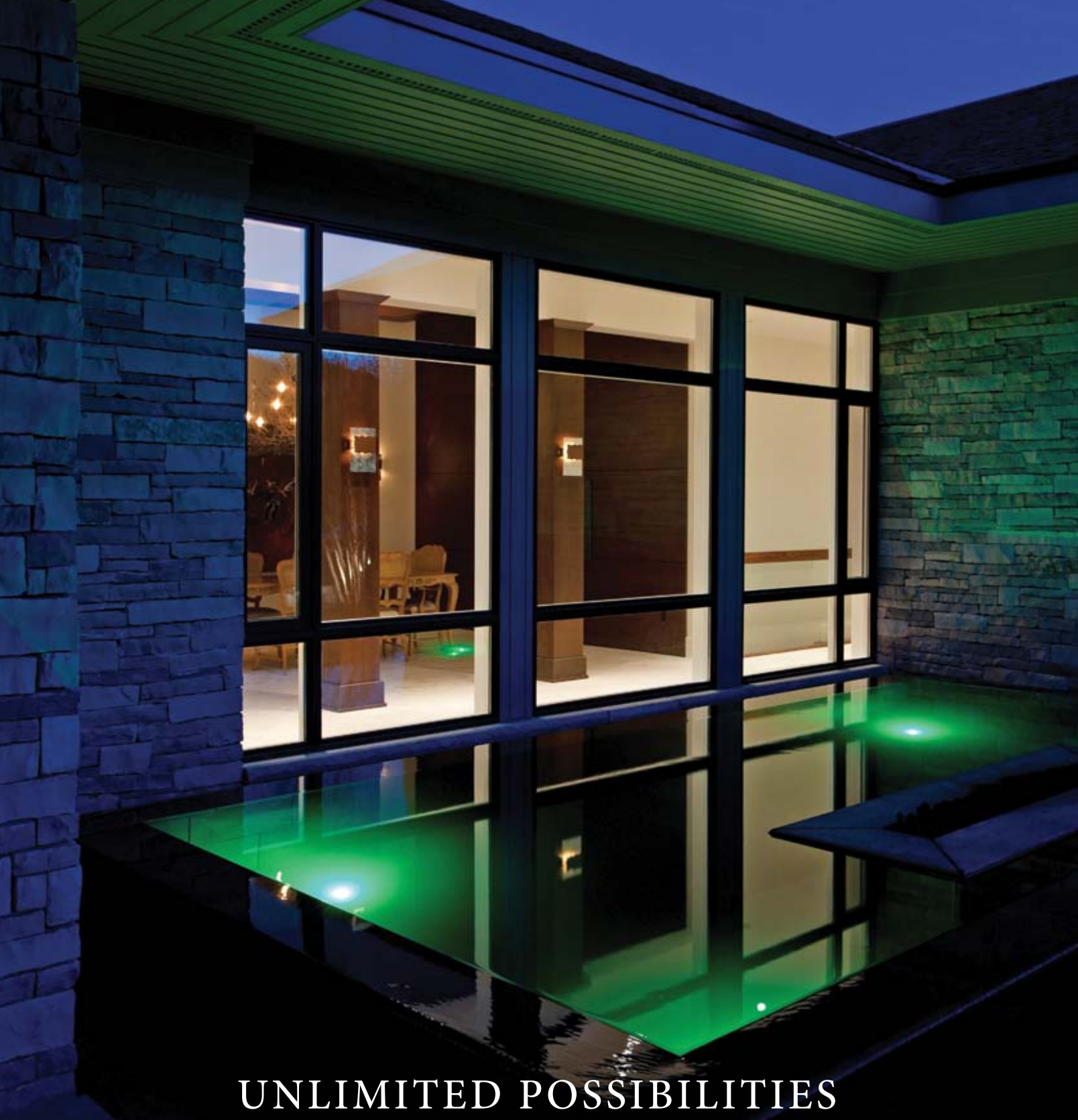
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Lifetime Achievement Award



KIMBERLY Cozy, picture perfect, 3 bdrm, 1 bath unique log home. Main floor has pine plank flooring & a wood stove. Outstanding views of the Beaver Valley along with over 1/3 of an acre of mature trees & gardens with direct access to the Bruce Trail. 12 ft. x 8 ft. bunkie. Minutes from the Beaver Valley Ski Club & 1/2 hr. from Blue Mountain. **\$289,000 MLS#20120047**



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



ONE OF A KIND! Your own private resort, completely furnished indoor & out! Salt water pool with cabana with full 3 pc bath. Outdoor dining area. Practice on your private chip & putt green. 4 car garage with room for all your toys, gated entrance. Impressive all stone custom 6400 sq. ft. finished luxurious 5 bdrm, 7 bath home. **\$2,990,000 MLS#20115201**



NIPISSING RIDGE Professionally designed & decorated turn key 5 bdrm, 3½ bath chalet. Vaulted ceilings, 3-way stone fireplace w/seating around, fully finished lower level with media room, exercise area & unique 800 bottle wine cellar. Great location for Craigeleith, Alpine Ski Club & Georgian Bay Club Golf members. **\$999,000 MLS#20120031**



SILVER GLEN PRESERVE Upgraded end townhome backing onto the forest. Tanglewood model. 2+1 bdrms, 3½ baths, upgraded kitchen with pine centre island bar counter, stone faced gas fireplace with an antique mantel, fully finished lower level. Single car garage with inside entry. **\$299,900 MLS#20115217**



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



THORNCROFT ESTATES Vaulted Great Room equipped with media centre & gas fireplace. Kitchen provides ample cabinets & countertops & pantry. Fully finished lower level with huge entertainment area, hobby room with sink, large bdrm & 3 pc bth, 4 bdrm, 3 bath. Garage boasts tandem bay, perfect for storage, workshop or 3rd car. **\$569,000 MLS#20115402**



COLLINGWOOD Fabulous 4 bdrm, 3½ bath family brick home boasts a large solarium with hot tub, open concept kitchen, family room with gas fireplace, formal living/dining area, hardwood floors, full finished basement with walkout to the double car garage. **\$539,000 MLS#20114677**



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



GEORGIAN BAY CLUB Custom built 6 bdrm, 3½ bath chalet by Patrick Coulter & Associates. 4000 sq. ft. of living space, soaring vaulted ceilings in the Great Room, main floor master suite, stunning kitchen with granite counters. Full finished lower level with large family room. **\$1,550,000 MLS#20112346**

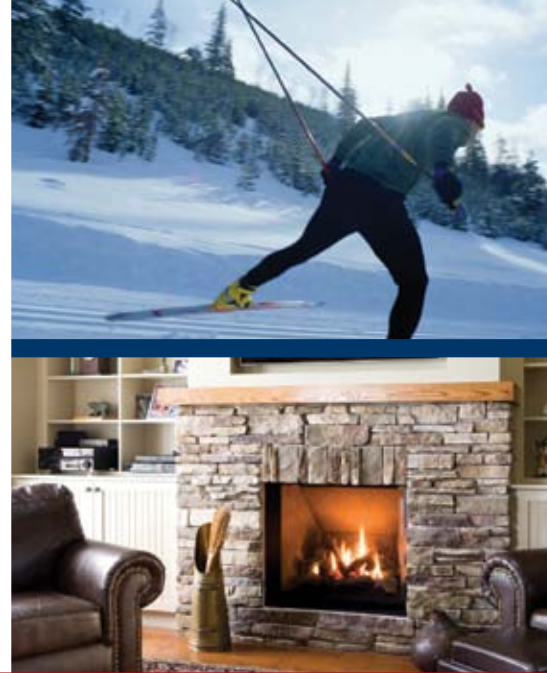


NIPISSING RIDGE Magnificent Post & Beam chalet custom built by Patrick Coulter & Associates. Over 7200 sq. ft. of finished space with 7 bdrms, 5½ baths, towering stone wood burning fireplace, reclaimed Hemlock wood floors, gourmet kitchen. Views of Georgian Bay. Close to Craigeleith, Alpine & Georgian Peaks Ski Clubs & Northwinds Beach. **\$2,495,000 MLS#20120051**



PEAKS BAY Fully serviced waterfront development across from Georgian Peaks Ski Club with great vistas of Georgian Bay & the Escarpment. Waterfront access. **Lots range from \$195,000 to \$375,000. Price includes H.S.T.**

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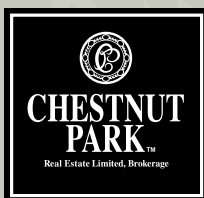
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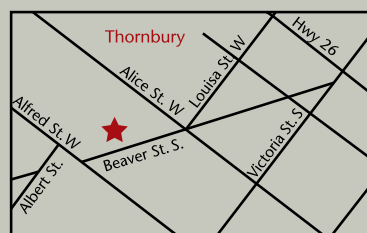
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Far Hills #14 \$324,900
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 1850 sq.ft,
granite, fireplace, hardwood floors,
ss appliances, 9' ceilings, mudroom.



Far Hills #19 \$419,900
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2730 sq.ft,
granite, fireplace, hardwood
floors, ss appliances, ravine.



Tanglewood \$375,000
Rare end unit, 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath,
granite, pine trim, dble garage,
pantry and loads of upgrades.



Gables B&B \$389,900
Charming victorian with original
details, 4 suites, sunroom, dble
garage set on 90 x 168' lot.



Heathcote Bungalow \$299,000
Beautiful 3/4 acre property on the
Beaver River, 3 bdrm, geothermal,
in quiet hamlet.



Creemore Hideaway \$889,000
3 Bdrm, 3 1/2 bath with walk out,
tranquil wooded views, trails,
Noisy River, stream, 35 acres.



Circa 1873 \$339,900
Pristine Victorian with original
fixtures, 4 bdrm sweeping
staircase, soaring ceilings.



Far Hills #35 \$389,900
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2084 sq.ft,
fireplace, main floor master, ss
appliances, loft, vaulted ceiling.



Views of Georgian Bay \$549,000
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cabinetry, mudroom, pool, 15 acres.

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GEORGIAN PEAKS GEM
Ski In and Out from this one of a kind rustic log ski chalet. Entertain Après Ski in the open concept living room and barbeque on the walk out deck.
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GEORGIAN BAY VIEWS
Over 10 acres plus a barn to call your own. Century brick home with five bedrooms, only minutes to Thornbury.
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Call Karen E. Willison* 705-888-0075



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Open concept bungalow 3/1 bedrooms, 2 baths and only 3 years old. Many upgrades including hardwood floors, crown mouldings, stone exterior and much more!
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MILL POND
Upgraded condo in the heart of Thornbury. Three bedrooms, three bathrooms, open concept living with views to the mill pond.
Listed at \$359,000
Call LeeAnn Matthews* 705-446-8688



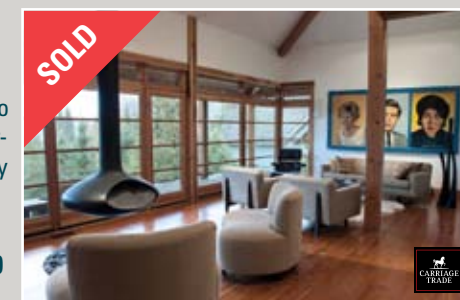
WALK TO HARBOUR
Renovated 3 bedroom Red Brick with master ensuite, enclosed upper porch and finished attic. New drywall, hardwood, electrical, plumbing, kitchen and island.
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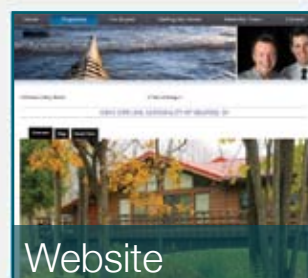


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 <div>NEW PRICE</div> <div>ACREAGE WITH A VIEW</div> <div>52 acre parcel with views over Beaver Valley & Georgian Bay. 4375 sq ft chalet with 7 bedrooms & 3 baths. Year round access. \$699,000 MLS® #20114239</div>	 <div>NIPISSING RIDGE</div> <div>4300 sq ft French country chalet w/6 bdms, 5 bathrooms & 4 fireplaces. Incredible finishings throughout. Seasonal views of Georgian Bay. \$1,995,000 MLS® #20115127</div>	 <div>NIPISSING RIDGE</div> <div>Large building lot in family oriented development close to ski clubs, golfing, hiking trails & Georgian Bay. Municipal services available. \$295,000 MLS® #20120090</div>	 <div>THE ORCHARD</div> <div>Large chalet backing on to ski hills with unobstructed view. Professionally decorated and landscaped. 6 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms. \$1,049,000 MLS® #20113207</div>
 <div>MAPLE STREET</div> <div>Thoroughly renovated & upgraded 3 bedroom, 2 bath raised bungalow. Open concept, fully finished lower level. \$328,000 MLS® #20116535</div>	 <div>SNOWBRIDGE</div> <div>Stunning custom built post & beam chalet with 5 bedrooms & 5 baths. Unobstructed views of Blue Mountain & Monterra. \$1,295,000 MLS® #20112058</div>	 <div>COLLINGWOOD</div> <div>3 bedroom home on full town lot. Large eat-in kitchen, main floor family room. Heated garage/workshop. \$315,000 MLS® #20116538</div>	 <div>VIEW OF BLUE</div> <div>Contemporary 3200 sq ft chalet with 4 bedrooms & 2½ baths. Private, extra deep lot. Walking distance to hills & Village. \$699,000 MLS® #20115806</div>
 <div>SOUTH END OF BLUE</div> <div>Premier custom chalet at the foot of Blue with incredible views from all rooms. 4000 sq ft home with many upgrades. \$899,000 MLS® #20113896</div>	 <div>HISTORIC SNOWBRIDGE</div> <div>Unobstructed golf course & mountain views. 3600 sq ft chalet with 5 bedrooms & 4½ baths. Move-in condition. \$879,000 MLS® #20115066</div>	 <div>SILVER CREEK DRIVE</div> <div>Raised bungalow, 4 bdrm, 2 bath. Fully finished basement, 1000 sq ft deck w/hot tub. Beautiful country home in immaculate, move-in condition. \$389,000 MLS® #20115874</div>	 <div>SNOWBRIDGE</div> <div>2050 sq ft chalet with 4 bedrooms & 3½ bathrooms. Open concept main level. Fully finished lower level. \$764,900 MLS® #20114021</div>
 <div>COUNTRY ELEGANCE</div> <div>21 acres on the Beaver River. Paved road, year round access. 4000 sq ft home with 5 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms. \$1,295,000 MLS® #20114261</div>	 <div>POST & BEAM</div> <div>4 bedroom, 3½ bath home in Snowbridge, backing onto 16th hole at Monterra. Wood burning fireplace, fully finished lower level. \$879,000 MLS® #20114141</div>	 <div>MAGNIFICENT IN ALL SEASONS</div> <div>5 bedroom chalet located on private, treed lot at base of Blue ski runs. Great layout for family & friends. Walking distance to Village at Blue. \$849,000 MLS® #20113067</div>	 <div>BROPHY'S BEACH</div> <div>Great building site with sandy beach and 130' of water frontage. Excellent views. Existing 1900 sq ft home. \$975,000 MLS® #20114818</div>
 <div>BASE OF BLUE</div> <div>Custom chalet across from O Hill. 5200 sq ft, 6 bedrooms & 3½ bathrooms. Main floor master, finished lower level. \$1,449,000 MLS® #20111289</div>	 <div>CHALET IN HISTORIC SNOWBRIDGE</div> <div>Beautifully designed custom built home. 5 bedrooms, 3½ baths, fully finished lower level. Shuttle service to Village. \$799,000 MLS® #20115940</div>	 <div>WASAGA RIVERFRONT</div> <div>48' frontage on the Nottawasaga River. Custom built 2800 sq ft home with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths & fully finished lower level. \$499,000 MLS® #20120204</div>	 <div>NIPISSING RIDGE</div> <div>Contemporary custom built 3050 sq ft home/chalet with 5 bedrooms & 3½ baths. 2nd level deck with unobstructed views of the ski hills. \$1,295,000 MLS® #20114727</div>

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Lora Bay

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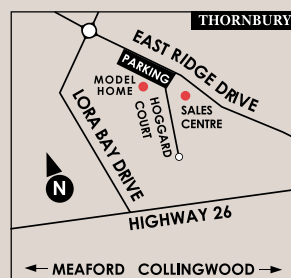
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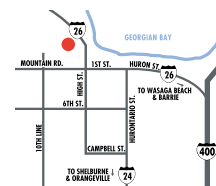
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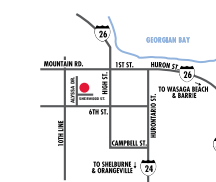
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SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY IS THE PLACE TO BE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.

Just look around. Blue Mountain is buzzing, ski clubs are packed, resorts are full and weekenders and locals alike are enjoying the fantastic restaurants and shops in the beautiful bay area.

The excitement is contagious and I just love the hustle and bustle, especially at night because that's generally when I get to go out to play.

I drive down the streets a little slower than usual and peek inside the many incredible homes I pass on my journey. I see people moving around

inside, some sharing a meal at the kitchen table or reading a book by the fire while others are outside flooding a backyard rink or shoveling the driveway, again. Our homes are so important during these cold winter months and, as we all know, there's nothing better than coming home after a long day at work or play.

Our homes persevere through every phase of our lives. My kitchen and laundry room are getting a full and constant workout with two teenagers in the house. Yet, when I go to visit my mom and dad, their home is spotless, there's not a thing out of place and the laundry is always done. That's a far cry from what it used to look like when my mom and dad were raising five teenagers.

In this issue, you'll discover two equally beautiful homes filled with wonderful people enjoying different phases of their lives.

In Creemore, Bill and Lorraine Strain have retired to a newly-built home that, from the outside, looks as though it has been in the quaint village forever (page 110). I am envious of their lifestyle and their woodworking hobby. They have a full workshop on the lower level where they work together to create beautiful furniture.

Way up, above the bay in the Loree Forest sits the Jorgensens' incredible home (page 48). I kid you not when I say Jens, Natalia and their three daughters have the very best view of the entire Beaver Valley. Their home is built for fun – and fun they have. They are creating memories that they'll cherish forever.

Here at OUR HOMES, I am entering my own new phase. As many of you may have discovered, we are now publishing OUR HOMES magazines in 15 different regions across Ontario and beyond (visit our website at www.ourhomesmagazine.com). I oversee the editorial for all of the magazines.

As a result of our success, I am pleased to be handing my editor's hat for this, our flagship publication, to Associate Editor Shelby Hilson. Shelby is bright, creative and a joy to work with and she'll continue to share the best of all things home with all of you.

May you enjoy your new beginnings and lots of cold nights nestled all snug in your home.

Sincerely,

Georgette

Georgette McCulloch, Editor-In-Chief
editor@ourhomesmagazine.com

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publisher's note



MY FOUR-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER was sitting on the couch holding a recent issue of OUR HOMES, and ogling over a gorgeous great room with a stone fireplace.

"I can't stop looking at it," she said, transfixed.

It was indeed beautiful, but I had to chuckle because she's only four – and already developing a taste for great interiors. I also made a mental note, though, that she's connecting to magazines at a young age. I'm proud of that.

Magazines are something that we all connect with. The physical presence of them is one large factor that will continue to bring value far into the future. Magazines aren't hidden in cyberspace – they are showcased on the coffee table. My realtor clients and friends continually tell me that when they show homes to their clients, they always see OUR HOMES proudly displayed. This prompts two reactions in me. The first, of course, is pride – because I know how hard our team works. And the second is a very thankful and humble feeling of, "well, of course," because we work very, very hard to achieve our goals.

For us it's a three-part process. The first part is identifying our target market – readers most likely to spend money on home décor, real estate and home improvement. We have a strong relationship with Canada Post. We also have an extremely targeted database of more than 4,500 "weekenders" and we mail OUR HOMES to their homes in the Greater Toronto Area. This brings enormous value to our advertisers. We are the only magazine in Southern Georgian Bay with this targeted mailing list, and it makes a huge difference. We complement this with local mailings to targeted homes,

and distribution throughout the Village at Blue Mountain and private ski and golf clubs in the area.

The second part of the process is creating a magazine that we hope and believe that all of our readers love, and one they come back to, time and time again, for inspiring, and local, ideas for their homes. Our editorial is focused on the home, and local solutions for the home, and our goal is that our readers will continue to agree that it comes in an extremely attractive package.

The third part of the process is expanding our brand via franchising. OUR HOMES is now the most widely circulated home-focused magazine banner in Ontario. Every year, more than 1.5-million copies of OUR HOMES reach the coffee tables of readers across the province, each with spectacular local content. Our readers know and love OUR HOMES and they expect and receive the best.

Our model continues to expand. We now have franchises as far-reaching as Moncton, NB and Kamloops, BC.

Our mission is that all of this, of course, results in even more value for our advertisers. Now their relationship with us ensures they receive a province-wide (and nationwide) audience just by the simple act of advertising in our print product. Our website now receives thousands and thousands of unique visitors every month from all over the country, and those visitors are clicking through to view our advertisers' digital ads. That's because every print advertiser automatically receives a free ad in both versions of our online magazine, with links to their website (viewable on mobile devices) and a free listing in our online directory. This is on top of the services we offer to complete each advertiser's marketing plan.

This is what's happening here at OUR HOMES as we move into 2012. Our aim is to continue to offer the best value, by far, for our advertisers, by connecting them with our readers on many, many levels. And we are always going to develop and deepen that connection by continuing to enhance and improve our editorial product.

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Shelby Hilson to the position of Managing Editor for Southern Georgian Bay. In addition to her focus on our digital marketing side, Shelby will be taking over some of Georgette's day-to-day management responsibilities, as Georgette continues to focus on her role as Editor-in-Chief, responsible for creating premium content for our audience. Georgette will continue to give hands-on guidance here in Southern Georgian Bay, and our editorial product is going to benefit immensely from having the creative input of two of our region's most talented journalists. Shelby hails from a strong marketing and communications background (with a special emphasis on digital marketing) and has proven, since joining our organization two years ago, that she is very, very capable of producing premium content that our readers love.

We are looking forward to always enhancing the relationship our readers and advertisers have with OUR HOMES.

Cheers to 2012.

Sincerely,

David Loopstra, Publisher
david@ourhomesmagazine.com



Making a connection with magazines at an early age. My kids: Brooklyn, 4, and Maverick, 2.



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advice

changing WITH THE SEASON

I fell for this year's trends and painted my whole house with cool colours – whites and cool blues – it's sparse and looks like a gallery. Now I'm concerned that my home will feel chilly and uninviting in the darker winter months. I don't want to repaint but I feel like I've made a huge error... can I do anything to warm it up?



HINT: Never leave an unused fireplace empty – it's a big black hole! Prepare the fire for the next use or stack birch logs for a more decorative approach.



Designer Stephanie Redmond answers your questions.

HERE'S THE CHEAT SHEET: Natural elements + Props + Lighting

Let's start with mother nature because she infiltrates every part of this answer. What you've done to create your "gallery" look is strip it down to the bare essentials, which is lovely, clean and uncluttered. Now this is not a licence to clutter it up with tchotchkes, but you'll have to add or swap a few items to create some much needed warmth.

NATURE

Simply put, wood equals warmth. And the options are endless. Choose a couple of the following: A stump side table, picture frames, a walnut coffee table, or large scale candlesticks. The key is to use a natural wood, nothing coated in paint or lacquer. And of course I can't stay away from baskets, but they do wear out so consider this a guilt-free purchase. Add one for plants, a laundry hamper or a log basket. Woven placemats and trays will give you that same textural feel. Add some greenery. A living element is a wonderful thing. Add a plant that's not spiky or sparse looking. Something with a rounded leaf like a maidenhair fern or full like grape ivy. For special occasions splurge on fresh flowers to add a punch of colour.

PROPS

Add softness: A cashmere blanket, chunky woven pillows or a sheepskin throw. This is insta-warmth, visually and literally. Choose sensual colours like chocolate brown, burnt red or aubergine. Use fur. Fur (real or not) bestows an immediate association with warmth and an accent pillow will do the trick. Add an area rug. I suggest something you are equally as comfortable with in the summer months as this is a larger ticket item that is awkward to store (and most inconvenient to roll up and put away). Use books, coffee table or literature, and create a link to the outside world and a window into your personal interests.

LIGHTING

It amazes me how many great spaces are ruined by 100-watt bulbs. Invest in dimmer switches and turn them down in the evening. If you're reliant on pot lights, add some lamps. Light should come from above and at low levels to create a relaxed atmosphere. Speak to a lighting specialist at the hardware store to recommend a warm bulb. Paired with candlelight, you will be proud to entertain in your beautiful, wintery-white home.

The key to adding warmth is not just adding warm colours, it's giving a room the power to transmit the sensation of comfort. With a few simple changes (and not re-painting), those cool hues will exude warmth without turning up the heat. **OH**

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The Best of Both Worlds

An Excellent Cup Of Coffee

WRITTEN BY DAVID WILDING-DAVIES

Coffee is a big part of our lives at our homes. OUR HOMES caught up with Ashanti Café's David Wilding-Davies to chat about making a perfect cup. David farms the coffee in Africa, roasts it, and distributes it under the name of his farm, Ashanti Coffee Estate.

OUR HOMES: WHAT TYPE OF BEANS SHOULD ONE USE?

David Wilding-Davies: Here are some guidelines to get you started: There are two very distinct types of coffee grown commercially: Arabicas and Robustas.

The Arabicas are grown at higher altitudes and the beans are removed from the fruit, fermented, washed, and dried. They produce the gourmet and specialty coffees.

Robustas are grown at lower altitudes and the bean is dried in the fruit. They are lower quality and sell for less money. If a blend is not described as 100% Arabica, it will probably have a Robusta component.

Coffee, a lot like Scotch and wine, is usually sold in a blended form. The blend may be several different coffees from different origins. This enables the roasters to keep costs down by substituting different coffees if one type becomes difficult to source.

Next are single origin coffees. They are from very specific areas and have distinctive characteristics.

Finally, there are the estate coffees. They are from a single farm or estate and have unique and distinctive characteristics. They are the most rare to source and are usually only found through specialty roasters.

Ashanti Coffee is strictly single origin, single estate, Arabica coffee.

OH: THIS MEANS IT'S THE VERY BEST AVAILABLE?

DWD: Yes. We grow and produce the highest quality Arabica coffee on our estate in Africa.

OH: IS THERE ANY TRICK TO STORING THE BEANS?

DWD: Reduce the exposure to air. Shut the bag tight after use. Don't freeze or refrigerate it; there's no need and you increase the

risk of condensation or tainting the taste. It is best to buy smaller quantities more frequently.

OH: WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO BREW COFFEE AT HOME?

DWD: So many great ways! Avoid coffee makers with a glass container that sits on a warmer. It will continue to cook the coffee and alter the taste. Use a thermal server instead.

A French Press produces a great cup but the coffee tends to get cold quickly. It helps to wrap a tea towel around it.

Stove top espresso makers can make a superb coffee. Water is put into the bottom, coffee in the middle section, and as the water heats up it passes through the coffee into the top section. The result is a rich, strong cup.

Making espresso and espresso-based drinks (lattes, cappuccinos) at home requires a real passion. The machines are expensive and it is hard to reach the level of proficiency that baristas making espresso-based drinks all day achieve. I have some friends that make a great home latte but most people would rather go out to get their morning latte.

OH: WHAT ABOUT ADDING CREAM AND SUGAR TO COFFEE. HOW DO TRUE COFFEE AFICIONADOS HAVE THEIR COFFEE?

DWD: Coffee buyers sample coffee black so it can be tasted without any flavour distractions. Often these professionals wince when they see people adding cream and sugar to the coffee. I personally enjoy my coffee in many different ways. First thing in the morning I love my coffee black. I taste the full range of flavours and savour the intricacies and nuances of the cup. Later morning, especially if I am fading a bit, I have cream and sugar with my coffee. In the evenings, a strong black coffee with sugar rounds out the meal.



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Continued on page 32

style picks

LOST NATION

(7) Antler Wall Art

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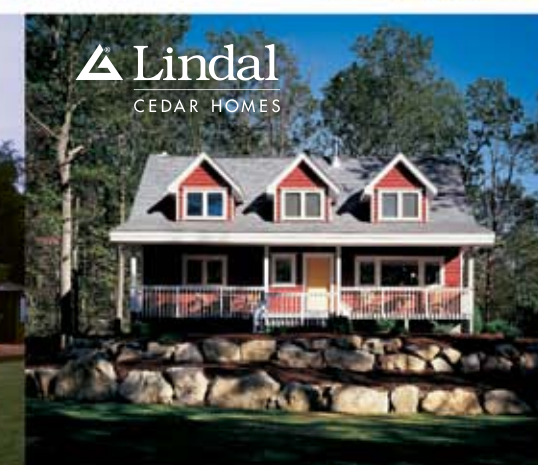
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WINTER: A GLUTTON FOR ENERGY

BY WALTER FRANCZYK
ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHEILA BRITTON

Winter is a season for splurging. Not only on family celebrations, travel and holiday gifts, but on home heating. When the temperature dips, cosy days at home or pleasant evenings in front of a crackling fire or the TV come at a price. About 60 per cent of the money Canadians spend on energy goes to home heating. Cutting those expenses can be challenging but financially rewarding. It can also help you appreciate a mildly old-fashioned lifestyle.

These tips from energy suppliers will help cut winter energy costs.

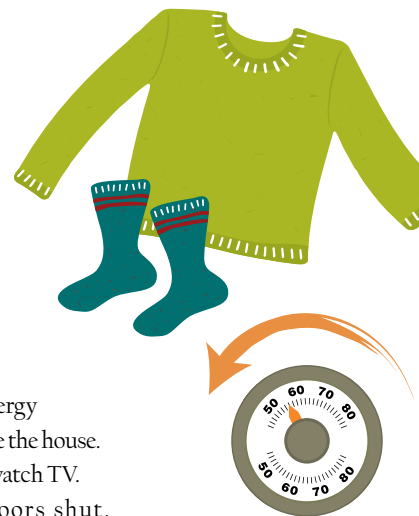
- Put on a sweater and turn down the thermostat by two degrees. That could save as much as four per cent on your heating bill. Wool socks and slippers will help keep your tootsies toasty.
- Take advantage of the sun. Open drapes and blinds to let solar energy heat your home. Closed at night, drapes and blinds can help insulate the house.
- On the couch, throw blankets will keep you warm as you read or watch TV.
- Close air registers in unused rooms and keep closet doors shut. Clothes don't need the heat.
- Move your furniture so you're sitting near interior walls that are warmer than drafty windows or exterior walls.

- Plug the leaks. Check for gaps in weatherstripping around doors, fireplace dampers, attic hatches and air conditioners. Install weather-stripping or caulk leaky doors and windows.

Install gaskets behind electrical switch and outlet covers. Reducing drafts will save you money.

- Plastic window coverings, available at most hardware stores, will help reduce drafts and cut heating costs.
- Keep doors closed. If you're talking to someone at the door, ask them to come inside or step outside yourself. Open doors lose lots of heat.
- Install a programmable thermostat that keeps your house warm while you're home and awake then turns the heat down while you're asleep or away.

Continued on page 38



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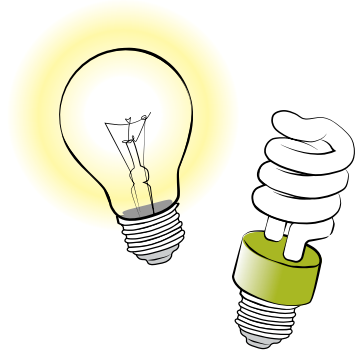
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- Dark winter evenings mean we use lights longer. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent or LED bulbs.
- Keep baseboard heaters, radiators and air registers clean and unblocked.

FIREPLACE

- Keep it shut. Traditional wood-burning fireplaces are energy hogs because they pull heated air out of the house and up the chimney. When a fireplace is not in use, make sure the damper is closed.
- Check the seal on the flue damper and ensure it's as snug as possible.
- When burning wood in a fireplace, split the wood into pieces that are 10-15 centimetres in diameter. Wood will burn more cleanly with more surface area exposed to flames.
- Consider installing tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warm air into the room.
- If you choose not to use your fireplace, block the chimney with rigid insulation that tightly plugs the space. Dampers don't shut fully without some leaking.

KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

- After you've finished baking, keep the oven door open to help heat the kitchen.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's full and at night when electricity demand and prices are lower.
- Use your washing machine only when you have a full load and run in the evenings to take advantage of lower electricity prices.



BASEMENT

- Change or clean your furnace air filter monthly. Have a licensed professional service your furnace annually to ensure it's operating at peak efficiency.
- Check furnace ductwork. Leaking ducts lose valuable heat. Consider hiring a professional to test your ductwork and repair leaks or remove obstructions. To save heat, insulate heating ducts that travel through uninsulated areas of your home.
- Save on water heating costs by wrapping the hot water tank with jacket insulation. Older water heaters have little internal insulation. Cover hot water pipes with pipe wrap to retain heat.
- Sorry guys, but get rid of that old beer fridge. Refrigerators are energy gobblers. A new ENERGY STAR refrigerator uses about 20 per cent less energy than a standard new refrigerator and 46 per cent less than one made in 1980. Call Hydro One and have your old fridge picked up for free. Vacuum refrigerator coils to make them more efficient.

GARAGE

- During winter keep your garage door tightly closed as much as possible. You'll retain warmer air against the garage-side wall of the house. It will serve as a buffer against colder outside air.
- Avoid heating your garage if it is not insulated.
- Put a timer or an indoor switch on your engine block heater. Powering a large block heater 12 hours a night can cost \$45 a month. Using it just a couple of hours each morning costs about 25 cents a day. A warm engine reduces emissions and improves fuel economy.
- Consider installing fully insulated doors on all entrances to garages, cold storage rooms and uninsulated basements.

For more information on winter energy conservation contact your electrical utility, gas or oil heating supplier. **OH**

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CHEESE & WINE 101

WITH TONIA WILSON

Creating a concise and interesting cheese platter, along with well chosen wine pairings, can be effortless and fun.



The variety of wines and cheeses available to us is utterly astonishing, (no pun intended, no wait, that's udder). There are cheeses made from the milks of different animals – cow, sheep and goat, mainly. There are wines made from hundreds of different grape varieties, and then there are the varied influences and styles of the regions they come from and the people who produce them.

With a few basic guidelines you can create a simple or extravagant cheese platter that will entice your friends and family.

Cheese makes for a very easy starter. If I have a big cheeseboard put together before people arrive I know that they'll have something to nibble on while I tend to last minute details. Don't add too much yeasty bread, otherwise everyone will be full before they reach the table. Thin crackers and bread sticks suffice perfectly. Round out the platter with two or three sliced meats, such as prosciutto or dried sausage, some dried fruit and olives and your work is done. The platter is visually appealing and is a great place for your friends to gather and chat with each other.

You can create your cheese platter on pretty much anything you choose, including a scattering of vintage floral plates, cake platters or old wooden cutting boards. For a more formal and elegant effect you can place your cheeses and accompaniments on a large mirror. The platter I use most is a "leftover" piece of wooden countertop trimmed to size.

Now, picking wine and cheese. We'll start with the cheese. You want a variety of "milks" on the platter, so try to have at least two of the three main milk groups – cow, sheep or goat. For a smaller group, serve three or four cheeses; a larger platter can be comprised of five or more. Make sure you've covered a variety of cheese styles. Try to offer something soft, such as a triple cream or a Brie-style cheese, something harder and aged, such as a Manchego or English Cheddar. Lastly, you can either serve a blue

cheese as your third option, or perhaps an interesting goat's milk cheese, such as a Crottin de Chavignol or a Canadian goat's milk cheddar. The main thing is to keep flavours, styles and shapes varied to give your platter visual appeal and interest.

Different cheeses go with different wines. This can get overwhelming and costly if you are trying to offer wine matches for all the different cheeses. There are, however, some wines that innately work well with cheese. For white wines, look toward bigger bodied style wines such as oaked Chardonnays or Chenin Blancs – both of these grape varieties tend to work well with cheese, perhaps because of their French roots! For reds it is always useful to have a fruit-forward Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot and perhaps something a little bit different like a new world Syrah or even a Malbec – both work well with cheese.

It's always more effective to choose your cheeses first. Once you've decided what you're serving take your list to the local wine store and utilize the wine vendor's knowledge.

Blue cheeses partner best with off-dry wines (meaning wines that have some sweetness), unlike other cheeses, which taste better with dry wines (meaning no sweetness). This can get expensive if you are opening a bottle solely for the blue cheese. A way to get around this is to serve a fortified wine that can be recorked and still be enjoyed up to two months later. Ones to try are Tawny Ports (Portugal), Madeira (Portugal) and sweet Sherries (Spain), all of which are terrific value and taste sensational.

Cheat Sheet:

Below I have given a few examples of cheese plates that can be put together easily. They offer great range of taste and the cheeses shouldn't be too difficult to find. For any cheese or wine related questions please feel free to contact me at tonia@savourflavour.com. Enjoy! **OH**

SUGGESTED CHEESE PLATES

Plate #1

La Sauvagine (Canada) cow
Aged Manchego (Spain) sheep
Roaring Forties (Australia) cow

Plate #2

Saint André (France) cow
Chèvre Noir (Canada) goat
Gruyère (Switzerland) cow
Stilton (England) cow

Plate #3

Crottin de Chavignol (France) goat
Taleggio (Italy) cow
Oka (Canada) cow
Pecorino Toscano (Italy) sheep
St. Agur (France) cow

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HANG, ORGANIZE, *display*

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATE FOX

Get organized in a fun, fashionable way by creating a wire tree using basic tools and materials found around the house. Give old kitchen utensils new life, while creating a unique place to store your hidden gems or keep yourself on track.

Here, we've created a jewelry tree, but this crafty piece can be used for hanging, holding, displaying and organizing all kinds of stuff, including hair accessories, sewing tools, keys, photos, greeting cards, business cards, notes and reminders, tickets, recipes, ornaments and origami.

MATERIALS:

- Whisk(s)
- Container, such as a pitcher, flowerpot, tin or bowl
- Fast drying cement
- Attractive stones
- Wire cutters

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut whisk(s) with wire cutters at the top of loops. Use wire cutters to bend the wire outwards in all different ways and directions to look like tree branches.

2. Pour fast drying cement in the bottom of the container and set the whisk(s) inside.

3. Once the cement is solid, place attractive stones on top and hang your jewelry, or other items on your tree. **OH**

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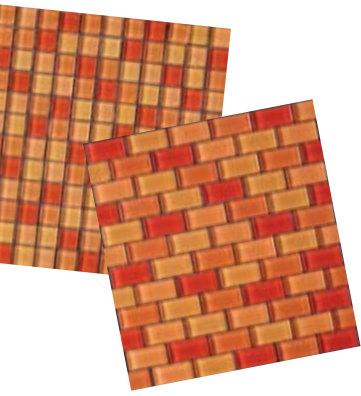
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Vanilla SKIES

BY JUDE WAYLAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

feature

RIGHT: Jens and Natalia Jorgensen welcome guests to their weekend home with friendly smiles. **BELOW:** The front of the custom post-and-beam home mixes wood and stone for a warm, northern appeal. **BOTTOM:** The large, open entranceway features a walk-in coat closet that comes in handy when entertaining friends and family.



Ever since he was 23, Jens Jorgensen dreamed of owning a 100-acre property in the country. On New Year's Day 2007, while driving the babysitter home, he ventured into unknown territory and was awestruck to discover the stunning views of the Beaver Valley.

Continued on page 52



ABOVE: The open-concept, main-floor living space offers breathtaking views of the snow-dusted Beaver Valley, which presents itself as a backyard of dreams. **FAR LEFT:** The endless view from the seat next to the fireplace, encourages guests and family alike, to relax and take it all in. **LEFT:** Jens and Natalia reminisce with builder David Eaton while looking at their home plans.

feature

“It was a beautiful sunny day, crisp and cold, when I turned up Grey Road 2 and saw the whole Beaver Valley,” he recalls. Jorgensen knew he had found his land.

Jens, wife Natalia and their three daughters were renting a ski chalet in Craighleith when Jens heard about a prime piece of land with a panoramic view of the Beaver Valley. It sounded like the ideal location to build his active family a winter retreat. Jens immediately scouted it out, and put an offer on the land before the property had even been shown.

What the Jorgensens purchased is simply out of this world – 300 acres of gently rolling hills that stretch as far as the eye can see, and a ridge overlooking a wide open sky and an unobstructed view of the sparkling blue waters of Georgian Bay.

“We see every sunset along that ridge 365 days a year,” says Jens. “There aren’t many places you can do that.” Even his father commented that he

had never been to a place where you can see so much sky. In fact, there’s an astronomical observatory a stone’s throw from the Jorgensen property.

At first, the Jorgensens wanted to build a log home. But Natalia felt the structure might restrict her use of colour and limit the number of windows, so the couple chose a post and beam design. **Normerica** recommended an experienced builder, who happened to be a good friend, neighbour and fellow member at Georgian Peaks Ski Club. Enter **David Eaton of Baylyn Construction Ltd.**

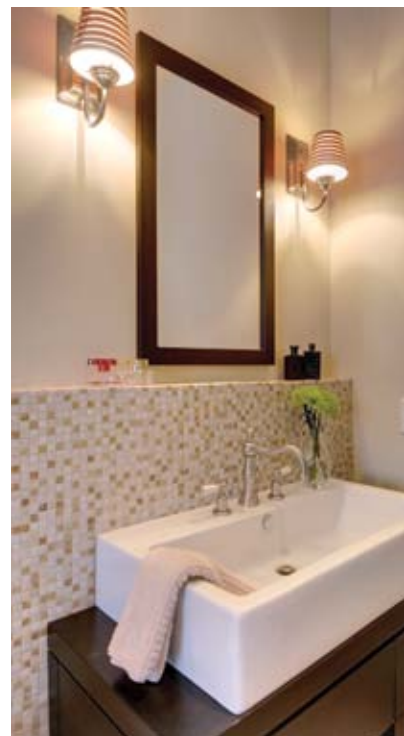
In 2007 and 2008, Eaton and the Jorgensens built an impressive 5,800 sq. ft., two-level, white pine and Douglas fir, post and beam winter getaway. “This is a very unique, 100 per cent custom designed Normerica home,” explains Eaton. “With Normerica, every joint, and every tenon has to be fitted, drilled and pegged. They’re roughly cut, and then we fine-tune them all to make them fit properly.” *Continued on page 56*



FAR LEFT: With the dinner table set for 10, complete with flower arrangements from Paperwhite Flowers in Thornbury, and a gourmet kitchen designed for entertaining, the Jorgensens are ready to share their evening with close friends. **LEFT:** After pouring a drink at the rustic bar in the dining room, visitors are encouraged to sign the guest book. **TOP:** An afternoon snack is served on a beautiful cheeseboard given to the Jorgensens as a gift from Eaton. **ABOVE:** The custom-crafted kitchen offers loads of workspace and style with a built-in refrigerator.



LEFT: Splashes of red are seen throughout the home, including in the cosy, up country master bedroom. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The master en suite mixes warm colours with clean lines and tasteful tile work to achieve a contemporary look that complements the rustic home. **RIGHT:** A wooden sign on the landing of the main staircase, pays tribute to the family's ski club, Georgian Peaks. **FAR RIGHT & BELOW:** The lower walkout level was designed specifically for the couple's three daughters with a large living room for playing games and watching movies, a small kitchen, a bedroom each, a separate laundry room, spa, gear room and a spare room for friends.





It was Natalia who situated the home high atop the ridge, and Natalia who tastefully oversaw every single detail of the interior design – from detailed tile designs and custom designed cabinetry (with the expertise of **J.D. Medland Cabinet Makers**), to sourcing fixtures, paint colours and furnishings (**Jonna's Rustic Refinement** and **FAD Inc.**)

“The way Natalia decorated their home is the reason why this is one of my favourites,” says Eaton. “It’s the first time ever I’ve had a homeowner put together tile drawings for patterns. It was amazing. They were done by hand and so helpful.”

Eaton’s team did most of the finishing, including the nine-to-11-inch reclaimed elm floorboards supplied by **Danny Farrow** at **Nostalgic Wood Inc.**

The Jorgensen home was designed to be functional. The master bedroom and en suite are on the main level. Four more bedrooms and bathrooms (all countertops from **City Stone**), a spacious living area and stone fireplace, wine cellar, kids’ laundry room, equipment/mudroom, steam/shower room and kitchenette are located in the fully finished lower level. *Continued on page 58*

ABOVE: The girls’ kitchen is fully equipped with everything they need to host friends in their lower-level apartment. **RIGHT:** The newest addition downstairs is the wine cellar. Jens points out that several bottles have tags hanging around the bottlenecks with handwritten notes from the guests who gave them, including what foods to enjoy each vintage with.



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LEFT & BELOW: The guest room on the lower level is a private getaway for anyone staying with the Jorgensens. The bedroom is warm and comfortable in chalet colours while the spa-like en suite features double sinks, a spacious glassed-in shower and a large soaker tub.

The main floor features a remarkable open-concept space, which includes expansive kitchen, dining and living areas. The Jorgensens took full advantage of the post and beam construction to welcome in the light. Everywhere you turn, windows of all sizes offer breathtaking views of the surrounding valley.

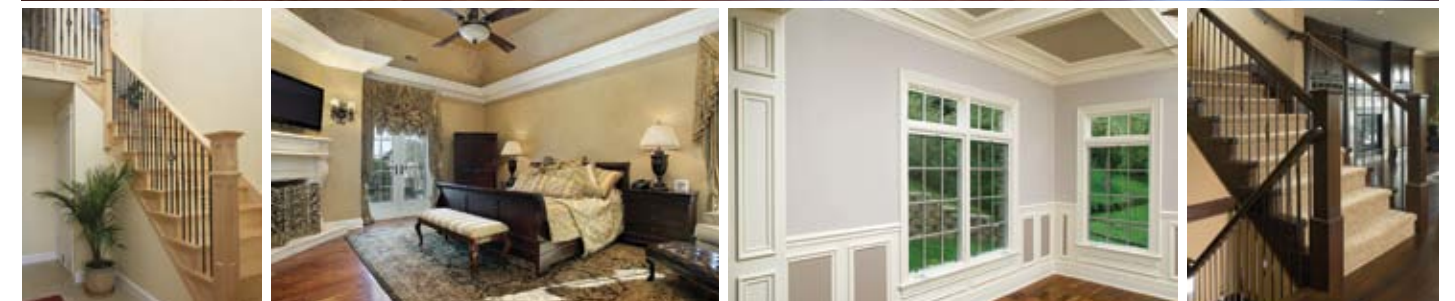
A stately great room fireplace anchors the home. “**Campbell Construction Inc.** did a fantastic job with the fireplace stonework,” says Eaton. “You can’t even tell where there’s a seam in this inch-and-a-half-thick real stone veneer.” The block chimney exterior is clad with cultured stone, the interior with **ErthCoverings**, once again, Natalia’s recommendation.

In Eaton’s opinion, the great room really makes the home. “It’s the one place where I can totally relax and be myself,” says Jens. “When everyone’s there, we all become immediately relaxed, and that’s what I think is so beautiful.”

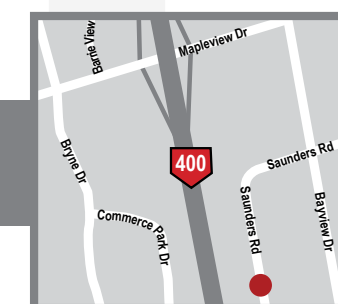
There’s a full radiant heating system throughout the home, and no ducts, thanks to a very efficient propane boiler (**RT Mechanical**). “It’s all the best of the best as far as heating systems go,” says Eaton. “The only forced air in the home comes from two 200-amp HRV systems, one at each end of the house, which provide fresh air.” There’s no need for air conditioning on the ridge. *Continued on page 60*

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feature

The home sits solidly on an ICF foundation. Eaton and his crew installed an engineered suspended slab in the attached single car garage to tuck away noisy mechanical equipment in the basement. It's a phenomenal use of space that includes a huge ski locker area for the kids.

Across the driveway, Eaton built a 1,248 sq. ft., three-car garage with a full bunky, which features two bedrooms and a large teenage play area.

With 10 years of commercial construction experience in Toronto, and 30 homes under his belt in the Blue Mountains, Eaton holds a special place in his heart for the Jorgensen project. Why? "The building. The view. The people," he responds. "They're just great. This couple is so passionate about what they do."

Now the Jorgensens escape the city almost every weekend to savour their country retreat. "It's great," says Jens. "I just sit there and look at the view, or in the evening we have a little fire. It's the perfect place to sit, talk and relax with each other." **OH**

SOURCE GUIDE

Baylyn Construction Ltd., Campbell Construction Inc., City Stone, Clearlite Electric, Doug Goodwin Plumbing, FAD Inc., Georgian Stair Company Inc., Huronia Alarms, J.D. Medland Cabinet Makers, John H. McNabb Construction Ltd., Jonna's Rustic Refinement, Nostalgic Wood Inc., Rudy Berrang Roofing, RT Mechanical, Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre



ABOVE: There's no arguing over bathroom space for the Jorgensen girls. Each daughter has her own sink and a wall-length mirror makes it easy for all three to get ready each morning. **LEFT:** Perhaps one of the most unique features of the home, the lower-level mudroom resembles that of a full team's locker room, with enough space to store all sports equipment year-round.

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Building our house with Harold Robison of Bob Armstrong Construction was a very satisfying experience. Harold was extremely communicative through the whole building process and kept the project on schedule and on budget. We couldn't be happier with the end results. – Bill & Angela Newberry

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BE ENTERTAINED AT HOME

THE PLACE: After more than two decades in business, **Georgian Audio Video Unlimited** is now a part of Collingwood's history, but there's nothing historical about what they can offer for your home. This is not your typical electronics store. Step into this state-of-the-art showroom and discover the latest and greatest in home entertainment. The focus is on the most highly sought-after technologies of today, like HDTV, home theatres and media rooms, hi-fi stereo systems, fine audio/visual furniture, whole house audio, smart home systems and the complete lineup of Apple products.

WHAT'S HOT: "Internet-based music and movie services are all the rage," says business owner Scott Lovegrove. "Easy control with iPads and other smart devices make using the systems a breeze for the whole family, and really makes for some seriously fun dinner parties too!" Popular products include the Sonos wireless hi-fi music system, the Control4 home automation system and several Apple products. **SERVICES:** Great design, good taste and ultra easy control are Georgian Audio's creed. Lovegrove says that custom, in-home installation is a huge part of what they do. Their expert field

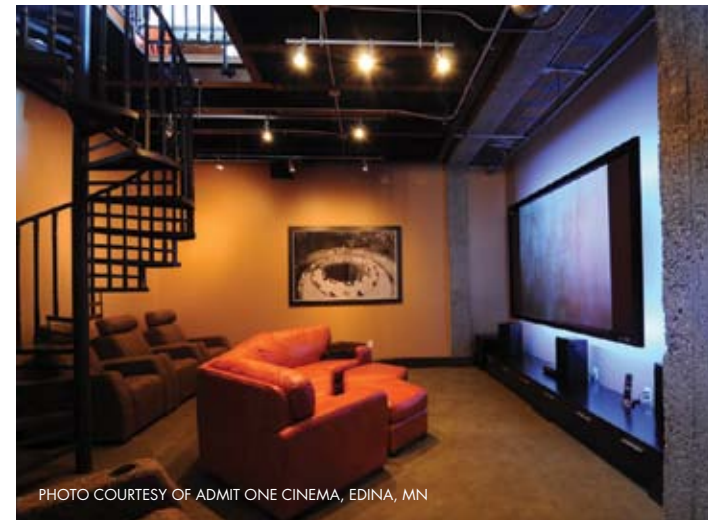


PHOTO COURTESY OF ADMIT ONE CINEMA, EDINA, MN



BONNIE FOX PHOTO

technicians not only install nearly everything they sell, but can also design and integrate products, including furniture and lighting, into your home to maximize your enjoyment and ease of use. By participating in the AdCheque program, Georgian Audio offers the "ultimate price guarantee," which means you don't have to search endlessly or travel for the best prices.

SEASONAL: Staying indoors, watching a great movie with the family or listening to music with friends, makes the cold winter months much more enjoyable. High quality sound and picture from

brand names like Bowers & Wilkins, Panasonic, Samsung, Rotel, Bryston, Paradigm, Anthem, Denon, Bose, Stealth Acoustics and Stewart Filmscreen, along with fine AV furniture from Salamander Designs, will have you hoping winter never ends.

FAVOURITES: For Lovegrove, "it's got to be Sonos for the content and the control. With 12 million tunes built into the system, it's like having the biggest record store at your disposal," he says.

WHERE: 15 Balsam St. Unit 3, Collingwood
705.445.1118, www.georgianaudiovideo.com **OH**





Chris Keleher * Paul Casey * Cindy Ryerse * Marty Van Beest * Sheila Shepherd * Vicki Bell ** Doug Linton * Doug Lindsay * Peter Holgate **



Ian Hawkins **



Vel Ivardi ***



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Neil Thain ** John Giffen ** Rick Crouch ** Zig Glogowski * Jim Hanna * Wispy Boivin * Rick Wiles ** Phyllis Dineen *



\$495,000

CHARMING LOG HOME Top of Escarpment, near Osler & Three Stage, 4 BR, 1 acre, view of the Bay. MLS@20120285 **Neil Thain** 416-998-5558 neil@ealestatewiz.ca



\$790,000

ENJOY NOW – DEVELOP LATER 2.9 Acres zoned R-3 in Collingwood. Great house, view of the hills. MLS@20115804 **Neil Thain** 416-998-5558 neil@realestatewiz.ca



\$264,900

CREEK-SIDE! Fully finished 3 levels, 3 years old, move in ready. MLS@20115763 **Neil Thain** 416-998-5558 neil@realestatewiz.ca



UPSCALE GEORGIAN MEADOWS Spacious 3 bdrm, 4 bath with hardwood floors and cathedral ceiling in master bdrm. MLS@20114854 **Vel Ivardi** 705-445-5520 Ext 235 allreal@RoyalLePage.ca



\$159,500

MEAFORD 'NEW PRICE' 3 bedroom, 1½ storey home, recently painted and new insulation on main floor. Huge master bedroom. MLS@20112881 **Bob Muir** 705-443-0773 bob@CollingwoodLifestyle.com



\$239,900

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



\$309,000

SLOPE-SIDE LUXURY Completely refurbished, with views to the pool and Village. With the front door steps to the Silver Bullet Ski Hill. MLS@20115015 **Rick Wiles** 705-812-1469 rwiles@RoyalLePage.ca



\$748,111

STUNNING 4 RED BUNGALOW loft with magnificent views of Blue Mountain. Minutes to Collingwood and ski hills. \$\$\$'s in upgrades. **Peter Holgate** 705-445-5520 Ext 228 pfolgate@RoyalLePage.ca



\$2,250,000

SKI IN from Craigleith/Alpine - 6500 sq ft of absolute luxury and master craftsmanship, 6 bds, 5 bth, big views, furnished. Virtual Tour <http://myhomes.thevirtualtourcompany.ca/> 7020 **D. Barry Manchester** 705-446-8468



\$369,000

GOLF COURSE CONDO 4 bds 3 bth, granite, hardwood, SS app, f/f bsmt, garage, gas fp, backs onto green space, pool FP. Virtual Tour <http://myhomes.thevirtualtourcompany.ca/> 6994 **D. Barry Manchester**



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THORNBURY CONDO 3+1 bdrm, 2 bath, sauna, reverse layout. Unique Home Tour at www.chriskeleher.ca. MLS@20116065 **Paul Casey** 705-606-2510 paulcasey@RoyalLePage.ca



CREEK-SIDE 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, located in a great school zone, close to amenities and lots of room for growing families. MLS@20115284 **Paul Casey** 705-606-2510 paulcasey@RoyalLePage.ca



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GEORGIAN PEAKS SKI CLUB! 3800 sq ft, 6 bdrm, 3 bath Log Home. Online home tour at www.chriskeleher.ca MLS@20111176 **Chris Keleher** 705-888-4624 chriskeleher@me.com



\$875,000

DEVIL'S GLEN SKI CLUB! 3600 sq ft, 4 bdrm, 2+1 bath chalet style home on 4 acres! Online home tour at www.chriskeleher.ca MLS@20120213 **Chris Keleher** 705-888-4624 chriskeleher@me.com



\$2,895,000

PRETTY RIVER VALLEY Views of Georgian Bay and Collingwood. One of the region's finest homes. MLS@20113644 **John Giffen** 705-888-6791 jegiffen@me.com



\$698,000

A RARE ESTATE Beautifully treed and private water-front home on Georgian Bay. 150 ft of shoreline with sweeping views of Nottawasaga Bay. MLS@20112672 **John Giffen** 705-888-6791 jegiffen@me.com



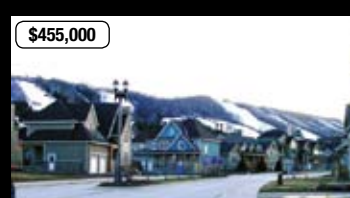
\$224,990

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



\$189,000

DARE TO COMPARE Popular Ruperts Landing complex on shores of Georgian Bay. Spacious 3 bdrms, 3 bath, recent upgrades ++. MLS@20116051 **Zig Glogowski** 705-888-3080 zig@royallepage.ca



\$455,000

ATTN...SKIERS! Value & views @ base of the ski hills. Chalet/townhome – \$50,000 in upgrades, hardwood, granite, stone f/p. MLS@20114614 **Zig Glogowski** 705-888-3080 zig@royallepage.ca



\$499,900

NOISY RIVER PROPERTY Just minutes west of Creemore! Just over 1.5 acres, 3 bedrooms, gourmet kitchen, gleaming wood floors and fieldstone fireplace! MLS@20114087 **Vicki Bell** 705-446-4539 ringabell@RoyalLePage.ca



\$439,900

RIVERSIDE 5 bedroom home overlooking pond. 3,000 sq ft, hardwood floors, 9 ft ceilings, finished lower level. MLS@20115894 **Ian Hawkins** 705-446-5136 www.RealEstateatBlueMountain.com



\$269,900

RIVERSIDE 'NEW PRICE' Brand new 3 bdrm home. 1,520 sq ft, finished basement. Close to schools. MLS@20116433 **Ian Hawkins** 705-446-5136 ianhawkins@royallepage.ca www.RealEstateatBlueMountain.com



\$379,000

5 BEDROOM IN MCKEAN SUBDIVISION! 2,600 sq ft, over ½ acre lot, inground pool. MLS@20120163 **Cindy Ryerse** 705-446-7254 cryerse@royallepage.ca www.RealEstateatBlueMountain.com



\$859,000

RARE WATERFRONT OPPORTUNITY! 250 ft on Georgian Bay. Minutes to Georgian Peaks & Georgian Bay Club. MLS@20110174 **Cindy Ryerse** 705-446-7254 cryerse@royallepage.ca www.RealEstateatBlueMountain.com



\$177,900

BEAVER VALLEY CHALET Renovated cottage, open concept living. 2 bdrms plus loft for 3rd bedroom or lounging. Large deck overlooks the Beaver River! MLS@20116438 **Cindy Ryerse** 705-446-7254 cryerse@royallepage.ca



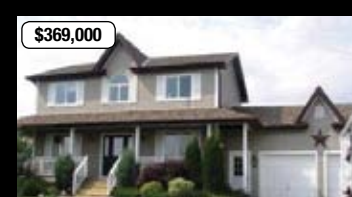
\$1,495,000

ALPINE SKI CLUB CHALET Five bedroom, 4½ bath, custom home. MLS@20111971 **Doug Lindsay** 705-441-0850 dlindsay@RoyalLePage.ca



\$649,000

LORA BAY!! 5 bedrooms, 3,504 sq ft, screened-in outdoor entertainment room, landscaped grounds, exciting golf course community. MLS@20115528 **Wispy Boivin** 705-888-7212 wispy@RoyalLePage.ca



\$369,000

MCKEAN SUBDIVISION! 3 bedrooms, 2,600 sq ft, ½ acre lot, updated kitchen, wrap-around porch. Move-in condition! MLS@20116281 **Wispy Boivin** 705-888-7212 wispy@RoyalLePage.ca



\$329,000

GEORGIAN MEADOWS The "Hampshire" model features a bright open concept of living. 3 bed, 2/1 bath. Designer décor throughout this 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Property@collingwood.com



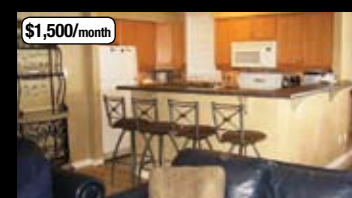
\$199,900

MOVE-IN CONDITION Excellent starter or retirement home, well maintained 3 bdrm bungalow w/numerous improvements located on a cul-de-sac just a short walk to Sunset Point Park. MLS@20115573 **Rick Crouch** 705-443-1037



\$319,000

UNIQUE 2011/2012 SKI SEASON Renovated Sierra Lane offering a fabulous view of Blue Mountain ski hills! Designer décor throughout this 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. MLS@20115425 **Marty Van Beest** 705-441-4706



\$1,500/month

LIGHTHOUSE POINT Annual furnished, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, ground floor with western view of ski hills and bay. **Marty Van Beest** 705-441-4706



\$244,900

OPEN CONCEPT LIVING Spacious 2 bdrm + loft condo on the shores of Georgian Bay. 3 levels, 3 balconies, 3 washrooms, space for the family to enjoy. MLS@20115734 **Sheila Shepherd** 705-441-6085 sheilashepherd@rogers.com



\$850/month

ANNUAL LEASE – UTILITIES EXTRA Upper 2 bdrm, 2 bath condo in the Glen II of Cranberry Village w/wood burning f/p and w/o to large deck. MLS@20120018 **Sheila Shepherd** 705-441-6085 sheilashepherd@rogers.com



\$259,900

SWISS MEADOWS "BEEHIVE!" An architectural wonder! 6 bedrooms, 1,700 sq ft, large deck, views of Georgian Bay. MLS@20114764 **Jim Hanna** 705-441-5272 jimhanna@rogers.com



\$980,000

WHITE PINE 3 BEDROOM CHALET 5 minutes from Georgian Peaks. 2,950 sq ft, vaulted ceilings, outdoor fireplace. MLS@20115857 **Jim Hanna** 705-441-5272 jimhanna@rogers.com

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

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Surrounded by natural beauty, we're all lucky to live, vacation or weekend in this magical place called Southern Georgian Bay (SGB). Some spend it speeding down ski hills and exploring trails and rivers on the weekends, while others have moved here full-time, bought homes, opened businesses and started families. It's the people living full or part-time who make this area a vibrant, beautiful place. That's why we're introducing you to a group of SGB's proud residents this season. We've even included some of their recommendations for local businesses, just in case, you too, are looking to become a happy homeowner.

◀ Pawel & Viktoria Wrzesinski with children, Emily and Patrick

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WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR NEW HOME? We love everything about our new **Delpark (Pretty River Estates)** home, from the exterior design to the spacious and open floor plan with 10-foot ceilings. During the building process Delpark worked with and helped us with all the details to create our dream home.

WHY DID YOU MOVE HERE? We moved to Collingwood because of what it offers our family. We can ski during the winter, go to the beach in the summer and bike on the beautiful trails. And all of that is within minutes of our new home!

FAVOURITE WAY TO SPEND A WINTER EVENING TOGETHER: On the long winter evenings we enjoy sitting by the fireplace, watching movies and playing board games.

Continued on page 70



▲ Karen Jones with daughter, Alexandra

Interior Decorator and Weekender, Blue Mountain

WHAT ARE WINTER WEEKENDS IN SGB LIKE? They're like mini-vacations in a winter wonderland! They're filled with beautiful scenery, the friendliest people, skiing, great restaurants, hot-tubbing, Scrabble in front of the fire while listening to music, and a relaxing place for family and friends to visit.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT YOUR HOME HERE? Through **Harold Robison's (Bob Armstrong Construction Ltd.)** expert renovation management, we were able to transform a stark, simple house with an unfinished basement into a warm, cosy chalet with abundant room for visitors and spa-like amenities. Harold was so efficient - we were moved in and on the slopes in time to kick-off the ski season!

FAVOURITE WINTER ACTIVITY Hands-down downhill skiing! Every year at the end of fall we do the "snow-dance" because the snow can't fall soon enough, now that we have a home in this amazing area.

Continued on page 72

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people

▼ Bill McMahon and Karen Burke

**Territory Manager for Wilson Sports,
Cruise Consultant at Expedia CruiseShipCenters, Collingwood**

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOME: Our home is a mix of warm and inviting colours thanks to **Chris Hobbs** of **Hobbs Home Solutions**. With his magical paint touch, Chris transformed the marvellous open, bright great room, where we enjoy entertaining friends and family.

DESCRIBE THE PERFECT DAY IN SGB: We love taking road trips in our '02 Thunderbird on beautiful sunny days to the car shows across Georgian Bay.

FAVOURITE WINTER MEAL: Our favourite meals come from Blue Ridge Meats, especially the fresh smoked pork chops that we barbecue all year long.

Continued on page 74



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▼ Paige Young

Real Estate Agent at Chestnut Park, Collingwood

I LOVE LIVING IN SGB BECAUSE... my family loves the bay and everything the area has to offer. The recreational opportunities are endless and we spend a lot of time outdoors. We have great memories from spending summers at my mother-in-law's chalet up here so it seemed like a good fit.

MY HOUSE IS... a great home for entertaining, where friends and family gather. I love the living room. The punch of colour that **Missy Sharp** of **Bramwell Sharp Design** gave it, just finished it off and made it a happy place.

FAVOURITE WINTER ACTIVITY: We all ski and my boys race. I don't think we could find a better program anywhere.

Continued on page 76



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▲ Kevin Wong and son, Jonathan
Dentist and Weekender, Blue Mountain

HOW DO YOU SPEND WEEKENDS IN SGB? Our weekends are mostly spent outdoors. In the winter months we are skiing, snowboarding or just relaxing in our chalet.
WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT YOUR HOME HERE? While looking for a second home in the town of The Blue Mountains, we didn't want a contemporary home as we have in the city. Our vision was that of a ski chalet with a rustic feel and appearance. We were able to obtain that with the beautiful timber accents from **Legendary Logcrafters Ltd.**
DESCRIBE THE PERFECT WINTER DAY: A day of winter sports followed by a relaxing evening by the fireplace with the family, watching the snow falling.

Continued on page 78

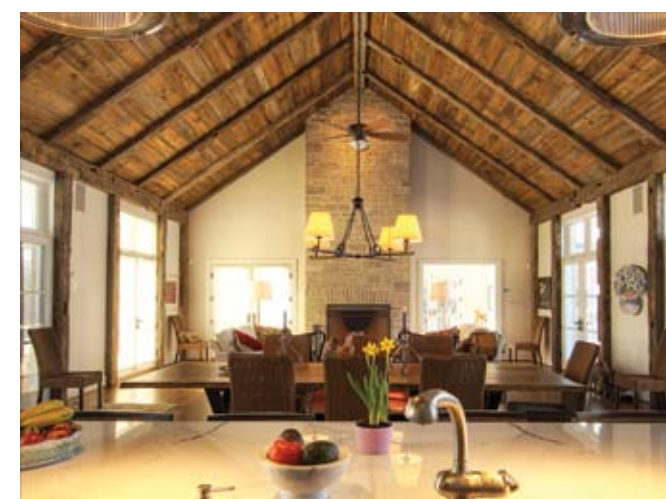
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people

▼ Blair Locke

Cinematographer and Weekender, Clarksburg

HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME IN SGB?

Kayaking, mountain biking, fishing and cooking

MY HOUSE IS... an 1865 Clarksburg beauty. It's been lovingly restored and is now being brought into the new millennium with the help of local designer/fabricator **Skot Lawrence** of **Desiron Custom Metal**.


MY PERFECT WINTER DAY IS... a quick snowshoe, some riding at the Peaks, then slurping a few martinis and firing up the grill.

Continued on page 82



PHOTO BY SKOT LAWRENCE

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David Eaton, General Contractor

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people

► Siobhan Dempsey Restaurateur at C&A Steak Company, Blue Mountain

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showcase

This Viceroy show home by Scotbuild Custom Home Builder welcomes loads of natural light through walls of high-quality windows, and still manages to offer warm, intimate spaces like the dining room off the main entranceway. Many furniture pieces and accessories were purchased at Macdonald's Countrywide Furniture & Appliances in Meaford.

CUSTOM CREATIONS

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Scott Young, a local custom builder with over 25 years of experience, comes by his craft honestly.

In his youth he served his carpentry apprenticeship in the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, Scotland and brings an old-school work ethic and pride of construction to Canada. His family company, **Scotbuild Custom Home Builder**, specializes in constructing **Viceroy** homes and has recently opened a 2,310 sq. ft. show home on Mountain Road in Collingwood. *Continued on page 86*



Attention to detail and unique features, such as a built-in headboard with a piano window in the master suite, and a stainless steel backsplash and real stone wall in the kitchen, are what give Scotbuild homes the wow factor.

This spacious, four-bedroom open-concept country home features plenty of natural light, cathedral ceilings in the great room, a large kitchen and a comfortable family room. Other amenities include a mudroom and a laundry room with garage access.

Since its opening this past fall, Scott is pleasantly surprised by the large number of people who have expressed serious interest in having one of the 150 Viceroy models constructed in the Southern Georgian Bay area.

Scott and his five full-time employees work with a number of local subcontractors, such as **Madriver Electric** of Stayner, **Huron Alarms** of Collingwood, **Precision Septic & Earthworks Ltd.** of Ravenna and **Bumstead Bros Plumbing & Heating** of Owen Sound to ensure customer satisfaction. "We pride ourselves on using local trades," states Young. "We all live in the area. So if something happens during or after construction we're always here to help. As local people we are very aware that you are only as good as your last job." *Continued on page 88*



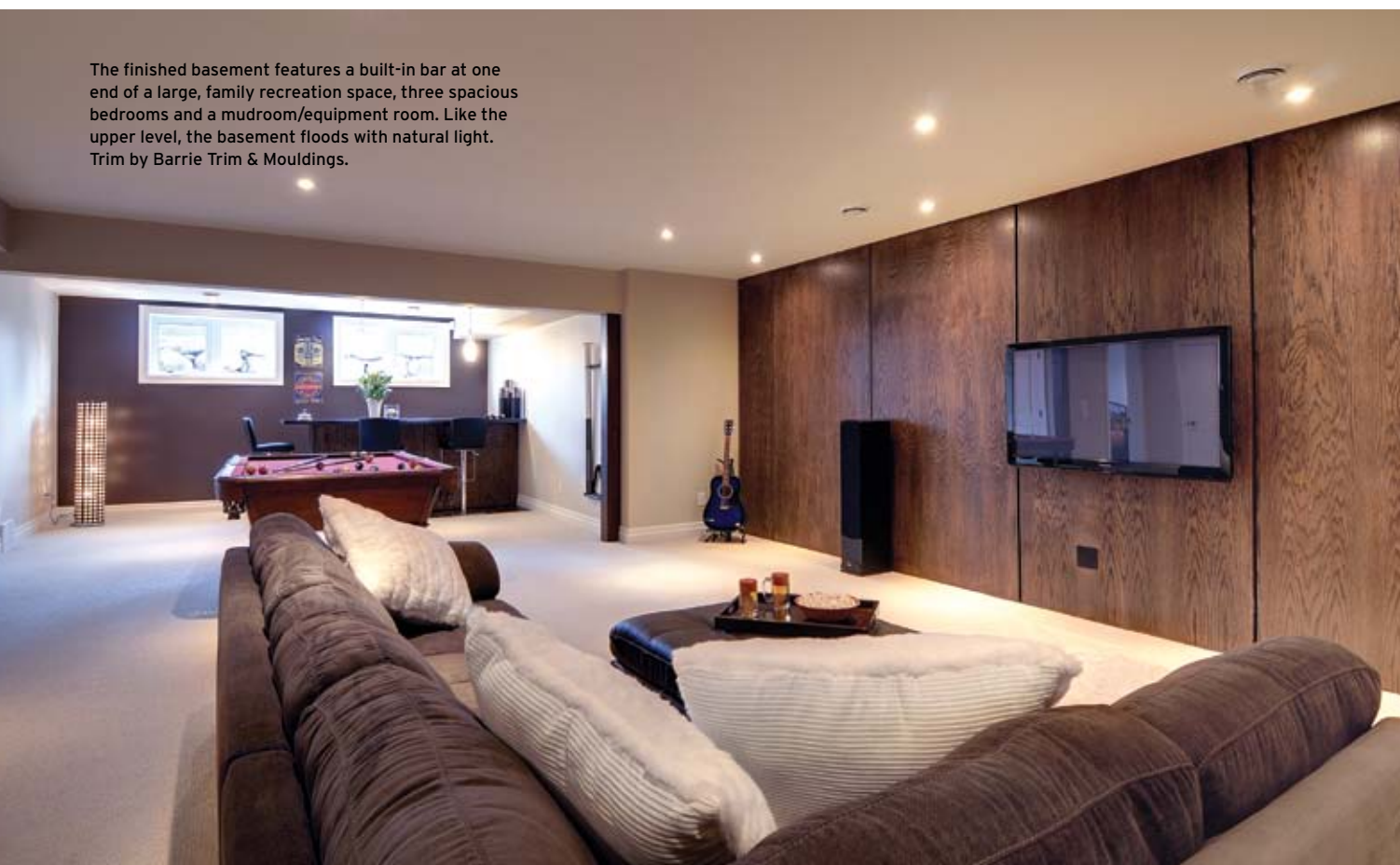


Having built six Viceroy homes over the past four years, Young knows what customers look for in a country home and is prepared to walk owners through the various phases of construction from design to completion. “We can customize Viceroy plans to suit an individual customer’s needs or they can come up with their own drawings and we can make it happen,” he says. “Overall, we offer individual attention with a personal touch.”

Potential customers can see this personal care for themselves with a visit to the firm’s Facebook page where the construction stages of the show home are captured in a series of engaging photos.

Young’s final words are encouraging to anyone considering a custom build of their own. “The Viceroy package is excellent and not as expensive as people might think, when you consider all the Canadian-made materials are of the highest quality and the structure is well-engineered.” **OH**

The finished basement features a built-in bar at one end of a large, family recreation space, three spacious bedrooms and a mudroom/equipment room. Like the upper level, the basement floods with natural light. Trim by Barrie Trim & Mouldings.



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RECREATIONAL LIVING

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Far Hills Thornbury makes living a full, active life easy with condominium townhomes and condo suites offering a variety of gracious living features.

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An in-ground swimming pool, tennis court and clubhouse complete the active lifestyle at Far Hills. Located at Beaver Street South, the homes are within walking distance of the shops and restaurants of downtown, the Thornbury Marina, the Georgian Trail and the bay. *Continued on page 92*



The open-concept design of this three-bedroom townhome makes it ideal for entertaining friends and spending time with family.

showcase

As **Anita Lauer**, representative of **Chestnut Park Real Estate Ltd.**, leads a tour through the “Primrose” model townhome, she sketches the target demographic for the Far Hills complex. “Our target market is retirees looking for a full-time home with easy access to all the amenities the area has to offer, especially those looking for a more active lifestyle.”

What distinguishes this affordable model is that the rear deck overlooks green space – a wooded area bordering a meandering tributary of the Beaver River, which will never be developed. *Continued on page 94*

The kitchen/dining area features premier grade strip hardwood flooring, upgraded kitchen cabinetry, a large eat-at island with double stainless sink and a rear deck overlooking green space.



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Upstairs are three spacious bedrooms, including a large master with a luxurious en suite, which boasts a double vanity, soaker tub and separate shower.

Some of the highlights of the open-concept model include: upgraded kitchen cabinetry, an island with double stainless sink and built-in dishwasher, premier grade strip hardwood flooring, nine-foot main-floor ceilings, convenient ground-floor laundry room, oversized custom casings and baseboards, oil-rubbed hardware fittings throughout and ceramic tub and shower enclosures.

Structurally, the townhome model utilizes maintenance-free materials and the best in energy-saving mechanicals. Lauer is particularly proud of the unit's ICF (Insulated Concrete Form) foundation walls, which ensure a dry, soundproof lower floor. With its roughed-in plumbing and electrics this level can be finished at the owner's discretion to create even more living space in this attractive development. **OH**





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showcase



SOPHISTICATED STYLE

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Situated at the mouth of the Beaver River in Thornbury, **Eleven Bay Street** offers the best in country townhome living just steps from the waterfront.

Designed for serenity and comfort, the development, managed by **David Eaton** of **Baylyn Construction**, brings it all together with the year-round activities of a diverse and active community and a breathtaking natural setting. The elegant designs of these 13 distinguished residences are complemented by the scenic river and Georgian Bay views that surround the private sanctuary. *Continued on page 98*

The residences at Eleven Bay Street in Thornbury showcase the very best in both exterior and interior finishes. Maintenance-free stone and stucco walls with vinyl clad windows, hickory flooring, seven-inch baseboards, an oak staircase, nine-foot ceilings and a wood-panelled elevator are just a few examples of the superb craftsmanship.



showcase

As the tour of “The Bayview” model home begins, **Michael Kearns**, a representative for **Royal LePage Locations North Realty**, states, “As you can see, the finishes are superb. The builder has spared no expense. In fact, there was a master mason on site for the past four years. The quality is second-to-none.”

Kearns is right. The first thing that strikes the visitor to this exclusive residential townhouse is the high quality of the exterior and interior finishes. Noteworthy features include maintenance-free stone and stucco walls with vinyl clad windows, hickory flooring, seven-inch baseboards, an oak staircase, nine-foot ceilings, accent lighting and a wood-panelled elevator.

“Most places need upgrades,” says Kearns. “Here, the upgrades are standard.”

The quality of construction is matched only by the wonderful views of the river as it flows past the Thornbury Yacht Club into the vast vista of Georgian Bay.

Carey Mudford of **Carey Mudford Interior Design** has done a superb job in showcasing the three floors of this 2,633 sq. ft. unit. Natural shades of soft greys and whites give every living area an elegant, spacious feel.

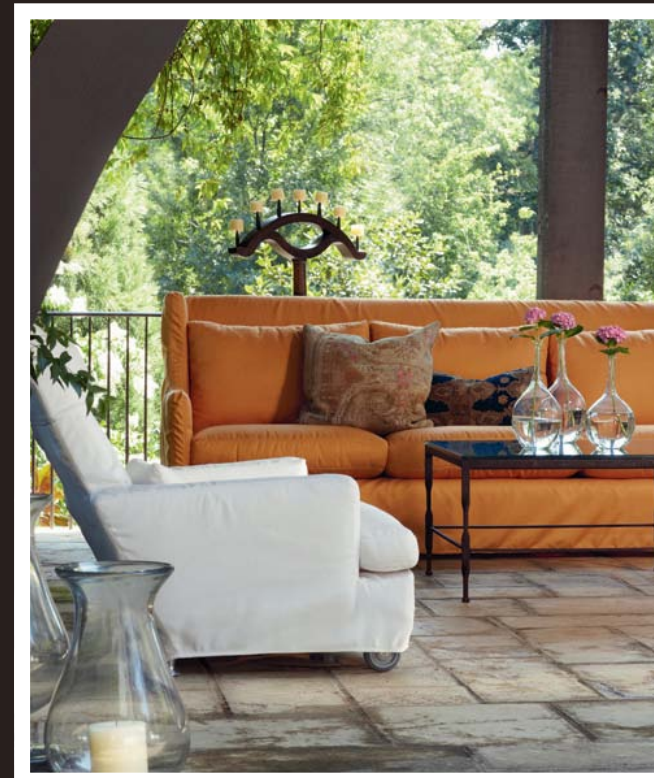
Kearns says, “Quality and location set us apart – especially for retired people. From here you can walk everywhere.” The development is also attracting part-timers who want a beautiful home to spend weekends, holidays and ski season in, without the hassle of regular maintenance. A resident of Thornbury himself, Kearns adds, “The town is a great spot in winter and summer. It’s an active community with great restaurants.” **OH**



The view of the Beaver River from the top-floor master suite is one of the development's major selling points. The private enclave is in a highly desirable location – surrounded by nature, yet just a short walk to Thornbury's best restaurants and shops.

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CUTTING EDGE

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Constructed with the contemporary and active family in mind, **Stone Custom Homes**’ model, “The Edge,” is a true gem.

First built in Alta, this luxurious, five-bedroom design with nearly 5,000 sq. ft. of living space will also be available in Windrose Valley, a unique development with enormous lots at the base of Osler Bluff ski hills.

Inside the home, a singular stone and metal fireplace anchors the great room with a 25-foot ceiling and great views to the mountain. The adjacent open kitchen area allows even more room for social gatherings.

This spacious home possesses several unique features, including double-glazed windows (that reduce noise, conserve energy and save money), reclaimed hardwood floors and a mudroom with laundry room access. The sprawling, ground-floor master bedroom is augmented by guest and multi-use suites on the second floor, and with a bathroom for every family member, this home is just as functional as it is beautiful. *Continued on page 102*



The Edge model by Stone Custom Homes combines rustic and modern features, such as stone and metal for the great room’s fireplace, for a unique look. With incredible views to the mountain, and a huge, high-end kitchen sporting loads of workspace, the open-concept living space is an entertainer’s dream come true. Macdonald’s Countrywide Furniture & Appliances provided furniture, and artwork throughout the home is from the Loft Gallery in Clarksburg.



showcase



A feature wall of backlit onyx and stone is one of the many eye-catching features that makes this design stand out. Another is vertical awnings that run both horizontally and vertically throughout the home, and also frame the bed in the main-floor master suite. The stairs were supplied by Barrie Trim & Mouldings.



Stone's model combines clean lines with a unique mix of rustic and modern influences, such as minimalist trim and a signature feature wall of backlit onyx and stone in the entranceway that sets a bold, yet relaxing tone for the home.

Aside from "The Edge," Stone Custom Homes offers several other designs in and out of Windrose Valley, and has exclusive local rights to Lindal Cedar Homes and Turkel Design homes.

Gordon Stone M.Arch, illustrates how his modern designs marry traditional chalet influences with contemporary trends that allow for lots of open space inside and plenty of natural light from the outside. "Windrose Valley offers a fantastic array of possibilities for both structure and design style," he says. "The proximity to ski, golf, equestrian and town facilities brings a unique flavour to the neighbourhood, and the large lot sizes offer limitless view potential, giving us the opportunity to design homes tailored to the unique desires of each buyer."

For people who aren't keen on going through the process of custom building, Stone can put together packages of various models. "Customers can adjust and change the design while maintaining the basic structure and price," Stone explains. "It's a hybrid offering to custom build, and unique to our company – the entire process takes 10 to 12 months."

Holly Stone, who handles realty and marketing for the business, adds that "the format allows homeowners to be as involved or uninvolved as they like. It also gives them plenty of ideas for finishes and provides a strong price structure and construction timeline." **OH**



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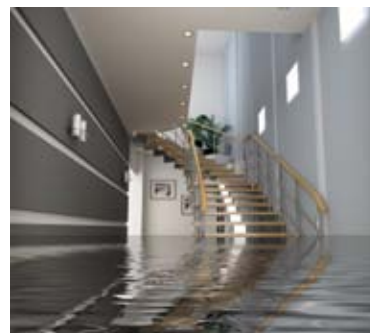
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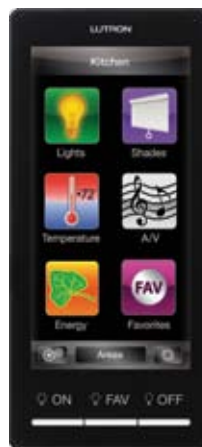
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BUILDING *character*

BY LAUREL FORTIN
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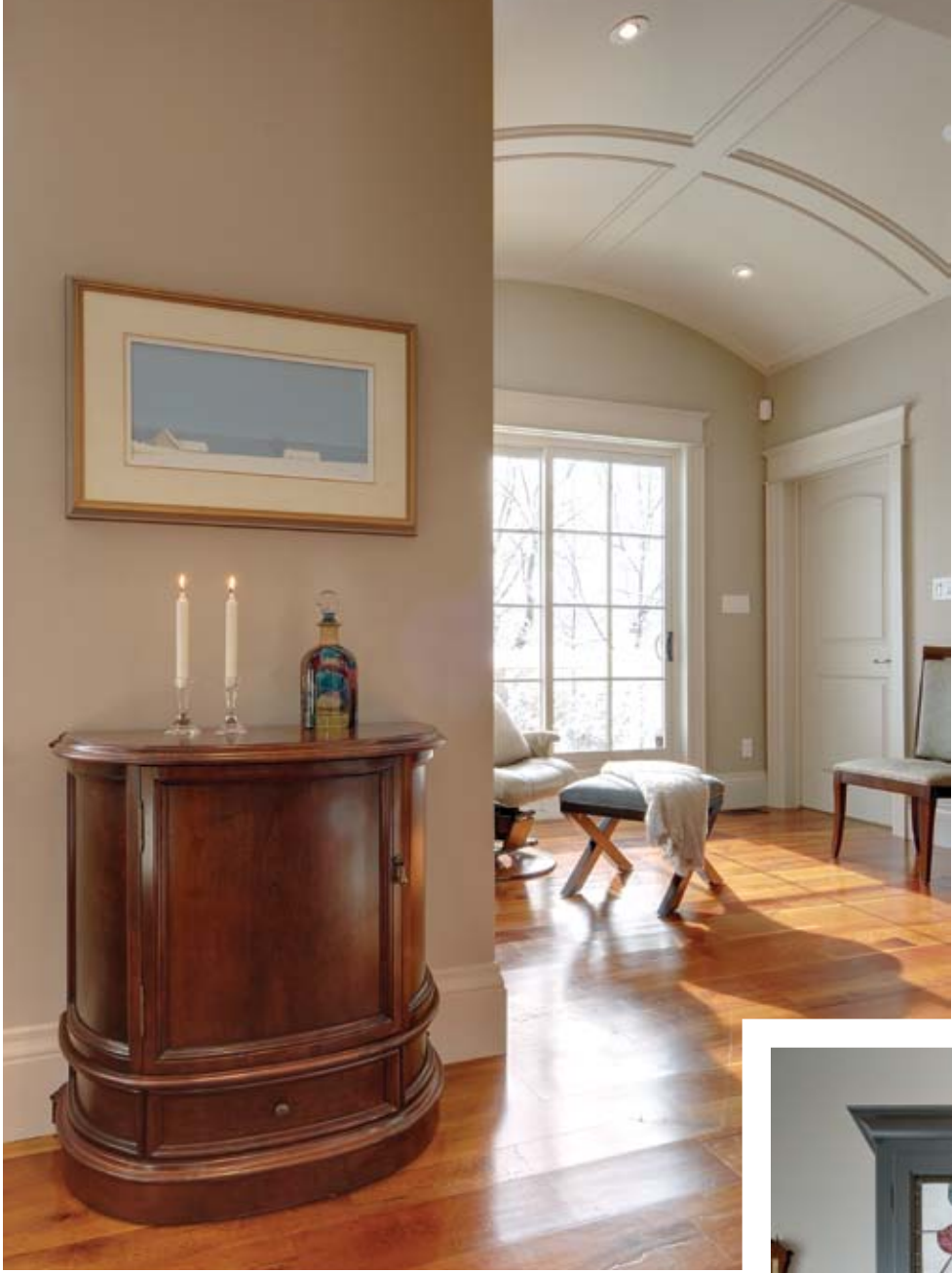
If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Lorraine and Bill Strain have given the village of Creemore a wonderful compliment. The couple's new 2,500 sq. ft. home went up on the village's main street last summer, yet it blends in so well with the century homes that many locals thought they had simply renovated the house that formerly sat on the lot.

Continued on page 113



With its traditional Victorian-looking exterior, this Creemore home looks as if it's been a part of the village forever, but in fact, is less than a year old.

A dark island paired with light taupe cabinetry by Riverside Custom Cabinets helps separate the kitchen, and offers a focal point in the large, open living space. **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: (1)** Collingwood drywall expert Marcel Rutte incorporated a stunning barrel ceiling above a sunny sitting area off the kitchen. **(2)** Builder Doug Abbott and designer Lejla Eden chat in the front entranceway. **(3)** The home's front entranceway is elegant and simple with lots of space to store boots and coats. **(4)** The kitchen hutch is one of the Strains' home-crafted creations with stained glass doors by Creemore's Maggie Sears.



Bill and Lorraine did the initial design themselves, then had **Jasper Design** refine it and prepare the construction drawings. For the build, they secured **Doug Abbott** at Creemore-based **Village Builders Inc.** Abbott helped source brick that was most reminiscent of the other homes in the area. "It was fun to build an old Ontario-style house and put modern conveniences in it. It has old-style trim work and antique floors inside, yet it's a very modern house in terms of its insulation value and the technical aspects," says Abbott.

The Strains had lived 12 years on an acreage on the hill overlooking Creemore, but decided in retirement that they wanted the convenience of town living. They found the large block-wide property in 2009 and noted that its tall cedar hedge and significant elevation change from side to side offered interesting possibilities as well as privacy. The couple, both retired accountants, considered updating the existing home but found that the structure wasn't sound and so opted to remove it and build new.

Part of what pulled them to live in Creemore was the town's appreciation for heritage and quality. "We committed to the community and we wanted to build a place that fit in," says Lorraine. "We didn't want a modern structure, because it is a very pretty street with all the old homes so we wanted very much to build something in kind." *Continued on page 115*





OPPOSITE: Traditional and contemporary styles are combined to achieve a warm, elegant and clean look. **TOP LEFT:** The Strains enjoy watching the snow fall while playing a game of chess in the living room. **MIDDLE LEFT:** A sofa topped with baked goodies helps make the transition from the dining room to the living room. **BOTTOM:** Bill and Lorraine reminisce with Village Builder's designer Lejla Eden, who worked on the project from start to finish.

They longed to keep the beautiful old ash tree out front and to accomplish a traditional Victorian look, yet they wanted a bungalow-style interior with all their main living spaces on the ground floor. With these constraints, Bill set about thoughtfully designing the home. While Jasper Design prepared the final drawings, **Vogel Landscaping Design & Consulting Group Ltd.** prepared the landscape design and later managed its implementation by **Hackstone Stone Craftsmen**.

One of the benefits of designing your own home is that you can account for your furniture and leave plenty of space for your hobbies. The Strains did just that. Their basement is a dedicated woodworking shop where both Lorraine and Bill will spend winters collaborating over fine furniture and wood accessories. The shop was specially built to be isolated from the rest of the house. "It had to have its own heating system," says Abbott. "It couldn't be part of the house system so that there would be no dust transferred from the shop to the other parts of the house." The main house is forced air gas, but they used in-floor heating in the basement (**Nottawasaga Mechanical**). They also made the room fireproof. The walls are fire rated, doors are fireproof and it has its own electrical supply (**Lorne Bunn Electric**). *Continued on page 116*



Over the years, in their previous workshop, the couple built themselves a bedroom set, grandfather clock, dining room hutch and numerous side tables among other projects. Bill was able to keep those dimensions in mind when laying out the bedroom, living room and office. Once they had their new house plans, they spent the winter of 2010 designing and building bathroom vanities for their master en suite and main floor powder room.

“We find it takes two to think things out and hold and glue,” says Lorraine. “Two heads are better than one.” Their joint efforts are gorgeous. The powder room vanity has a modern feel – its four legs were part of one large round that Bill turned on the lathe and cut into quarters. A mirror

featuring a tree motif, made of brushed steel by an artisan in Elora, was the inspiration for the room. Tiles were picked out at **Dean’s Carpet One Floor & Home** in Duntroon.

Sourcing wood from local suppliers like **Hamilton Bros. Farm & Building Supplies**, the Strains have occasionally collaborated with other artisans, such as Creemore stained glass maker **Maggie Sears** for the doors of their kitchen hutch.

The width of their handmade home office furniture dictated the space they would need between the upper bedroom windows, which were mirrored on the other side of the house and duplicated on the lower floor. A filing cabinet set in the hall has its own custom-sized alcove. *Continued on page 118*



FAR LEFT: Soft, neutral colours and lots of natural light make the living room a calm, relaxing space to enjoy year-round. **LEFT:** The master en suite features double sinks, a large glassed-in shower and leads to a full dressing room. **BELOW:** The main-floor master is a dreamy space filled with sunshine, and gorgeous linens and accessories from Victorian Values in Creemore.





LEFT & BELOW: Bill and Lorraine collaborate on a woodworking project together in their lower-level workshop. The shop boasts its own heating system, as well as an industrial vacuum and an assortment of saws and tools. **BOTTOM:** The couple crafted the unique vanity in the main-floor powder room.



Their love of wood brought them to **Danny Farrow** of **Nostalgic Wood Inc.** to source flooring. He found just enough gorgeous, reclaimed wide-planked cherry to install as flooring throughout the main level and had enough left over to build the upper staircase. The rich tones of the aged cherry help the home look like it has stood for decades.

Abbott and the Strains praise mason **Chuck Kenney** for the historic-style brickwork. "I thought a brick was a brick was a brick," says Lorraine. "But you can look at bricks in so many sizes and colours. We wanted one that worked on our bay window, where like with old houses, the bricks can come in a 45-degree angle so that there is no mortar line on the corner. It's one of those details that you don't think about until you start buying brick."

In the kitchen, Lorraine knew that she wanted to work with childhood friend and cabinetmaker **Rob Perry** of **Riverside Custom Cabinets Ltd.** Light taupe cabinetry maximizes the space. Features such as a walk-in pantry and slide-out corner cabinets make the kitchen very functional. The island's cook top has a pop-up downdraft vent that stows away when not in use so that a hanging range hood doesn't have to impede on the home's open concept. Appliances are from **Macdonald's Countrywide Furniture & Appliances** in Meaford and all countertops are from **City Stone** in Thornbury. *Continued on page 120*

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ABOVE: The upstairs landing offers a quiet place to enjoy a good book, welcoming natural light through a stunning cathedral window. **RIGHT:** An antique record player adds to the character of the home.



Before building their home, the Strains visited Village Builders' office where Collingwood drywall expert **Marcel Rutte** displayed beautiful samples of various styles of his work. The Strains spotted a stunning barrel ceiling and asked to have Rutte incorporate one into their home. The barrel ceiling now tops a sunny sitting area off the kitchen.

Finishing touches in the home were handled by Village Builder's in-house interior designer **Lejla Eden**. "Because the whole house is so open, we used Benjamin Moore's Smokey Taupe colour throughout," says Lorraine. "Lejla suggested the walls and ceiling be done in the same tone, but cut in half. Instead of using white, which would have been too much, this colour is wonderful and warm."

Village Builders is one of the only firms in the area to have a full-time interior designer on staff. "Most construction companies offer good building skills, but when it comes down to the final interior product, there's a bit of a disconnect between the expectations of the client and

Continued on page 122

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the expectations of the builder,” says Abbott. “We’ve stepped that up a notch. When all the finishings are going on at the end of a build, Lejla takes over. She makes sure that the clients get exactly what they want and the finishes are of a high quality.” Eden also helped source several décor accents for the home, such as towels, bedding, throws and cushions, from Creemore shop **Victorian Values**.

On the exterior, the Strains brought in Hackstone Stone Craftsmen to complete the landscaping. Over 200 tonnes of local rock and flagstone were brought in to construct a formal entrance on the main street as well as an inviting, yet private backyard space. A mix of new hardscapes and softscapes blend with the existing ash tree and hedge on the property. A majestic, graceful stone staircase inset with a patio and several landings helps transition from the back deck of the home to the lower yard. Hanging exterior lanterns were found at the **Glass Lighting Gallery**.

Combining the Strains’ immaculate taste with the skills brought by Village Builders and respective trades, Creemore’s newest stately home holds its own among the oldest. **OH**

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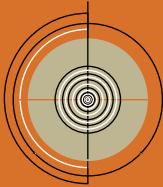


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SO Gouda

ROASTED PEPPER, BACON AND GOUDA QUICHE

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER

When I was younger, quiche was the epitome of culinary elegance. The creamy egg filling, the flaky golden pastry and the fancy fillings all seemed to ooze luxury and fancy French cooking – perhaps because we only ate it at home when we had special guests over or went to fancy restaurants for brunch. Now that I know a bit more, and have learned how to cook for myself I still think quiche is a fine symbol of the simplicity and refinement of French cooking. It is certainly a crowd-pleaser for brunch or a casual dinner. And it's so versatile: change the cheese, change the vegetables, keep the meat out if you choose, a kind of anything-goes dish as long as the egg to milk proportions remain the same. But here's the real kicker, and what I love the most about French cooking in general, it's dead easy to make. Prepare the pastry the night before your special guests are coming to brunch. Complete it just before they arrive and voilà, instant elegance for any occasion.

Serves 6 to 8. Makes one 9-inch deep round quiche

FILLING:

6 slices bacon

1 onion, diced

½ tsp pepper

¼ tsp salt

2 jarred roasted red peppers, drained, patted dry and diced

8 eggs

¾ cup milk

1 cup shredded aged Gouda cheese

PASTRY:

1 ½ cups flour

¼ tsp salt

½ cup cold butter, cubed

1 egg yolk

1 tsp vinegar

PASTRY

- In bowl, whisk together flour and salt. Using two knives or a pastry blender, cut in butter until it resembles coarse meal with pea-sized pieces of butter. In small measuring glass, mix egg yolk with vinegar, add enough ice-cold water to measure ¾ cup total. Drizzle over flour mixture, tossing with fork and adding up to 2 tsp more water until a rough dough forms. Knead dough in bowl until it just comes together. Shape into a ball. Flatten dough into disc and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or up to 24 hours.
- On floured surface, roll dough into 13-inch circle. Fit into deep 9-inch pie plate and crimp edges. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. Prick dough all over with fork. Line with parchment paper or foil paper; fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake on bottom third of 400°F oven until pastry is light golden, 15 to 18 minutes.

FILLING

- Meanwhile, in skillet over medium heat, cook bacon, turning once, until crisp, about 8 minutes. Transfer to paper towel-lined plate; let cool then chop. Drain all but 1 tbsp fat from skillet.
- In same skillet over medium heat, cook onion (add salt and pepper) until tender and lightly golden, about 5 minutes. Stir in red peppers and bacon; set aside.
- In bowl, beat eggs with milk until combined. Stir in bacon, pepper and onion mixture and ¾ cup of the cheese. Pour filling into pastry and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake in bottom third of 375°F oven, covering pastry edge with pieces of foil if getting too brown, until filling is set, 35 to 40 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before serving. **OH**



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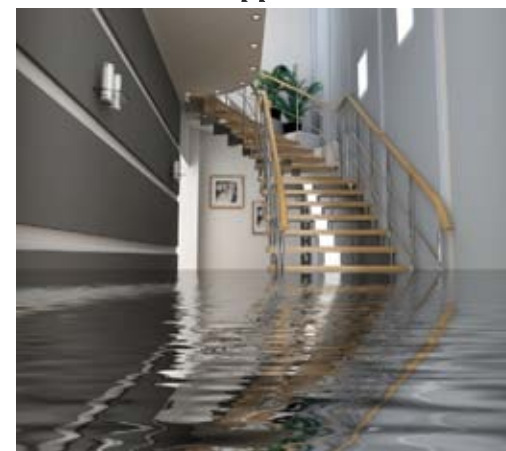
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