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56 EIGHTH ST \$187, 500



Why rent when you can own this renovated and updated bungalow! Beautiful 3 bedroom one bath that has had all the major work done for you.

117 HAPPY VALLEY RD \$549, 999



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688 MOUNTAIN RD \$799, 000



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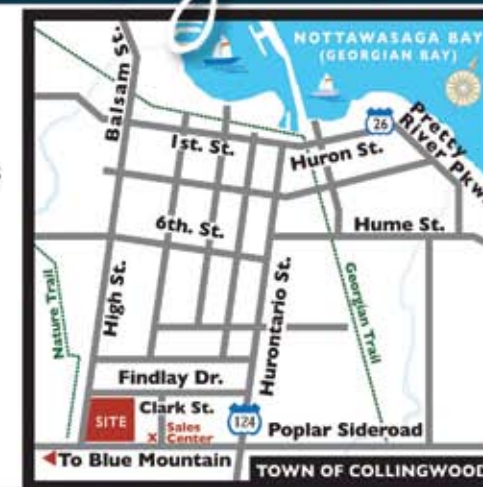
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CRAIGLEITH / SLEEPY HOLLOW ROAD One of a kind property. 5 acres w/ potential devland, suitable for up to 10 estate lots. Close to Craigleith, Alpine Ski Clubs & GBGC. 2,850 sq. ft. 4 bdms, 3 1/2 baths, country kitchen w/ granite counters, 3 trpce, wide-planked pine floors. Main fl. Mstr. w/fully renovated En-suite w/large walk-in shower, 2nd.fl.Family Rm. Private Deck w/hot tub, cold rm./potential wine cellar, work/ski prep room. Beautiful treed lot w/ gardens & fruit trees. Many recent upgrades. **\$1,750,000. MLS®#20135995**



ALPINE FLATLANDS 1 Custom 1926 sq. ft. bungalow close to Alpine & Craigleith Ski Clubs on 1/2 acre lot with fabulous mountain views. Attention to detail is apparent in all areas of this home. 3 Bdms, 2 Bath, eat-in kitchen with stainless steel appliances, butcher block counter tops, porcelain sinks & breakfast bar. Renovated ensuite. 2nd fl. family room. Floor to ceiling cultured stone wood burning fireplace in living room, wall to wall windows & French doors leading to oversized deck. **\$679,000. MLS®#20135524**



WATERFRONT Fabulous Georgian Bay waterfront chalet in Craigleith. Soaring cathedral ceiling with 2 storey stone fireplace, hardwood floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, whirlpool tub in master ensuite, in-floor radiant heat, walk-out basement. Enjoy the water views from the 2nd level picture windows. There is a wraparound deck with stone steps down to the beach. Close to skiing & golfing. **\$649,900. MLS®#20133375**



SILVER GLEN PRESERVE Immaculate centre unit with 3 bdms., 2 1/2 baths, & backs onto a green space. Upgraded kitchen with stainless steel appliances & a breakfast nook. Open concept dining / living area has hardwood floors & a gas fireplace. Bright fully finished basement with a 3 pc bathroom. Attached single car garage with inside entry. **\$278,000. MLS®#20136031**



WOODLAND PARK ROAD Beautiful log home constructed from century old logs. Located 1 mile west of the Georgian Peaks Ski Club & a half mile to the Georgian Bay Golf Club with deeded access to the beach. Close to Georgian Trail for easy access to biking & walking. This chalet has 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, an antique brick faced wood burning fireplace & a large family room with a pool table. **\$479,000. MLS®#20140039**



LIGHTHOUSE POINT Ground floor end unit with walkout to private patio. Unit has 3 bedrooms with ensuite off the master. There is also a gas fireplace in the living room. Great recreational living that includes use of tennis courts, pool & fabulous rec center. Close to golf, skiing & the Village @ Blue. Minutes to downtown Collingwood where you will find excellent shopping & dining. **\$265,000. MLS®#20134846**



LITTLE BEAVER CREEK This property has 4.25 acres made up of 2 separate parcels of land. Well treed / wooded with lots of privacy & the Little Beaver River running through it. The Georgian Trail runs along one side. Old frame house on property that could be renovated. Suitable for redevelopment. Garden shed & a drive shed. Easy walk to Thornbury for shopping, dining, swimming in the bay or the harbour for your boat. **\$449,000. MLS®#20132899**



SUNSET VILLAGE Lease residences offer adult lifestyle independent living for people aged 60 plus. 2 bdrm., 1 bath unit with full kitchen & laundry facilities, laminate floor & views of the mountains & fantastic sunsets. Monthly occupancy fee is \$522 per month which includes taxes, utilities, some insurance & parking. Includes fridge, stove, washer & dryer. **\$166,500. MLS®#20136174**



NIPISSING RIDGE Ranch bungalow on well treed, ravine lot. Open concept with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, main floor laundry room, bonus bedroom above garage with ensuite. Hardwood floors, granite counters & wood burning fireplace. Neighbourhood offers tennis courts & walking trails. Close to alpine & Craigleith Ski Clubs & Georgian Bay Golf Club. **\$995,000. MLS®#20134453**



VIEW PROPERTY Country side split home with views of Georgian Bay, located on 2 acres. 10 min. to Georgian Peaks & Thornbury. 4 bdms., 2 1/2 baths, 2900 sq. ft. of finished space. Kitchen w/Breakfast area. Main Fl. Family room with wood burning stove. In-law suite, propane gas fireplace, cork floors in kitchen. Outdoor gazebo & pool, extensive landscaping & fire pit. Only 3 minutes to Georgian Bay Club. **\$585,000. MLS®#20130392**



HISTORIC SNOWBRIDGE Great views of Blue Mountain, short walk to Intrawest Village. Priced to sell & ready for immediate possession. Fabulous 3 bedroom condo with 2 baths, gas fireplace, central air & master bedroom with ensuite. This is one of the largest units available at 1765 sq. ft. Separate dining room has large picture window overlooking green space. Being sold fully furnished. **\$359,000. MLS®#20134812**



ALPINE HILLS Exclusive Subdivision. Luxurious Mountain chalet, 3850 sq.ft. 4 bdms, 3.5 baths, wood burning fireplace, upgraded fixtures, reclaimed wood floors. Great location on quite cul de-sac, surrounded by trees w/extensive landscaping. Winter view of Georgian Bay and ski hills. Close to Craigleith & Alpine Ski Clubs & Intrawest Village at Blue Mountain. Short walk to Northwinds beach in the summer. **\$1,395,000. MLS®#20135481**



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	Unit 27	2346	\$368,322
Primrose B:	Unit 33	2369	\$371,933
	Unit 39	2369	\$371,933
	Unit 45	2369	\$371,933
Larkspur A:	SOLD	1973	\$309,761
	Unit 40	1973	\$309,761
	Unit 36	1848	\$290,136
	Unit 38	1848	\$290,136
Laurel:	Unit 41	2400	\$376,800
Magnolia:	SOLD	2084	\$327,188
	Unit 37	2084	\$327,188
	SOLD	2084	\$327,188



Walk to Blue Mountain \$1,450,000 Timber and stone set the stage for this exceptionally designed and exquisitely appointed home. The perfect chalet – 4 bedroom, 4 bath, main floor master, 4517 sq. ft., 3 fireplaces, triple garage, double lot, landscaped, plenty of storage, away spaces for the kids to play and walking distance to Blue!



Simply Exquisite \$1,495,000
3100 sq.ft, panoramic view of Bay, designer touches, 8 acres, pond, neighbouring miles of trails, minutes to Osler & Collingwood.



The Perch \$1,350,000
One of the most colossal views of the Bay, 31.4 acres, quaint french cottage, pond, extremely private, minutes to Osler & Collingwood.



Meaford Waterfront \$1,180,000
NEW 5900 sq.ft. bungalow set on almost 3 acres of waterfront, 4 bdrm, 3½ bath, granite, slate, media rm, boat slip, dble garage.



1860 Farmhouse \$1,150,000
Recently renovated charming 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 48 acres, spacious grand rooms, original features - wood floors/wainscotting, barn.



Main floor Master \$345,000
Briarwood - 4 bdrm, 3½ bath, 2330 sq.ft, open concept, cathedral ceiling, gas fireplace, deck, covered porch, dble garage.



Farhills - Thornbury \$335,000
3 Bdrm, 2½ bath, 2500 sq.ft including finished basement, 5 appliances, deck, garage. In-ground pool, club house, tennis.



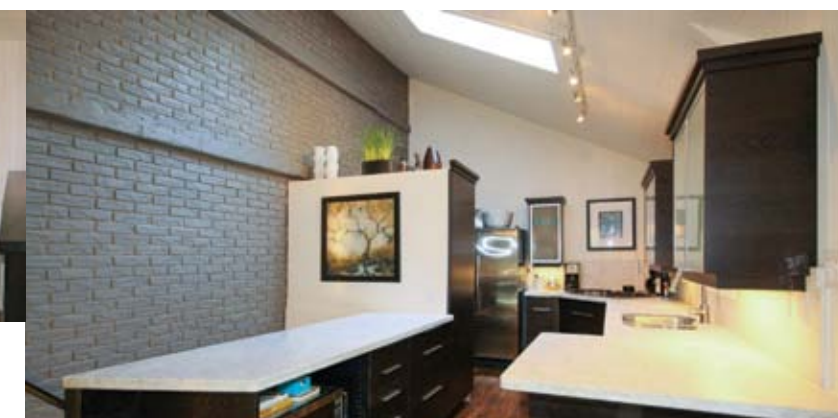
Exquisitely Renovated \$199,000
Applejack - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, granite, stone gas fireplace, stainless appliances, new berber carpet, spacious storage, 2 decks.



Lighthouse Point \$219,000
Open concept kitchen/dining/living, breakfast bar, wood-burning fireplace and cathedral ceilings in master. Views to the tennis courts.



Designer's Touch \$649,000
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New 3 Bed Condo

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Call Christine Smith** 705-888-0201



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Confederation Log Home - backing onto the Georgian Trail, 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath with double car garage.
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Sierra Woodlands

Aspen Model with \$90k in upgrades. 4 bdrm 3.5 bath home near base of Craigleith & Alpine ski clubs.
\$569,000 MLS® 20135531
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\$950,000 MLS® 20134507
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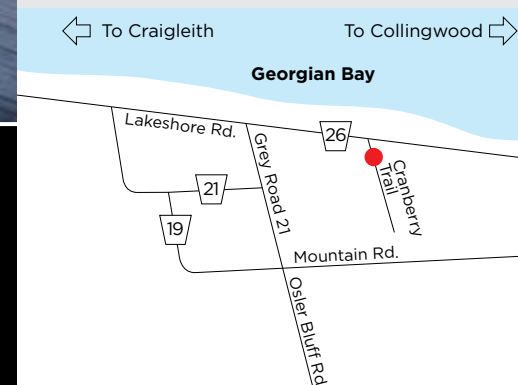
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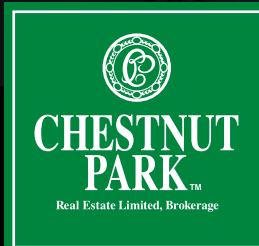
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FOR SALE - \$1,099,000 Distinctive living in the core of downtown Collingwood. Elegant 6000 sq ft custom home providing luxury living for the discerning buyer. Spacious principal rooms, 6 bedrooms and 3 baths and the added bonus of a private professional office with separate entrance. **MLS@20131148**



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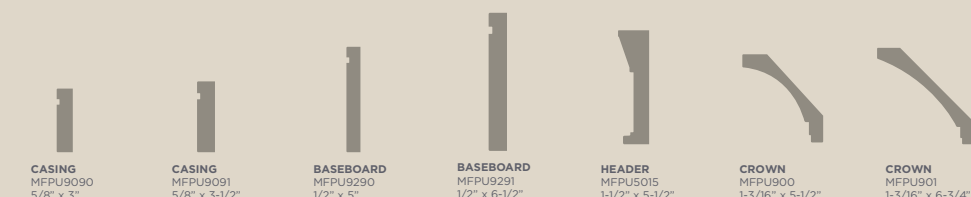
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Jude and Mickey getting ready for another snowshoe adventure

IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY that I strapped on my Imura skis and laced up my Tyrolia boots for the very first time at Ayer's Ski Centre near Lachute, Quebec. I was seven, it was snowing like mad, and the hill loomed like a steep mountain before me, offering a variety of trails. The Ram. The Buck. The Pasture. What made Ayers so special was the close-knit group of families who were members. Everyone knew everyone else, and no one worried about the little ones going off on their own. Back then, when it snowed, it really snowed, and a season's pass cost \$25.

When I moved to Tremblant in 1979, I lived at the base of the highest mountain in the Laurentians, 3,051-foot Johannsen Peak, named after legendary ski pioneer, Jackrabbit

Johannsen, and worked as a sous chef at a local French restaurant. I lived for the moment my shift was over to ski home across the frozen lake, rubbing shoulders with herds of graceful deer under the bright moonlight, and stopping dead in my tracks whenever the ice whump-whumped, then cracked beneath me. Back then we got huge dumps of snow, and the only time we didn't venture outside was when our nostrils stuck together from the cold.

As I write, I'm watching big fluffy flakes of snow silently blanket the ground. Even though winter wears a different face now, snowy one day, slushy the next, and season passes cost more, I still feel that wild childlike excitement whenever I see snow. The colder it is outside, the cosier we make our homes. Nothing beats coming in from the cold to be greeted by the heavenly aroma of slow-cooked comfort food, or to savour a goblet of fine wine while listening to Mozart in front of a roaring fire. I love winter because my old dog galumphs through deep snowdrifts into the howling north wind like a young pup again.

Let's face it, whether you're inside or out, there's no place like Southern Georgian Bay in the winter. This issue offers up lots of great ideas and style tips to turn up the heat in your chalet or home. Enjoy the extremes!

Jude Wayland

Jude Wayland, Managing Editor
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ski season



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Photography by
Sandy MacKay.



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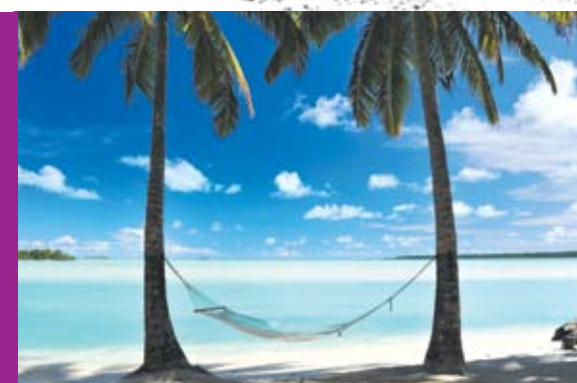
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publisher's note



THE HOLIDAYS WERE AMAZING – spending time with my family at Christmas, New Year's and celebrating my Mom's 80th birthday! But I was missing my first born, who's having the time of her life in Whistler.

I consumed copious amounts of chocolate and cheese in between shoveling SNOW and more SNOW!

Sounds like such a cliché but I have SO much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. I love WINTER, I love CHEESE and I needed to get back to WORK.

First thing on the agenda at OUR HOMES was putting the final touches on this issue! Our Ski issue showcases five very different homes and brings lots of great ideas for your coming year!

You'll visit a wonderful young family's weekend getaway nestled in Duntroon, three model homes around Blue Mountain that you can tour, and finally a historic Victorian in Collingwood. This home was recently sold and beautifully updated by a local builder and decorator. I was excited to peek inside!

So sit back with our Ski issue, visit the homes with us, and discover local builders, realtors, trades and merchants to help you with your 2014 projects.

A final note. We are really proud to be part of the ongoing Collingwood Holiday Home Tour put on by Blue Venue Events. Sponsored by OUR HOMES, \$16,800.00 was raised for local charities. We look forward to being part of the third annual tour in November, as well as being part of Blue Venue's Backyard Glam Tour in early July. Look for details in our Spring issue in April. Enjoy the winter!

Simone

Simone Sterio-Risk, Associate Publisher
simone@ourhomesmagazine.com

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E. & O.E. Jan. 2014. Rendering is artist's concept.

advice

A *cosy* LOO

I have a tiny space underneath a set of stairs and would like to create a powder room. The problem is, there is barely enough space for storage or a vanity of any kind. Do you have any suggestions to make this space work?

This is a common area that can either collect dust or be cleverly reworked into usable space. Let's opt for the latter. Don't shy away from small. Small may be a challenge, but with some clever planning, small can also be just right.

Let's start with the obvious. Choose a small-scale toilet like the Toto Aquia II or, for ease of cleaning and the illusion of more floor space, the wall-mounted Duravit Starck 3. Either of these options are compact and well designed. The toilet should sit on the side that is lowest. Measure the space for headroom to ensure that the toilet is far enough back from the underside of the stairs so that when standing, you don't hit your head on the sloped ceiling.



Designer
Stephanie Redmond
shares her ideas.

Now that you know how far into the space you have to put your toilet, measure to the back of the tank, allowing a few extra inches. This is where you can build a wall behind the toilet. Use the cavity of space behind this wall (above the height of the tank) to create a cubby for storage or display. Don't let this tiny bonus space go to waste.

One way to really make sure you have everything in order is to think about what goes into this room and what you use in the space. Toilet paper = toilet paper holder. Hand towels = somewhere to store them + possibly hang them. Hand soap = wall hung soap dish, ledge for a dish or side of the sink. Depending on how comfortable you would like to make the space, the list could include a candle and magazines too.

Sinks come in all shapes, and most importantly in this case, sizes. Like the toilet, you can wall mount a sink that is smaller in scale and has a bit of storage space underneath. The Agape Handwash is a wonderful solution. A quick tip to keep in mind: If you wall mount the faucet, you can reduce the necessary depth of the counter/sink. You can also achieve this by mounting the faucet to the left or right side of the sink.

Reflection works wonders in cramped quarters. A wall-to-wall mirror above the vanity – or even the entire wall – will give the illusion of much more space. Instead of installing wall sconces, hang a single pendant from the ceiling (above the sink) to free up the mirror space.

Be particularly careful where light switches and electrical outlets are placed in order to minimize on visual clutter. Mount the light switches around 44-inches to centre. It may seem low compared to the old standard, but it eliminates unsightly switching at eye level. If an electrical outlet is required, place it on the same wall as the door and in the baseboard. If you're using wallpaper, you won't have to cut around it and scar a beautiful paper with an ugly switch plate.

Wallpaper, paint or floor-to-ceiling tiles, whichever is the preferred solution; this is where you can add a lot of power to the space. Bright or dark colours, large or small-scale pattern – it all works to create the overall effect. This depends on your personal style. What we've already accomplished is a space with enough room to move, where you won't bump into a sink corner or trip over the toilet. If the space planning is correct, the decorating is simply the icing on the cake. **OH**

1. Pharos Modern Pendant Light by Niche Design Inc., 2. Artisanal Wall-mount Vases by Pottery Barn, 3. Handwash wall mount basin by Agape, 4. Aquia II Dual Flush Toilet by Toto, 5. Starck 3 Toilet wall-mounted washdown model by Duravit, 6. Oblo® Wall-mount sink faucet by Kohler.



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E. & O.E. December 2013. Rendering is artist's concept.



CHALET CACHET

Embrace winter! It's ski season, and time for some serious R&R at the chalet. Create that comfortable après-ski atmosphere with these great finds, several of which feature fabulous reclaimed and washed woods that are all the rage this season!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX



1



3



4



5



6

2



1 LĚUK BIJ HERMAS

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2 CHANTICO FIREPLACE GALLERY

Fire Sculpture
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3 DAGS & WILLOW FINE CHEESE AND GOURMET SHOP

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4 KAON FURNITURE

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6 KNIGHTS' HOME BUILDING CENTRE

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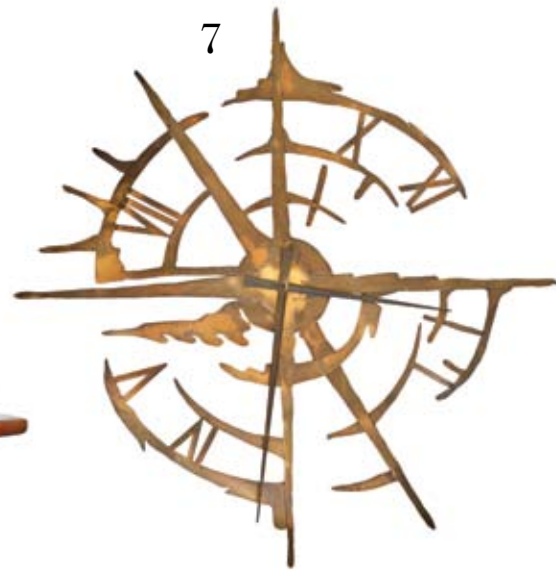
Continued on page 32



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7

**7 AT HOME INTERIORS/
FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Clock
Chalet time takes on a whole new meaning with this hand-welded iron clock. More than just an artistic décor accessory, this one-of-a-kind piece of art is plated with oxidized copper and finished with a rust grey wash. Plus, it's simply stunning!

168 Hurontario St., Collingwood
705.446.9992

8 WHITE BARN FURNITURE COMPANY

Island/Table
Pull up a stool! This sturdy piece of furniture can double as a kitchen island or bar table. Finished with a simple spar varnish, it's made from reclaimed hemlock and pine sourced from a 150-year-old barn, and reclaimed cast iron workstands from an Ingersoll factory.

245954 22 Side Rd., Meaford
519.878.3040 | www.whitebarnfurniturecompany.com

**9 MACDONALD'S BRANDSOURCE
HOME FURNISHINGS**

Entertainment Unit
It's movie time! This whitewashed hardwood entertainment unit from Camlen will add a little country charm to your chalet living room, while de-cluttering your entertainment area. The piece comes in a variety of wood stains and is large enough to accommodate a 46-inch TV.

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CHALK PAINT vs. MILK PAINT

BY ADRIENNE BROWN



PHOTO BY MARIA CARR FOR MISS MUSTARD SEED'S MILK PAINT



PHOTO BY MARIA CARR FOR MISS MUSTARD SEED'S MILK PAINT



ANNIE SLOAN, PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHER DRAKE CICO BOOKS



PHOTO BY MARIA CARR FOR MISS MUSTARD SEED'S MILK PAINT

A fresh coat of paint is all it takes to create a unique piece of furniture (or crown moulding, accessories, cupboards or walls) and redecorate without spending a lot of money.

Products such as milk paint and Chalk Paint™, created by British decorative paint expert Annie Sloan, can be applied right over other finishes, no sanding or priming necessary.

"If you have a little money and want a lot of wow, pick up some second-hand furniture and some Chalk Paint and you can create your own unique piece," says Interior Design Consultant Kathie Jordan.

CHALK PAINT

Unbelievably easy to work with, Chalk Paint and its velvety, matte finish has a dedicated following. "It's very versatile and very intuitive after a while," says Jordan. "You start with a basic colour and a basic idea and just keep going until you love it."

NOTE: Chalk Paint is a trademarked name owned by Annie Sloan. Other paints can produce a similar chalk-like finish but do not own the name "Chalk Paint."

MILK PAINT

While Chalk Paint is "low-VOC," milk paint is zero-VOC and "completely natural," says Jennylyn Pringle, President of Homestead House Paint Co. It's made of five ingredients: chalk, clay, limestone, casein (milk protein, hence the name) and pigments.

Milk paint is mixed from a powder and getting the consistency you want is "no more complicated than making a batch of pancakes," says Pringle. With a little water, you'll get a solid or opaque look. Add more water to create a wash. Milk paint works best on a porous surface. To cover shiny surfaces, add a bonding agent to the paint powder.

TECHNIQUES FOR BOTH

Chalk Paint and milk paint are easy to use. Once you have applied one or two coats of your main colour (depending on the look you want), you can start playing around with different effects, such as:

Smooth finish: Go over your entire painted piece with very fine sandpaper for a silk-like finish.

Sanded edges: This is what most people using milk and Chalk Paint are going for – gently sand away edges as they would naturally be worn over time for a shabby chic look.

Two-colour distress: Apply one solid colour as base coat, then a completely different one on top. Gently sand away the topcoat in strategic spots to reveal the underlying colour instead of raw wood.

Dry brush: Using very little paint on a dry brush, swipe back and forth for a wood-like texture.

Wash: Like whitewashing, a watery paint lets the underlying layer show through.

Play with different brushes, paint consistencies, sandpapers and cloths to create a piece that's all yours. The possibilities are endless!

The final step is always waxing. Jordan says this is the challenging part for most people. The key: less is more. One small tin of Annie Sloan wax will cover more than a whole bedroom set (one can of paint is good for multiple pieces of furniture, too – a little goes a long way). Use clear wax to seal in your work and add a smooth finish or choose a dark wax for depth and warmth. Work wax into your furniture with a brush then smooth out and remove excess with a soft cloth.



ANNIE SLOAN, PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHER DRAKE CICO BOOKS



ANNIE SLOAN, PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHER DRAKE CICO BOOKS

CHOOSE YOUR PAINT

You can achieve similar results with milk paint and Chalk Paint but the products are different:

CHALK PAINT	MILK PAINT
Pre-mixed and ready to use	Comes as a powder to be mixed with water
Can be thinned with water	Create your own desired thickness based on project
Low-VOC	Zero-VOC, biodegradable and non-toxic
Adheres to almost anything (wood, glass, metal) without a primer or other agent	Adheres to raw wood. Requires a bonding agent to adhere to previously finished or other surfaces such as ceramic, glass or metal

Both can be distressed to create a variety of effects, dry quickly, provide a completely breathable coating and require a wax topcoat either to create certain effects or to protect the paint. Both can be mixed to create custom colours.

Brands to look for: Chalk Paint™ decorative paint by Annie Sloan, Miss Mustard Seed's Milk Paint, Homestead House Milk Paint, Lee Valley Milk Paint, FAT Paint, van Gogh Chalk Paint.

Workshops: Many retailers offer hands-on workshops. Contact local shops in your area to find one near you. **OH**

online

For a how-to video and the latest techniques, visit www.ourhomesmagazine.com/chalkpaint

BY GINA MAKKAR

DOLLARS & SENSE

TEN HOME RENOVATION PROJECTS THAT ADD IMPACT AND VALUE

If you are planning to renovate your home, you may be asking yourself what room to tackle first. Perhaps it's the dingy, cracked tile in the kitchen, the faded paint in the bedroom or the tired fixtures in the bathroom. When planning a home improvement project, it's important to keep a few things in mind. What you get back on your investment depends on many variables, including the value of your home, the value of the homes in your neighborhood and the climate of the housing market.

According to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's most recent Renovation and Home Purchase Survey, an estimated 1.7 million households in surveyed centres performed some form of renovation in 2011. Of those, 74 per cent renovated to update, add value or sell their home.

One of the best reasons to renovate a home is to enjoy living in it. Careful planning and thoughtful changes will allow you to enjoy your space now and pay off in the future.

1. KITCHENS

The kitchen is the heart of the home, and improvements like a fresh coat of paint, dramatic lighting and swapping-out dated door handles for a little bling all create big impact for a small cost.

Want to tackle a larger project? The more you change – from flooring to repainting cabinets to a full renovation – the more the focus will be on the kitchen, the centre of entertaining, from family dinners to festive holidays.

2. BATHS

Make a splash with your bath! According to the Appraisal Institute of Canada, kitchen and bathroom renovations remain at the top of the list, and homeowners can recoup 75 per cent to 100 per cent of the investment. Wood cabinets, large stand-up showers and stone floors and countertops all add value and visual appeal.

3. PAINT

Throw a little colour into your life. Over time, walls sag and paint tends to fade or stain from sun exposure and dirty hands. A fresh coat of paint provides dramatic results with little investment, and according to The Appraisal Institute of Canada, it may return up to 100 per cent of the cost.

4. FLOORING

Update things underfoot. Gleaming hardwood floors and tiles add both value and appeal to a home. If you are replacing flooring, remember to maintain consistency. Too many strange transitions and changes in material will lose impact.

5. LANDSCAPING

The front of a home is the first thing people see, and it's hard not to judge a book by its cover. Landscaping does more than beautify a space. It maximizes and extends living spaces by creating usable areas with decks and patios. It also provides privacy and reduces noise levels. A few strategically planted trees could help save on heating and cooling costs.

6. WINDOWS

If you're feeling a draft in the living room you might also be left cold when you open a sky-high utility bill. Of those surveyed, 27 per cent of homeowners invested in windows, an update that both maintains and improves a property. Though an investment, replacing aging, hard to operate or poorly sealed windows will warm both the home and the pocketbook.

7. PLUMBING FIXTURES

High-end finishes like brushed nickel, antique brass and oil-rubbed bronze are the jewelry in any bathroom and kitchen. Not only do they anchor the look and feel of a home, newer fixtures boast amenities like water-saving low-flow aerators and quick on/off or hands-free technology.

8. EXTRA STORAGE

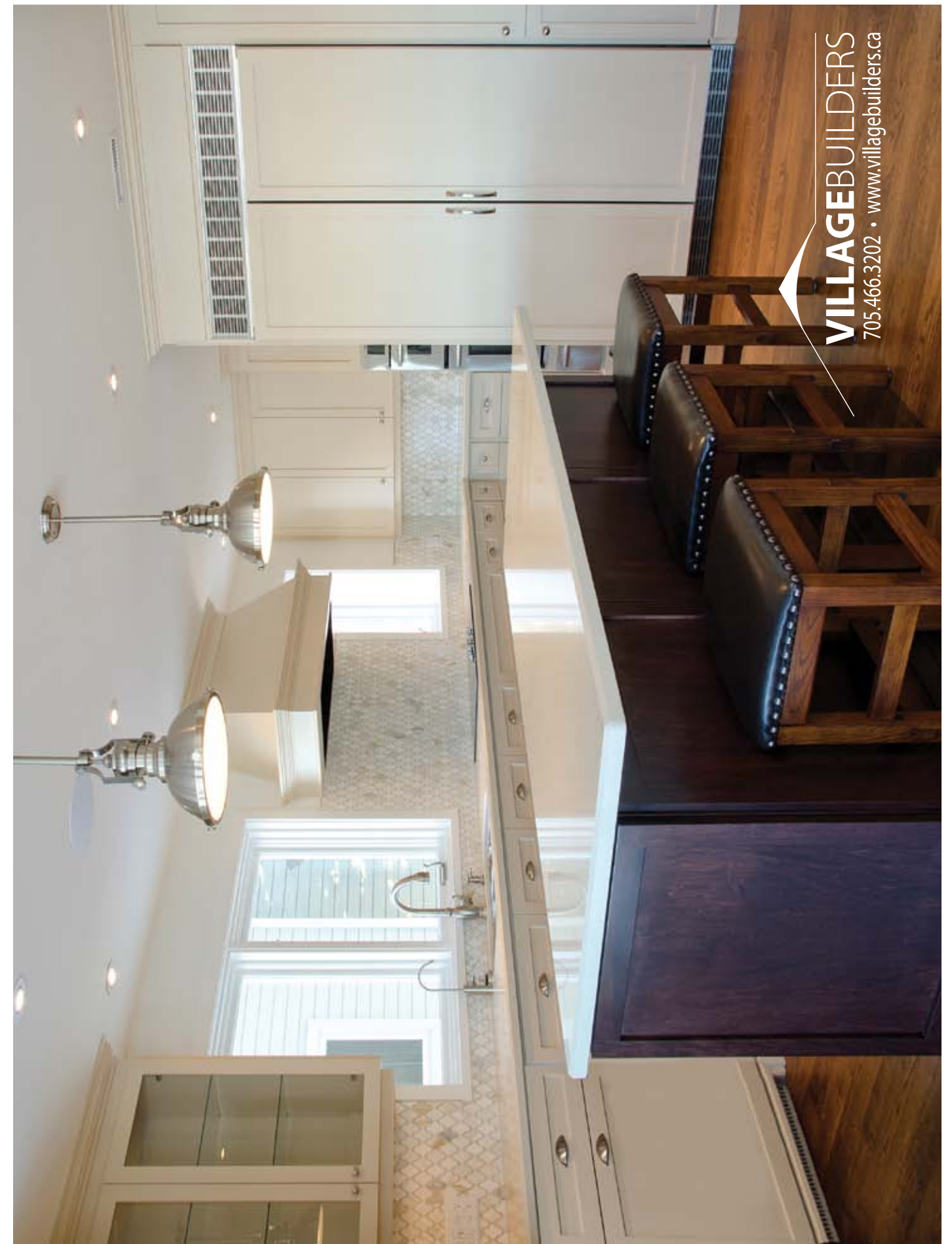
Dead-end corners under staircases, awkward wall niches and low head spaces in the basement. We all have them. Why not convert them into usable space? A few thoughtful additions like built-in storage or extra closets to stash off-season clothes or household baubles will help maximize living space now and appeal to potential buyers later.

9. ECO-FRIENDLY ADDITIONS

Investing in Mother Earth can yield some strong returns. Water saving plumbing fixtures like low-flow showerheads, tankless hot water heaters and eco-friendly products like bamboo, cork and low-VOC paints all add value and environmental impact.

10. CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL

Invite a realtor or interior designer over to check out your home or consider hiring an architect or contractor for larger renovations. They can provide advice, help draw up an action plan or manage construction. Small suggestions on paint colours or furniture placement can go a long way in helping improve the aesthetic of your home. For larger projects, a little professional advice before the project begins can squelch the likelihood of costly errors later. **OH**



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Stunning HERITAGE HOME UPGRADE & RENO

BY JUDE WAYLAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

You've got to have a lot of faith in a designer's style and taste to give them complete carte blanche to makeover your home. But that's exactly what the owners of a stately heritage home in downtown Collingwood recently did.

Continued on page 44

French doors add an element of privacy to this impressive 'non-smoking smoking room', where the homeowners frequently linger over morning coffee, and where guests retire after dinner for a digestif and intimate conversation. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** A heritage plaque hangs outside the front door of this grand century home, built in 1882. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Designer Scott Hunermund, owner of At Home Interiors/Food For Thought in Collingwood, selected Courvoisier Cognac-coloured club chairs to complement the focal point of the room, a majestic antique mahogany wall unit.



feature



The homeowners were sold on their century home the minute they saw it, but knew it needed a facelift. They also wanted to turn what was once a commercial space with several small rooms into an open-concept, après-ski games/party room and bar.

“We fell in love with it right away,” says the homeowner. “It’s such a beautiful house with so much character, and the appeal for us was the space itself, because we wanted to be able to accommodate our family and friends.”

So they handed the main floor update of the home, including certain aspects of the new addition, to designer **Scott Hunermund**, owner of **At Home Interiors/Food For Thought**. “The homeowners walked into my store by fluke,” says Scott, “and ended up loving my style, my taste, my store and the service they were getting. They told me they just bought a house, and asked if I would do the whole thing.” *Continued on page 46*

ABOVE: Oh the breathtaking splendour of owning a heritage home! Look up, way up! After several coats of new paint, each glorious architectural detail literally “popped” throughout the home.

RIGHT: This Victorian home is a work of art, featuring ornate architecture, elegant proportions and intricate detailing. In the stately front foyer, gleaming hardwood floors highlight a vintage ceiling medallion, stained glass transom and elaborate stair railings.

OPPOSITE: In order to accentuate the beautiful windows and dramatic floor-to-ceiling drapery in the formal living room, Scott designed the space so the furniture would “float,” rather than be pushed up against the walls. All the furniture is from At Home Interiors.



feature

The couple hired family friend **Sandy Nattress** of **Catalyst Residential Building Group**, a firm with plenty of renovation experience, to build the new addition. “What I like to do is take the time to understand what the client wants and what their vision is,” explains Sandy, “so I can be as creative as possible in recreating that vision.” The project was a collaborative effort between the designer, the builder and the homeowners, who, according to Sandy, were always flexible and open to new ideas.

Scott started by having the entire home meticulously repainted (by **Mark Murphy** of **Paintaid**), including walls, trim, cornices and ceiling medallions, selecting taupe colours in varying shades to run throughout the house, from lightest to darkest. It took six months of sanding and three coats of paint to achieve the desired effect. At Scott’s suggestion, the brass hardware on all the doors was sprayed black.

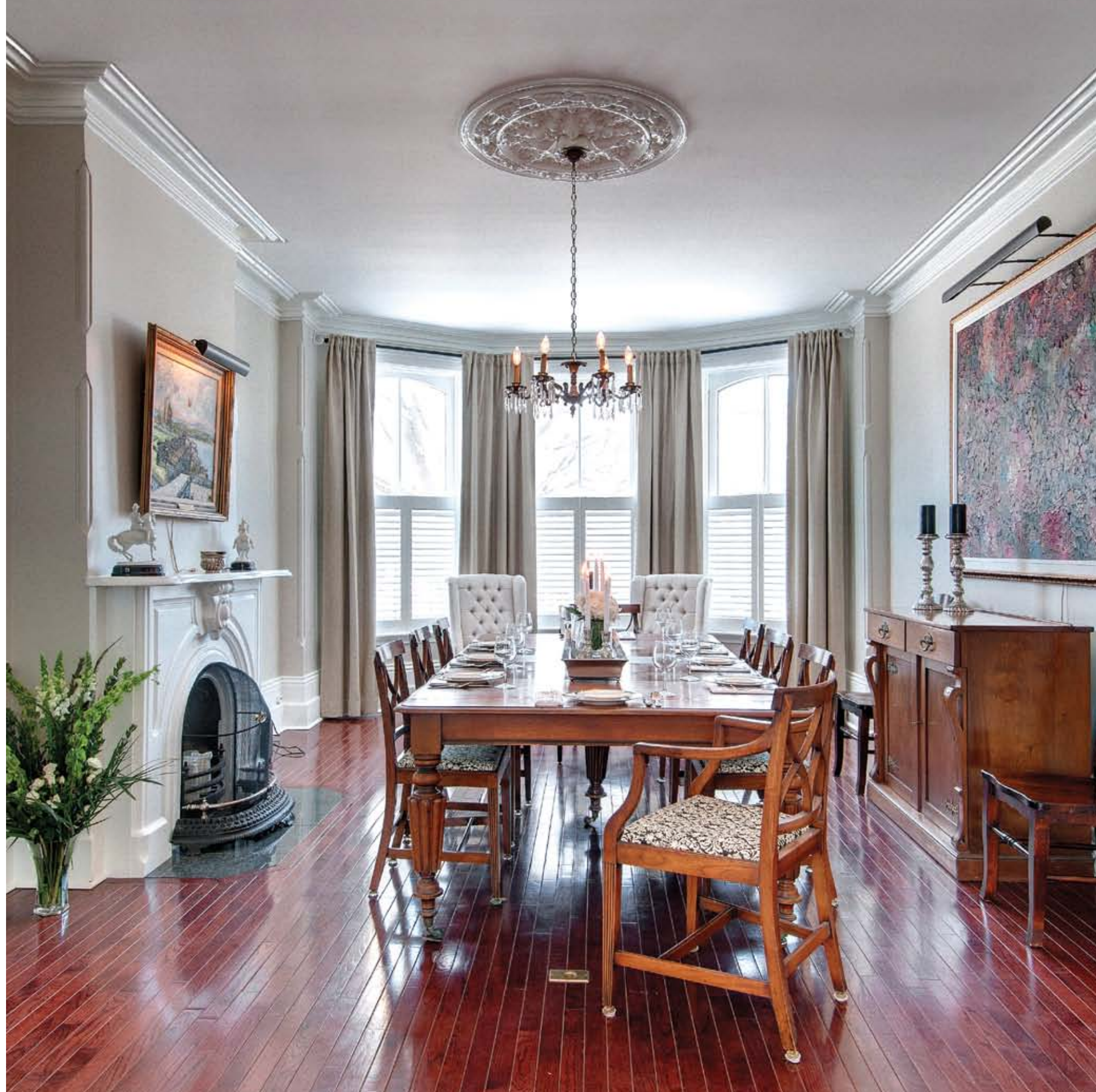
“I wanted it to be traditional, with an urban undertone,” explains Scott. “It’s a classic 1882 Victorian home and I wanted to work with the space. I didn’t want to do a lot of colour that would take away from the splendour of the house because everything is so beautiful.”

Fortunately, the home had been well maintained, and needed no structural upgrades. Most of the furniture in the living and dining rooms, including the fixtures, accessories, and draperies, came from Scott’s Collingwood store. “The homeowner didn’t even see the fabrics,” says Scott. “She said, ‘I totally trust you. I know whatever you do will be stunning.’”

Scott switched the family room to a formal dining room, turning the old dining room into a “non-smoking smoking lounge,” featuring a round, tufted diamond ottoman surrounded by four oversized, distressed leather club chairs. Creating a vintage feel in the room perfectly complemented the original floor-to-ceiling mahogany cabinetry on the back wall.

In the kitchen, the wood cabinets were re-painted to brighten up the room, and a practical, granite-like laminate replaced the pine countertop. “Scott is great,” says the homeowner. “He tells you where you should go high-end and where you can afford not to.” The homeowners were delighted with the new look. *Continued on page 48*

RIGHT: The formal dining room was transformed into a spacious and bright space that features two faux wing chairs in the bay window and a classic century wood-burning fireplace. The dining room chairs were tastefully re-upholstered in black and white Italian damask. **BELOW:** The trim and doors in the home were painted Snowy Egret by Behr, Scott’s favourite colour. He uses it for all trim because it’s warm, and is a wonderful balance between white and winter white. Paperwhite Flowers in Thornbury supplied the fresh flowers.



feature

Because the mudroom leading into the kitchen was part of the original house, the team's challenge for the new addition was to bridge the old with the new. "The first addition to the home was built overtop a small original structure," explains Sandy. "We really didn't know where we stood until we opened it all up. It was a little organic in that way."

So down came the walls to open the space, once cut up into several tiny rooms. The tear down also uncovered part of the home's original brick wall. Once the entire back section and two entryways were gutted, and a steel beam added for support, the homeowners were able to better visualize the final layout.

An existing utility closet and tiny powder room were transformed into a complete spa-like bathroom with twice the space, and a guest suite was built for overnight guests. The home's warm brick accent wall is now the featured backdrop at the bar, designed by Scott and Sandy. There's also a TV area for the kids, a home office and a retro Gilligan's Island pinball machine for family fun and games.

Because the space was new, Scott designed the addition to have its own personality. "I wanted it to be casual, yet visually upscale. I didn't want it to look like a chalet, but I wanted it to have some northern ski cabin undertones, and that's where the reclaimed barnboard inset panels under the bar came in." *Continued on page 52*



The addition was designed to have its own modern character, not to duplicate the Victorian part of the home. To set the space apart, the new party/games room was painted Ruby Ring by Behr. **ABOVE:** Builder Sandy Nattress, owner of Catalyst Residential Building Group, specializes in renovations and add-ons for century, as well as modern homes. His team gutted the entire back section of the home to reveal an original exterior brick wall, which now lends character and warmth to the new area.



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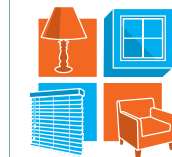


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It's party central in the new addition, where the action centres around the bar, a collaborative effort between builder, designer and homeowners. The bar includes inset barn board panels, a pine top that was actually milled on site, and fashionable wood and leather stools from At Home Interiors.

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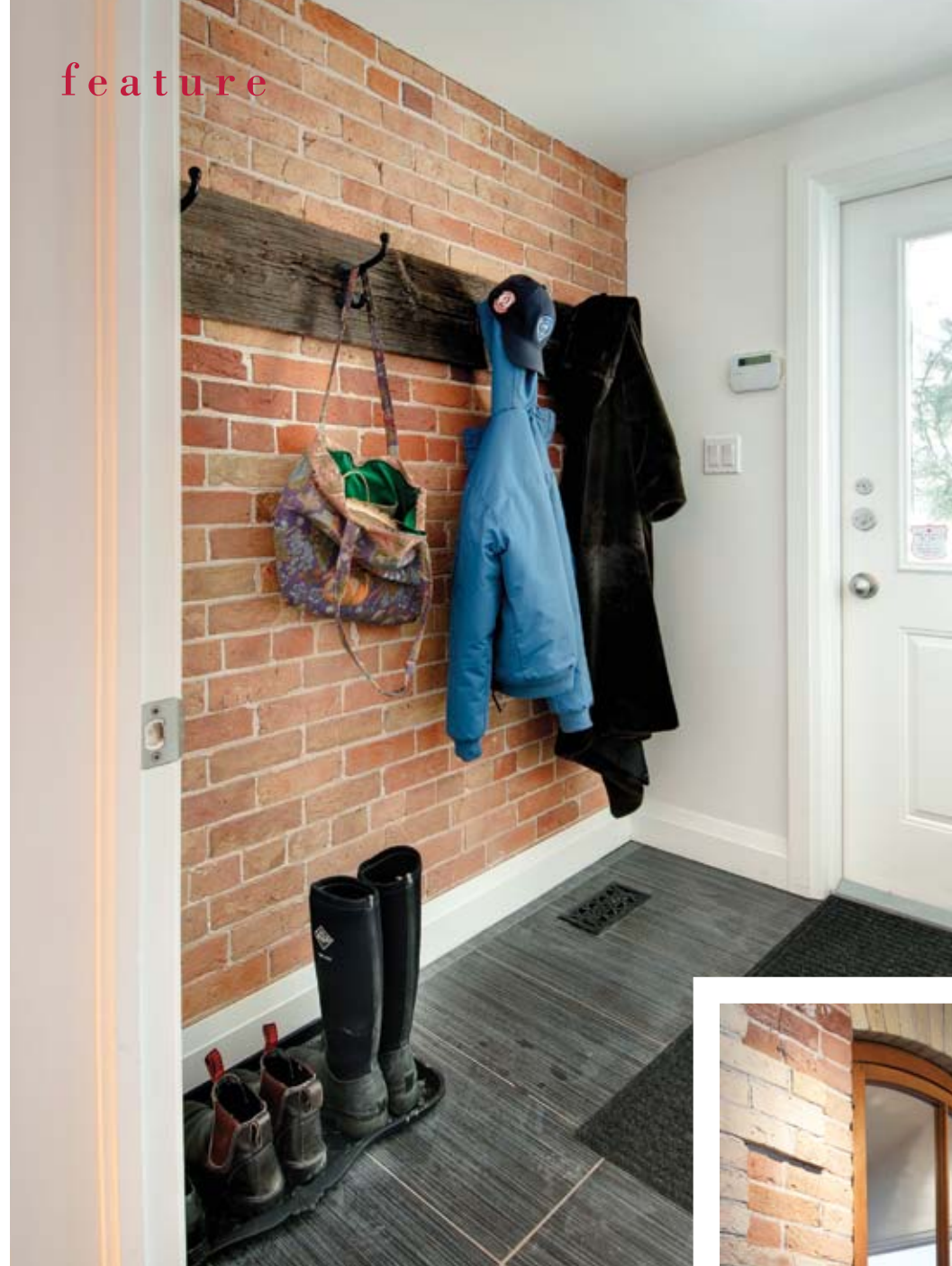
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SOURCE GUIDE

Scott Hunermund of At Home Interiors/Food For Thought, Barrie Trim & Mouldings Inc., Bruce Eccles Electrical Contracting Ltd., Sandy Nattress of Catalyst Residential Building Group, Coast 2 Coast Plumbing, Home Depot, Jim Davidson Drywall Specialist, Rob Thorburn of Huronia Alarms, Mercury Heating and Natural Gas, Mark Murphy of Paintaid, Paperwhite Flowers, Greg Roe of Superior Painting.



"Sandy suggested we do a wood countertop on the bar, and I'm glad we did because it's stunning. He really did a great job," says the homeowner. Upper cabinets were cleverly used for the base of the bar to create more storage and floor space. **Rob Thorburn** of **Huronia Alarms** installed and wired the bar's media area and the home's security system.

"We love having our morning coffee in the club leather chairs in the smoking room," says the homeowner, "but we also love the bar because of that brick wall."

The claim to fame of this historical home is that it was the first house in Collingwood to have indoor plumbing. You have to wonder what other stories the home could tell... if only the walls could talk. **OH**

ABOVE: Coming and going is that much easier now that the homeowners have a separate side entrance leading into the new addition. **RIGHT:** An original exterior window was salvaged during construction and turned into a mirror that hangs in the entryway on the home's original exterior brick wall.

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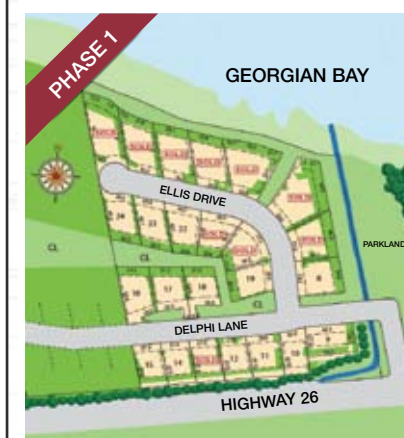
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Storeowners Paula and Dave Conning



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BY JUDE WAYLAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

THE PLACE: When Dave and Paula Conning moved to Collingwood for lifestyle reasons, their timing was perfect. As luck would have it, an iconic Collingwood store, in operation since 1977, was up for sale. “We came up to have a look because we feared it might be our grandmother’s attic,” says Paula, “and then we walked into this beautiful space.” It was exactly what the Connings were looking for. They purchased the store stock and learned the ropes from the previous owners, added a splash of their own style and colour, changed the name to **Clerkson’s Home Store**, and embarked on their new adventure.

THE STYLE: Casual, quality home décor. From solid wood, Quebec-made harvest tables to a wide range of Brunelli and Revelle bedding and linens, from gift soaps and custom home signs to whimsical nautical accessories (a nod to Collingwood’s rich marine history), the store offers something for everyone, at every price point. The atmosphere’s friendly and laid back. “We want people to browse to their hearts’ content,” says Dave, “sort of like a treasure hunt. We’re here if they need our help.”

SEASONAL: As the seasons change, so too do the smaller décor items and accessories, rather than the larger pieces of furniture. In the summer, the bedding’s bright and bold; in the winter months, warm earth tones prevail. Throughout the year, wall décor items, including metal art pieces, local photographs, as well as an eclectic assortment of colourful contemporary and original works are also changed up. Dave, an artist himself, even has a few of his oil paintings for sale.



WHAT’S HOT? Tea towels, linens and throw pillows are always popular. As is the Canadian-made upholstered furniture by Statum Designs Inc. People come from far and wide just to purchase the unique Indian-made rugs. “Customers also love our exotic mango wood tables,” says Paula. “They’re imported from India, and so well designed.” Good design is important to the Connings. That’s why they’ve introduced a line of George Jensen items, as well as stunning “Georgian Bay” blue tartan throws, table runners and scarves. **WHERE:** 85 Hurontario St., Collingwood 705.445.1988, www.clerksosn.com **OH**





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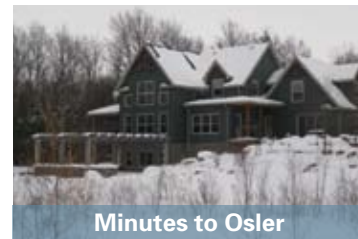
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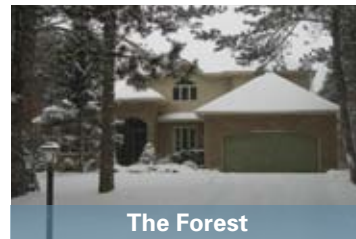
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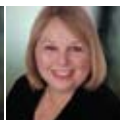
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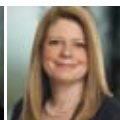
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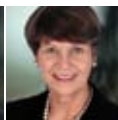
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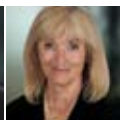
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A NEW LOOK FOR BAYVIEW TOWER

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.

Continued on page 62





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.

Continued on page 64



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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."

Continued on page 66

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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.

Continued on page 68

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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."

Continued on page 70

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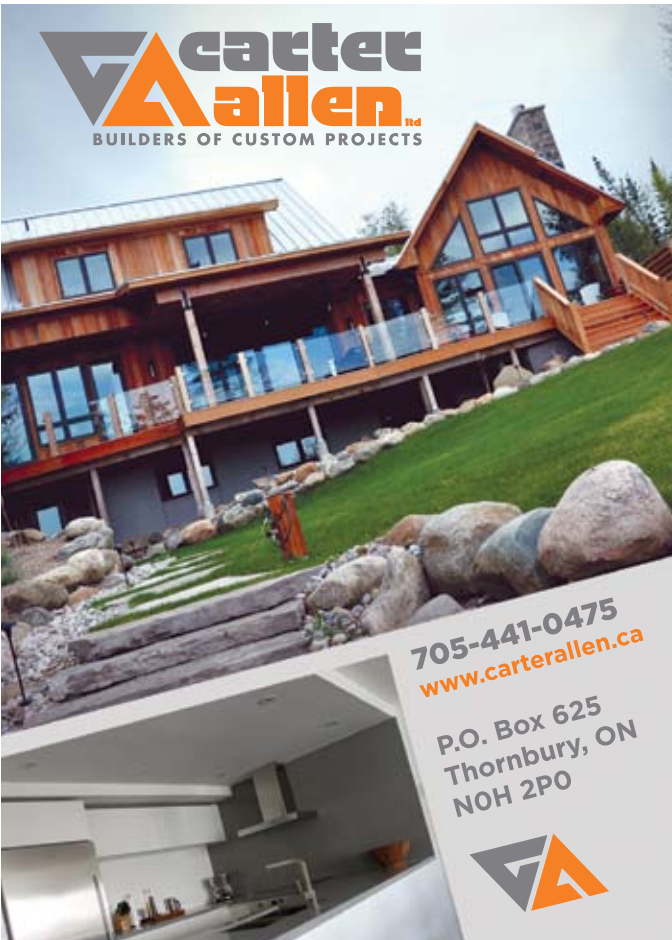


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Matthew Fells,
Simcoe County
Museum, with
Melissa Shaw
and Susan Warner,
Collingwood Museum

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.

Continued on page 72



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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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Realtors Sue Mallett,
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and Diana Berdini, Broker,
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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.

Continued on page 76

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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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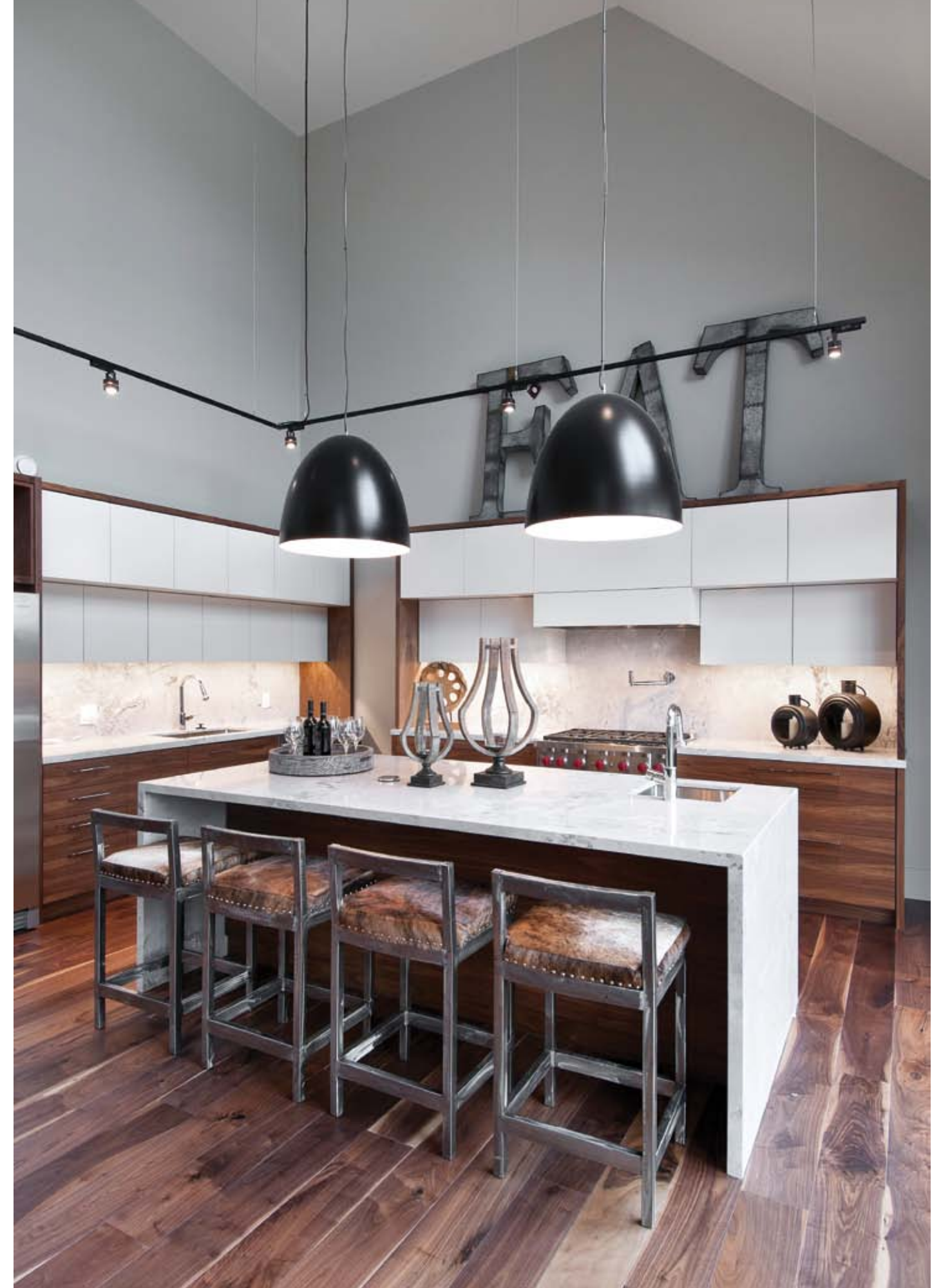
BY JULIE SIMMONDS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Snuggled between Alpine Ski Club and a forested ravine along Arrowhead Road at Blue Mountain, sits a newly built modern mountain home, ready and waiting for its new owners. **SOLCORP Developments** is now offering the first home in their new **Arrowhead Collection**.

Designed by **Abbott Design Ltd.**, using a fresh, fashion-forward approach, the home features 4,300 sq. ft. of living space, including a stunning glass entryway, vast 22-foot vaulted ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows (in both the front and back of the home). Built to entertain family and friends, with six bedrooms, five baths, a large games/media room, master retreat with luxury en suite, and finished basement, the home is intimate enough to bring the family together, yet large enough to host a big gathering.

"I always wanted to do something unique, a little more cutting edge, more upfront, rather than the same old chalet look," says company owner Anne Solomon. "I wanted to bring the feel of luxury and I also wanted it to be a bit timeless. This area seems to be everyone's family meeting place, and people want to live up here. I think they want big entertaining space."

Continued on page 80



showcase



Making space to “entertain big” is exactly what Anne created in the massive chef’s kitchen, finished with quartz counters, two oversized islands and custom walnut cabinetry and flooring. “People can gather in the kitchen area; it’s one big fluid space,” states Anne. Both the dining and living areas flow from the kitchen and feature a natural wood-burning limestone fireplace and furniture from **Habitat Interiors**. Owners can take advantage of the natural daylight that floods the home, and then set timers to light the house at night. Everything in this home is automated and wired to be remote controlled with a smartphone, making this modern space functional for progressive homeowners. **OH**



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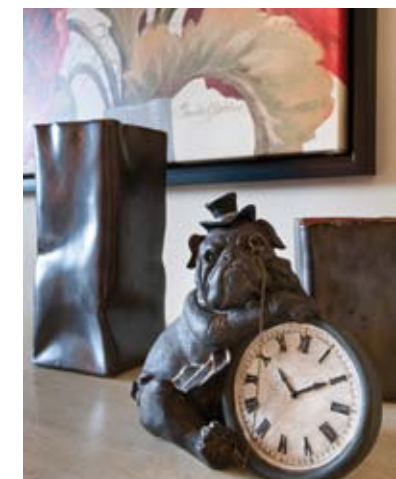
comfy COLLINGWOOD CONDOS

BY JULIE SIMMONDS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Warm and sophisticated, opulent and comfortable, **Dwell@Creekside** is a mid-rise condominium complex at the entrance to the sought-after **Creekside** community in Collingwood. The condo complex, a development by **Devonleigh Homes Inc.**, makes a beautiful addition to the Creekside neighbourhood, offering 35 one-to-three-bedroom living spaces, with elegant stone and brick exteriors.

"We had people moving in mid-December," says Jim Funston, Director of Sales and Marketing for Devonleigh Homes. Several condo units presold over the past year when the project began. The remainder of the suites come with a 90-day closing, and will be customized to the buyer's specifications as they are sold."

With layouts ranging from 706 to 1,233 sq. ft., each condominium unit is finished with designer kitchens, rounded corner walls, luxurious tub surrounds and a choice of broadloom or tile flooring. "On the ground floor, we have 10-foot ceilings, giving the space a more open feel. Second and third floors have nine-foot ceilings," states Jim. *Continued on page 84*



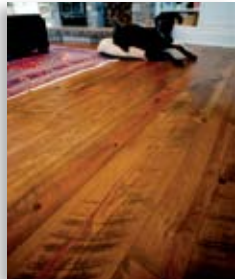
showcase



Conveniently situated close to downtown Collingwood's shops and restaurants, with easy access to Blue Mountain's summer and winter wonderland, Dwell makes an ideal retreat for weekenders and retirees alike.

"Right now, the majority of people coming in are wanting to downsize or retire, and want something where they can lock the key and go down to Florida, or travel for the winter," says Jim. Hoping to also attract weekenders, he adds, "You can lock the door and go back to the city. It's all secure and you don't have to worry about it."

Three model suites, beautifully styled and tastefully decorated, are available for public viewing, including the Allium, an 870 sq. ft. two-bedroom model, the Linden, a 924 sq. ft., two-bedroom suite, and the 1,233 sq. ft. Azalea, with three bedrooms. **OH**



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ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY *living* IN THE MEADOWS

BY JULIE SIMMONDS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Recently named Home Builder of the Year, in 2013, at the Ontario Home Builders' Association Annual Conference in Niagara, **Reid's Heritage Homes** is wrapping up its final few home sales in Collingwood's **Georgian Meadows** development, a community that's been growing steadily over the past 12 years.

The development consists of approximately 420 single-family homes on 36, 40 and 50-foot lots. "The mix, from a purchaser's perspective," says Stacey Thomas, Sales Consultant, "ranges from active retired families to a few single people living in the community. It's been very successful."

The Elgin, a two-bedroom, two-bath Craftsman-style 1,463 sq. ft. bungalow is situated on a corner lot along Alyssa Drive. The home features luxuries such as a covered porch, exquisite main-floor tile, a master en suite, as well as three Whirlpool appliances, but the true luxury in this home comes from what you don't see.

Known for its ENERGY STAR® homes, a standard in all abodes within the development, Reid's Heritage Homes takes pride in constructing high-quality homes that are both easy on the pocketbook and the environment.



To obtain an ENERGY STAR® rating, Reid's homes include items such as high-efficiency, forced-air gas heating, a heat recovery ventilator (HRV) system, a separate media air filter installed in the ductwork to provide whole-home filtration, sealed main ducts in the basement, and a main trunk duct in the basement, made by using duct board insulated material. All windows are maintenance-free, high-efficiency, vinyl clad, and Low E argon gas-filled. The homes also feature a drain water heat recovery system that has been installed in the waste stack in the basement. All these items work together to help homeowners run a 60 percent more energy-efficient household.

"We've been ahead of the game all along," says Stacey. "We started building ENERGY STAR®-style homes before ENERGY STAR® was popular, and from there we're just getting into newer and better things." **OH**

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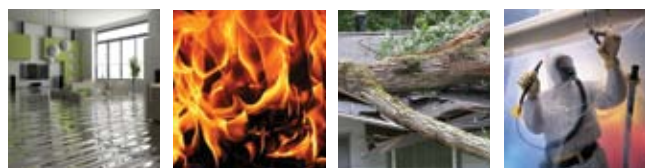
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HURONIA ALARM & FIRE SECURITY INC. HAS ACQUIRED BLUE MOUNTAIN LOCK, KEY & SAFE

Hurononia has acquired Blue Mountain Lock, Key & Safe, a leading Southern Georgian Bay locksmith company located in Collingwood.

"We are very pleased that Roger and Kim Gagne have agreed to join the Huronia family", said Kevin Leonard, President of Huronia Alarms. "The locksmithing services they provide for residential, commercial, industrial and property management customers was a natural extension of our Security, Fire and Safety and Home Theatre wiring and installation businesses."

Started in 1977, Blue Mountain Lock, Key & Safe is well known in the Georgian Triangle for a broad range of "key" related activities from simply making new ones for home, work and cars, to changing and repairing locks, as well as broader areas of security advice, safe and hardware installation.

"Our relationship with Huronia started many years ago" noted Roger Gagne, President of Blue Mountain Lock, Key & Safe. "So having worked with them we knew that they had the same business philosophy and values as we do. And that translated into our customers not only continuing to enjoy the high level of products and services we have been known for, but now they will have access to a larger array of security services ... including the quickly growing home entertainment and smart homes segments being required in today's marketplace."

Blue Mountain Lock, Key & Safe will continue to reside and operate 24/7 at 313 Huronia Street, in Collingwood and will be moved to Huronia's Collingwood Office in the first quarter of 2014.

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Did someone say "Sand"? Summer will be back soon, won't it?

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THE DEVIL'S IN THE *details*

BY LAUREL FORTIN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

With five skiers in the family, Carol Port, James Malone and their three sons have a lot of gear. Toques, goggles, scarves, socks and mittens. Not to mention coats, boots and snow pants. But they've got a way to keep track of it all – at least while they're at home.

Continued on page 96

It was this north-facing, immense view of the escarpment that initially drew the Port-Malone family to their hilltop acreage, where Porter Skelton & Associates designed and built their four-season highland retreat.



ABOVE: Homeowner Carol is one very organized woman. Her favourite space in the home is the mudroom, where custom built-in cubbies keep track of all of the family's outdoor gear. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Whether to sip on a cup of tea, or to strum on a guitar, this active family often gathers around the wood-burning fireplace to catch up on the day's activities. **RIGHT:** Originally, the property featured a modest farmhouse. After living in the space for four ski seasons, the homeowners approached Porter Skelton to help design and build a new and more suitable home that their family could grow into.



Members at Devil's Glen Ski Club, they have a four-season retreat in the Duntroon highlands, just minutes from the club. The home's generous, organized mudroom was one of the top priorities for the family when they were designing and planning their new post and beam space with custom homebuilder, **Porter Skelton & Associates Ltd.**

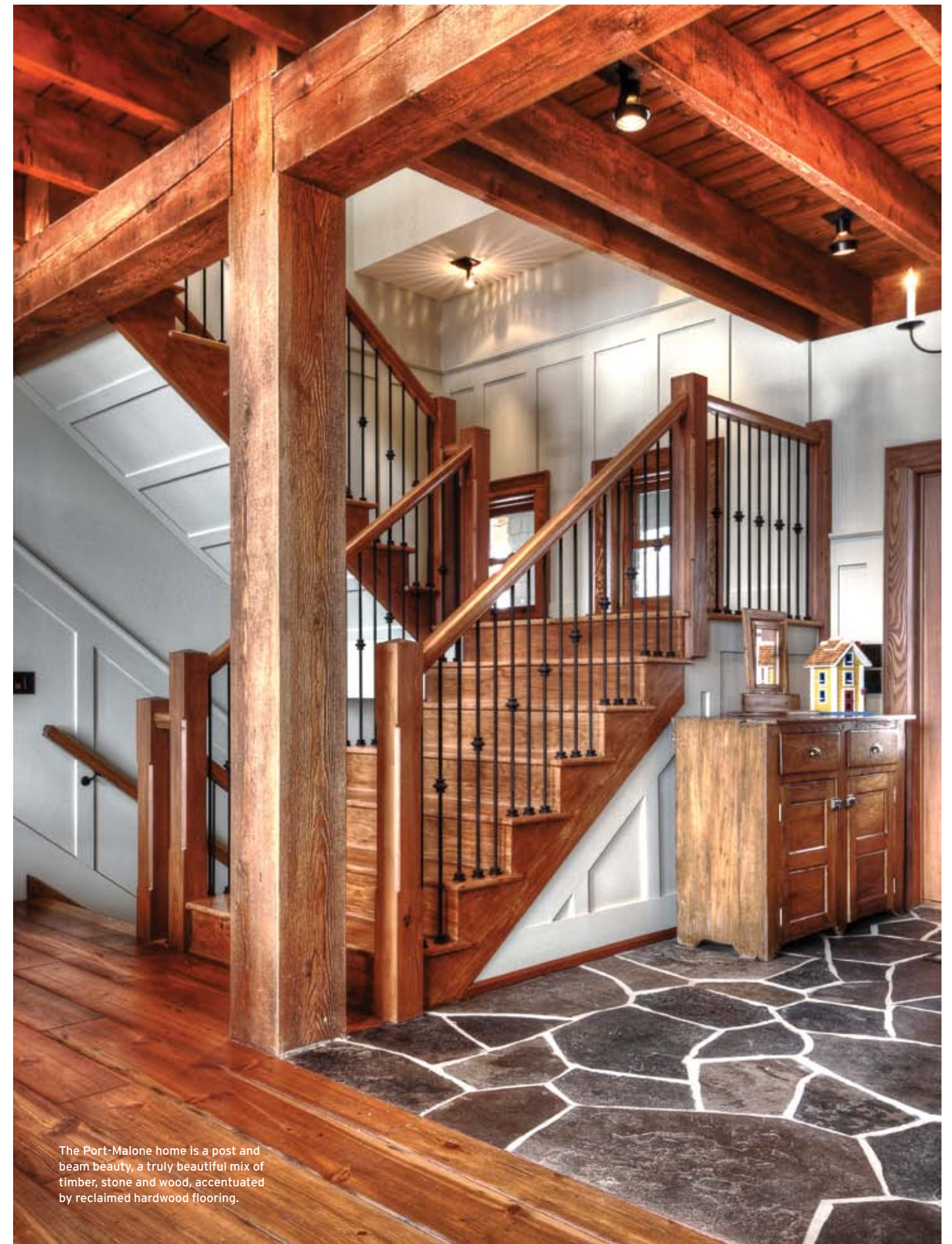
"It's still my favourite part of the house," smiles Carol. "We absolutely needed a spot big enough for all of us to get out of our snow gear, get it dry and be able to find it again the next morning." With custom, locker-style storage created by **Kim and Kathy Hall** at **Pinetiques** in Clarksburg, each family member has a station with ample hooks, and a seat with a drawer underneath to keep track of all their accessories.

While it may have been the mudroom that clinched the house design

for Carol, it was the view that drew the family to the highlands in the first place. Their north-facing vista from the two-storey high windows in the great room extends miles down the escarpment across Georgian Bay (windows by Loewen).

The family has enjoyed this view for eight years, since they joined the ski club and bought the hilltop acreage as a chalet base. The original home was a modest farmhouse, and they knew they would need to add on to the home to accommodate their growing family. So they approached Porter Skelton in 2007.

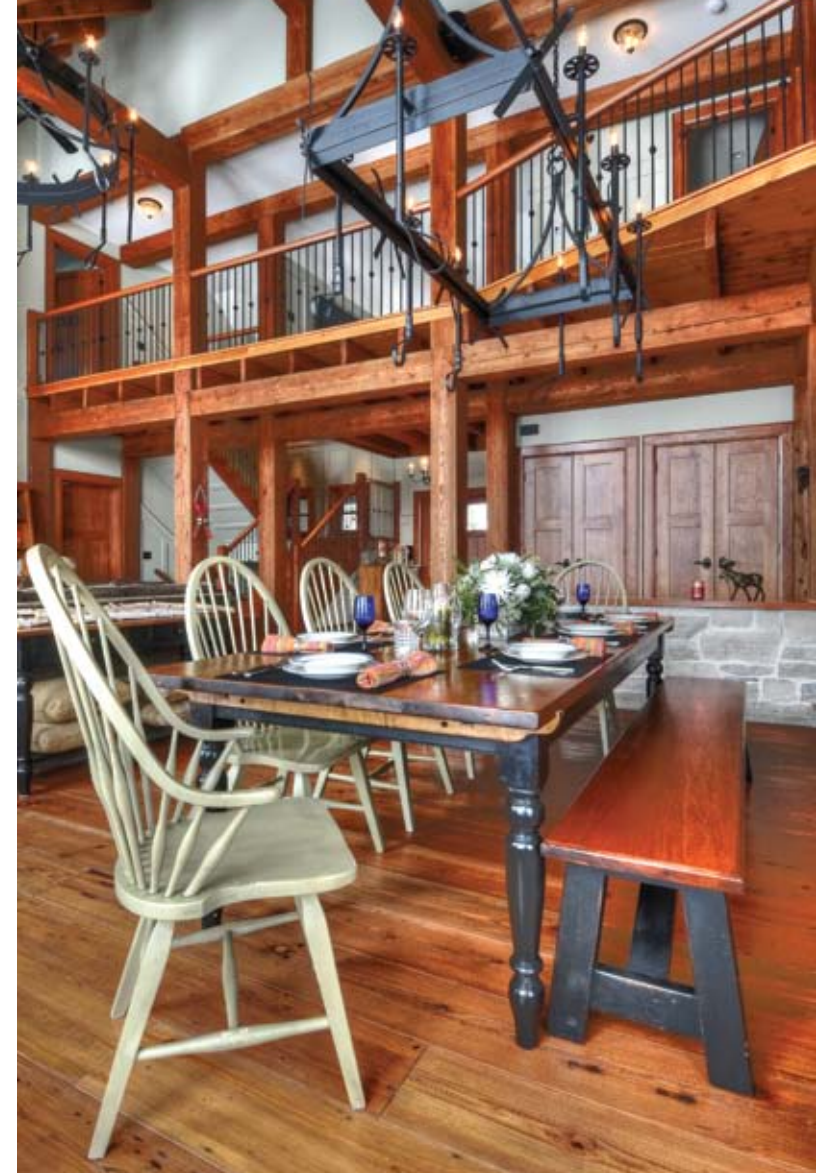
Carol and James were surprised by designer Chris Skelton's advice. Rather than remodel, Skelton suggested they live in the house and on the property for a while, to see how they used the space, and then decide what, how and whether to renovate. *Continued on page 98*



The Port-Malone home is a post and beam beauty, a truly beautiful mix of timber, stone and wood, accentuated by reclaimed hardwood flooring.



The highlights of this kitchen are the colourful, rustic shaker-like cabinets and the textured matte leather finish countertops that do away with any fingerprints or streaks. Plus, the room offers a wide-open space for entertaining.



TOP RIGHT: An immense black iron chandelier, custom designed by Pete Muller of Pete's Metal Works in Nottawa, hangs above the dining room table.
RIGHT: The kitchen window offers a glorious view of the valley.



So Carol and James and sons did just that. For four ski seasons, Christmases, weekends, and summer vacations. The family soon realized that their house wasn't in the greatest condition, and that an extensive renovation would be difficult and costly. But they loved the area, so they searched for a new chalet. Every property they toured was further from the ski hill, or from Toronto, and just not what they wanted. They kept returning to their highland view.

Then Carol and James approached Porter Skelton again, this time with a plan to keep their property, but to construct a new home that they could grow into for decades. Chris Skelton had the family made a wish list. Says Porter, "We ask our clients to think big – to not worry about costs while they're dreaming, and find out what they're really looking for. We draw

up a few options, and clients generally like a few features from plan A, plan B, and plan C. We amalgamate these features," he explains, "and then refine from there. We do budgeting exercises as we progress through the design until we land at something that fits the clients' vision and budget."

James and Carol knew they wanted timber, stone and wood throughout their home (B.C. Douglas Fir beams from [Haven's Home Building Centre](#) in Collingwood and reclaimed hardwood flooring from [Northland Custom Hardwood Flooring Inc.](#)), but the two elements most critical to them had little to do with the size of the bedrooms or the flow of the great room. It was all about the two spaces in their home they use when coming and going. For Carol, it was the mudroom. For James, it was an attached garage.

Continued on page 100



“On weekends, we often get in late on a Friday and have to unload our boys, the dog and our groceries,” says James. “We wanted an attached garage, where it didn’t matter what the conditions were like, we could get in out of the snow or cold, right into the house.”

Porter Skelton answered the wish with a three-bay garage. The family uses two bays for their cars, and the third as a foyer to access the garage. The garage and mudroom lead to an open-concept kitchen where custom cabinetry (Pinetiques) has a refined, rustic shaker look. The subtle black granite island and countertops, in a leather finish from **Di Pietra Design Counter Tops**, have a textured matte appearance that disguises fingerprints and streaks.

The dining area and great room feature a pair of massive black iron chandeliers (handmade by **Pete Muller** of **Pete’s Metal Works** in Nottawa), inspired by the fixtures in the Devil’s Glen clubhouse (electrical work by **Rigney Electric**). **Rosco Stone Design** contributed a massive wood-burning fireplace in the great room.

The main floor master bedroom shares the chimneystack with a propane fireplace. Carol and James enjoy a tiled en suite (**The Flooring Place Inc.**), with a soaker tub and walk-in shower (by **Baymount Plumbing Ltd.**).

Continued on page 102



TOP: The upstairs hallway showcases B.C. Douglas Fir beams and reclaimed hardwood flooring, which consists of an engineered hardwood base and a reclaimed wood upper. Carol chose Sharkskin by Benjamin Moore for the walls. **ABOVE LEFT & RIGHT:** A funky sliding barn door leads to the master en suite, an oasis of sheer comfort, featuring a lovely soaker tub and spacious walk-in shower. **RIGHT:** The main floor master bedroom shares the same chimneystack as a propane fireplace, creating a super cosy and comfortable space.

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Carol's impeccable style selected Sharkskin by Benjamin Moore for the walls throughout the home, with a shock of red here and there. All hardware and fixtures are black, in contrast to the stone and timbers, from switch plates and door hinges to stair railings (sourced at [Georgian Stair Company Inc.](#)).

Says Porter, "Chris Skelton and I started out small 30 years ago building decks and sheds. We focused on creating great relationships with our clients and we grew slowly; we only take on projects that we can completely commit to. Some of the relationships we've made with clients and trades people have lasted for 25 years, and we hope they continue for another 25."

With their second ski season in the new house underway, Carol and James have nothing but accolades for Andrew Porter and the team he brought in to build their weekend ski retreat. **OH**



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Baymount Plumbing, Di Pietra Design Counter Tops, The Flooring Place Inc., Hackstone Landscapes, Huronia Alarms, Ferraro Painting & Restorations Inc., Georgian Stair Company Inc., Havens Home Building Centre, Northland Custom Hardwood Flooring Inc., Paperwhite Flowers, Pete Muller of Pete's Metal Works, Kim and Kathy Hall of Pinetiques, Porter Skelton & Associates, Fred Reithmeier, Rigney Electric, Rossco Stone Design.



TOP: When the old farmhouse came down, Porter Skelton recycled as much of the house as they could, donating cupboards, fixtures, hardware and the like to the Habitat for Humanity Restore. **ABOVE:** After drawing up a wish list for Chris Skelton, and discussing the family's vision and budget, the Port-Malones put their trust in the Porter Skelton team. They are over the moon with the final product. **LEFT:** The three Port-Malone boys relax in their downstairs family games room after a day on the slopes at Devil's Glen.

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MIAMI'S THE JAMES ROYAL PALM

HOTEL-INSPIRED WHITE-ON-WHITE

BY YANIC SIMARD

The course of 2013 took me on many design adventures, and far beyond the walls of my Toronto Interior Design Group studio: from Western Canada to sunny Miami, from care-free Hawaii to Italy's Amalfi Coast, and farther. While visiting so many summery destinations, I was struck by a clear trend in the interior design of each destination: the inspiring use of white.

Clean white is always a design staple (Benjamin Moore's OC-65 Chantilly Lace being my favourite undertone-free hue), as its pure brightness adds an unparalleled freshness to any décor. When combined with itself, the effect can be powerful, tropical and beautiful – here are three of my favourite ways to work with white-on-white, the right way.

WHITE WITH: OFF WHITE

Surrounded by sandy beaches in tranquil Hawaii, it only makes sense for The Modern Honolulu to bring this relaxing environment indoors. Their peaceful suites see clean white walls playing backdrop to a mix of pale neutrals, creating a lush but subtle tone-on-tone effect. Too much beige can be boring, but mixing sandy tones with warm greys and pale woods creates a restful, contemporary appeal. Look to Benjamin Moore OC-23 Classic Gray for a modern off-white with depth.



THE MODERN HONOLULU

Get the Look: Try soft grey carpeting (or a large area rug), lightly veined stone (like in a Saarinen-style marble-top table), smoked glass vases, and multiple tones of off-white upholstery for a high style look that isn't high maintenance.

WHITE WITH: COLOUR POPS

Miami's The James Royal Palm is a perfect, striking example of South Beach style:

residing in a city known for its art culture, The James breaks up its white scheme with electrifying hues and bold patterns. Follow the hotel's lead and apply wild fabrics to small sections of upholstery – I was especially drawn to chairs featuring oversize palm frond prints on the backrests. Leaf motifs are the new florals and a trend you can safely invest in.

Dressing the walls and window treatments in a matching white is a key element in creating this airy South Beach look. Once you have these in place, you can add touches of classic Miami colours (think bright pinks, sea-foam greens or electric blues) in small doses to achieve a youthful energy in a sophisticated way.

Get the Look: Choose one favourite art piece and pull colours from this for pillows, book covers and other small accessories, mixing and matching until your heart's content. For an even easier can't-miss option, apply a sky blue rug to a seating grouping under a window, bringing that blue view indoors (even when it's not really so sunny outside).

WHITE WITH: MORE WHITE!

Toward the end of the summer, I had the opportunity to return to one of my favourite design destinations: Italian icon Casa Angelina. Their interiors use white-on-white (-on-white!) with such reverence; their full time painter Peppe can recognize 15 subtly different shades. Here, a sense of depth and variety is maintained through the mixing of various materials.

Get the Look: Combine woods, sheer fabrics and rich ones, coated metals, plaster, paper, glass and ceramics to achieve a pleasing breadth of textures.

- Hotels use crisp white bedding to create a clean look for visitors, and you can use the same trick for your own guests and yourself – all white linens instantly freshen and open a bedroom. If you want to re-add some variety, apply an animal hide rug under one corner of the bed and add a neatly folded throw to the end, or some sheepskin-effect pillow shams against the headboard.
- Such a strict colour scheme automatically emphasizes anything that breaks the rules, so apply this technique if you want to focus attention on a beautiful view (like Italy's azure skies). Otherwise, let a few precious heirlooms or artworks make the statement – just make sure they stand up to some attention! **OH**

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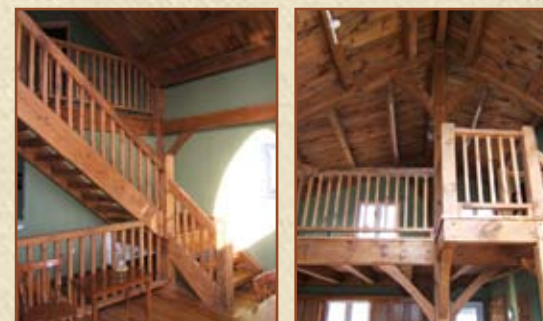
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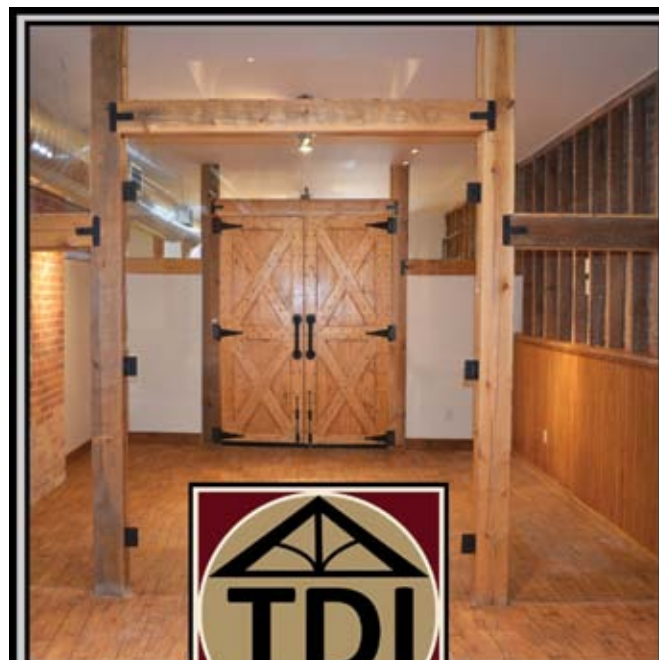


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PORK & CHORIZO *chili*

BY MARIA DASILVA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER

Upon close reflection you may notice that this recipe does not really resemble true chili. Sure there are beans and meat in a tomato-y sauce, but that's about where the similarities end. However, this resulting hearty chili-like stew is just as delightfully satisfying after a hard winter's day on the slopes – and a welcome change from the chili powder-laced traditional chili thanks to dry-cured chorizo sausage and a generous sprinkling of smoked paprika.

Look for dry-cured chorizo sausage in the deli department of most grocery stores. It's a Spanish sausage that's loaded with the sensuous flavours of garlic and paprika. The sausage is often available hot or mild, either one will work fine in this recipe; it just depends on how hot you can handle it! And don't confuse it with fresh chorizo, which is found in the meat department and has to be cooked through.

If you like, double the recipe and freeze half for an easy meal down the road. It can also be refrigerated for about three days and, like chili, the flavour only improves.

For an extra special presentation, top with sour cream, fried chorizo slices and thinly sliced green onion.



INGREDIENTS: (Serves 4)

125 g dry-cured chorizo sausage, diced

2 tsp olive oil

Half sweet onion, diced

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 tsp dried thyme

1 tsp smoked paprika

450 g ground pork

2 small Yukon Gold potatoes (about 375 g), peeled and diced

1 can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed

2 cups chicken broth

3 tbsp tomato paste

3 cups baby spinach leaves

DIRECTIONS:

- In a large saucepan, cook sausage over medium heat until browned, about 5 minutes. Transfer to bowl and set aside.
- In the same saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onion, garlic, thyme and paprika, stirring often, until onion is softened, about 4 minutes. Stir in pork; cook, stirring to break up pork, until browned, about 5 minutes. Stir in potatoes and sausage; cook, stirring, for 2 minutes.
- Stir in beans, broth and tomato paste; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered, stirring occasionally until slightly thickened and potatoes are tender, about 20 minutes. Stir in spinach; cook, just until wilted, about 1 minute. **OH**

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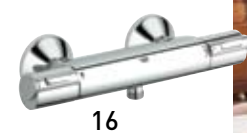
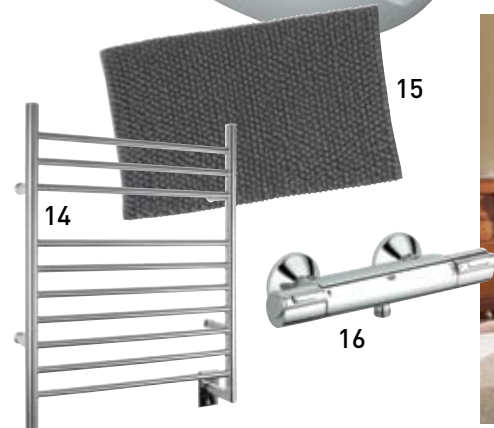
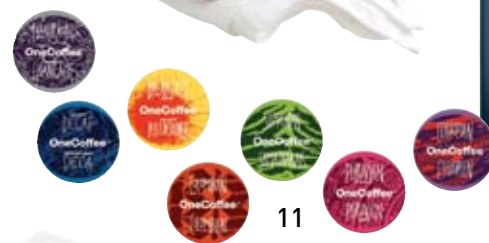
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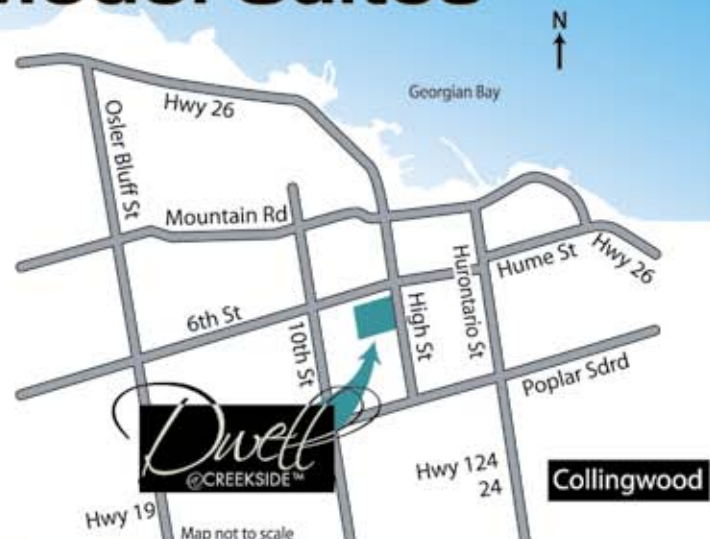
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