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<b>164 High Bluff</b>  Custom Viceroy home backing onto beautiful green space. <b>\$739,000</b>	<b>106 Happy Valley</b>  Ski in hillside properties. Many with views of the bay. Demolition included. <b>\$549,900</b>	<b>74 Hurontario</b>  Prime downtown office space available.
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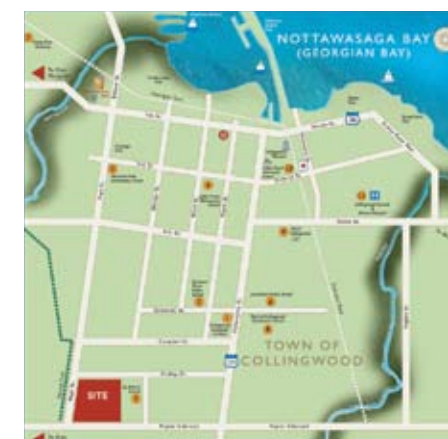
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**LITTLE BEAVER CREEK** This property has 4.25 acres made up of 2 separate parcels of land. Well treed / wooded with lots of privacy & the Little Beaver River running through it. The Georgian Trail runs along one side. Old frame house on property that could be renovated into additional accommodations. 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**



**WATERFRONT** Fabulous Georgian Bay waterfront chalet in Craileith. 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**



**COLLINGWOODLANDS** 5 bdms., 3 1/2 bath French country home is located on 3 private acres. Spacious open concept floor plan is fabulous for entertaining. Great Rm. has soaring cathedral ceilings with exposed wood beams along with a limestone faced wood burning fireplace. Main level features custom wide planked Larchwood floors from Germany. Custom kitchen with heated Caribbean limestone tile floors. **\$1,495,000. MLS®#20125578**



**BASE OF BLUE MOUNTAIN** This chalet is a short walk to the Inn & the Village @ Intrawest where you will find some of the area's best dining, shopping, skiing & golfing. Once inside this spacious bungalow with a gorgeous stone exterior you will find 4 bdms., 2 baths, separate family room, cathedral ceilings, gas fireplace in the living room. Large updated kitchen. **\$399,000. MLS®#20130425**



**LORA BAY** This stunning custom built chalet is located on one of the most spectacular lots at the 17th hole with fabulous views of the Georgian Bay. Open concept home, 5 bedroom, 5 1/2 baths, huge kitchen, soap stone counters & a large center island. Wall to wall windows in the dining room. Reclaimed hemlock floors, along with heated slate tile entrances. Beautiful stone wood burning fireplace. 10 ft. ceilings with wood beams. **\$998,000. MLS®#20132559**



**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 on Georgian Bay. Across the street you will find the 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®#20133602**



**VIEWS OF THE BEAVER VALLEY** Fantastic 100 acre view property, ready for your dream home to be built overlooking Georgian Bay with views of the Beaver Valley. 20 acres of hardwood bush & a tranquil pond with a large swimming platform. Property already has a 40 ft. x 40 ft. drive shed with a 3 bedroom guest / farm manager house. This ranch style home has open concept design with vaulted ceilings. Fully restored barn. **\$995,000. MLS®#20132967**



**VIEW PROPERTY** Country side split home with views of Georgian Bay, located on 2 acres. 4 bdms., 2 1/2 baths, 2900 sq. ft. of finished space. 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**



**ALPINE HILLS** Luxurious mountain chalet. 3850 sq. ft. Architecturally designed. Loaded with character. 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 baths, wood burning fireplace, upgraded fixtures, reclaimed wood floors. Double garage with inside entry on treed lot with extensive landscaping. Winter view of Georgian Bay & ski hills. Close to Craileith & Alpine ski clubs & Intrawest village. Walk to Northwinds Beach. **\$1,550,000. MLS®#20125952**



**FABULOUS VIEW PROPERTY** Located in Craileith on a quiet cul-de-sac. This is the perfect chalet for a ski family or a quiet place to retire & enjoy mother nature. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath, this home has a reverse floor plan with cathedral ceiling & an open concept design. In the living room you will find a brick, wood burning fireplace & floor to ceiling glass windows offering outstanding views of Georgian Bay. Double car garage with inside entry. **\$599,000. MLS®#20132556**



**THORNBURY** Excellent highway exposure within walking distance to downtown Thornbury & the harbour. Currently zoned residential with the official plan designation as highway commercial. This home sits on a full 1/2 acre lot with 132 ft. of frontage on Highway 26. Currently rented for \$925. / mth. + utilities. **\$320,000. MLS®#20132190**



**CLARKSBURG** Fantastic country home in town over 3/4 of an acre on a quiet street in Clarksburg. Back deck overlooks a small pond with lovely landscaping & gorgeous perennials. This 3 bedroom home has an open concept living, dining, kitchen with a separate family room for entertaining. Detached 2 car garage / shop. Close to all the amenities the area has to offer. **\$299,000. MLS®#20131181**



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Larkspur A:	Unit 34	1973	\$309,761
	Unit 40	1973	\$309,761
	Unit 36	1848	\$290,136
	Unit 38	1848	\$290,136
Laurel:	Unit 31	2400	\$389,000*
	Unit 41	2400	\$376,800
Magnolia:	Unit 35	2084	\$327,188
	Unit 37	2084	\$327,188
	Unit 43	2084	\$327,188

\*Unit 31 excluded at \$157.00 per sq.ft. due to additional upgrades.



**NEW – Stunning Timber Frame with Main Floor Master** \$1,100,000  
 Spacious 6 bdrm with Downsview Cabinetry - kitchen & bathrooms, stone counters, 2 stone fireplaces, loft, steam shower, walk out lower level. Minutes to Georgian Peaks overlooking the Trail.



**Attention to Detail – Thornbury 3 Bedroom Bungalow** \$499,000  
 Tasteful elegance with quality workmanship, white washed pine ceilings, stone counters, reclaimed hemlock bar & mantle, gorgeous trim & staircase. Walk out lower level with nature as your backdrop.



**Simply Exquisite** \$1,495,000  
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**The Perch** \$1,350,000  
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**Meaford Waterfront** \$1,350,000  
 NEW 5900 sq.ft. bungalow set on almost 3 acres of waterfront, 4 bdrm, 2½ bath, oak, 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/wainscoting, barn.



**Pine Street Landmark** \$949,000  
 Almost \$60,000 in annual income, fully tenanted with 3 retail spaces and 1 residential suite. High traffic area, excellent location!



**Views of the Bay!** \$769,000  
 Exquisitely finished 3 bdrm with cathedral ceilings, exposed timbers, 2 gas fireplaces, 2 family rooms, 2 decks, patio, hot tub.



**Views of Georgian Bay** \$469,000  
 4 Bedroom, 2966 sq.ft, walk out, triple garage. Cathedral ceilings, spacious rooms, built in cabinetry, mudroom, pool & set on 15 acres.



**Markdale Bungalow** \$379,000  
 Set on 10 acres, 3 bedroom, den, 3½ bath, fireplace, cathedral ceilings, 2 family rooms, each bedroom has it's own ensuite.



**Main floor Master** \$365,000  
 Cranberry Links - 4 bdrm, 3½ bath, 2330 sq.ft, open concept, cathedral ceiling, gas fireplace, deck, covered porch, dble garage.



**Finished Lower Level** \$335,000  
 Thornbury - 3 Bdrm, 3½ bath, ss appliances, hardwood floors, granite counters, deck, garage. Inground pool, club house, tennis.



**NEW! Main Floor Master** \$327,188  
 Thornbury - Bright 3 Bdrm, 2½ bath, 2084 sq.ft, 5 appliances, cathedral ceilings, deck, garage. Inground pool, club house, tennis.



**Thornbury Bungalow** \$319,000  
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143 Snowbridge Way  
**Blue Mountains**  
5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3739 Total sqft



**\$1,495,000**  
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108 Heritage Drive  
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**Blue Mountains**  
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**\$869,000**  
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**Blue Mountains**  
6 Bed | 4.5 Bath | 3866 Total sqft



**\$399,900**  
59 Highlands Crescent  
**Collingwood**  
4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 2077 Total sqft



**\$1,199,000**  
108 Carmichael Crescent  
**Blue Mountains**  
6 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 5200 Total sqft



**\$1,784,484**  
627492 119 Grey Road  
**Blue Mountains**  
4 Bed | 5 Bath | 6483 Total sqft



**\$299,000**  
55 Joseph Trail  
**Collingwood**  
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**\$699,000**  
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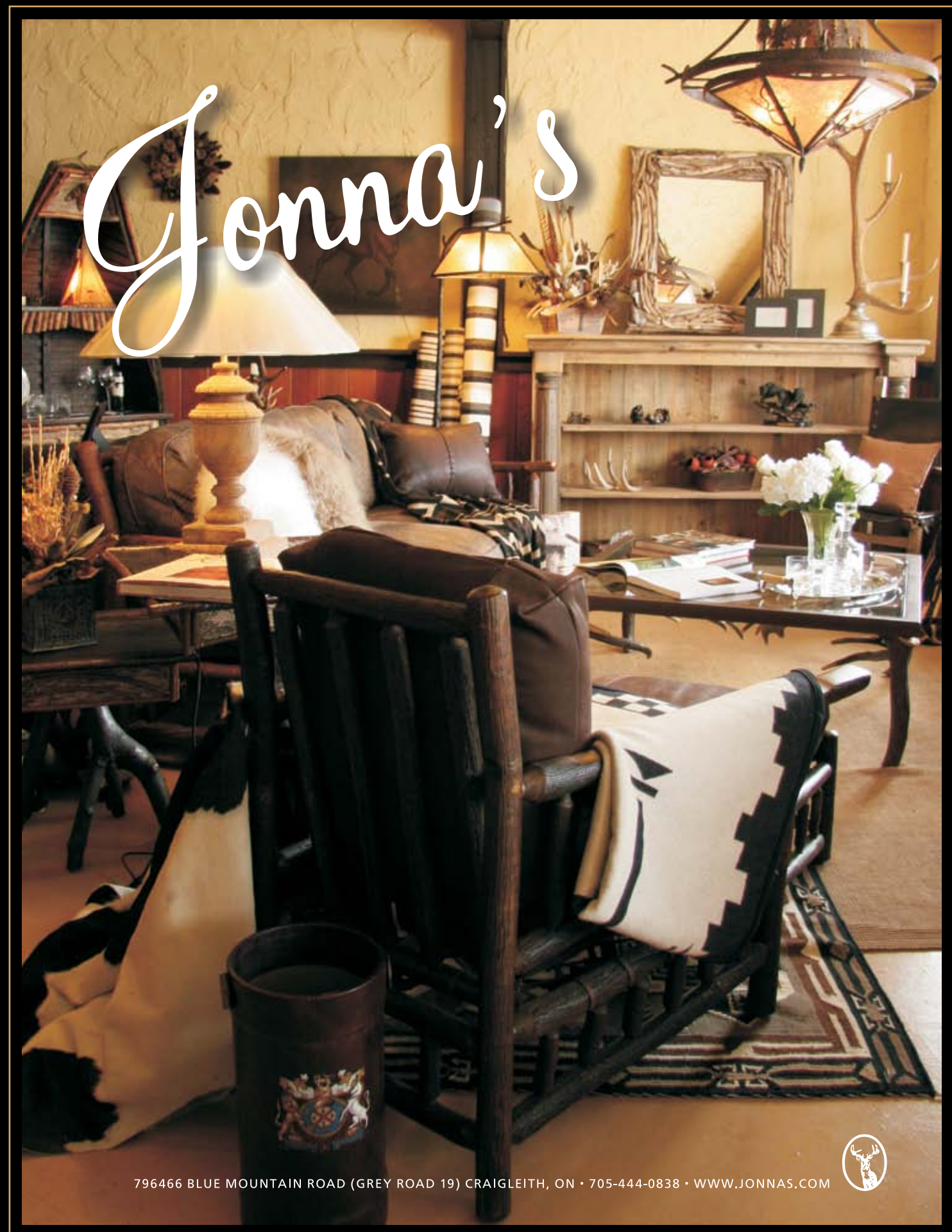
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*"To everything there is a season,  
and a time for every purpose under heaven.  
A time to be born, a time to die,  
A time to plant, a time to reap,  
A time to laugh, a time to weep."*

– Turn! Turn! Turn! The Byrds, 1965

**REMEMBER THAT OLD TUNE FROM THE 60S?** It will forever remind me of the changing seasons, and of the perpetual circle of life. Birth. Death. Transition. Change.

I find myself reminiscing about summers past. Back in the early 80s, I lived in a hippie community on the lake in Mont-Tremblant, QC. We were a happy bunch of friends and neighbours and summer seemed to last forever.

It was a charmed life to say the least. No worries, no cares... other than wondering if the wind was "up" for a sail... or if the blackflies would stand down so we could hike. Ah, those carefree days of youth! We never gave tomorrow a thought because living in the moment was all that mattered.

One of my neighbours was a man named Don Bilodeau. Don and I soon became life-long friends and shared many adventures together – hiking, motorcycling, windsurfing, canoeing, skiing, and cross-country trekking to the highest summit in the Laurentians. The world was our oyster; nature, our great big playground.

Today, my dear friend Don is fighting for his life. Perhaps you remember him. Back in the 70s, he was the Director of the Blue Mountain Ski School right here in Collingwood. I have always admired and been inspired by his endless exuberance for life, his boundless optimism, contagious laughter, heartfelt determination and unfaltering entrepreneurial spirit.

Those lazy hazy summer days will forever live on in my mind. As will every single memory I have of my precious friend.

There really is a time for every purpose under heaven. And there's no time like the present to seize the day and live this summer (and your life) to the fullest! Do it for Don.

Here's to you Don, for all those fond, yet bittersweet memories.

*Jude Wayland*

Jude Wayland, Managing Editor  
jude@ourhomesmagazine.com

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Mickey living in the moment...  
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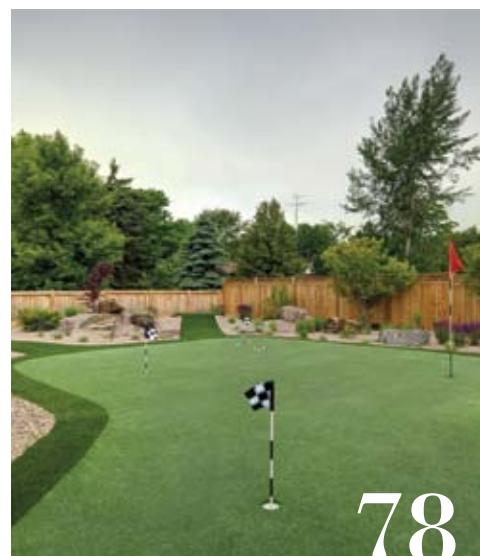
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## publisher's note



**AHHH SUMMER...** the sparkling waters of our beloved Georgian Bay – paddling, golfing, cycling in the sunshine and barbecuing on back decks everywhere.

And the summer food; tomatoes, apples, peaches and corn-on-the-cob – Yum! Eat to live or live to eat? You can tell which one I am.

Whether you're a local homeowner, weekender or just visiting, summers here make everyone feel so lucky, and the pages of this mid-summer issue reflect this. This issue takes you to a weekend home with a panoramic view, then to a bungalow with a personal putting green in the backyard and finally to a historic village church. We also introduce you to the many local merchants who feed us.

In addition, at OUR HOMES we feel fortunate to be part of a wonderful upcoming charity event – the 2nd Annual Holiday Home Tour, where homeowners, designers, realtors and merchants all come together to celebrate the holidays at beautiful homes right here in Southern Georgian Bay. Last year's event sold out and this year's tour will be bigger and better. You don't want to miss it so check out page 49 for details, and remember, proceeds from this event go to many of our local charities.

Cheers!

*Simone*

Simone Sterio-Risk, Associate Publisher  
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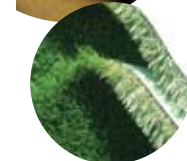
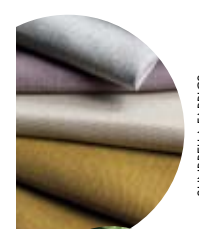
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advice

## SUMMER ENTERTAINING *outside* DÉCOR

Every year when summer rolls around I stare out at the deck and start amassing large scale plans for vegetable beds and new furniture, sunshades and fire pits. The season closes and alas, we have usually accomplished one or two of those items. Sun kissed and relaxed, I normally care less about the surroundings and more about the summer experience – family, friends and being outdoors.



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DARWIN DINING BENCH, CRATE AND BARREL

But let's face it, as a designer, or as anyone who looks at Houzz, reads decorating magazines like OUR HOMES, goes shopping or surfs the net, we are inundated with ideas – there's always a desire for change. Here are a few ideas to modernize your outdoor entertaining space and a few others that will make life that much easier:

**LIGHTING:** You can't depend on candles and a still night when entertaining outdoors. Make sure you have adequate lighting. I love the pendant light by Davey Lighting. It's industrial, classic and modern all at the same time. Hang one off to the side as a subtle design feature or over your side entry.

**SHADE:** As an alternative to a patio umbrella or a built-in pergola, a shade sail is a fun way to stay protected from the sun. The waterproof polyester material comes in great colours, like rust or royal blue, adding a pop of colour to your space. It also protects you from UV rays. They look modern and they're budget-friendly.



Designer Stephanie Redmond shares her ideas.

**FIRE PIT:** Not a new concept, but this tells me that it's a good investment! No one gets tired of having a wood burning fire close by and one that's enclosed is a safe choice for a terrace. What a wonderful thing to cuddle up by on a cool summer evening.

**EXTRA SEATS:** If you entertain for larger groups, then be prepared. Have an extra bench or two around to cram a few little ones onto or to pull up for extra seating around a pool. I love a mix of white weave with teal for these pieces. The simple design will collaborate well with existing pieces.

**GREENERY:** Create a living wall with beautiful greenery and set up a drip irrigation system to feed it (you can even do this off of a rain barrel for the most eco-friendly approach). There are several do-it-yourself kits available on the market that can be set up on a timer for the ultimate hands-free gardening experience. The living wall becomes a lush backdrop to your outdoor space – modern, lovely and useful too.



LIVING WALL PLANTER, GROVERT

**SHATTERPROOF GLASSES:** If you're going to entertain outside, then you may want to leave the crystal inside. There are tons of amazing plastic-type glasses on the market that look just like glass. You can find a few

great ideas from Govino on the Wine Enthusiast's website. My favourites are stemless with a cute notch-out for your finger.

**PORCH SWING:** You can't go wrong with Dedon. If I could break into someone else's bank account, then their new Swingrest may be my first purchase. For a more budget-friendly approach, consider a simple, classic wood swing hanging from chains on your outdoor porch. You know what makes this design decision work best? A hot day and some lemonade!



DANIEL POUZET SWINGREST, DEDON FURNITURE

**FABRICS:** If your loungers are looking a little tired, then try reupholstering the cushions in one of the new Sunbrella fabrics. They look like interior fabrics, not something that can last through summers of outdoor use. Look at Canvas Granite for a cool linen-looking grey. With pets and kids around, it would be a clever choice for indoor use as well.

**FAKE GRASS:** The new faux grass is truly impressive. With an under-layer of what appears to be dried grass, you would be hard pressed to tell the difference. It no longer looks like Astroturf. And the best part? No dandelions. If you have an area that doesn't get a lot of light or you're short on time to care for your lawn, then try it! You won't be disappointed. (...and you don't have to tell!) **OH**

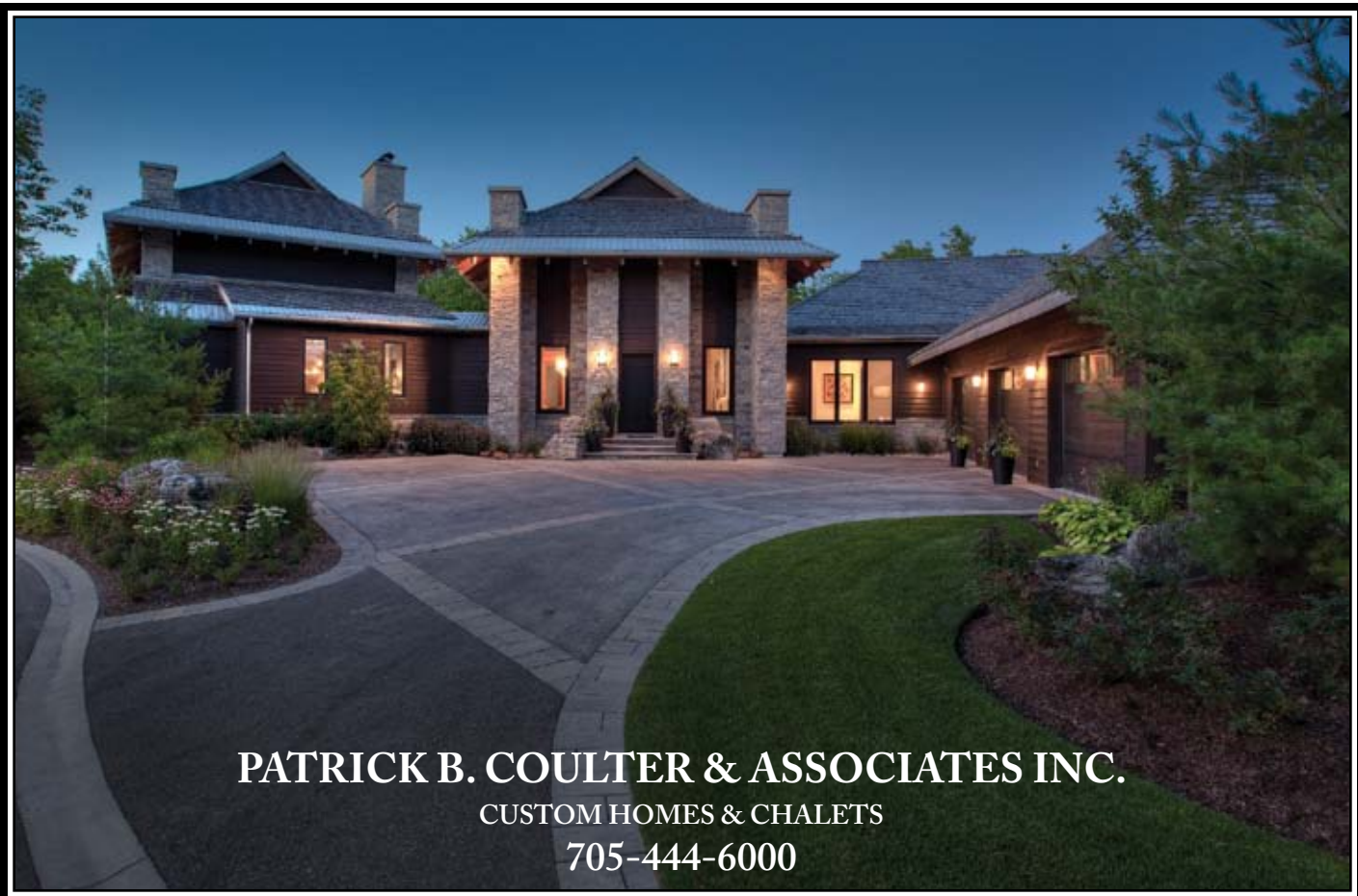


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# SIZZLING SUMMER STYLE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

Ahhh! Summertime... and the livin' is easy! Brighten up your home or patio on those laid back days and sultry nights with a touch of coral or teal.



2

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*Continued on page 30*

3



4



5



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# CONTAINER herb GARDENS

BY JULIE SIMMONDS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TARA CHATTELL

An herb garden is a delicious way to keep your body, mind and cooking healthy. Since herbs don't need pesticides to keep critters away, tending to your herb garden is easy, fun and organic.



**We've put together three creative ways to make a simple herb garden for your back porch, window or wall.**

1. **Reuse old mason jars on old barn board** for a shabby chic wall-hanging garden. Mark the spots you want your plants to hang from with chalk. Using screws, attach metal pipe clamps to the board. Insert jars and tighten clamps. Fill jars with rock and soil. Plant herbs. Affix chalkboard labels.

*Materials: Mason jars, rocks, potting soil, screws, herbs, screwdriver/drill, barn board, metal pipe clamps, chalk, chalk labels.*

2. **Create a simple window garden with recycled cans.** Use rocks to create a little bed at the bottom of each can. Fill with soil and transplant your herbs. Label with a paper tag, attach with twine.

*Materials: Recycled cans, rocks, potting soil, screws, herbs, paper tags, twine and marker.*

3. **Plant your herbs in individual pockets of a hanging cotton shoe organizer.** Fill each pocket with moisture retaining soil. Make cute labels from scrapbooking paper and plastic nametag covers.

*Materials: Hanging cotton shoe organizer, potting soil, herbs, paper or labels, marker, plastic nametag covers with pins.*



## TIPS:

- Fill your containers one inch below the top with moisture-rich potting soil.
- If potting containers aren't breathable, then make a rock bed at the bottom to help drain excess water. Only a half-inch of rock is needed.
- For the shoe organizer garden, place a small plant underneath to catch water run-off. Water the plants from top to bottom, creating a waterfall effect.
- Use wide-mouth mason jars for large pre-grown herbs. **OH**



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# A BREATH OF FRESH AIR: CONSIDER YOUR FLOORING

BY JENNIFER BRAMWELL  
ILLUSTRATION BY SHEILA BRITTON



Living in a house with two- and four-legged occupants means a soup of familiar smells that a resident nose can easily identify. Like a wine sommelier, my nose can sense many smells in a regular day: the smell of nice cologne that follows my husband to work in the morning, the three-sport-a-day scent of my teenage daughter before a shower, and the garlic and onions hanging in the air at dinnertime.

While some of these sources are innocuous to our environment, others we need to get educated about to breathe easier and be healthier. The floor, ceiling, walls and furniture can emit invisible pollutants that can degrade the air we breathe. The scientific name Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) we hear bandied about in eco-speak is also known as off-gassing.

## What causes indoor air problems?

The Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) estimates that Canadians spend an average of 90 per cent of their time indoors, where levels of pollutants may be two-to-five times (and occasionally more than 100 times) higher than outdoor levels. We spend a lot of time in a sealed

environment, dependent on mechanical ventilation systems like Heat Recovery Ventilation (HRV) systems to circulate indoor and outdoor air. Good indoor air quality (IAQ) involves reducing and diluting pollutants with adequate fresh air. You could open a window, but a balance must be struck between additional fresh air, and the hydro meter spinning wildly as your furnace chugs along to heat or cool that air.

According to Susan M. Winchip, Professor Emerita of Interior and Environmental Design at Illinois State University and author of *Sustainable Design for Interior Environments, 2nd Edition*, major contributors to VOCs in building materials include: adhesives and sealants, paints and coatings, carpet, composite wood products, furniture and seating.

Professionally, specifying materials is a large part of what we do as sustainable designers. Unbiased third party websites, like [www.greenguard.org](http://www.greenguard.org), provide a database to help consumers find building materials with low chemical emissions. The Greenguard Certification Program tests for VOCs, as well as other pollutants in a product, and reports the emission levels. Flooring is a good place to start, because it's one of the largest surfaces in your house.

## A SHORT PRIMER ON SOME COMMON FLOORING MATERIALS

### I. Soft floor coverings:

#### a. Carpet, nylon

- Winchip says materials used in the fibres, sealants, and adhesives are harmful to the IAQ.
- Carpet adhesives can emit high quantities of VOCs. Winchip suggests tacking carpet rather than gluing is a healthier solution. Refer to the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus program for the lowest VOC emitting products on the market.
- According to Winchip, the highest levels of VOC gases are emitted with new carpet. Some estimates indicate that after the first 72 hours the VOC off-gassing subsides significantly. Whenever possible, new carpet should be allowed to air out outside the building, and people should wait several days before occupying the rooms.

#### b. Carpet, wool

- Absorbs noise and noxious gases from the air.
- Resists odour and resists fire more than other fibre choices.
- Hypo-allergenic and does not promote the growth of dust mites or bacteria or give off harmful emissions.

### II. Hard floor coverings: wood, stone, tile, bamboo

- According to Interior Designer Corky Binggeli, in her book, *Materials for Interior Environments*, the glue binding bamboo together contains formaldehyde unless specifically noted otherwise. The amount off-gassed is very little, however. Zero VOC bamboo flooring is available.
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood floors are made from sustainably harvested wood. Low VOC stains and sealants are available.
- Particleboard, which may be used for an underlayment, should not contain formaldehyde.

### III. Resilient Flooring: Resilient floor finish is elastic and has some "give" to it. Examples include linoleum, cork, rubber, vinyl and vinyl composite tile (VCT).

- VCT and rubber tiles are available with recycled content.
- Linoleum is made from renewable resources: linseed, wood flour and pine resins on a jute backing and is compostable.
- Vinyl flooring contains plasticizers and releases VOCs. Look for low VOC or PVC-free products.
- Flooring adhesives should be solvent-free, low- or zero-VOC and water-based.
- Frequently, rubber flooring is recommended only for outdoor or commercial use due to the potential for off-gassing.
- Some binders used in flooring such as cork are made of Urea-formaldehyde. **OH**



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# MINIATURE MARVELS SINGING THE PRAISES OF THE LOWLY *groundcover*

PHOTOS AND STORY BY MELANIE REKOLA

Considering groundcovers are often in the forefront of garden beds everywhere, it seems little praise is given to these tough, tiny plants.

Groundcovers can add a whole new dimension of colour to your garden through their foliage, texture and abundant bloom. Many, with their trailing nature, can soften hard stonework when tucked in crevices, or be encouraged to spill down the front of retained beds giving an “aged” feel. Groundcovers can also help retain slopes and discourage weed growth. Some are so strong that they can act as a lawn or path substitution. Read on to discover more.

## MELANIE’S PLANT PICKS:

**Stonecrop** (*Sedum*) – There are so many lovely trailing varieties of the sedum family that I cannot pick just one! The fleshy, succulent leaves of this little plant often look like a flower. It comes in a variety of foliage and bloom colours, plus it’s drought tolerant and happy in lean soil. Bees and hummingbirds love them and the presence of pollinators is an important indicator of a healthy garden. Stonecrop favours sun but will tolerate partial shade. My favourites are:

**Angelina** (*Sedum rupestre*) – This spiky evergreen variety offers bright golden foliage and turns orange in fall, with yellow flowers in early summer.

**Dragon’s Blood** (*Sedum spurium*) – This well-loved stonecrop is a semi-evergreen specimen with rich reddish foliage and bright pink blooms in late summer.

**Bronze Carpet** (*Sedum spurium*) – This showy stonecrop sports brilliant bronze red semi-evergreen foliage with flattering pink flowers.

**Miniature Stonecrop** (*Sedum requienii*) – This miniature stonecrop is a tiny leafed evergreen sedum and is the only one that tolerates foot traffic. It forms a dense mat with tiny white flowers and is extremely hardy.

**Creeping Phlox** (*Phlox subulata*) – Dense and low growing, this soft-looking plant is a prolific bloomer! It’s covered in small purple, pink, white or variegated flowers in spring, with short, stiff evergreen foliage. This low-maintenance perennial prefers sun/part sun and is accepting of lean soils.

**Golden Scotch Moss** (*Sagina subulata*) – Very dense and low growing, this mounding evergreen perennial, with tiny star-like white flowers in spring, boasts attractive chartreuse foliage. It tolerates foot traffic easily but its shallow root system requires steady watering to thrive. It prefers part shade.

**Hens and Chicks** (*Sempervivum*) – I like all varieties of this drought tolerant succulent. Their rosettes display dazzling progressive colour changes throughout the season. They favour full sun to bring out their rich colour. Sempervivums will bloom after the second or third year. An odd looking flower stalk will shoot up from the centre of the main rosette with a cluster of flowers. After the flower dies, gently twist off the stalk. The main rosette has put on new offsets that will fill in.

**Cranesbill** (*Geranium Bloody*) – Of the many variations of the Cranesbill family, my absolute favorite variety is Bloody, which, to me, is one of the best Cranesbill introductions ever. It bears handsome dark green foliage with happy, upright clusters of bright violet-purple, cup-shaped flowers. Bloom period begins in early summer and continues on throughout the garden season. It likes sun to part shade.

**Creeping Jenny/Moneywort** (*Lysimachia nummularia* or *Golden Creeping Jenny*) – Creeping Jenny is accused of being an aggressive perennial, however the Goldilocks variety is restrained in habit. It is ideal to combat soil erosion or on rock walls and tolerates lean soil. Preferring full sun to part shade, its yellow-green foliage makes a bright statement when paired with common greens typically found in the garden. The name “wort” suggests medicinal use; it was used by early English herbalists to heal superficial wounds of both man and serpents. It was also used for ulcers, scurvy, hemorrhages and ailments of the lungs.

**Dianthus** (*Dianthus*) – Dianthus range in colour from pink, to red, to white flowers with notched petals and finely textured leaves. Sweet Williams (*Dianthus barbatus*) are larger and are biennial or short-lived perennials covered with bicolor flowers in late spring. Pinks are low-growing, low-care dianthus suitable for rock gardens with happy open-face flowers and attractive grey-green foliage. Dianthus prefers full sun and won’t stand wet soils.

**Creeping Thyme Elfin or Minus** (*Thymus praecox Elfin or Minus*) – This tiny gem has gorgeous miniature flowers and compact leaves. This is another “walk upon” plant and when trod on will let go its thymey scent – plus it’s edible! It favours full sun and tolerates lean soil.

A host of mature, entangled groundcovers can rival the beauty of a tapestry. But be careful to consider the aggressive habit of many and choose the right plant for the right environment. Groundcovers are not only at home in the applications mentioned – consider planting a “mini” garden in a planter or two. Children love this pint-sized forest idea, or dare I say living wall. Perhaps it’s just the thing to take a ho-hum exterior wall to a front-and-centre showpiece! **OH**

*Melanie Rekola is a certified Horticulturist*

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# GEORGIAN BAY. *classic*

RECLAIMED WOOD AND HIGH VIEWS OF THE  
BAY DEFINE THIS CHALET-COTTAGE

BY WILLIAM SHELLEY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

This beautiful new house with a commanding view sits on an escarpment bluff high above Georgian Bay. Both the house and the view are very special to the owners Janice and Boyd, echoing personal connections back to their childhoods. The visions of the owners and **Black Tusk Development Group** came together brilliantly to create this handsome amalgamation of style and substance. *Continued on page 44*



This home is all about location. One of the first things the builders did was erect scaffolding to help the homeowners envision the spectacular post-build view of Georgian Bay. **OPPOSITE:** Part cottage, part chalet, this 2,880 sq. ft. home showcases exterior fieldstone and ledgerstone, nautical décor, as well as an exotic selection of reclaimed woods, including brown ash, hemlock, and elm.



Black Tusk – **William Brown**, Owner and President, and **Barbara Patton**, Project Manager and Interior Outfitting – are known for being able to work with smaller, more efficient footprints and making the most of irregular lots. In this case, the lot was desirable for its view and depth, but was a bit narrow. “Since it was a narrow build, we had to focus everything into a 31-foot-wide lot,” says Bill.

But his design prowess took what seemed like a minus and turned it into a plus by orienting everything toward the view. The home is on the same escarpment massif as the Georgian Peaks Ski Club, where the homeowners and their three children are members. “We were trying to get the feel of a chalet without it being too traditional,” Bill says. “We wanted to keep the design influences toward the contemporary side but bring in that chalet element.”

The home is a subtle hybrid of several themes inspired by the owners: the chalet elements a nod to their passion for skiing; the maritime theme a nod to Boyd’s heritage (he was born in Newfoundland into a seafaring family and he and Janice remain avid sailors); and the cottage influence a nod to Janice who grew up during summers in a beloved clapboard cottage built by her family circa 1910 in the 30,000 Islands across the Bay.

But even with all that, the structure is not complicated by competing styles. “Especially at the front, it’s a simple roofline,” says Bill, “to be more symbolic of a cottage. The colours and materials have a bit of that coastal feel.” The front approach to the house serves as a good example of Black Tusk’s design-build ingenuity. *Continued on page 47*



**OPPOSITE TOP:** Boyd, daughter Samantha, family pet Lucy and Janice arrive at their new home, laden with supplies. What was supposed to be a winter ski chalet is now the family’s four-season getaway. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** A covered walkway leads to a stately portico featuring solid stone pillars and Douglas Fir beams. **ABOVE:** The homeowners and their three children enjoy the changing seasons and breathtaking bay vistas from their screened-in cedar porch perched high atop the escarpment. **FAR LEFT:** A beautiful painting by daughter Samantha of the family watching the sunset by the bay hangs in the foyer over a rustic antique cabinet. **LEFT:** Barbara Patton and Bill Brown of Black Tusk Development Group worked their magic to make the most of the homeowners’ narrow, irregular-shaped lot.





**OPPOSITE:** There's lots of room to cook and hang out in this spacious and bright kitchen. Reclaimed elm flooring throughout the home was sourced from a 120-year-old Waterloo-area barn. An antique, reclaimed hemlock bulkhead sits over a walnut island bar. **LEFT:** Artistic and maritime touches abound in this contemporary chalet-style home. **BOTTOM LEFT:** In the kitchen, the homeowners opted for cleft slate countertops, and a ledgerstone backsplash. Cabinets are painted Revere Pewter by Benjamin Moore. **BELOW:** The dining room bar is crafted from walnut, and a reclaimed hemlock wine-glass shelf is both functional and arty.

"The garage and covered walkway did a couple of things," Bill explains. "It solved the technical problem of the narrow lot – the only place we could put the garage was out front. Normally it just gets slammed on the front and dominates it. We thought, 'How can we get away from that?' So we detached the garage and then connected it to the house with a covered walkway ... so it draws you into the house and also allows a lot of sunlight into the building."

Numerous facets of the home echo owners' Janice and Boyd's personalities. On the upstairs landing is an inset wood compass rose created by Toronto's Heartwood Architectural Wood Products. "Barb and carpenter **Hugh Grafton**, of **Grafton Carpentry** came up with the idea," says Janice. "They knew we were sailors." Boyd adds: "The compass is set to magnetic north. As Bill and Barb got to know us more, they wanted to bring out this nautical theme, the Georgian Bay theme." These themes

are referenced in many other details, including beach rock motifs in the bathroom and fireplace stone, and the coastal Newfoundland-inspired exterior siding colour.

Barbara and Janice sourced the reclaimed elm flooring from Northern Wide Plank. It originally came from a 120-year-old barn in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Another old Ontario barn provided reclaimed hemlock for the many interior panels throughout the house. Janice is especially attached to the hemlock as its grey unfinished tone reminds her of her weathered Georgian Bay cottage dock. These panels – prepared and installed by cabinetmaker **Charles Davies** of **Charles Davies Custom Fine Furniture** – are cleaned with a power brush then ripped to a consistent width and planed on the backsides. "That's what gives it that crisp-lined look," Barbara adds. *Continued on page 48*





**ABOVE:** All five family members are keen sailors and skiers. Their home is a lovely tribute to Boyd's seafaring heritage and to Janice's memories of her family cottage in the 30,000 Islands. **RIGHT:** A 24-inch, inlaid compass rose, custom designed in Toronto with the same woods used throughout the home, was set to magnetic north by local sailor Hugh Grafton of the Thornbury Yacht Club. **TOP RIGHT:** This lower-level games room was cleverly designed to let the light shine in and highlight awesome views of the bay. A raised gas fireplace throws off heat while playing pool. **FAR RIGHT:** A unique 1920s etched glass, ruby-red grape light hangs in the old-wood wine cellar.



So much of the reclaimed wood in the house has an interesting back-story. For example, the bookcase top on the landing: "It's solid antique brown ash," says Barb, "purchased from an old-timer in Owen Sound who had operated a sawmill." Charles Davies adds: "finding this piece of wood and using it for a build like this – it just doesn't get any better."

Even the custom bathroom vanities by **Jason Holmon** of **JTI Design** feature reclaimed lumber with clear coat, and the basement wine cellar is old wood as well. **Redridge Millwork & Design Ltd.** in Stayner did the cellar mechanics, wood wine-storage and display; **Skot Lawrence** of **Desiron Custom Metal Artwork** in Clarksburg did the iron display rack with leather slings. Barbara found the 1920s grape-cluster ceiling lamp in an obscure vintage lighting store in Toronto and thought the owners would love it. They did. *Continued on page 50*



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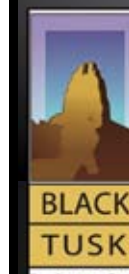


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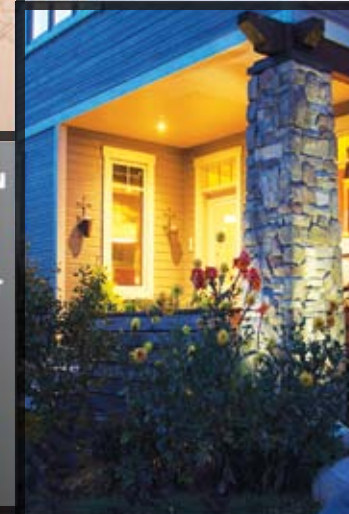


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**BELOW:** The second-floor loft area is an exceptional spot to stargaze over the Bay. **RIGHT:** Fifteen-year-old Samantha and her pup Lucy cuddle up in a cosy alcove in Sam's bedroom. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Iridescent blue shower tiles simulate the Bay, and pebbles on the shower floor and vanity countertop evoke the beach, complementing the home's nautical ocean theme.



From the beginning, Janice and Boyd appreciated the way Black Tusk operated. "We started with scaffolding," Boyd says. "We got up on the scaffolding and Bill and Barb laid out what the sightlines would be. We could see that they were really hands-on and practical. And also very creative."

Those sightlines are magnificent. Apart from the very top of the Blue Mountains, you'd be hard pressed to find a more sweeping view of the Bay anywhere in the region. "We were able to optimize the view very well," says Janice. "You can see the Bay from almost every room." **Oasis North Landscapes** completed all landscaping and exterior hardscapes.

During framing, the Black Tusk team realized they needed to reconfigure the second floor to maximize the views of the Bay from the master bedroom. "When we started framing the second floor," Bill relates, "it was obvious we were getting tremendous views. So we reconfigured the upper level, opened up a loft at the top of the stairs and added a dormer. Boyd wanted to wake up to a view of the Bay." Barb counts the second-floor configuration as one of the highlights of the build. "The big thing for me was getting the second-floor package on and realizing just how big the view got from up there."

"We wanted to build a house for Georgian Bay," emphasizes Boyd. "We wanted it in a Georgian Bay style, with local craftsmen. Initially the place was envisioned as more for winter, for skiing. But as the kids get older, we're using it four seasons." *Continued on page 52*



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**ABOVE:** Pocket doors lead to a spacious en suite. The teak vanity is a nod to Boyd's nautical heritage, while reclaimed barnboard creates a weathered, antique look. **TOP RIGHT:** A photo of Boyd's racing boat hangs over the gas-burning fireplace, encased in ledgerstone, in the master bedroom. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** Earth-tone furnishings and a neutral palette add warmth throughout the home. Floral arrangements are by Paperwhite Flowers and accessories from Van Allan Design. **RIGHT:** Gleaming marble floors set the stage for a soak in this freestanding Victoria + Albert volcanic limestone tub.

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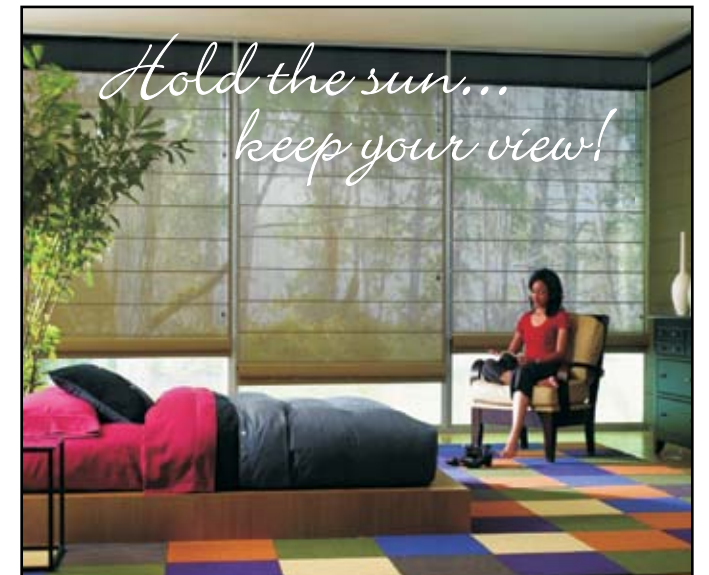


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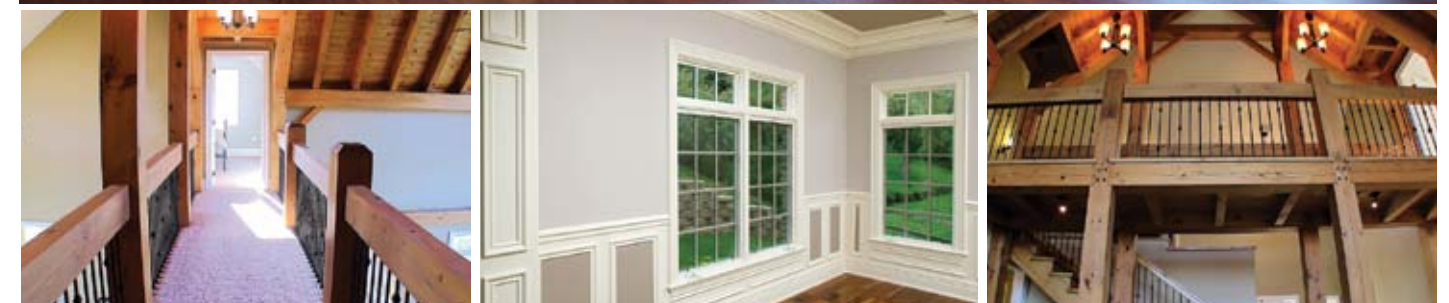
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BY JUDE WAYLAND  
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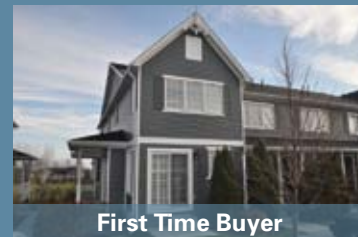
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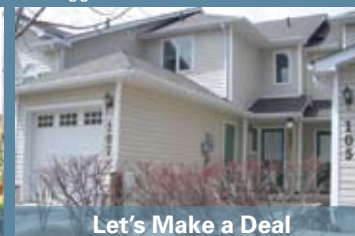
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## ► Don Buller

### Goldsmith's Market

#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN BUSINESS?

I've been a manager here since 2008, however, the market was recently sold to long-time local farmers Brad, Teresa, Kyle and Debby Oakley. I look forward to continuing on as manager of the market.

#### WHAT'S GROWING ON YOUR FARM RIGHT NOW?

At the present time, apples, green beans, green peas, broccoli and corn are growing on our farm.

#### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE VEGETABLE OF THE SEASON?

My favourite vegetable, as well as our customers, is our famous sweet corn. Our Manager of Farm Operations, Jim Clayfield, has been growing corn for over 45 years. The bi-colour corn varieties that Jim grows are very sweet, and when in season it's picked daily. Just can't get any fresher than that!



## ◄ Meredith Cowan

### Meredith's Ginger Syrup

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRODUCTS:** Meredith's Ginger Elixir is a fresh and fun food experience! It's a handmade whole-food product created right here on my farm in Meaford, and it's only sweetened with the beautiful local honey that I produce in my backyard. I'm actually one of the beekeepers! Ginger not only tastes great, it has numerous health benefits when used daily. That's why I called it "Immunity for the Community."

**HOW DID THE IDEA FOR YOUR ELIXIR COME ABOUT?** It was the seasons that helped create Ginger Elixir. During the winter months, we naturally look for things to keep us warm. My Original Meredith's Ginger Syrup is great for doing this. In the hot months of summer, we look for things to cool us down. This is where the addition of freshly squeezed lemon and lime juices, blended with ginger, creates a unique and refreshing treat.

**DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT SUMMER DAY:** Sitting on the verandah at the Kimberley General Store, sipping one of Stacie's awesome smoothies and watching the world go by. So relaxing and fun!

*Continued on page 62*



► Sandra Lackie  
& Jackie Durnford  
Creemore 100 Mile Store

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR FARM-  
FRESH FOOD EXPERIENCE:**

Products change daily and seasonally at the store. Saturday mornings, wander into the heavenly aroma of maple cinnamon rascals fresh from the oven, warm oven-baked sourdough bread and baguettes and pies bursting with local berries. We also carry freshly harvested organic produce, as well as 100 per cent grass-fed organic beef, fresh local lamb, chicken, pork and game... all pasture raised, free range, hormone- and antibiotic-free.

**WHY SHOP AT YOUR MARKET?**

Our community-inspired store highlights an amazing variety of the best local food available. Our staff is knowledgeable; we know where your food comes from and how to prepare it. We are passionate about flavour, and any item on our shelves is there because we love it. If we're out of something, it's probably because we love it too much!

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE**

**SUMMER DRINK?** Our favourite summer sipper: Cilantro Lime Martini (invented on a Friday afternoon at the 100 Mile Store). 1.5 oz vodka & 1.5 oz gin (both available locally distilled in Ontario). 3 oz Meredith's Lime Ginger Elixir, 1 handful fresh local organic cilantro, shake over ice and strain. Cheers! (Serves 2) *Continued on page 64*



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### ▲ Jenna, Chris, pup Lachlan, Brynne, & Candace Currie Currie's Farm Market

**WHAT ARE YOUR SPECIALTIES?** We provide our customers with fresh, organically and sustainably grown produce that is hand-planted and harvested daily on our farm. We also specialize in supporting other local producers to offer our customers exceptional food choices every day at our on-farm market. We are a one-stop local food shop with milk, cheese, meat, pasta, prepared meals, fresh baking and bread, gluten-free and vegan items and much more.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN BUSINESS?** Currie's Farm Market has been in business since 1957 and is now in its third generation.

**WHAT PRODUCTS/PRODUCE SELL LIKE HOTCAKES THESE DAYS?** Currie's own sweet corn has been a local favourite since 1957, and is still one of our best sellers. Another popular item is our organic garlic, which we plant and harvest by hand and dry in our log barn. Gluten-free options and organic greens are also very popular. *Continued on page 66*

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## ▼ John Miller & His Girls

### Miller's Dairy

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR MILK:** The girls at Miller's Dairy produce a unique product because of their breed characteristics. Originating from the Isle of Jersey, these efficient brown cows produce milk rich in nutrients. Jersey milk contains 18-20 per cent more protein and 15-18 per cent more calcium, and contains higher levels of vitamins A, B1, and B2. Our customers rave about Miller's Dairy Jersey milk. This sweet taste brings the family to the fridge at all hours of the day... even for a late night slurp.

**HOW IS YOUR DAIRY BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE?** We market our Jersey milk in reusable glass bottles. By producing and bottling milk on our farm, we create a smaller carbon footprint. Careful tillage practices preserve our soil structure, and provide healthy soil for our homegrown feed supply.

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT SUMMER?** All seasons are beautiful in Creemore!

*Continued on page 68*



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### ◀ Sarah Hallett Creemore Farmers' Market

**WHAT'S NEW AT THE MARKET?** New vendors at the market this summer include Rob Roy Market Garden with their produce; Ali's Kitchen, who make fresh East Indian food; the Creemore Horticultural Society, which provides gardening advice all season long; and Under The Ginger Tree, a company that makes amazing soups and ginger products.

**ANY SPECIAL EVENTS THIS SUMMER?** The market will be part of the festivities at the Creemore Children's Festival in early August.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WAY TO SPEND A SUMMER EVENING?** Eating dinner outside with my family, having veggies and salad from my community supported agriculture (CSA) share, alongside fresh cheese and bread from the market. Then I'll watch the sunset from the swing seat beside my husband.

*Continued on page 70*



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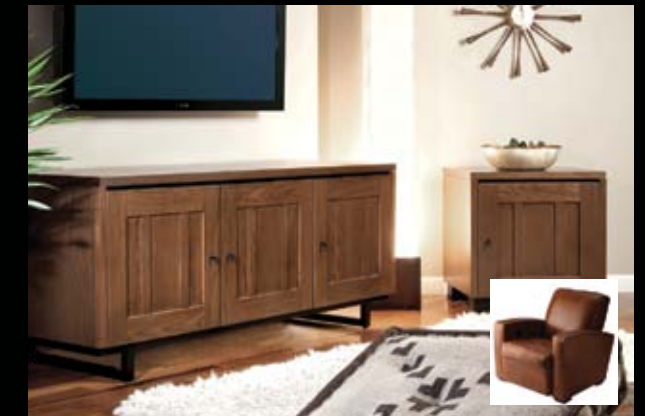
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## ▲ Bradley Kerr

Collingwood Community Food Co-op

**WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?** We carry a wide variety of mostly local, organic, clean and fair-trade products. We have everything from raw vegetables and meats to spices and ingredients like flour and salt. We've got it all!

**HOW DOES THE CO-OP WORK?** We are owned and operated by our members for the benefit of our community. All profits go back into our business to improve the products and prices! Anybody can shop here, though members get benefits such as discounted products and business involvement. Members are asked to loan the co-op \$100, along with a \$60 annual fee. Volunteering members currently receive a 10 per cent discount whereas non-volunteering members receive five per cent.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE THING TO DO ON A HOT SUMMER DAY?** Find a nice shaded trail near water to explore and go for a walk. *Continued on page 72*

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**DESCRIBE A FEW OF YOUR FAVOURITE PRODUCTS:** Our favourite product would have to be our pies. We pride ourselves on using Great Grandma Lambe's recipes to make everything from scratch. Our pastry is the best around; it's flaky and melts in your mouth. Our fruit pies are made with local fruits, berries and our own homegrown apples. Our savoury pies, made with local meats and veggies, have really taken off, and are amazing for a quick, easy dinner. We always have something new for every taste and every season.

**HOW MANY PIES HAVE YOU MADE... AND WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE?** We've made thousands since we opened in 1984, and people travel from near and far to purchase our pies. Our family favourite is apple, and we all like it differently. Some like it with ice cream, others with cheese, or just plain. However it's served, our apple pie is classic comfort food. *Continued on page 74*



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### ▲ Isabel & Jim Almond Almond's Farm Market

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MARKET?** Our market is a special place with a friendly, family atmosphere, where we offer our customers the finest fresh products and service from the heart. From 25-30 different varieties of apples to Beers Bird Seed, Beaver Valley honey, maple syrup, homemade jams and relishes, apple products and lots of homemade baking, we've got something for everyone!

**WHAT'S NEW THIS SUMMER?** An amazing variety of fresh, healthy and safe produce planted and handled by our family, and ready to share with yours, including a new harvest of sweet corn, peas, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet onions, gladioli, squash, and pumpkins. All seeds sewn in our garden are nurtured through the season with methods used by former generations.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SUMMER MEAL?** A Sunday BBQ! Fresh Georgian Bay fish or local chicken, salad greens, our sweet corn and a new baked potato, served with bread or rolls sold at our market. For dessert, nothing beats a fresh, seasonally inspired fruit salad served over frozen yogurt! *Continued on page 76*

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## ▼ Kara Wildeman

**The Market Meaford (in the Ecolnhabit Barn)**

**DOES YOUR MARKET REALLY HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE?** Yes! Our market caters to all foodie types: paleo, raw, vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free. We have a wide selection of organic produce and dairy products, local grass-fed beef and pork, and local chicken, lamb, elk and fish. We also offer a variety of local grains, freshly baked bread (including gluten-free), cereals, beans and canned goods.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR SUPPLIERS:** I'm happy to say that we support local farmers, gardeners, cheese makers, apiarists, and chocolatiers. We work closely with all our suppliers to ensure they meet our criteria of sustainable practices, which involves visiting their farms for tours and investigating lists of ingredients. We also proudly support the "Non-GMO Project" to ensure that we don't support GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) or offer them to our customers.

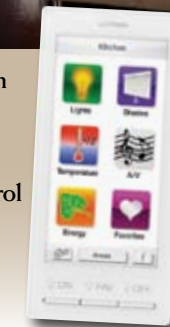
**DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE SUMMER LUNCH:** My favourite summer lunch is a big bowl of organic greens from the garden with heirloom tomatoes, locally grown sprouts and micro greens, Welsh onions and other perennial edibles that I may have. All of this topped with hemp hearts and a creamy tahini dressing. YUM! **OH**



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This Collingwood homeowner's backyard golf oasis, modeled after the Arizona landscape, is entirely maintenance-free. The faux grass surface means no watering, weeding, cutting or chemicals. Ike's Turf Synthetic Grass Solutions created exactly what the homeowner was looking for.

# TEE TIME

BY JULIE SIMMONDS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

“Puttering around in the back” is a phrase that often describes leisurely tasks or chores around the yard, but for one Collingwood weekend resident, it’s a phrase that’s taken literally. This weekender installed a putting and chipping green where he practices putting part-time, readying himself for his weekly game on the Monterra Golf Course.

*Continued on page 81*





Short game heaven. The good doctor enjoying the good life, warming up with a chip shot onto his custom-designed putting green. **BELOW:** Jeff Eichenberger's desert-like landscaping plan included Canyon Rock boulders, colourful striated rocks, desert flowers and ornamental grasses. **RIGHT:** An elevated deck, overlooking the verdant Arizona-style putting and chipping green, is where the homeowners like to linger over breakfast. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Fresh peonies from Paperwhite Flowers and accessories from Habitat in Thornbury add finishing touches to this intimate outdoor table for two. **FAR RIGHT:** The homeowner, disappointed that he couldn't purchase cactuses for his desert-like haven, instead selected a variety of native Ontario plants such as yuccas, sedums and hostas.



Two years ago, the 34-year veteran cardiologist from the Toronto area built a 2,530 sq. ft. second home with **Curtis Barr** of **C. Barr Construction**. It wasn't until last summer that he finally found the right landscaper to design a yard he envisioned for his weekend retreat, and possibly his retirement home (upon his wife's approval).

Using the Arizona landscape and golf courses as his inspiration, the homeowner imagined a backyard with a silhouette of varied heights, rocks and plants and, of course, a maintenance-free lifestyle. "I like playing golf, so I thought it was a good idea to putt," says the homeowner. "I wanted it to look like Arizona. I like what the desert looks like – the desert vegetation."

And that is precisely what he got with **Jeff Eichenberger** from **Ikes Turf Synthetic Grass Solutions** in Nottawa. "I had actually gone to another company, and they did three different drawings," says the homeowner. "I told them I did not want grass, and I wanted it to look like Arizona, but none of the drawings even looked like Arizona," he adds. "When I called Jeff from Ikes Turf, he did one drawing within 24 hours, and it was exactly what I was looking for."

Jeff created "an arid look using unique rockery and minimal turf – like you would see at a golf course in the desert." To the golfer's delight, the golfing green is faux grass, which is 100 per cent maintenance-free – no weeding, no watering, no cutting and no chemicals. Additionally, "The turf fibres and the backing material are recycled polypropylene and polyethylene – general plastic," says Jeff. "The UV inhibitors allow the turf to withstand fading from the sun."

Jeff was able to add dimension to the flat space by building up portions of the yard with leftover soil from the excavation, creating wave-like bends, curves and elevation. Carrying out the Arizona theme, Jeff used an enclave of distinctive Canyon Rock boulders to accent the landscape. "These unique rocks make the space what it is and play a large role in creating the desert feel," says Jeff. All boulders and rocks are from **Greenmarc Farms** in Nottawa and Grand River Natural Stone Ltd. in Fergus.

The boulders are an art piece of their own with beautiful grey and gold striations, creating a strong and firm presence within their environment. Small pieces of reddish-orange and grey and black Canyon Rock engulf the beds around the synthetic turf in both the back and front yards – bringing a little piece of the desert to Collingwood.

The doctor's yard isn't without a few natural green elements though. Small trees and plants also dot the landscape. "Unfortunately, we can't get cactuses here," laments the homeowner. Sourcing plants native to Ontario, "we used a lot of ornamental grasses, yuccas, sedums, yews, large hostas, and Amur maples (from **Clearview Nursery Ltd.**) to name a few," Jeff recounts. *Continued on page 83*



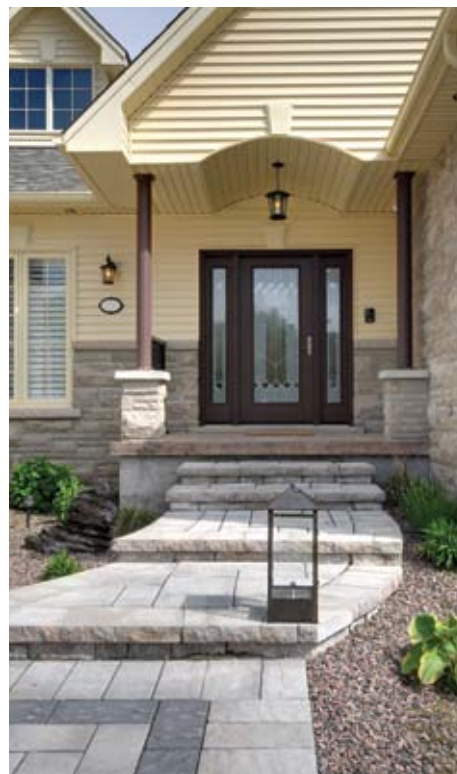




An open-concept foyer features Italian marble tile, which gives way to gleaming maple hardwood floors. A stunning yellow quartzite feature wall leads to the lower level bedrooms, bathroom and media room.



An impressive stone façade, maize-coloured siding, tall ornamental grasses, and desert-like landscaping welcome visitors to this modern home. RIGHT: An elegant covered walkway leads to the front door creating a formidable sense of arrival.



**ABOVE:** The homeowner drew what he envisioned for the kitchen, and then handed his sketch over to builder Curtis Barr, who took care of all the details. The lovely contemporary kitchen features granite counters, stainless appliances and a big centre island for family gatherings. **RIGHT:** A dining area off the kitchen features custom shutters from Shades and Shutters Inc. in Collingwood. Most of the walls in the home are painted Bleaker Beige by Benjamin Moore.

Like most weekenders, the good doctor didn't come to Collingwood just to play golf, he also came for the skiing – his true passion. “I've been skiing with my girls for about 25 years, and we'd always come up here on the weekends to ski,” he says. “I decided I'd like to have a place here so I could ski in the winter and play golf in the summer.”

Once again the doctor had a vision, which translated into a modern, minimalist-style home built by C. Barr Construction. With one master suite and two additional bedrooms on the main floor, a second master suite in the loft and three more bedrooms in the finished basement, the home plays host to many friends and families from the big city. A fully finished basement provides an additional 1,500 sq. ft. of space, awaiting future grandchildren.

Upon entering the home, beautiful New Venetian gold Italian marble tiles welcome you (supplied by **Havens Home Building Centre**). Immediately, the home opens up to a great room with a feature wall on the left, designed as a backdrop to the basement stairs. The wall showcases rich Sydney yellow quartzite, supplied by Simcoe Masonry Centre and installed by **Riverside Masonry**. *Continued on page 86*





feature



His and hers master bedrooms, one in the loft above the three-car garage, another on the main floor, offer the ultimate in privacy. **LEFT:** A sloped ceiling in the hallway to her en suite posed quite a problem, so the homeowner adeptly re-designed the space to include built-in closets, cupboards and shelving. **BELOW:** Mirrors galore reflect light into his master en suite.



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**LEFT:** Touches of red leather add a splash of vibrant colour to this main floor bedroom. **BOTTOM LEFT:** A fiery red bench and leather office chair liven up this functional space, as does a contrasting red, white and black carpet. **BELOW:** The large laundry room features a frosted glass door, and plenty of convenient cupboards and storage space.

Behind the stone wall is a gorgeous cream-coloured kitchen, housing tall cabinets that reach to the ceiling. The contemporary style is clean but bold, creating a sanitary feeling in which to prepare good food. Added warmth comes from the Antique Brown and Delicatus Rustica granite countertops. Both the kitchen cabinets and countertops are from Havens Home Building Centre. Stainless steel appliances continue the modern look, sourced at **MacDonald's BrandSource Home Furnishings**.

Off the main floor living area is an enclosed porch, stepping onto several layers of large decking, leading down to the hot tub and eventually back to the doctor's putting paradise. The doctor's atypical recreational terrain yields to more relaxation time, turning tee time to any time. "We spend lots of time out here," he says, pointing to the back yard. "No putting parties yet, but we've had a few competitions." **OH**

## SOURCE GUIDE

Blackstock Custom Stairs and Handrail, Brad Buckle, Campbell Mechanical Ltd., C. Barr Construction, Green Painting, Habitat, Havens Home Building Centre, Ikes Turf Synthetic Grass Solutions, Jeffery Custom Hardwood Flooring, Macdonalds Brandsource Home Furnishings, Paperwhite Flowers, Robertson Electric, Shades & Shutters.



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BY YANIC SIMARD // PHOTOS BY BRANDON BARRE

# HOW TO BLEND *his & her style* TOGETHER



It's a classic design dilemma. A couple is ready to move in together and make a house into a home, only to discover that their styles couldn't be more different. Chances are both have brought items from their past that neither wants to part with. So, the question is: How do you make them work together in harmony?

Blending styles is a bit of a process, and you'll probably be hearing or asking a lot of "do we have to keep that?" and "what is that?" type of questions. The key is in evaluating, which will probably include some eliminating because, let's face it, two sofas are one too many for most households. You both need to be on the same page to decide what works and what doesn't, and try to keep the same vision in mind.

Spend a weekend together and analyze what you both have. A key rule is don't throw anything away without permission. Yes, his

or her stuff is now yours – sort of, but respect and trust is crucial in a relationship. Even if you can't stand it – whatever it is – try to find a place for it in your home without displaying "it" front and centre if it means something to your significant other. Opposites attract, so pairing your pieces together can work, it just may take a little extra effort to make it happen. Merge heavier and lighter pieces together, and mix and match materials. When you begin to combine your styles you will be surprised at how balanced it can look.

## Materials That Work Well for Mixing & Matching

- Glass and Wood
- Acrylic and Upholstery
- Stone and Metal

Altering the appearance of a furniture piece that either of you already have is a great way to hold onto something that you just can't let go of if your other half can't stand it. You can always re-upholster or paint something to make it more visually appealing to you both.

Once you decide on what you're keeping, then you will most likely have to go shopping to complement your existing items with newer ones that link both styles. For example if you paired his old dining room table with her chairs, then purchase a new chandelier that links the two styles together.

*TIP: Mid-century furniture pieces work great in connecting the old with the new*



Taking a look into the future when deciding on how you are going to furnish your home is a wise decision. Do you see children down the road? This can help determine where you put your money – do you need that 52-inch flat screen TV right away, or is it better to invest elsewhere?

Make a list of the pieces you need and focus on your similarities when deciding what to purchase – you both love grey, white and clean lines? Perfect! That's an excellent starting



point. Keep an open mind, and remember that sometimes something may not look as great in the store as it will in your home. If your future spouse falls in love with it, it may be worth a try.

## Shopping Tips:

- Set a strict budget and stick to it – making an itemized list may help.
- You don't need to buy everything in one day.
- Try shopping at a minimum of three different stores.

Lastly, don't force a style on one another. Most men flee from anything lacy, pink or with polka dots. Most women run the other way from neon signs and sports memorabilia. Don't be cruel to one another and try to decorate in one of these schemes.

A home evolves and grows just like a relationship, and you will learn a lot about each other when merging your styles together. Though it will definitely take some thought and a bit of work, eventually they will both come together to create your final goal in making your house into a home. **OH**



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Continued on page 94

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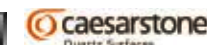
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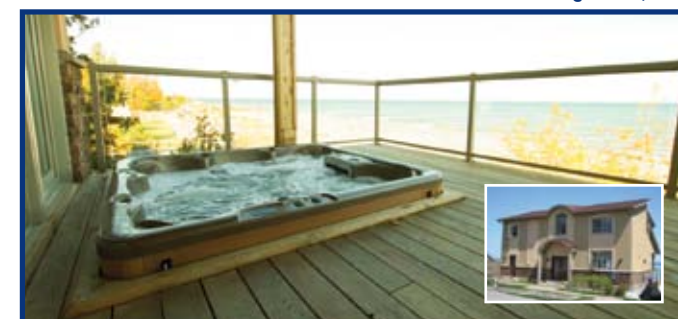
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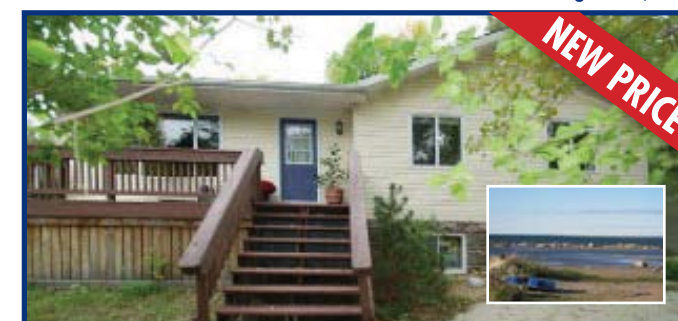
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Gorgeous greenery frames this renovated church home's 150-year-old front door with low-maintenance perennials and garden globes that magically reflect the light. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** What was once the church altar is now part of the Green's kitchen and dining area. The homeowners replaced the fragile antique window panes as birds flew into their splendid 12-foot tall gothic windows. **TOP RIGHT:** Luna, the dog, keeps a watchful eye on homeowners Rhonda and Doug Green as they relax in the shade under one of 80 varieties of trees they planted on their property. **BOTTOM:** Rhonda and Doug Green are the owners of Greentree Gardens and Emporium in Collingwood, where Rhonda manages the store and Doug runs the greenhouses.

BY LAUREL FORTIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

# the greens OF ST. AUGUSTINE



If the mint condition 1985 motor home parked out back is any indication, Rhonda and Doug Green have a great sense of humour on top of their sense of preservation. The RV has obviously been as lovingly maintained as their 150-year-old Heathcote home.

Celebrating a century-and-a-half of history, the Greens live in the community's former St. Augustine Anglican church. The church appears much as it did in the 19th century, when Heathcote was on a bustling Grey County trade route and the village supported six churches.

Decommissioned in 1957 and converted to living quarters in the 1960s, Rhonda, Doug and their two daughters moved into the 1,400 sq. ft. church when it came up for sale in 1990. Doug had had his eye on the building since he was a boy. A true Heathcote native, Doug was born and raised in the scenic village in the Beaver River Valley. *Continued on page 98*





**LEFT:** A view through the living area to the back of the home. Rhonda's wonderful sense of style and flair for design is apparent throughout the entire living space. **BELOW:** A priceless portrait of Doug the gardener at four years of age hangs over one of Rhonda's many collections - stacked steamer trunks for additional storage space. **BOTTOM:** The church's original hemlock floors were restored throughout the Greens' abode. The stairs lead to an upstairs loft and office space.



He remembers visiting the church when the generous owner would open it to the locals as a kind of community centre. "All the village kids used to sleep in there in the summer," recalls Doug. The owner had a small living space at the back of the church, and the whole front was open, minus the pews. "As many as 15 of us would be in here. The moon through the windows at night was phenomenal," he says.

Doug's grandfather owned the property behind the church, where there was a small orchard. "I didn't know this would come back to haunt me, but we would play in the orchard and throw apples at the church windows," says Doug. "The owner didn't fix the broken windowpanes; she just covered the holes with little strips of plywood. So when we bought the place, we ended up fixing each of those broken windowpanes."

With 735 individual panes in the church, set in eight pairs of 12-foot tall, gothic-peaked windows, maintaining them is indeed a major undertaking. While the Greens have replaced the broken panes, all the gorgeous original pine casings have been left intact. "They were solidly made," says Doug.

The 1863 building is heated with one wood stove in the centre and another one at the back; the Greens have made their peace with the building's winter drafts. Doug does forestry management work in the winter months and the couple love the home's cosy fires. Rhonda's father built the stone mantel in the living room with Wiarton ledge rock.

"There is a real tranquility in the church," says Rhonda. "It's peaceful and beautiful and comfortable." The couple renovated before moving in, adding three bedrooms and a loft at the front, a large bathroom in the mid-space, and a kitchen and dining area at the rear - in the church's original altar.

The plaster on the inside of the exterior walls is original, as are the ceiling and front vestibule door, complete with original skeleton key. The hemlock floors, likely logged and milled locally out of a nearby grove, were taken up to reinforce the floor joists, but the hardwood was all carefully re-laid and restored to a deep brown lustre. Outside, the roof was replaced with steel in the early 2000s by Hy-Grade Steel Roofing Sytems in Guelph. *Continued on page 100*

**RIGHT:** This intimate dining area features benches from the Meaford Factory Outlet. Check out the classic "fragile" lamp from *A Christmas Story* that Rhonda ordered online. **BELOW:** Come and sit awhile. Comfort beckons in the tranquil Zen-like atmosphere of this renovated church. Flower arrangements are compliments of Paperwhite Flowers. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Cheers! Rhonda and Doug just celebrated their 30-year wedding anniversary. On the woodstove is Rhonda's collection of blue Depression-era glass.







**FAR LEFT:** A view from the front foyer into the home. As Rhonda says, “the first time I walked into this church, the vibe was right.” It’s an incredibly serene and calm living space. **TOP LEFT:** The door to Rhonda’s office features the letter R. The enchanting view out the front window, through lush climbing hydrangeas, makes it a great space to sit and work on the computer or daydream. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Rhonda has an eye for the unusual, often they’re great flea-market finds. **BELOW:** The spa-like bathroom is laden with treasures and an array of unique accessories, some sourced through Rhonda’s store. **OPPOSITE:** Rhonda is a true collector. From flamingoes and vintage jewelry to glassware and belts... from red polka dot Fire King bowls and Fiesta Ware collections, to vintage Parisian opera glasses, and McCoy pottery pots from the 40s and 50s.



Most of the interior, open-concept space is painted a rich, dark green. Interior walls were all constructed to be independent of the structure, so they can be taken down without harming the church.

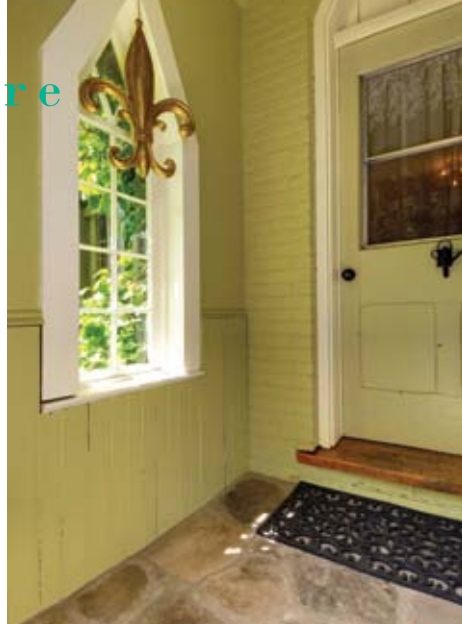
Today the Greens’ home is more than a just a piece of local history, it is a showcase for Rhonda’s artwork and collectors items, as well as for her favourite furnishings sourced through her décor shop. The Greens are the owner-operators of **Greentree Gardens and Emporium**, a nursery and décor store located west of Collingwood on Highway 26. Doug manages the nursery and Rhonda the emporium.

Rhonda’s eclectic aesthetic has introduced such delights to the home as a black sparkled cow trophy, a trio of stacked steamer trunks for extra storage space, many gorgeous mirrors to help bounce light and energy into the dark interior, a collection of jewelry from the 1920s, and lovely interior wood doors reclaimed from a local demolition company.

Portraits of the couple also adorn the home – Rhonda’s was painted at the beautiful age of 18 wearing a leather fringe 1970s necklace, and Doug’s adorable blown-up photo shows him at the age of four in overalls in the garden, complete with bucket and hoe.

*Continued on page 102*





Doug's love of nature and plants clearly goes back a long way, perhaps also inspired by the church's previous owner who planted extensive gardens with medicinal herbs and berries in the churchyard. "It was a spiritual place," recalls Doug. "She taught a lot of us how to garden. She knew about medicinal herbs, berries, composting, making manure tea and doing things to enrich the soil, and she taught us how to encourage bees by leaving out a kind of carrot juice. She was really ahead of her time."

Today, the property grounds extend over an acre, and with the couple's peak working season in the nursery being the spring and summer, they have chosen to put in stunning perennials and trees to keep their yard at home low maintenance. "We've put in over 80 varieties of trees here," says Rhonda. "We do some experimenting in our yard to see whether a certain species can survive in this climate zone." She points to one of their experiments: a trio of Redbud trees that are native to Georgia, which are absolutely thriving with gorgeous heart-shaped leaves that turn yellow in the fall. *Continued on page 106*



**TOP LEFT:** A fleur-de-lis hangs in the gothic window in the vestibule of the Green's home. **ABOVE:** Hostas and a variety of perennials line the walkway to the front door of the church. **LEFT:** Originally built to be a garden shed, this sacred small space has evolved into a great place to read a book on a summer afternoon.

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Doug and Rhonda plan to stay in their home for the long term because of the serenity of their church home and the lovely community that surrounds them. Doug jokes, “There was never a cemetery here, so I can’t be buried here, but I figure I can get my ashes spread at the church cemetery across the road. I don’t ever plan on leaving.”

Rhonda plans to update the 150-year-old church by expanding the master bedroom and enhancing the kitchen. “We’re considering opening up the ceiling even higher; there’s another eight feet of space

above the existing ceiling,” she notes. “Whatever we do, it will be functional, but won’t take away from the beauty and character of the church.”

Perhaps, too, in their later years, the couple will also have a chance to spend more summers camping in their retro RV. Rhonda shines as she shows off the RV’s glamorous interior, complete with lush cushions and beaded curtains. They’ve respected the character of the cockpit by keeping its original peach velour. **OH**



**ABOVE:** Picture perfect. Two bicycles sit parked outside the garden shed – yet another delightful small space. **LEFT:** Rhonda and Doug love hitting the open road in the vintage 1985 RV they purchased for a mere \$2,500.

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cooking at home

# SAUCY SMOKY BBQ PORK RIBS

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER



**T**o me, ribs are the ultimate summer food. I mean, we're already eating outdoors – why not make it messy? On rib nights at my house, I cover the picnic table with paper, throw down a heaping platter of these ribs, a pile of napkins, a bowl of coleslaw, some fluffy dinner buns and we dig in! And if this scene doesn't evoke summer, I don't know what does!

Ribs do take a while to become tender, but so many steps along the way can be done in advance. The day before you plan to serve them, rub the ribs with the spices and marinate, and make the sauce. In fact, the sauce can be made up to five days ahead. The sauce is equally delicious on chicken, steaks, burgers, chops – you name it!

While you may want to experiment with other sauce/rub flavours through the summer, perhaps even the meat (beef ribs are a treat too!), this one is a total classic – saucy, smoky, a little sweet and may truly be the only rib recipe you'll need all summer!

## CAN'T STAND THE HEAT? GET OUT OF THE KITCHEN...

- Too hot to bake the ribs first? Grill the ribs over indirect heat instead. The timing will be approximately the same, but your kitchen won't overheat. For indirect grilling, place the ribs over a portion of the grill that is not lit or heated. In a gas grill, achieve this by lighting only a few of the burners – in a charcoal grill, by piling the coals to one side of the grill. Be sure to place a drip tray below the ribs to catch the fat and prevent flare-ups.

## RIB DONENESS

- The phrase “falling off the bone” often comes to mind when we think of cooked ribs. However, technically, if the meat is actually falling from the bone the ribs are likely over cooked. A perfectly cooked rack of ribs is very, very tender but should still be clinging to the bone. The best way to test doneness is to insert a toothpick into the thickest part of the meat. If it pokes in and removes with ease, the ribs are done. Be sure to check each rack individually as each one is a little different.

## CHIP APPEAL

- If using a gas grill, consider adding wood chips to achieve the natural smoky flavour that's inherent in a charcoal grill. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using the wood chips, as each gas grill will have different specifications.

## SAUCY SMOKY BBQ PORK RIBS:

Serves 6 to 8

4 lbs pork back racks (about 2 racks)

1 tbsp packed brown sugar

2 tsp smoked or regular paprika

1 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp onion powder

1 tsp salt

½ tsp dry mustard

½ tsp pepper

## SMOKY BBQ SAUCE:

1 tsp vegetable oil

1 onion, finely diced

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup passata (strained bottled tomatoes)

¼ cup molasses

¼ cup cider vinegar

2 tbsp packed brown sugar

1 tbsp chili powder

1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

2 tsp smoked or regular paprika

¼ tsp salt

- **Trim fat from ribs:** Remove membrane from underside of ribs, if attached. Mix together brown sugar, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, mustard powder and pepper. Rub all over ribs. Cover and refrigerate for one hour or for up to 24 hours.
- **Smoky BBQ sauce:** In saucepan, heat oil over medium heat; cook onion and garlic until softened and lightly golden, about six minutes. Stir in tomato passata, molasses, vinegar, brown sugar, chili powder, Worcestershire sauce, paprika and salt. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until thickened and reduced to about one cup, 20 to 25 minutes.
- **Place ribs in shallow roasting pan.** Bake, covered with foil, in 350°F oven until very tender, 1½ to 2 hours.
- **For a charcoal grill, place ribs on grill directly over the coals.** Cover and grill, turning once halfway through grilling and brushing occasionally with sauce, until ribs are browned, about 10 minutes. For gas grill, place ribs on grill over medium-high heat. Cover and grill as directed. Serve with any remaining sauce. **OH**

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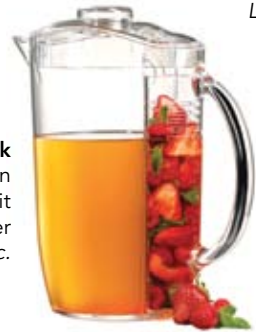
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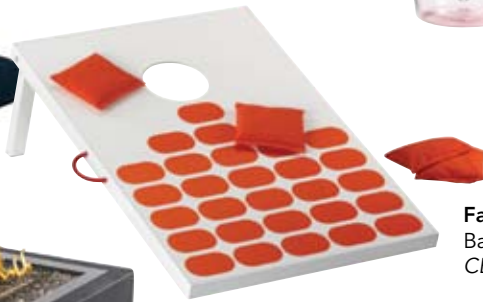
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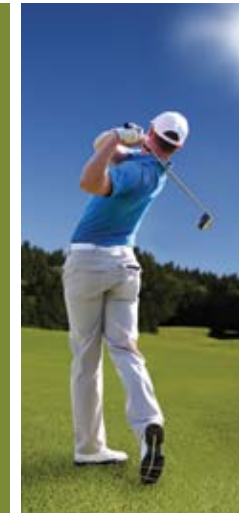


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