

A NEW LOOK FOR BAYVIEW TOWER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALAN SHISKO

Bayview Tower, or “Rupert’s Tower,” the tallest building in Collingwood, is 25 years old and lookin’ good, thanks to a total rejuvenation spearheaded by the people who call it home. This 51-unit, 10-storey building on Highway 26, was completed in 1988 by legendary developer Rupert Bronsdon. The first high-rise in the area was the talk of the town.

The post-modern building, with glorious curves and spectacular views, is part of Rupert’s Landing, a well-established, gated condominium community on 18 waterfront acres. Residents of this wonderful landmark decided to mark the anniversary with a re-do of the public areas on all 10 floors. The project celebrates the tower, as well as true teamwork, friendship, and a love of home. OUR HOMES introduces you to the people who made it happen.



Developer Rupert Bronsdon and Realtor Eha Kajak

The original project architect, David Norman, calls Rupert Bronsdon “the best client I’ve ever had, and probably the best developer I’ve ever worked with.” Bayview Tower was a labour of love for Bronsdon, who was an integral part of the overall design, which incorporated Post-Modernism – an architectural style that includes the use of curves, inside and out.

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Board of Directors:
 Standing: David Hogg,
 David Cox and
 Michael Quinn
 Sitting: Bruce Lyons
 and Phillipe
 Humbert

The impetus for change started with the Bayview Tower volunteer Board of Directors. In January 2012, they decided to appoint a sub-committee to review the cost of renovating the shared space throughout the Tower. Ninety per cent of residents agreed to fund the project through a special assessment. The board is proud to say the project was completed on time and within budget.

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Rejuvenation Committee:
 Liz Cole, David Hogg, Gerry Bascombe,
 Betty Beacon and Gail Bascombe
 (Missing from the Photo: Catherine Campbell)
 The volunteer sub-committee, working with the board, fellow owners, and the design and construction teams, steered the project from start to finish. It has truly made living in Bayview Tower better. "We are so proud of our residents' commitment to art, architecture and community," says committee spokesperson Liz Cole. "Friends, family and realtors are awestruck by our remarkable outcomes, delivered in rapid succession by a mere handful of dedicated volunteers, one designer, one contracting management company and one elevator company! The net result was pride of ownership, celebrated within Bayview Tower, the Rupert's Landing community and with our original developer, Rupert Bronsdon."

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Designer Angie Smith

Angie's vision honours the original architectural design. "I was so taken with the curved walls, the canopies over the doors to the suites, and the glass block walls in the lobby, all of which were indicative of a Post-Modern era, sort of Art Deco styling," Smith says. She selected a palette of warm yellow and dark grey hues to create drama, and to complement the warmth and richness of the natural maple doors and existing brass fixtures on the floors. Glass mosaic added Art Deco bling. Angie says it was a privilege to help rejuvenate the tallest building in Collingwood, which is a piece of local history.

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The Fuhre Construction Ltd. Team
Left to Right: Paul Hazelwood,
Jim Rentner and Rick Fuhre
The Fuhre Construction team completed the work. "It was a great pleasure working on Bayview Tower," says Rick Fuhre. "It's an icon, with great architectural components, like roof lines, curved lobby walls and valances on each floor. The biggest reward was completing the job on time and on budget. We had a great team, and I thank them for their workmanship and professionalism. Working with designer Angie Smith was a delight, and the owners were delighted with the transformation."

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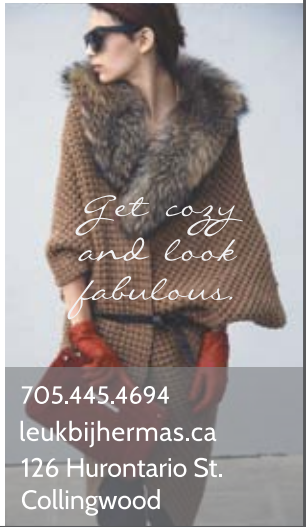
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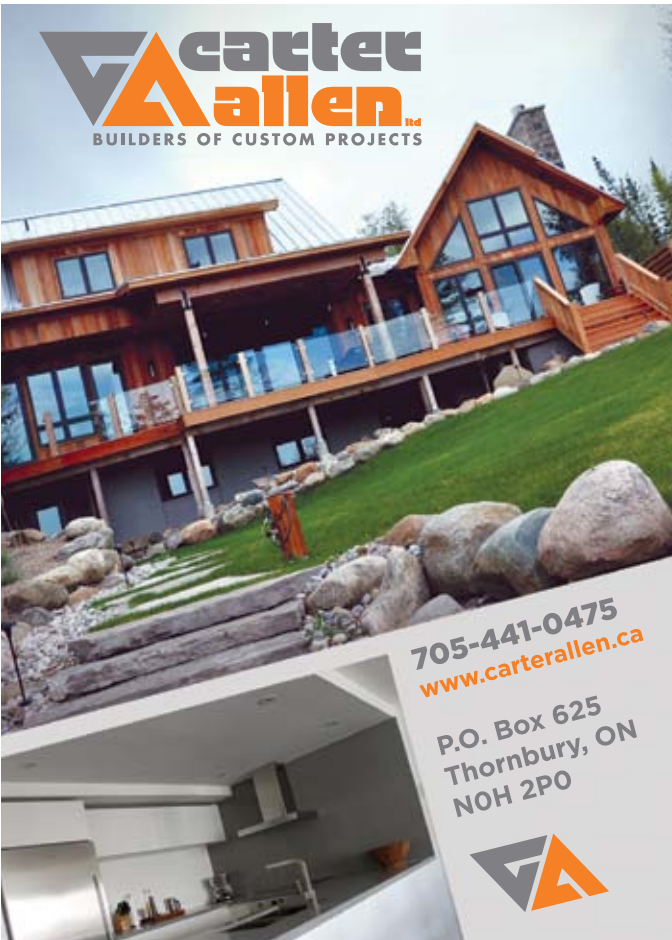
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Matthew Fells,
Simcoe County
Museum, with
Melissa Shaw
and Susan Warner,
Collingwood Museum

History plays a special role in Bayview Tower's new look. Historic photos grace the hallways on each floor - 35 in all - sourced and supplied by Simcoe County Museum, Collingwood Museum, The Craighleith Heritage Depot, Blue Mountain Resort and the Archives of Ontario. There are four photos on every floor, one from each of the following four categories: downtown Collingwood, harbour and transportation, shipyards and industry, and skiing and recreation.

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Collingwood Mayor Sandra Cooper and George Weider, son of Blue Mountain's Founder

Mayor Sandra Cooper graciously cut the ribbon marking the rejuvenation at a celebration held last September. Mayor Cooper stands on a penthouse balcony with George Weider, son of Blue Mountain founder Jozo Weider, former Chairman of Blue Mountain Resort, and proud supporter of arts and culture in this area. Both Cooper and Weider marvel at the views of Collingwood and Blue Mountain from atop Bayview Tower. *Continued on page 74*



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From 1977 to 1993, Diana worked for Rupert Bronsdon, and was involved in Rupert's Landing and the Bayview Tower project since its inception. Sue has sold and listed condominiums in the tower, and says the renovation gave the building a "now look," which creates added value that will serve the owners well.

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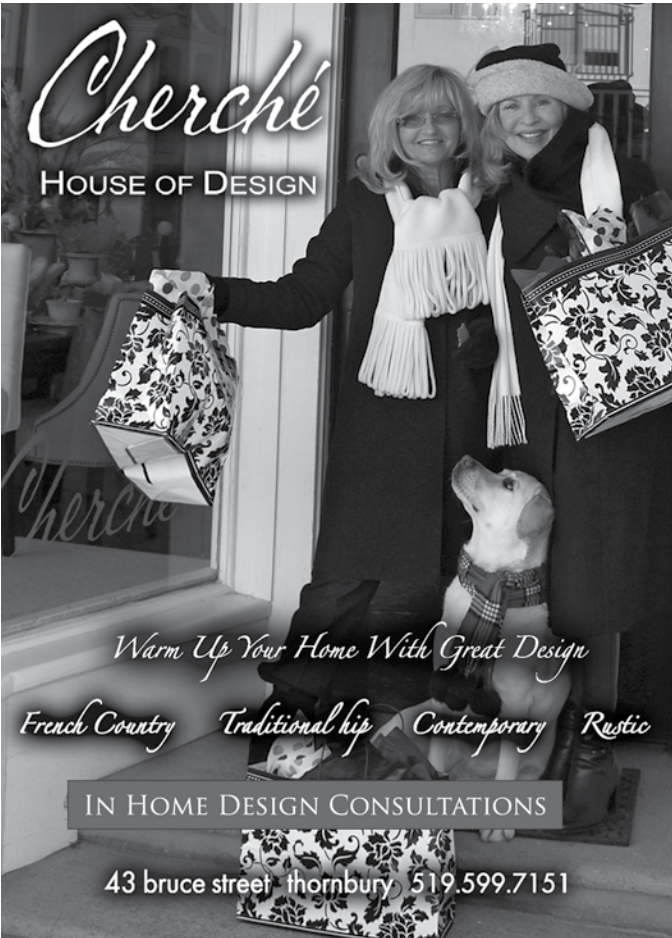
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Georgian Design Centre Owners Helen Labelle and Dave Labelle

Georgian Design Centre was involved in supplying the new floor tile, glass mosaic tile, new carpeting throughout the common areas and two custom mirrors for the penthouse hallway. The Labelles say it was a pleasure to be involved with this project and to work with talented designer Angie Smith. "The homeowners should be proud to call Bayview Tower home," they say. **OH**

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