

SKI SEASON 2010

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ourhomes

S O U T H E R N G E O R G I A N B A Y

MOUNTAIN HIGH *2* EXQUISITE NEW HOMES pg 40 & 94

CHILI WITH A *twist*
pg 108

MEET **TRADES** WHO
LOVE THEIR JOBS pg 61

plus
**HIGH-SPEED
INTERNET IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE?** pg 30

**SMOOTH
RENOVATOR**
EXECUTING A HASSLE-FREE
HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
pg 32

FEATURE PROPERTY – FOR MORE INFO SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 74



Beaver Valley Views, 50 Acres. GeoThermal, (low utilities), waterfall, ravine & private trail system, 36 acres "Organically" farmed, abuts Bruce Trail, pool, possible coach house, 3/4 bedrooms, 3 baths, soaring ceilings, 2 fireplaces, gorgeous grounds with magnificent trees. 15 minutes to Thornbury. Country Estate at its best \$1,493,000 MLS#20094637

HOUSE, BARN + 62 ACRES



NEW PRICE \$499,9k. 3 bdrm house, 8000 sq ft barn, 10 mins to Thornbury, close to Lora Bay Golf Course. Excellent Value!

COUNTRY ESTATE LOTS



Breathtaking Beaver Valley Views. Choose one of 2 - 54 acre lots, \$245k each. Both have Meadows, fields, ravines and forests!

MOUNTAIN VIEWS



Westin Hotel, 2 balconies, BEST PRICED 2 bdrm. Amenities include Oliver & Bonacini, steps to Plunge yr round water park, \$489k

SNOWBRIDGE



Best Priced 4 bdrm, 2 bath, luxurious furnished townhome surrounded by Monterra Golf Course. \$450k

ATTENTION BUILDERS FOR COLLINGWOOD



Only Bungalow Development available, 13.2 acres, possible VTB. Concept Plan for 54 Bungalows, 24 Townhomes, Convenience Store. Centrally located to Intrawest Village/ski hills and downtown Collingwood. Easy access to Georgian Trail. Steps to Collingwood bus. \$2.7 million

PORT SEVERN – 25 MIN TO BARRIE



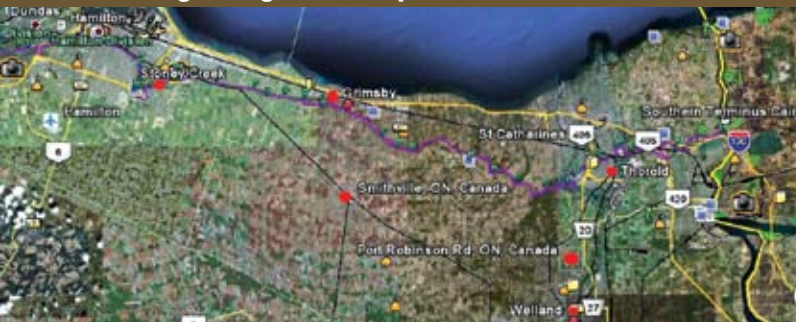
Phase 1, 2 & 3 – 200 Acres. Phase 1 – 100 plus singles. Draft Approved for residential & approx 9 acres commercial plus open space. Steps to large Marina, Trent Severn Waterway locks, ATV and snowmobile trails, minutes to Mt St Louis ski hills, \$3.9 million

ATTN BUILDERS: www.niagararegiondevelopments.com

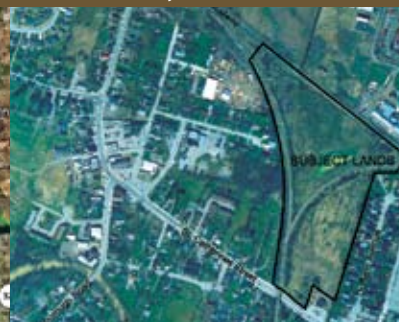
SMITHVILLE, NIAGARA REGION



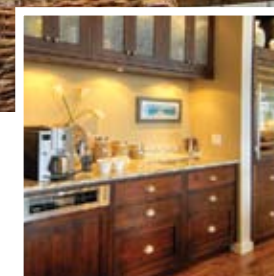
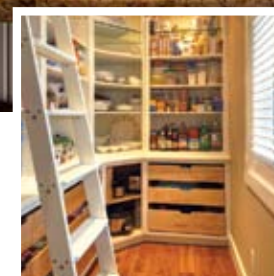
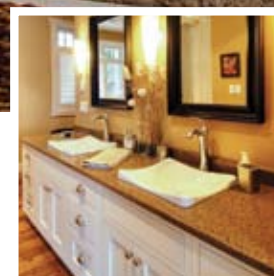
Thorold on Hwy 406, Draft approved for 229 singles, 115 apt units & 45 Townhomes, mins to the Welland Canal & miles of trail systems. Centrally located to Hamilton, St Catharine's, Niagara Falls. \$6,975,000



Downtown Grimsby – Bedford Park, 28 fully serviced lots on 4.75 Acres. Approx 55ft wide lots. Now easy commute to Toronto on the New Go Bus. \$4,060,000



22.1 acres. Draft Approved for 64 detached wide lots, ideal for bungalows & 52 unit Townhouse block. \$4,775,000. Could be serviced.



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Call us today at 519 599 1900 and see for yourself what life can be like when you're at home at Lora Bay.

LORA BAY

Thornbury, Ontario The Blue Mountains www.lorabay.com

This is not an offering for sale as an offer can only be made by Disclosure Statement. For a copy of the Disclosure, please call 1 866 231 0631.



www.ravenatlorabay.com

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393 First Street, Suite 100
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BUNGALOW ON 100 ACRES – OVERLOOKS GEORGIAN BAY

\$3,000,000 A 4 season recreational estate offering an 11,000+ sq ft main house featuring extensive use of Brazilian cherry & California redwood w/ "glass walls" inviting 180 degree water & mountain views from every principal room. Two additional dwellings on the property, an indoor & outdoor pool, tennis, 3 saunas & a poolside hot tub. A short drive to Talisman & Beaver Valley Ski Club complete the picture for a sensational family compound or a B&B.
Sue Mallett* 705.444.7181



HOLLY COURT – 3/4 ACRES

\$1,495,000 One of a kind 5 bdrm, 3-1/2 bath custom built bungalow featuring cherry floors & quartz kitchen counters. Unparalleled privacy bordering conservation lands.
Sue Mallett* 705.444.7181
VTour: <http://myhomes.360photo.ca/3948>



PRINCETON SHORES

\$1,459,000. Charming waterfront home with Mediterranean & log inspired architecture, in Collingwood. Waterfront channel for docking your boat and swimming.
Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



DUNTROON PARADISE

\$1,395,000. This gorgeous home is abundant with country elegance, and proudly sits on 44 acres. Views, in ground pool, trails, woods, pond, stream and barn. Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968
www.johnnanddi.com



THORNBURY WATERFRONT

\$1,375,000 California beach house design maximizes water views from wrap around decks and use of glass. Hot tub, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths plus separate guest/nanny suite. Unparalleled beach.
Sue Mallett* Direct 705.444.7181



CREEMORE HILLS

\$1,290,000. Stunning Timber Frame on 24 private wooded acres. This one of a kind eco-hideaway has 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, open concept living/din/kitchen, library, main floor master, workshop & double garage w/loft. Cheryl MacLaurin* 705.446.8005



ONE OF A KIND VIEWS

\$1,350,000 Of Georgian Bay views. 97+ acres with 350 degree views – Black Ash Creek, rolling land, fields, bush, close to all amenities in the Georgian Triangle. The 2 acre parcel with house is available as well. Call for details.
Judy Crompton** 705.444.9312



LORA BAY

\$1,150,000 Overlooking Lora Bay's 18th hole with spectacular views of The Bay, 6 bedrooms + den/5 baths, premium finishing throughout.
Anthea White** 705.446.8520 Virtual tour: <http://myhomes.thevirtualtourcompany.ca/5003>



SPECTACULAR ACREAGE

\$969,000 On the 10th line of Clearview. 78 acres w/renovated bungalow, bunkie & barn. Fabulous views of the Bay, the Pretty River & rolling landscape. Please call for further details about this special property.
Judy Crompton** 705.444.9312



ELEGANT COUNTRY RETREAT

\$950,000 Timber frame, 5 bedroom / 4 bath home, featuring geothermal heating & cooling on 49+ acres with private trail system. 3 fireplaces, saline pool & hot tub.
Paige Young*/Barb Picot* 705.241.2433



COUNTRY RETREAT WITH POND

\$899,000 Charming 3 bdrm red brick century home on 50 acres of pastoral land. Features custom kitchen w/granite counters, family room, perennial gardens, large pond & rolling, treed landscape.
Carol Whyne* 705.441.6709



GRAND FAMILY HOME

\$895,000. Boasting over 6000 sq ft, this lovely home is located in Collingwood on a private cul de sac. 5 to 7 bedrooms, billiard room, full 3rd floor loft and finished basement. Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



WRAP AROUND WATER VIEWS

\$875,000 Main floor master, 2667 sq ft on Collingwood's Georgian Bay. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Resort style living with tennis, indoor salt water pool and docking facilities. Minutes to skiing, golf and shops. Sue Mallett* 705.444.7181



OSLER OASIS

\$799,000 Turnkey 3 bdrm, 2 bath, antique pine furnishings, open concept living, dining, kitchen. Wrap around decks, coach house. Exceptional landscaping, in-ground pool, terrace, gazebo. Next to Osler Bluff Ski & Osler Brook Golf Club. Anthea White** 705.446.8520



LIVE AND PLAY AT LORA BAY

\$798,000. Stunning, Normerica Post & Beam with many fine interior finishes including a gourmet kitchen. This is a wonderful home, situated along The Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay. Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



NEWTON WAY @ OSLER BLUFF

\$798,000 Perfect chalet with 4609 sq ft. 4+ bedrooms, 3 baths, family room, rec room, play rooms, dbl garage w/ inside entry, 3 fireplaces, ski shuttle at your door.
Sue Mallett* 705.444.7181
Laurie Westlake* 705.446.7747



100 SPECTACULAR ACRES

\$795,000 7 natural springs, hardwood forest, limestone caves, lrg spring fed swimming pond. 5300 sq ft home w/dual dwelling, 8 bdrms, 5 baths. 7 mins to top of Blue Mountain. www.495688greyroad2.info Shelly Paul** 705.888.0225



PRETTY RIVER VALLEY

\$519,000 The Blue Mountains. Unparalleled mountain & meadow vistas are only the beginning of this unique & magical 49 acre property. Charming 4 bdrm 2-1/2 bath home with its own waterfall & trout stream. Shelly Paul** 705.888.0225 Sue Mallett* 705.444.7181



ON LORA BAY GOLF COURSE

\$755,000 Custom built with main floor master and guest suites. 3800 sq ft finished space directly on the golf course. Wood floors, up-graded finishes and appliances. Private beach. Sue Mallett* 705.444.7181



STUNNING WATERFRONT TOWNHOME

\$699,000. Surround yourself in luxury. Incredible water views. Amazing sunrises and sunsets. Elevator, expansive deck, oversize garage, 30 ft mooring slip, exclusive use of Marina Clubhouse. Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



LEGENDARY LOG HOME

\$679,000 Located at base of Blue, Craigleith & Alpine Ski Clubs. 3000+ sq ft, 4 bdrms, 3 baths, loft, multiple decks, views of ski hills, custom kitchen, granite counters, quality appliances, soaring ceilings.
Barbara Picot* 705.444.3452



THE ORCHARD AT CRAIGLEITH

\$669,000. Warm, chalet inspired interior design with over 3,000 sq ft. 4 bedroom, 4 bath, double car garage. Enjoy the convenience of The Orchard, at the foot of Craigleith Ski Club.
Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



WWW.THEMOVIEGALS.COM

\$599,000 Skiers Paradise! Located at the top of Devil's Glen, just ski out your front door! Huge sweeping views, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, fireplace, deck, furnished. Barb Thompson* Anita Lauer* 705.441.4777

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OVERLOOKING GEORGIAN BAY

\$595,000 This 2 bdrm, 2 bath – one floor condo on the water at Lighthouse Point. 9ft ceilings, Swedish hardwood floors, extra large garage & elevator. Enjoy a state of the art rec centre w/indoor pool, 2 additional outdoor pools & tennis. Sue Mallett* 705.444.7181



LIGHTHOUSE POINT WATERFRONT

\$579,000. Impressive, contemporary reno's top to bottom, make this ground floor, 3 bedroom waterfront condo with a garage a must see. Beautifully decorated and cared for!
Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



227 MAPLE STREET

\$549,000 Beautiful home. 9' ceilings, separate dining room, hardwood floors, lrg kitchen opens to family room, 2 gas f/places. Spacious master w/spa-like bath plus 2 more good size bedrooms. Walk to downtown. Laurie Westlake* 705.446.7747



FAMILY FRIENDLY!

\$475,000 One of the favoured streets in Thornbury, pristine 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with Beaver Valley School just around the corner, the Village shops & restaurants a short stroll away. Pool, 2-car garage, fabulous gardens. Anthea White** 705.446.8520



MONTERRA RIDGE

\$374,900 Four exciting floor plans. Lofted bungalows & two storeys with basements & garages. Views to Blue Mountain, Monterra golf course or ravine. On site pool. Other models from \$299,900. Ilse Ayers** ilseayers@chestnutpark.com www.monterraridge.com



CHALET WITH SANDY BEACH

\$369,900 Nestled in a wooded setting with gardens, sunroom, 3 bdrms, 3 baths, lrg southern deck, 2 fireplaces, hot tub, sauna, deeded beach access. Close to the Peaks ski club. www.157woodlandparkroad.info Shelly Paul** 705.888.0225



VIEWS AND SUNSETS OVER POND

\$359,900 Gorgeous 3 bdrm condo bungalow w/dble garage. Open concept w/cathedral ceiling, gas fireplace. Main floor master w/ensuite. Lower level: bdrm & family room with walkout to pond, gardens & golf course. Saltwater pool. Shelly Paul** 705.888.0225



AMAZING VIEWS

\$339,900 Amazing views for miles to the west, lovely pond, 2 plus acres, 2247 sq ft, large living, dining and kitchen. Full finished basement and detached workshop. Country living yet only 4 miles from all conveniences.
Laurie Westlake* 705.446.7747



CHARMING IN-TOWN HOME

\$324,000 Warm 3 bed fully reno'd home w/in walking distance to downtown. Gourmet kitchen with open concept lvg & dining area, featuring natural gas fireplace. New hardwood, slate & marble floors.
Paige Young* 705.241.2433



WWW.THEMOVIEGALS.COM

\$299,000 Updated 4 bedroom red brick schoolhouse, one acre with mountain views & double car garage. Cathedral ceilings, open plan, fireplace, minutes to Collingwood. Barb Thompson* Anita Lauer* 705.446.6446



IMPRESSIVE LOG HOME

\$314,000 On well treed 1.15 acre lot. 3+1 bedroom home. Large kitchen, bright & spacious living room, private deck & garden. Minutes to Georgian Peaks. A place to really get away from it all. Paige Young* 704.241.2433



WONDERFUL BUNGALOW

\$289,000 Large fenced yard, backing onto orchard. 3 bdrm, 2 baths. Partially finished rec room, workshop, storage and office. Double garage w/inside entry, master bedroom w/dbl closets & walkout to deck.
Laurie Westlake* 705.446.7747



5 PORTAGE TRAIL

\$227,900 Located on a quiet cul de sac this all brick home on large lot centrally located to the beaches amenities including Georgian Bay, retail, schools & many recreational activities. Home features main floor living, master & laundry. Keith Hull** 705.444.4855 keith@keithhull.com



PANORAMIC WATER VIEWS

\$275,000 3 bdrm condo shows beautifully with walkouts to two decks, large windows, gas f/p and slate entry. Enjoy all the amenities Ruperts Landing has to offer inc. rec centre with pool, tennis courts, sauna.
Laurie Westlake* 705.446.7747



WATER! WATER! EVERYWHERE

\$234,000 Water views from 5 of 6 rooms with 1500+ sq ft, 3 bedrooms/3baths, 2 fireplaces and central air, in this newly upgraded condo on Georgian Bay close to skiing, golf and shops.
Sue Mallett* 705.444.7181



MEAFORD ACREAGE

\$229,000 Panoramic views of Georgian Bay, Escarpment & countryside from this 47.28 acre property w/a 30 ft x 50 ft barn, located west of Meaford. A lovely, peaceful setting, close proximity to towns & local amenities. Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



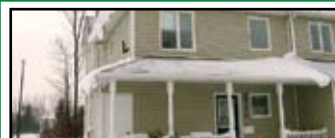
CACHET CROSSING

\$224,900 Hillside, this 2 bedroom condo overlooks the ski hills at Blue Mtn and is steps to The Village At Blue. Fully furnished and ready for you to enjoy personally or as an investment opportunity. Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



LIGHTHOUSE POINT

\$219,000 Affordable 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1294 sq ft, 2 storey condo. Lots of open concept living space, good inside storage. Wood burning fireplace, spacious balcony with west exposure. Diana Lea Berdini/John M. Kacmar** 705.444.4968



SUNDIAL COURT

\$199,900 Price reduced to sell. Private end unit filled with sunlight. 3 bdrms, 3 bath, treed rear area w/ walk-outs to patio from living room & deck from master + master has an ensuite & vaulted ceilings. 5 appliances, central air & central vac. ilseayers@chestnutpark.com



CRANBERRY SURF

\$339,900 Spectacular waterfront property with direct views over Georgian Bay. 3 bdrm, 2 bath condominium totally updated and professionally decorated. Beautifully furnished. Ready for immediate occupancy. Act Fast! Ilse Ayers** ilseayers@chestnutpark.com



PARKSIDE – 2 BDRM CONDO

\$184,900 Ground floor at Sunset Point. Gas fireplace, nat. gas forced air heating, C/Air, hardwood floors, custom drapes, lots of storage, laundry room w/tub, parking, bus service, views of Georgian Bay.
Barbara Picot* 705.444.3452



CAREFREE LIVING/CRANBERRY

\$164,900 Bright spacious end unit – 1215 sq ft, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, natural gas forced air heating, central air, open concept living, dining, kitchen, cathedral ceiling, master with ensuite, deck & patio.
www.barbarapicot.com



MOVE IN THIS SKI SEASON

\$159,900 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, 2 storey condo, forced air electric heating, C/Vac, C/Air, woodburning fireplace, California shutters, 6 appliances, open concept living, dining, kitchen, private deck & more!
Barbara Picot* 705.444.3452



CRANBERRY CONDO

\$134,500 FURNISHED! 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, bright upgraded well maintained unit. Gas fireplace, 5 new appliances (2009), fresh paint and new carpeting (2009), water filter, large private balcony for BBQ's.
Barbara Picot* 705.444.3452



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GEORGIAN BAY WATERFRONT CUSTOM HOME 5 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath custom home at Sunnyside Beach. Private, treed lot. Wrap around covered porch. Views of Bay and Peaks! Professionally re-decorated. **\$749,000.** Jim Chapman 519-599-3300



CHRISTIE BEACH 4 SEASON HOME – GEORGIAN BAY ACCESS 4 bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home. Views of Bay from 2nd & 3rd floor. Close to Lora Bay. Plank floors, fieldstone f/p. **\$419,000.** Jim Chapman 519-599-3300



WALK TO VILLAGE AT BLUE Cozy 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Open concept kitchen, dining, living room, cathedral ceilings, ski hill views. New flooring, updated kitchen. **\$359,000.** Visit: www.134CampbellCres.com Rob Dubien 705-888-0092



NATURAL PRESTIGE LOG HOME Close to Blue Mountain. 3 bedrooms, 3 bath. State of the art kitchen, natural stone, hardwood. Attached dble garage. Estate size lot. **\$925,000.** Visit: www.44TrailsEnd.com Rob Dubien 705-888-0092



CENTRAL COLLINGWOOD 4 bdrm, 3 bath, raised bungalow. Large driveway. Inside entry from garage. Central Collingwood on bus route. Large rec rm. Privacy fence. **MLS#20100275. \$269,900.** Irene McLean 705-888-2855



STYLISH BLUE MTN SKI-IN SKI-OUT 2 bedroom 2 bath, PRIVATE END unit, located on the hill. Renovated, newer appls & furnishings, plasma TV, sauna & sun deck. **\$279,000.** www.796404-greyroad19.com Melissa Dolezel 705-606-7881



STUNNING MEAFORD HOME 1.5 storey newly remodeled century home, private wooded ravine, exquisite finishings, gourmet kitchen, SSappl, hardwood, heated slate floors, master suite. **\$264,900.** www.28PaulStreet.com Melissa Dolezel 705-606-7881



WATERFRONT: LORA BAY WEST 160' on Georgian Bay w/stunning views. Newly renovated 4 bdrm, 2 bath w/modern seamless indoor/outdoor open flow, great for entertaining. **\$995,000.** www.217FraserStreet.com Melissa Dolezel 705-606-7881



SHOW STOPPER HOME 5 min drive to Blue Mountain. Beautifully upgraded, decorated & landscaped 4 bdrm, 3 bath w/luxury finishes throughout. Oversized backyard w/mtn. views. **\$379,900.** Visit: www.38HighlandsCres.com Angiline Dubien 705-888-0021



WOW FACTOR! LORA BAY Contemporary, classy new home ready for immediate occupancy. 3 bdrms 2-1/2 baths. Fabulous waterfront community w/golf course, clubhouse, beach. **\$779,000.** Marilyn Douglas/Susan Boadway 519-599-3300



LORA BAY EXECUTIVE VILLA Treed end unit w/privacy. Model suite quality upgrades thru'out. 3 bdrm, 2-1/2 bath gem. All hwdwd flooring, gourmet kitchen w/granite, extra windows, dble garage. **\$499,000.** Marilyn Douglas/Susan Boadway 519-599-3300



DESIRABLE BLUE SHORES WATERFRONT COMMUNITY Open concept – 2 bdrms, 2 baths w/enlarged living area, deck overlooks pond; garage, several upgrades thru'out. Pools, gym, tennis, trails & private marina. **\$779,000.** Marilyn Douglas/Susan Boadway 519-599-3300



IMMACULATE One floor living in this beautiful bungalow in Collingwoodlands. Numerous tasteful upgrades including new bathrooms with radiant heat and a kitchen w/granite countertops, all on a large, treed lot. **\$395,000.** Doug Linton 705-444-9643



LOCKHART SUBDIVISION Lots of room for the family in this 4+ bdrm home on a quiet street. Lots of hardwood flooring, an updated main floor bathroom and neutral décor throughout, this home represents excellent value. **\$299,000.** Doug Linton 705-444-9643



PRIME LOCATION Busy families will love the location, central to Collingwood schools. A unique offering with a large, private lot and home with versatile spaces for the whole family. **\$650,000.** Martha Whittton 705-443-9022



LOOKING FOR EXCEPTIONAL VALUE? 4 bdrms + 4 baths + home office + rec room + deck + hot tub + stunning oak hardwood floors +++. Ready for your immediate enjoyment. **\$347,000.** Martha Whittton 705-443-9022



THORNBURY RANCH, MATURE LOT W/INGROUND POOL Intown 1 acre, desirable neighbourhood w/privacy. 4 bed, 3 bath bungalow w/hanny quarters, o/s garage, patio/pool area, island kitchen, & great living space. **\$464,900.** Marilyn Douglas/Susan Boadway 519-599-3300



WALK TO ORCHARD LIFT Osler Bluff, fabulous bay views, sunrises, sunsets. Architectural beams, main fir master – lwr level walkout. 2 stone f/p. **\$1,100,000.** **MLS#20094883.** Connie/Bill Thompson 705-888-0808



1/2 ACRE WATERFRONT Stunning architecturally designed home w/privacy. Awesome kitchen, big social island, separate dining. Outdoor lounge w/fireplace. Amazing Georgian Bay views. 118 ft waterfront. **\$1,700,000.** Connie/Bill Thompson 705-888-0808



IN-TOWN COLLINGWOOD presents this quaint stylish home that has been extensively renovated and is in move-in condition. **\$199,900.** Visit: www.379fifthstreet.com Doug Beaumont 705-606-1046



CENTRAL LOCATION THORNBURY Applejack 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gas fireplace, private upper and lower decks. Newer windows and doors. **Not to be missed at \$165,900.** www.brendanthomson.com Brendan Thomson 705-606-1270



AWARD WINNING firms Brady Homes & Black Tusk Design partnered to create a superior contemporary home in a quiet Thornbury neighbourhood. 2100 sq.ft. www.thornburysdesignbuildhome.com or Brendan Thomson 705-606-1270



BEAUTIFUL HOUSE ON DOUBLE LOT IN TOWN Close to all amenities. New hardwood & carpet. Great value! **MLS#20095885. \$289,000.** Brendan Thomson 705-606-1270



QUALITY AND CRAFTMANSHIP THROUGHOUT Stunning design with cathedral & vaulted ceilings, stone fireplace, wood floors & lofts. Open concept living with walkout to large private yard. **\$699,900.** Call Pat MacLeod 705-444-7471



GEORGIAN WOODLANDS Charming 5 bdrm chalet features large great room w/soaring ceilings, wood burning f/p, wall of windows looking out to Craileith Ski Club. **\$449,900.** Visit: www.180sleepyhollowroad.com Doug Beaumont 705-606-1046



HISTORIC SNOWBRIDGE presents this beautifully appointed 4 bedroom, 4 bath home with wood plank floors, granite counters, steam shower, and fully finished basement. Steps to Village at Blue. **\$649,900.** Doug Beaumont 705-606-1046



ECONOMICAL RENTAL PROPERTY Use yourself or have the flexibility and zoning for short term rentals. 2 beds plus pullout to sleep 6 may be purchased turnkey. **\$119,000.** Betty Hancey 705-444-4139



LIVE LIFE LARGE Commanding views, 7000+ sq. ft. on 26 acres. **\$2,200,000.** Call Blaine Bell for an appointment, 705-446-7272 or go to www.BlaineBell.ca to view



GALLERIES 2 bedroom condo tastefully renovated and decorated with neutral decor. Warm inviting living/dining room with balcony access. Eat in kitchen with updated cupboards and appliances. **\$239,900.** Call Pat MacLeod 705-444-7471



PRIVATE SKI CLUB PROPERTY Charming reconstructed 4 bedroom log home with view of ski hills from the great room with wood burning fireplace. Master suite with separate staircase. **\$475,000.** Call Pat MacLeod 705-444-7471



PRIME COMMERCIAL LOCATION In Thornbury, 1,000 sq. ft. Recently renovated and ready for occupancy. Location, price, product – it's all here! Offered at **\$299,900.** **MLS#20095921.** Call Wayne Cornfield 705-444-7669



RANKINS LANDING 2 + 1 bdrm condo with walkouts from 2 levels, & gas f/p. Development has a clubhouse, pool & tennis court. Offered at **\$184,900.** **MLS#20095284.** Call Wayne Cornfield 705-444-7669

**Broker *Sales Representative



Marilyn Douglas** 519-599-3300



Susan Boadway** 519-599-3300



Blaine Bell** 705-446-7272



Doug Beaumont** 705-606-1046



Betty Hancey* 705-444-4139



Rob Dubien* 705-888-0092



Angiline Dubien* 705-888-0021



Wayne Cornfield** 705-444-7669



Doug Linton* 705-444-9643

**Broker *Sales Representative



Irene McLean* 705-888-2855



Pat MacLeod* 705-444-7471



Emily Black* 705-441-2473



Jim Chapman** 519-599-3300



Brendan Thomson* 705-606-1270



Melissa Dolezel* 705-606-7881



Connie Thompson** 705-888-0808



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Martha Whittton* 705-443-9022



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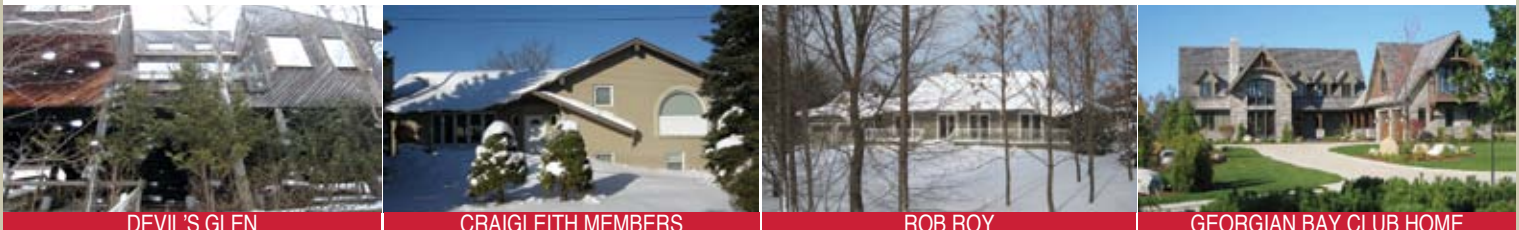
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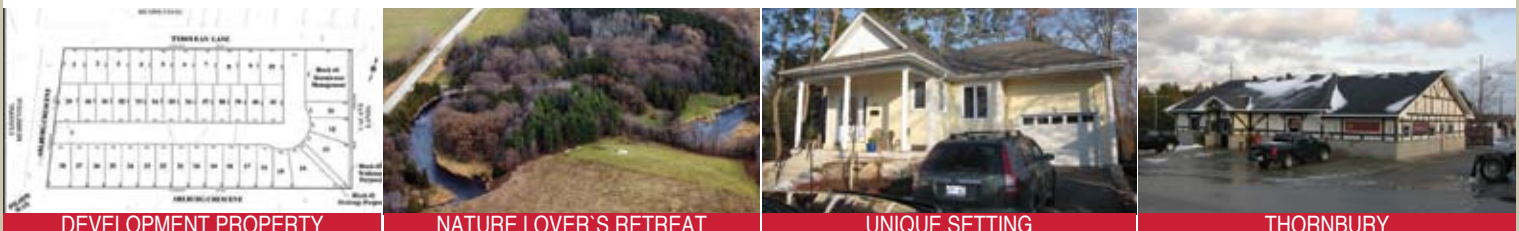
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<p>SNOWBRIDGE</p> <p>Newly built custom home/chalet in the fine community of Historical Snowbridge. 3260 sq. ft. home with 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully finished lower level. Views of Blue Mountain, short walk to the Village or use the shuttle service. Enjoy as personal use or income property.</p> <p>\$829,000 MLS@20100022</p>	<p>CRAIGLEITH MEADOWS</p> <p>Exquisite, carefully crafted Mountain Style chalet. Hemlock floors, exposed beams & stone F/P in great room, oversized windows, warm wood trim. 4 bedrooms, 3/2 baths, 3868 sq. ft. plus full unfinished basement. Great views of hills; short walk to main lodge and Craigleith ski hills.</p> <p>\$1,495,000 MLS@20095303</p>	<p>SIERRA LANE</p> <p>Turnkey condo on 1st fairway of Monterra; walking distance to the Village. Loft master bedroom with ensuite, 2nd bedroom on main level. Fully furnished, neutral colours, gas fireplace. Nicely landscaped with view of hills.</p> <p>\$289,900 MLS@20095679</p>	<p>COLLINGWOOD</p> <p>Immaculate log home close to the Bay. Open concept living/dining/kitchen on main level with Cathedral ceiling, fieldstone fireplace & woodstove in kitchen. Finished lower level has in-law capability. Detached garage, hot tub, large lot. Beautifully built & well maintained round lot chalet/home.</p> <p>\$695,000 MLS@20100096</p>
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<p>DEVIL'S GLEN</p> <p>Great family ski chalet with fabulous views of the Ski Club. Turnkey 1400+ sq. ft. with 3+1 bedrooms, circular fireplace in living room with surrounding seating for 14. Available for immediate possession. Don't miss this opportunity for the best value at the Glen. New Members welcome.</p> <p>\$335,000 MLS@20095974</p>	<p>CRAIGLEITH MEMBERS</p> <p>Multi-level chalet on Craigleith Rd. Open concept living/dining/kitchen area with corner fireplace & large bay. 5 bedrooms, 2 full baths & 2 powder rooms, 2685 total sq. ft. finished. Large lot with detached double car garage. Great location, close to ski clubs, Craigleith & Georgian Bay.</p> <p>\$689,000 MLS@20100157</p>	<p>ROB ROY</p> <p>Beautifully renovated country property on 1+ acres, suitable for Devil's Glen or Osler Bluff Ski Club members. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 gas fireplaces, large master bedroom with attached office/nursery, finished lower level with walkout and heated floors. Attached double car garage & separate drive shed/barn.</p> <p>\$699,000 MLS@20100121</p>	<p>GEORGIAN BAY CLUB HOME</p> <p>Dramatic post & beam construction with 2-storey windows looking out to Georgian Bay. 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 7300 sq. ft. finished space. High end finishings, wireless smart home system, home theatre, balcony overlooking 11th fairway. Full Georgian Bay Club membership included.</p> <p>\$2,795,000 MLS@20091075</p>
---	---	---	---



<p>DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY</p> <p>Approved 41 lot subdivision draft plan. Prime location at Blue Mountain with municipal services & view of the hills. Close to the best skiing, golfing and mountain biking in the province. Shuttle service to Intrawest Village. See L.B.O. for more details.</p> <p>\$3,800,000 MLS@20094841</p>	<p>NATURE LOVER'S RETREAT</p> <p>Enchanting property with 2000' of Beaver River frontage; close to skiing, golfing and Thornbury. Unique & beautiful 3600 sq. foot 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home, custom designed to showcase Mother Nature.</p> <p>\$1,295,000 MLS@20100143</p>	<p>UNIQUE SETTING</p> <p>Open concept 4 bedroom bungalow in town of Collingwood. Bright and open main living area with gas fireplace, main floor master with ensuite and walk out to deck. Fully finished lower level. Attached garage with inside entry. Nicely situated home on 56' x 160' treed lot.</p> <p>\$399,000 MLS@20095783</p>	<p>THORNBURY</p> <p>Investment property. Direct highway exposure & high traffic area with lots of parking. 4500 sq. ft. building under 10 years old. Open span construction. Current occupants are restaurant/ bar and hair dressing salon. Land and building only.</p> <p>\$749,000 MLS@20095825</p>
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<p>MAGNIFICENT 100 ACRE ESTATE</p> <p>Views of Georgian Bay & countryside. Custom built ranch bungalow with 48.5' x 16.6' great room, main floor master, 3 bay garage, wine cellar, much more. Beautiful pond and views of countryside & Georgian Bay. Unique & rare property carefully created & maintained.</p> <p>\$1,895,000 MLS@20100082</p>	<p>GREAT COUNTRY SETTING</p> <p>Rambling ranch bungalow on 1.1 acre treed lot, close to Osler Bluff & Blue Mountain. Immaculate home with a great layout for family and entertaining. Great room with cathedral ceiling & stone fireplace and separate dining room. Main floor master with 5 piece ensuite.</p> <p>\$629,000 MLS@20094189</p>	<p>SUMMIT GREEN</p> <p>Great chalet on cul-de-sac, close to skiing, golf & Intrawest Village. Excellent mountain views from living room and deck. 4 bedrooms, 2/1 baths, attached double garage with inside entry. Gas fireplace in living room, large family room on fully finished lower level.</p> <p>\$479,000 MLS@20094197</p>	<p>THIS IS IT!</p> <p>Beautiful contemporary home on estate lot close to Blue Mountain, Craigleith & Collingwood. 3450 sq. ft. 4 or 5 bedroom home with main floor master, separate dining room and home office. Energy saving I.C.F. construction. Beautifully landscaped grounds backing onto forest.</p> <p>\$779,000 MLS@20100053</p>
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I ARRIVED HOME RECENTLY AFTER A NIGHT at Blue Mountain with my two boys and they, as always, wanted something to eat. They'd had an early dinner and a slice of pizza at the hill so they settled on a bowl of frozen vanilla yogurt sprinkled with chocolate chips. We sat by the fire wrapped in blankets and talked about what a blast they had snowboarding. We agreed we're so lucky to live so close to Ontario's best ski resort.

My kids love winter. It's by far their favourite season. When they're not at school, they're either playing hockey or at Blue Mountain. They wake up every weekday morning hoping for a "snow day" so they can call their friends and head for the hills.

The pure joy my kids and their friends experience every winter is also evident when I meet people who make the trek from the city to their mountain homes to ski and snowboard and enjoy what everyone around here refers to as "the lifestyle." That joy is a constant reminder to never take living here in Southern Georgian Bay for granted.

This, our popular Ski Issue, features two homes built near two different ski clubs – Craigeleith and Alpine. Our Feature Home (page 40) is brilliantly designed, beautifully decorated and a very fun and busy place to be this winter.

Our Home and Builder (Village Builders) tells the story of a couple who took up skiing later in life (page 94). Theirs is a stunning home that fulfills their family's needs.

The Real Estate market is roaring back. If you're in the market for a new home, or just want to dream, check out our latest model home tour (page 74).

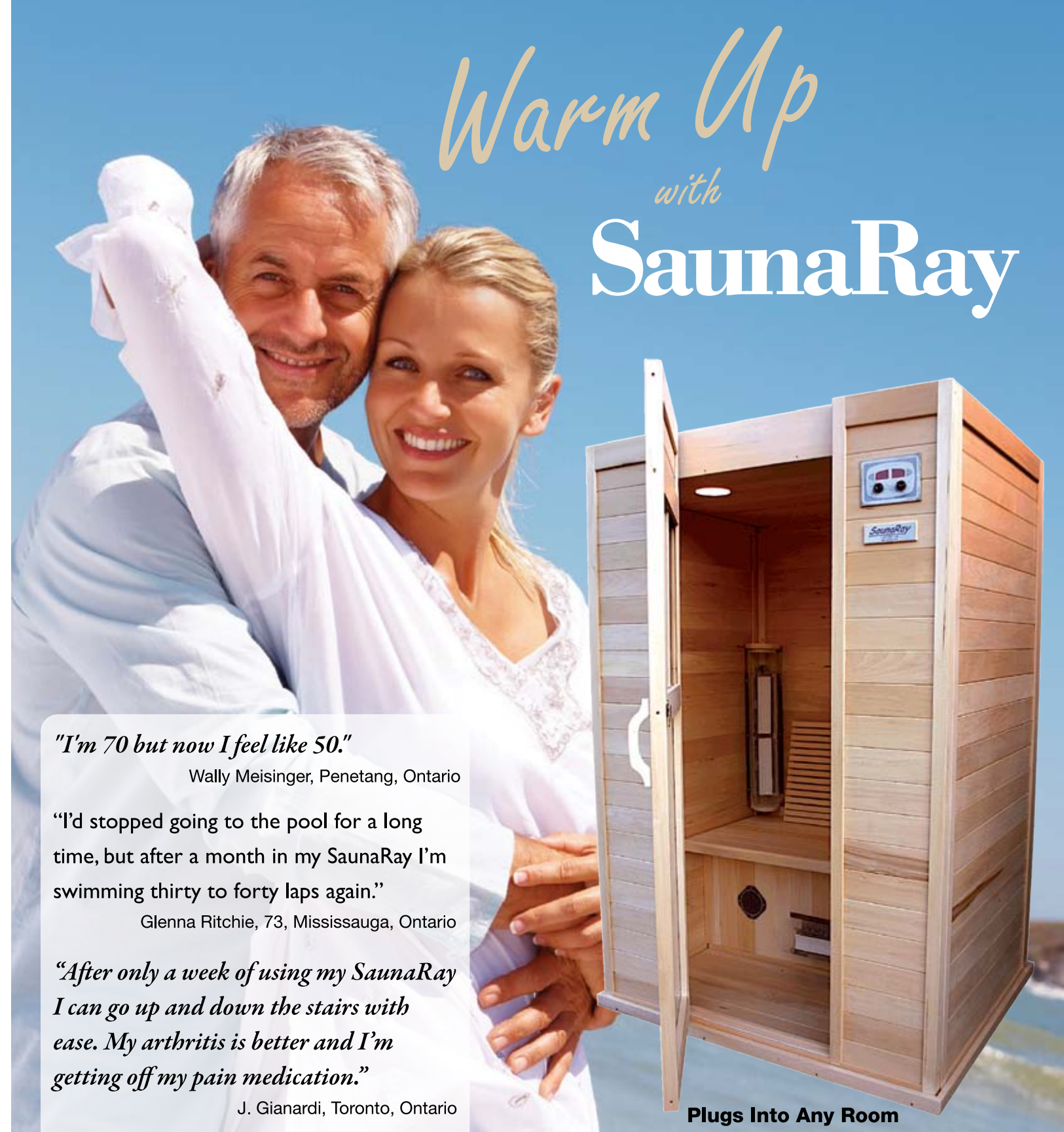
Embrace the snow, stay warm and enjoy family and friends this ski season.

Sincerely,

Georgette

Georgette McCulloch, Editor-In-Chief
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publisher's note

THIS IS OUR FOURTH ANNIVERSARY AS A MAGAZINE!

We are extremely grateful to our wonderful readers and advertisers for supporting us so loyally. Thank you!

We will continue to promote economic growth in our area by showcasing the wonderful home-life we enjoy here (and the people who make it possible).

Thank you also to our readers for continually sending us emails and letters suggesting homes for us to feature. We have developed a very long waiting list of spectacular homes. We are working through it.

It is from this phenomenon that our newest section, the REAL ESTATE feature, was born, starting in this issue on page 74. Our intention is to showcase fine real estate for sale, complete with dazzling photography from our very own Sandy MacKay.

OUR HOMES has emerged in our region as the premium real estate and development publication. In this issue we have more than 26 pages of Real Estate & Development Listings. Take an in-depth look through this issue and, no doubt, you will find your dream home.

Hence, it is our objective to support the Georgian Triangle Real Estate Board in its ongoing efforts to promote the message of "Use a Local Realtor". OUR HOMES has a tremendous following among both locals and the extremely important market segment of "weekenders" – those who own recreational homes and property in Southern Georgian Bay but live full time in the Greater Toronto Area. OUR HOMES is the only local magazine mailed to their homes in the GTA. Our message is this: there is no agent better-suited to offer superior service than one who understands local issues. Those issues include: Niagara Escarpment considerations, wells and septic systems on rural properties, local heritage district restrictions, local zoning and planning matters, local market conditions... the list goes on and on. For most people, Real Estate comprises the largest item in their financial portfolio; doesn't it make sense to have it managed by the best professional possible?

And so, I thought I'd share with you a note from Andres Paara, the current president of the Georgian Triangle Real Estate Board.

"Dear OUR HOMES. On behalf of the REALTORS® of our local Georgian Triangle Real Estate Board, I would like to thank OUR HOMES magazine for its continued and valuable support of our "Use a Local REALTOR®" campaign. By providing us with advertising space in each issue, you have contributed greatly to our efforts to raise awareness of the value of using a Local REALTOR® when it comes time to buy or sell property in our beautiful corner of the world. Many thanks!"

We hope you enjoy this beautiful Ski Season issue,

Sincerely,

David Loopstra, Publisher
publisher@ourhomesmagazine.com

CORRECTION: In our Summer edition 2009 Brad Abbott of Abbott Design Ltd. was referred to incorrectly as an Architect.

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LOT 64

LOT 59

SOLD

LOT 35

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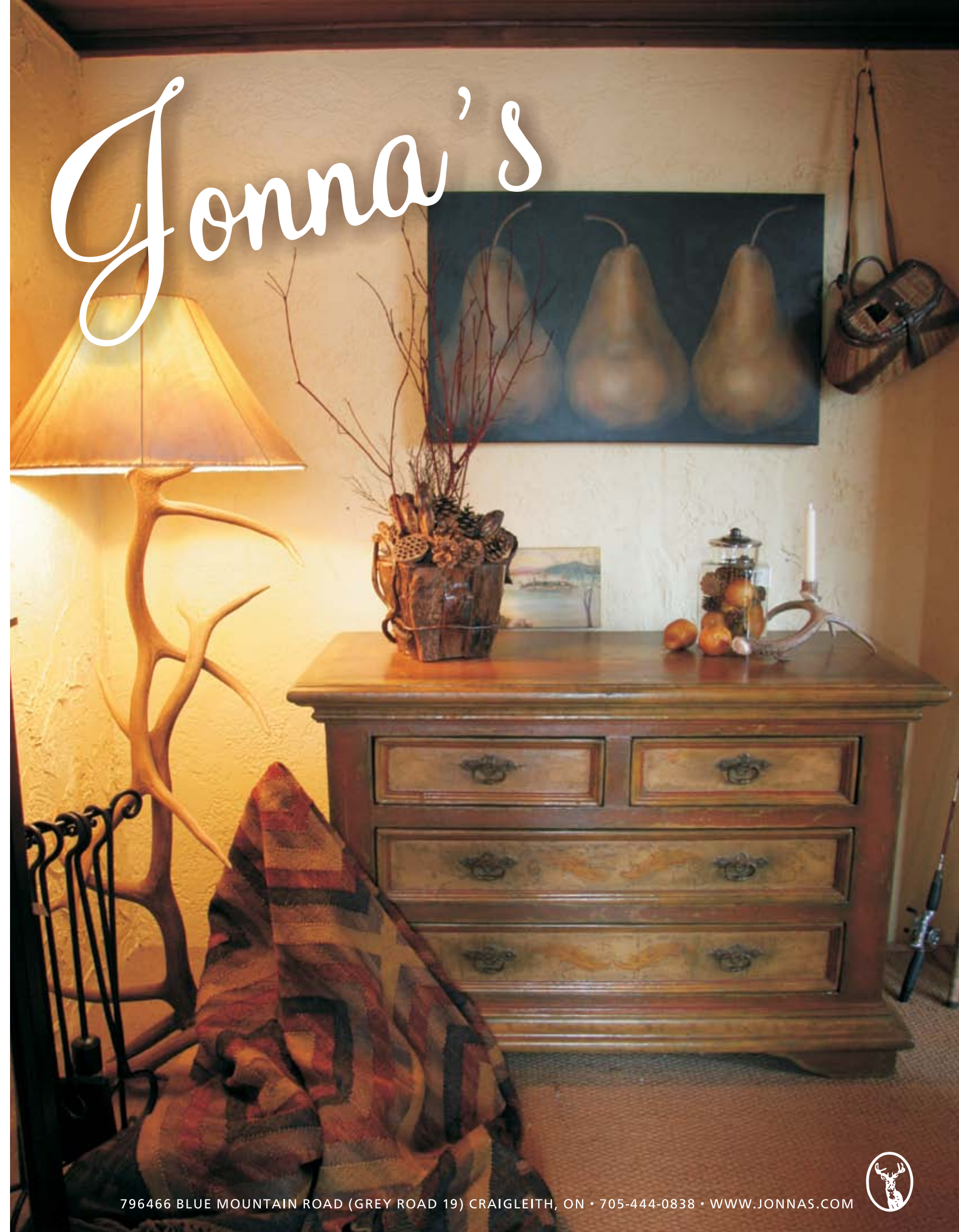
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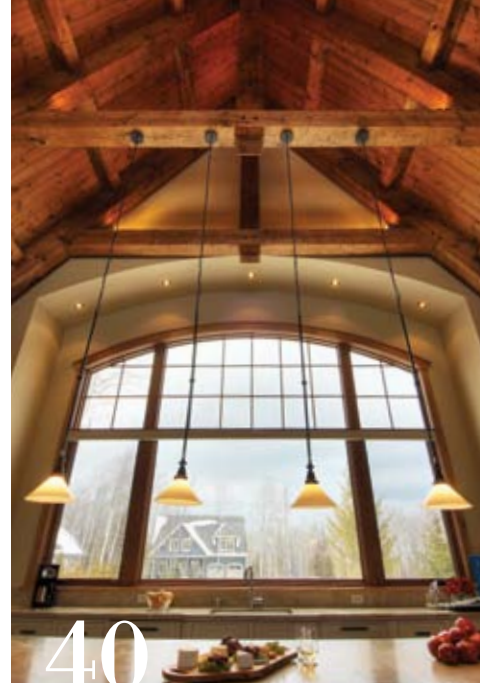
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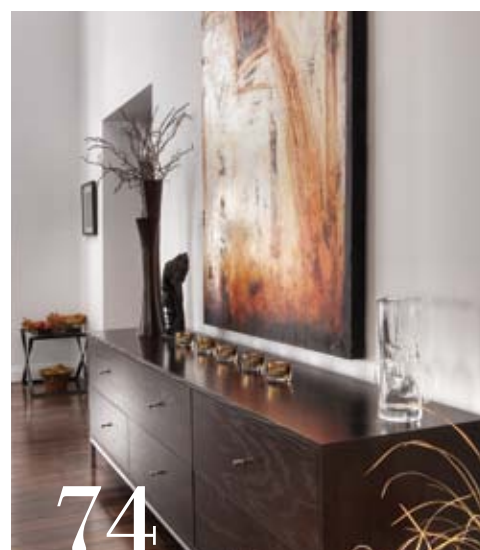
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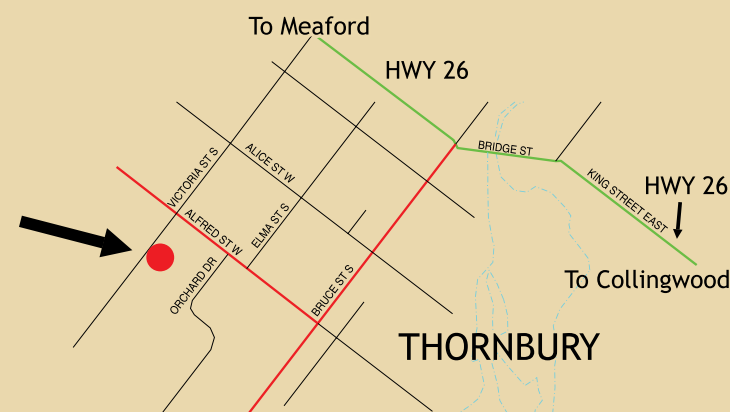
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advice

Designer **Stephanie Redmond** answers your questions.

If you need help, send your questions to stephanie@ourhomesmagazine.com

Dear Stephanie,

How do I pick a coffee table for my great room? How high should it be? What shape? What kind of wood is durable? We use this room all the time. Thanks for your help.

Lynda

Stephanie Redmond replies:

Since you use this room all of the time, you need to consider two things: maintenance and durability. A glass top is easy to clean, but if you have young children, prepare for daily cleanings to avoid constant fingerprints. Hardwood or stone tops are your best bet. Choose oak or mahogany. Avoid a laminated top that will scratch easily.

As for shape and size, let your furniture guide you. For instance, if you have two three-seater sofas set up in an L configuration, your coffee table will likely be a large square. If you have a loveseat, your table will likely be a smaller rectangle or oval.

Many contemporary tables are quite low. This can be a great look in the right space, but means a bigger bend for your biscuits. Look at what you have now. Is it right for you? Sometimes common sense is simply the right answer.

Dear Stephanie,

Are white walls in? I love the look, but I'm not sure it's easy to live with. Should I give it a try? Also, can you recommend some whites that would work?

Jean T.

Stephanie Redmond replies:

White walls are definitely in (except on cars). They can create a very nice environment, but there are certainly a few things to keep in mind:

What will you be displaying on your walls? White walls yearn for art and unless you have a decent selection of items to hang, they can appear bare. So hang up that pencil drawing from grade school or that great piece of driftwood you found, frame an old silk scarf or create a grouping of family photos.

Be frank with your furniture. It's not just your walls that will sing in white, your furniture will be highlighted as well – family heirlooms and Swedish flat pack alike. Some pieces may have to go.

Wood trim? If you have a Victorian with dark wood trim, white walls can be difficult. This type of trim is substantial and tends to partner well with more depth on the walls. Consider painting the trim as well to create a dramatic change.

Still indecisive? If you give your painter the heads up and ask for primed walls only, you can try white on for size then schedule the crew for the next available time slot.

Con: You have to deal with your house upside down twice.

How to finish your whites: Use the same colour on your walls and trim but choose different finishes. Try Eggshell on walls and Satin or Pearl on trim.

Dear Stephanie,

My husband and I are having a heated debate over the selection of cabinets for our new kitchen. He wants dark cabinets and I like the look of a white kitchen. Help!

JoAnne and Phil

Stephanie Redmond replies:

Rest assured, this is a common debate. Here are three scenarios to consider:

He wins!

A dark cabinet will hide surface prints (without grease) and create a richness you won't get from white. Consider a deep stain and woody cabinetry to appease your husband, but pair with a white stone countertop (Caesar Stone or Corian would be excellent) and light walls. Run the countertop straight up to the base of the upper cabinets to create a clean backsplash or use a similar-toned tile to create some texture.

She wins!

There is no doubt that white cabinets will keep the kitchen feeling light. Choose an off-white cabinet colour like Benjamin Moore's Acadia White or Floral White to reduce the starkness of a white kitchen and pair with a deep stone countertop with a hefty edge. Your husband will love the heaviness of the countertop. It will look substantial but the overall feel will be clean and contemporary.

Meeting in the Middle...

Section your kitchen and use both styles of cabinetry. For the pantry use wood and for the china cabinets use white. Choose a dark wood countertop in the areas with white cabinets. This will give your husband the wood element that he craves, and you will have your light feeling kitchen. After all, relationships are all about compromise! **OH**



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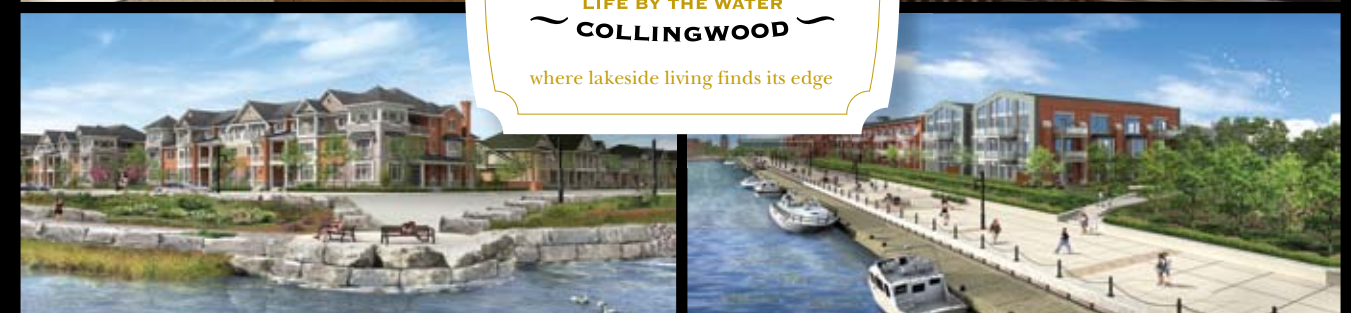
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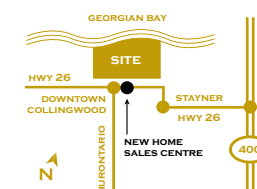
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style picks

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2

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(2) Woodstove

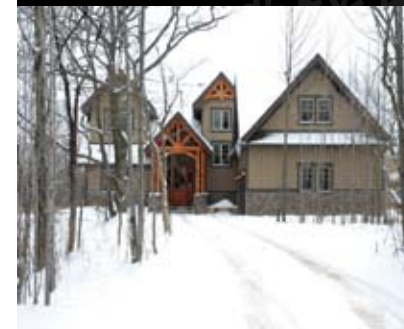
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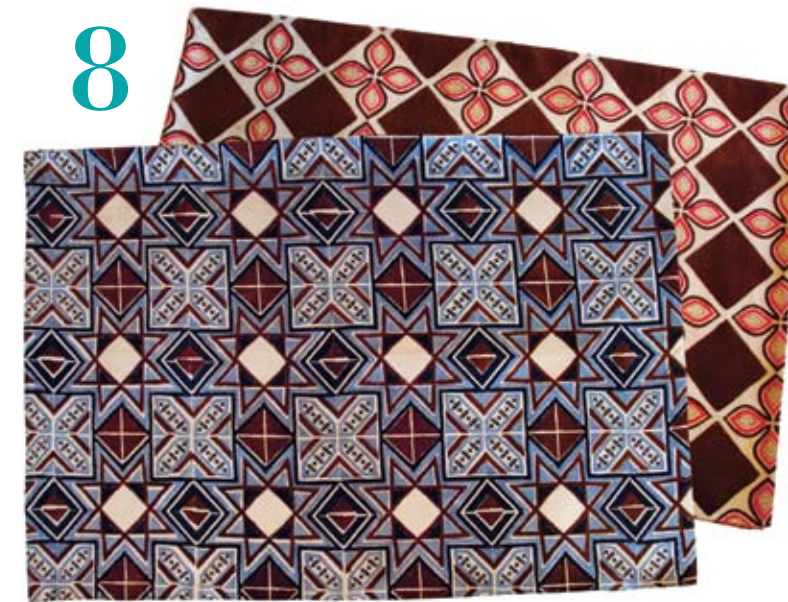
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7

8



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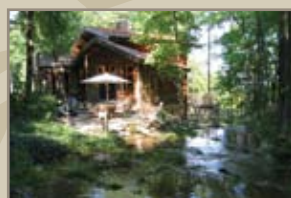
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DEAD ZONES

RURAL BROADBAND IS BECOMING
A VITAL RESOURCE.
BUT CAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR DELIVER?

BY PAUL WILSON

For the past 10 years, Patricia and I have been living in a black hole – a place that has only the spottiest of cell-phone coverage and Internet service.

We have dial-up, of course, but according to Industry Canada, that makes us officially “unserved.” On a special Ontario government map, our black hole shows up as a white, 25 sq km hexagon. White means “limited to no broadband service,” which pretty much describes our situation. And we’re not alone. Like most of the hilly parts of rural Ontario, our area on the map is a sea of white hexagons surrounding smaller islands of pink ones, indicating major population centres with some broadband coverage.

A decade ago – before Google Earth, YouTube, and Vimeo – we never gave any of this a thought. We didn’t have cell phones and the Internet was

just a baby. Dial-up, which gives new meaning to the term “trickle-down,” was enough for receiving and sending emails, but as the capacity of the Web expanded, it became hopeless for doing serious research, or sending family photos. Periodically, we would ask our telephone company when we might expect better service, and each time the answer, translated into plain English, was, “probably not in your lifetime.”



Paul Wilson is a writer, editor, and translator who lives full time in rural Ontario. He can be reached at paul.heathcote@sympatico.ca

It was also disconcerting to discover that good Internet connectivity is now a major factor in the real estate market. Kathy Rasmussens, an agent for Royal LePage in my area, tells me that one of the first things her clients ask about – especially those moving up from the city – is whether or not a property has broadband. “It can make or break a deal,” she says.

So being stuck with dial-up is more than just a major annoyance: it’s an economic liability.

For techno-illiterates like myself, it helps to think of digital communication in images. Dial-up, with download speeds of less than 56 kilobits of data per second, is a rivulet in the forest. The next level up – high-speed – at rates from 256 kbps to 1.5 megabits per second – is a regular river. (Industry Canada now considers those who only have high-speed to be “under-served.”) Broadband – anything over 1.5 mbps – is the Mississippi or the St. Lawrence.

Broadband is the new gold standard. In fact, broadband service is now a leading indicator of a country’s economic health, alongside traditional indicators like housing starts or unemployment stats. That’s why governments everywhere are pushing for maximum broadband penetration – including into remote areas – in the hope of giving their national economies a competitive boost in the global marketplace.

For us black-hole dwellers, the good news is that both the Ontario government and the Feds have come up with complementary programs to bring broadband access to the white areas on the map. Ontario’s Rural Connections Broadband Program, for instance, is the second phase of a two-part initiative that will give \$27.4 million to exurban municipalities to help upgrade their rural coverage. And Industry Canada is set to dole out \$225 million to Internet Service Providers to do the same across the country. The aim of these programs is to help private and community ISPs bring a minimum of 1.5 mbps of affordable, upgradeable and expandable access to at least 75 per cent of the households in each of those little white hexagons.

The disappointing news is that levels of delivery are usually theoretical rather than real. Even with upgraded service, rural areas will still be mostly dependent on technologies, like satellites or land-based wireless, that have to mete out a finite amount of bandwidth to a growing customer base. This means that service providers frequently deliver less than the advertised speeds and place strict limits on download volumes, charging extra for overflow. We may eventually get access, but it will almost certainly be slower and more expensive than the guidelines promise.

The only system adequate to deliver reliable, high-volume broadband is fibre optics, but unfortunately it’s very expensive. Geoff Hogan, who administers the Rural Connections program in Grey County, told me that, had they opted for a fibre optics solution instead of wireless towers, their \$1.5-million grant would only have been enough to connect a handful of small communities. So is our governments’ commitment to high quality rural broadband generous enough?

For an answer, look at countries like Finland – home of the telecommunications giant Nokia. Finland recently declared broadband access a “legal right” and committed to providing almost everyone in the country with 100 mbps of broadband capacity by 2015. Or, if you think it’s unfair to compare Canada to a small, compact country, look at Australia, with a similar population density and distribution to ours. Australia has a separate ministry, the Department of Broadband, Communications, and the Digital Economy, that recently pledged \$42 billion – yes, that’s billions – to building a fibre optics network for the whole country. It’s such a spectacular gesture of confidence in the future of next-generation technology that the Obama administration is taking a close look, and investors from all over the world are knocking at their door.

It’s easy enough to say, “Well, so what if we’re behind the times in Canada? We moved to the country to retire, not to become even more wired than we were in the city.”

That’s fine, except that it’s not realistic. In the first place, we know that these days, real retirement is pretty much a myth and that we’ll probably be working out of our home for the foreseeable future. Without broadband, that will be hard, if not impossible. And will the grandchildren ever want to visit?

Then there’s the nagging matter of property values. Our house is only our biggest asset if it’s sellable. So, unless we want to stay in our lovely home until they carry us out in a box – a very big “unless” – we will, sooner rather than later, have to make that call to the most reliable Internet provider we can find. The service may not be as good as our city cousins get, but I don’t see that we have any other choice. **OH**

County maps showing broadband coverage are available at www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/ruralconnections/map.htm. Provincial maps are at www.ic.gc.ca/cic/site/719.nsf/eng/h_00034.html.

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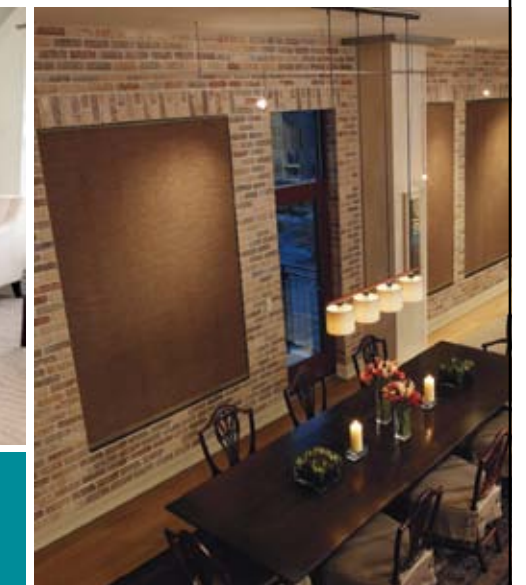
BY IRENE TURNBULL

If you're one of the 70 per cent of Canadian homeowners who plan to renovate your home over the next year, you'll be pleased to learn that this is a perfect time to prepare for a successful 2010 project. Paying attention to the seasonal demands can give you a unique opportunity to assess your needs from a truly hands on perspective. Understanding how you function best in your space is an important step for creating homes that feel good.

Whether you want to improve your lifestyle with altered space or protect your investment with efficient upgrades, large or small, all renovations demand a special kind of tolerance. Remodeling demands a new level of awareness and patience, particularly if you are choosing to live in your home during the process. Privacy is often compromised and undoubtedly, you will be inconvenienced more often than you might imagine. However, for those who can weather the challenges, the rewards can be outstanding. The key to achieving your dream home will be careful advanced planning and management. Here are some guidelines. *Continued on page 34*

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STEP 1 – Get Real

Clearly Define Your Objectives And Budget Expectations

Get clear about what you want to achieve with your reno in terms of outcome and the real dollars you have to invest. This will help you and your team focus on achievable goals to ensure a high degree of success.

STEP 2 – Create Your Plan

Consult Professionals – Be Informed From The Start

Your home is comprised of an interconnected network of systems that work together, many of which are inconveniently out of eyesight. A qualified designer and contractor will work together to help you assess your situation and plan your project based upon your existing structure, consulting with additional professionals as required to create your plan. Take the time to explore options and ensure that you are comfortable with the final plans. Changes are easy to make on paper.

STEP 3 – Prepare A Budget Based On Your Plan

Make Sure Your Funding Is In Place

You will need two budgets: one for contractor labour and materials and one for finishing materials. This is a bit of a “chicken and egg” situation since product choice will greatly impact cost. The most important objective is to ensure that product selections provide the best performance over time while fitting into your budget. Your design professional can be invaluable. You don't need to make the actual product selections at this time, but you need to know the categories and price range you will be selecting from. Make allowances for flooring, cabinetry, bathroom fixtures etc., based on your expectations.

STEP 4 – Plan For The Unexpected

While your contractor may be able to assess and predict potential problem areas, without an x-ray camera there's no way to know for sure what treasures wait to be discovered once tear-out begins. It's wise to prepare for the unexpected with a contingency budget of 10 to 20 per cent, especially in older homes where plumbing and electrical may need to be upgraded.

STEP 5 – Preparation Of Permit Application & Drawings – And Contractor Insurance Documents

Depending upon the size and scope of your project, the permit process after application can take anywhere from two to six weeks. In the meantime you will need to make sure your design and contractor team has proper proof of insurance.

STEP 6 – Select And Confirm Specialty Contractors

Kitchen, Bathrooms and Other Cabinetry

Select specialty suppliers, choose appliances, confirm design choices and book deliveries. Kitchens usually require five to six weeks lead-time for production. Immediately choose countertops, sinks, faucets and accessories.

STEP 7 – Finalize All Finishing Materials And Supplies

Make final product selections and check availability of supply and delivery times to ensure they arrive when required. **OH**



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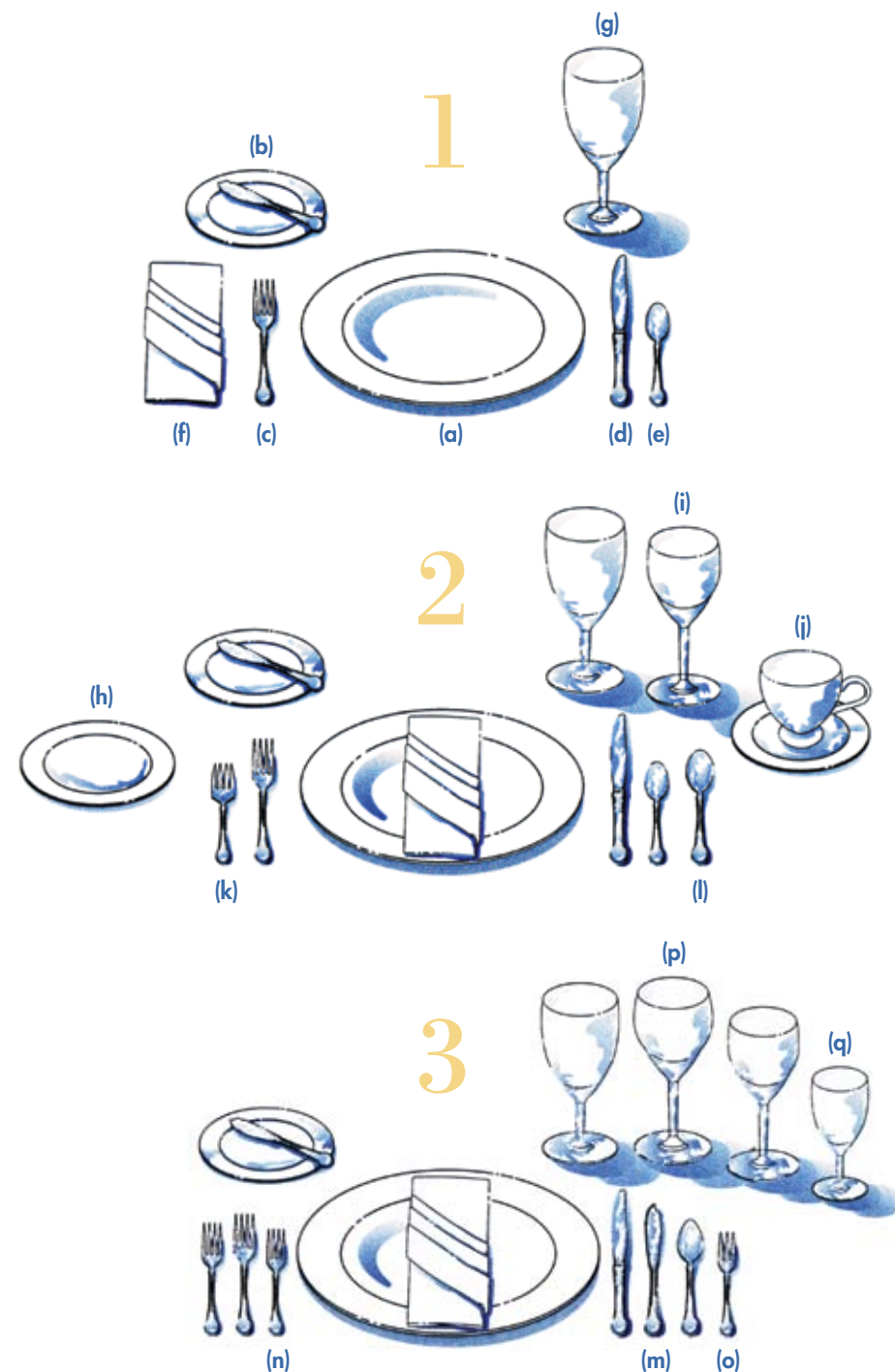
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how to SET A TABLE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KIRK ESTIN



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Placemats are appropriate for everyday meals. Table runners work for informal meals, but always use a tablecloth for formal dinners.

Finish your table with flair using a fabulous centerpiece, candles and accents that match your colour palette, occasion or party theme.

OUR HOMES shows you the finer points of setting a table.

(1) EVERYDAY PLACE SETTING

- a. Dinner Plate
- b. Bread Plate and Knife
- c. Fork
- d. Knife
- e. Spoon
- f. Napkin (beside fork or on plate)
- g. Water Glass

(2) SPECIAL INFORMAL GATHERINGS

Add:

- h. Salad Plate
- i. Wine Glass (red or white)
- j. Coffee or Tea
- k. Salad Fork
- l. Soup or Fruit Spoon

(3) FORMAL When You Want To Celebrate And Impress Your Guests

Add:

- m. Fish Knife (if serving fish)
- n. Fish Fork (if serving shellfish)
- o. Oyster Fork
- p. Champagne Glass
(to the right of Water Glass)
- q. Sherry Glass
(to the right of wine glass)

Remember:

- Always place utensils in the order of use, from the outside in.
- Knife blades are placed with cutting edge toward the plate.
- Dessert spoons and forks are brought in just before dessert is served.

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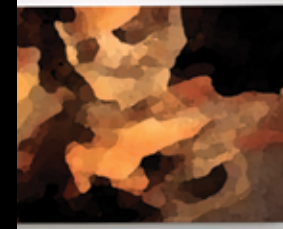
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original *adj.* 1. First, Initial 2. not copied from something else, Fresh 3. Inventive

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feature

In the kitchen, contemporary meets traditional rustic. Nothing obstructs the view. The impressive island is topped with a solid slab of wheat-coloured, antique marble.

RIGHT: The homeowners selected a rusty red to highlight the exterior of their Brad Abbott-designed custom home, built within walking distance of the Craigleith Ski Club.



MOUNTAIN *Retreat*

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

This spacious all-season country home is a five-minute walk from the slopes – the ideal setting for an active family that enjoys skiing, casual gatherings and holiday parties with family and friends who can’t resist an invite.

Surrounded by fir trees with views of Blue Mountain and Georgian Bay, this custom retreat was designed and built within a year, which is quite a feat for a project of this size. It is a true testament to the homeowner’s exquisite taste and organizational know-how.

According to designer **Brad Abbott** of **Abbott Design Ltd.**, it was good that he and builder, **Dave Harrington** of **Absolute Craftsmen**, were brought on board at the same time. “Having us both begin at the same time was terrific when you’re on a tight timeline,” Abbott says. “Dave is an excellent builder and we were fortunate that the homeowners were highly organized and firm about their decision-making.”

Abbott adds, “As well as the home’s orientation on the property with a view to the ski hills, there was a desire that the residence have three separate living spaces. One was a family area in a great room that was both intimate and allowed for entertaining guests. The other was a family node or quiet area, separate from the communal gathering spaces. Lastly, there’s a kids’ zone on the basement floor with overnight accommodation and a games room. A U-shaped plan with a central outdoor room that could be used in all seasons allowed for the separation we wanted.”

It helps that Abbott, a skier himself, who has designed over 15 homes in the Creemore, Collingwood, Thornbury triangle, is intimately familiar with the lifestyle requirements of busy ski families. *Continued on page 43*



LEFT: The great room is designed for easy living. The custom dining table is set for an evening of fine food and friends.

BELOW: Family and friends gather in front of the wood-burning fireplace. The homeowners have filled their home with art from Black Dog Gallery, Level Gallery, Loft Gallery, Sue Tupy, Sheila Fox and Jenn Wilkins.

RIGHT: Large identical windows were installed at the front and back of the home. The views from inside are incredible, especially during ski season.

The homeowner agrees with Abbott's assessment. "We interviewed quite a few designer/builders to arrive at people we knew we could work with and who could complete the project on time. We also had a concrete vision of what we wanted. We knew we wanted an outdoor room and sleeping accommodation away from the communal areas."

The result is an excellent mix of the traditional and the modern—traditional textures and materials in a clean, uncluttered setting. In the words of the homeowner, "I'm all about symmetry and balance." This stylistic poise is apparent as you enter the home under a sloped metal canopy braced by twin, hand-adzed beams that jut forward, welcoming visitors home.

The roomy entranceway with its natural flagstone flooring and intriguing bench from **Terase Art and Home** opens on to all the large areas of the ground floor. The heated flooring flows nicely into the reclaimed hemlock plank floors of varied widths in the rest of the home. To the right is the vast open kitchen, dining and gathering spaces of the great room with a cathedral ceiling of rustic pine beams that soar over 40 feet high. Mammoth, twin windows (**Loewen**) on each end of the great room allow for plenty of natural light. One window affords a panoramic view of the ski hills in the distance. The massive, Rumford-style fireplace finished in grey stone and a barn-beam mantel anchors this large space. **Rob Hobson of Hobson Masonry** did all the stonework. *Continued on page 46*





LEFT: The four-season room was built between the great room and the living room. It too has a wood-burning fireplace and comfortable furnishings.

Art is an integral part of the décor. In the four-season room, the homeowners selected this birch-branch piece by Ian McLeod, purchased at Parrots 'N Parsnips.



The living room has a gas fireplace and a neutral décor with hints of red, the accent colour carried throughout the home. Innovative architectural details are evident in this room, from top to bottom.

BELOW: A bench from Terase Art and Home graces the front entrance. A photograph of the Collingwood harbour, taken by the homeowner, greets everyone at the door.



In the homeowner's words, "This room is perfect! We wanted lots of space because we like to entertain when we're in the area."

The fabulous kitchen is positioned in the front of the home. There are no upper cabinets obstructing the view, all storage is located on either side of the room or below. The well-crafted, face-frame cabinetry, by **Bernard Rioux**, in a pleasing neutral hue, is complemented by modern oil-rubbed bronze hardware. The built-in Sub-Zero fridge, with its bottom rollout freezer and the wine cooler, are seamlessly integrated into the cabinetry.

Likewise, the stainless steel Wolf gas range, topped by a rustic wood and metal hood, fits nicely with the space's comfortable contemporary décor. All the kitchen appliances were purchased at **Foley's Furniture**. The long, rectangular island, topped with a solid slab of wheat-coloured, antique marble, works as both a serving table for large gatherings and a breakfast bar for family and guests.

The great room includes a large wooden dining table for eight, built by **John Poole**, with smart chocolate brown leather Parsons chairs and iron candelabra with crisp parchment shades above. Next to the dining area a cluster of leather club chairs surround the central hearth. A Turkish carpet in tones of red, black and beige grounds the area. Red is the accent colour used throughout the entire home. *Continued on page 48*

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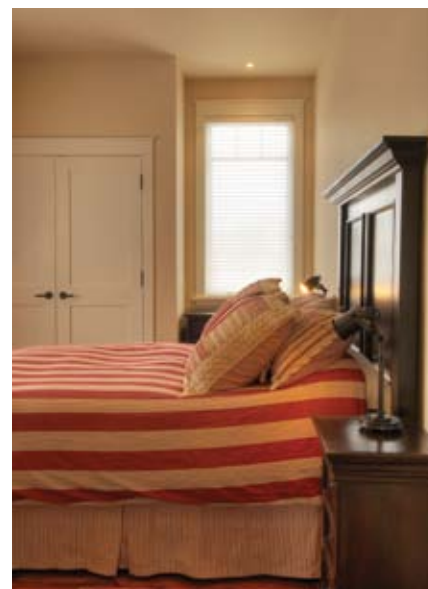


A guest bedroom on the lower level. All the sleeping quarters, upstairs and downstairs, are located in a separate wing of the home.

TOP RIGHT: The whole family skis. The youngest son races to win.

MIDDLE RIGHT: The two boys have identical rooms upstairs, each with custom furniture and a separate bathroom.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The landing upstairs separates the master ensuite and the boys' rooms.



Rooms upstairs and down celebrate the colour, which unifies the home as a whole – the rich dark wood of the furniture and the deep reds found in carpets, wall art and accent pieces. These hues are set against a background of neutral walls and the organic hues of the flooring, trim and ceiling beams.

The central space on the ground floor accentuates the home's focus on enjoying the outdoors. This "outdoor room" with a superb view of the Craighleith Ski Club is situated between the great room and the living room. It is furnished with casual outdoor furniture and is heated by a Rumford-style fireplace. Four huge iron lanterns from **Three Herons** light the room. This space opens on to an outdoor entertaining area complete with grill, hot tub and fire pit. What better way to enjoy the great outdoors any season of the year! The homeowners love their outdoor living space by **Clarke's Landscaping**.

The adjacent living room, furnished in comfortable, upholstered furniture lends itself to more intimate gatherings. It, too, has a generous gas fireplace with a limestone mantel to keep skiers warm after an exhilarating day on the slopes. *Continued on page 50*



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feature

The master ensuite has a large free-standing vessel tub and built-in seating with storage by the window. The custom-cabinetry adds warmth to the enticing room.

BELOW: The homeowners wake up to a view of the snow-covered slope.



Across the hall, the roomy mudroom accommodates winter gear and apparel. It opens to the outside onto the development's trail system, within walking distance to the Craighleith Ski Club, as well as to a heated double garage.

A natural wood staircase with its custom wrought-iron railing opens on to the two large, upper-floor bedrooms with their dark wood furniture. "Each bedroom is the same size and has its own bathroom to avoid any disputes," smiles the homeowner.

The master bedroom, at the other end of the hall, provides a spectacular, unobstructed view of the ski slopes. Here, unique window treatments of top-down/bottom-up blinds, by **Salnek**, provide privacy while the ensuite bath, in sand-coloured marble, has his-and-her sinks in a roomy vanity that makes it easy to prepare for a day of skiing.

Guests haven't been left out of the picture in this active household of avid skiers and golfers. The large guest bedroom and overnight "bunkie" for younger guests on the lower floor with its airy 10-foot high ceilings are only steps away from the generous four-piece bathroom. On the same floor is a large laundry room and a spacious recreation room offering a widescreen TV with surround sound, a comfortable chocolate-coloured sectional and a ping pong table. **Georgian Audio** provided the home's security system and the audio/visual Control 4 network.

Outside and in, this active family's country home with its sleek modern lines and traditional accents is a tribute to the owner's original vision. "We wanted a comfortable home that was warm and inviting."

This home achieves that and much more: It captures functionality and fun in perfect, artful balance. **OH**



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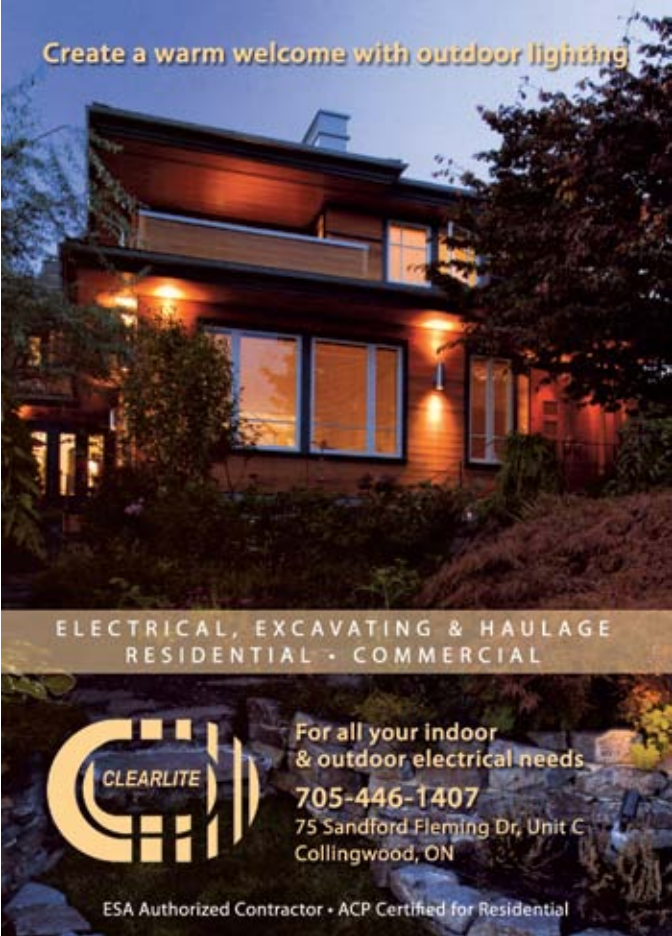
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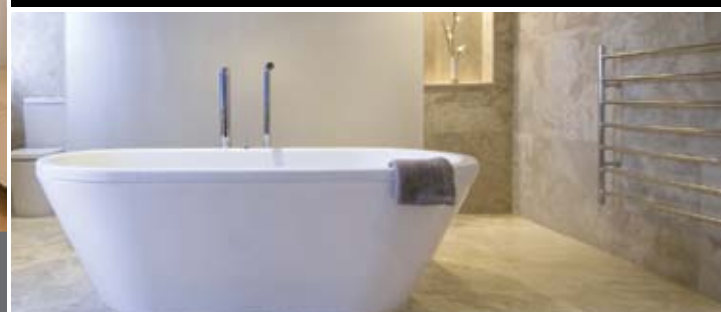


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Quebec, is one of several efforts being mounted under the new Municipal
Hazardous or Special Waste program.

RONA will take the paint it collects and ship
it to a Quebec-based company where it
will be "reconditioned" and sold under the
brand name Boomerang in RONA stores.
Leftover latex and alkylid paint, stain and
varnish are all accepted.

"Boomerang will be on shelves as soon as we
have sufficient quantity," said Michael Rushton,
RONA'S vice-president of big-box stores in
Ontario. "This is all part of our new initiative to
be more sustainable and eco-friendly."



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BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

THE PLACE: In a stately red brick Victorian house, steps away from the main street in Thornbury is a unique shop with the intriguing name of Pamper & Soothe. Owner Renée Desrochers selected the perfect name for her store. "Our personal product lines are meant to pamper the body and our furniture and giftware soothe the soul," she says. "When people drop in, the unique items we carry sing to their hearts." Desrochers is the engaging, knowledgeable chatelaine of a shop that carries several exclusive lines of European couture. *Continued on page 56*



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THE STYLE: Pamper & Soothe's eclectic, one-of-a-kind product lines appeal to discerning, well-travelled customers with a taste for quality items from top manufacturers in Europe and North America. Desrochers began her apprenticeship working with her mother in a similar shop in Port Perry. Five years ago she opened the shop in Thornbury because of the area's four-season reputation. "My mother and I were looking for an upscale version of a body shop that would be a unique experience for customers and provide products they could not find elsewhere." The store offers an array of items that combine Old World charm with Parisian elegance.

WHAT'S HOT: Right now, Lampe Berger – the oil-burning lamp developed by a French chemist in the late 1800s to purify indoor air, and still used today in the hospitals of Europe – is very popular. Other brands that appeal to the store's clientele include boudoir items by Caswell-Massey – the oldest apothecary firm in America

– unique lamps and chandeliers in renowned Italian Murano glass, Lady Primrose toiletries and Fragonard fragrances.

SEASONAL: In the cold of ski season Desrochers invites you to cuddle up in a pure lambs' wool throw. She recommends fighting winter dryness with any one of a variety of body butters or bath balms. Relax with a cup of one of her Tea Posey flowering teas.

FAVOURITES: The boutique presents a variety of décor and personal items, which appeal to the discriminating shopper, from Rubinato pen sets and Florentine writing papers to reproduction Galle lamps and Aubusson rugs and pillows. The shop has achieved the potential that Desrochers imagined. "My dream was to one day have a shop modeled after the Ralph Lauren mansion in New York City...I'm glad to have an outlet where I can express my creative freedom and incorporate my love of travel and shopping."

WHERE: 13 Louisa St. E. Thornbury
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Mountain views! Raised bungalow on private treed acre. 5 Bdrms, 2 baths, finished bsmt, main flr laundry, c/vac, deck, above ground pool. **MLS®20095456 New Price \$364,900.** Call Cindy Ryerse direct 705-446-7254



Chateau Ridge ski-in/ski-out slope-side condo. 2 Bdrm, 2 bath, furnished & equipped for personal &/or rental use. Short walk or ski to the Village at Blue. **MLS®20095597 \$289,000.** Call Ian Hawkins direct 705-446-5136



Walk to Downtown from this extensively renovated 3 Bdrm, 2-1/2 bath home. Gourmet kitchen, recycled refinished hrdwd flrs, main flr master, finished bsmt. **MLS®20095278 \$499,000.** Call Ian Hawkins direct 705-446-5136



WEST OF CREEMORE! Your own 50 acres known locally as the Garden of Eden! The Noisy River flows through this magnificent piece of property. The custom built home offers over 5000 sq ft of living space with 8 bedrooms and 9 baths! Bonus workshop studio plus a large barn! Located just minutes to Bruce Trail and Provincial Parklands! **Offered for \$1.2 million.** Call Vicki Bell direct at 705-446-4539



SOUTH OF CREEMORE! Nestled in the hills of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve! This 100 acre property offers privacy along with unobstructed panoramic views for miles! The home features 4 bedrooms and with 3000 square feet of living space there is plenty of room for entertaining! Bonus insulated and heated studio/workshop PLUS awesome 6 stall horse barn! **Offered for \$956,000.** Call Vicki Bell direct at 705-446-4539



PRICED TO SELL! Georgian Meadows 3 Bdrm, 2-1/2 bath home. 1547 sq. ft., shared luxury ensuite, 2nd flr laundry, c/air, finished basement, fenced yard. **MLS®20095204 \$249,900.** Call Ian Hawkins direct 705-446-5136



Georgian Meadows beautifully upgraded 4 bdrm home. Large living area, gas f/place, main flr laundry, master bdrm w/luxury ensuite. Finished bsmt. Landscaped, fenced yard. **MLS®20094099 \$419,000.** Call Jim Hanna direct 705-441-5272



Beautiful oversize residential building lot in Village of Singhampton. Very affordable w/generous setbacks to spare, even for a bungalow design. Backs close to upper Mad River region. **Only \$59,000.** Call Jim Hanna direct 705-441-5272



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Beautiful move-in 3 BDR condo. Master ensuite w/jet tub. Lots of updates! End unit, west-facing back yard w/deck. **ABSOLUTE MUST SEE!!! \$159,900.** www.realestatewiz.ca, Neil Thain 705-812-0627



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\$259,000 MOUNTAIN BAY CONDOS Have a million dollar wide water view for about 1/4 of the price. Year round playground, on-site pool and tennis, close to Northwinds Beach, only 2 kms to skiing. This rustic home has 3 bdrms, 3 bthrms, brick fireplace, cedar paneling, spacious master with large dressing room and 4-piece ensuite. Coral Robinson direct 705-446-4748 or coral@royalpage.ca



BEST VALUE IN CREEKSIDE Popular Hampton model with over 1700 sq ft, 3 bdrms, 3 baths. Numerous upgrades. **Asking \$285,000.** Vel Ivardi allreal@bmts.com

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people

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◀ Skot Lawrence

COMPANY: Desiron

SPECIALTY: Large scale indoor iron and wood furniture

FAVOURITE TOOL: My brand new Lincoln Mig Welder, it's awesome
LUNCH TODAY: Pando crusted schnitzel (deep fried, then barbecued), on a toasted ciabatta

HOBBY: Cooking and golfing

BEST WAY TO START THE WORK DAY: A lot of my designs come to me first thing in the morning while lying in my bed.

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY: The endless supply of large beautiful homes to fill with hand crafted furniture.

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO AT WORK: Everything from Strauss to Seethe.

It really depends on what I'm creating that day. The music has to fit the mood.

DINNER TONIGHT: Slow roasted salmon with Nicoise salsa

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER WORK: Tomahawk Golf Course then cook something.

CURRENT HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Make myself a new bed. Mine just sold.

Continued on page 62



◀ Dennis Shuttleworth

COMPANY: Shuttleworth Contracting
SPECIALTY: Custom home plumbing (does plumbing for Bob Armstrong Construction)
FAVOURITE TOOL: Leatherman
LUNCH TODAY: Chili from Tim Hortons
HOBBY: Scuba diving
BEST WAY TO START THE DAY: Steel cut oatmeal and green tea
BEST THING ABOUT WORKING IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY: The opportunity to interact with the homeowner and help them achieve what they want.
MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO AT WORK: Blue Rodeo
DINNER TONIGHT: Something with chicken
BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER WORK: Play my guitar
CURRENT HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: New hardwood flooring in the living room



Robert Cipollone ▶

COMPANY: L. Patten and Sons
SPECIALTY: Trim and hardwood flooring.
FAVOURITE TOOL: Miter Saw
LUNCH TODAY: Tuna burgers and rice.
HOBBY: Working out
BEST WAY TO START THE WORK DAY: Eat breakfast
BEST THING ABOUT WORKING IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY: The homeowners I meet.
MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO AT WORK: Rock 95
DINNER TONIGHT: Whatever my wife is making.
BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER WORK: After dinner I like to work out.
CURRENT HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Our master bath Jacuzzi

Continued on page 64

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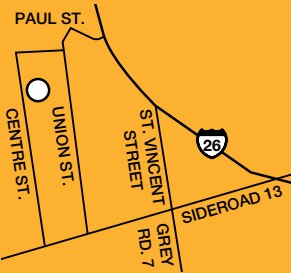


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people

Adrian ▸ Vanderhulst

(with Mark Oostdam, right)

COMPANY:

Vanderhulst Woodworking
SPECIALTY: Wood and steel combinations - reclaimed trusses, railings and furniture

FAVOURITE TOOL:

A sharp hand plane

LUNCH TODAY:

Olives,

herring and cheese

HOBBY:

Playing with my

team of Belgian horses

BEST WAY TO START

THE WORK DAY:

Go over the seven Ps.

BEST THING ABOUT

WORKING IN SOUTHERN

GEORGIAN BAY: It's

beautiful here, it's like

working in God's country.

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO

AT WORK: AM 740

DINNER TONIGHT:

Homegrown roast beef,

potatoes and veggies

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER

WORK: Doing barn chores,

then a glass of red wine

CURRENT HOME

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

A new staircase



◀ Will Chalmers

COMPANY:

Clarksburg Contractors

SPECIALTY: Heating, cooling, plumbing and electrical

FAVOURITE TOOL: Computer

LUNCH TODAY: Sandwich

HOBBY: Musician

BEST WAY TO START

THE WORK DAY: Coffee

BEST THING ABOUT

WORKING IN SOUTHERN

GEORGIAN BAY: The Lifestyle

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO

AT WORK: All types

DINNER TONIGHT: Not sure yet.

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER

WORK: Surfing the Internet.

CURRENT HOME

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

I don't have one.

Continued on page 66



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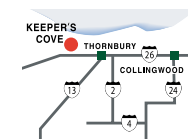
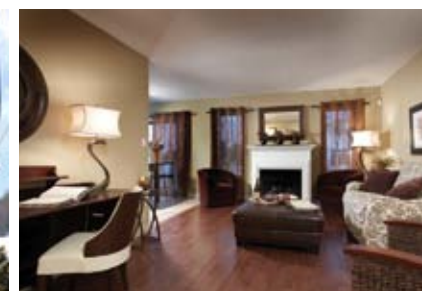
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people

Lloyd Girdler ►

COMPANY: A.M. Contracting, Mark Brown

SPECIALTY: Steel and wood siding

FAVOURITE TOOL: Compound Miter Saw

LUNCH TODAY: Sandwich, fruit (banana) and a cold drink

HOBBY: ATVing

BEST WAY TO START THE

WORK DAY: With a large coffee

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING

IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY:

Great trades, people, the scenery and it's close to home.

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO AT WORK:

Rock 95 and the BULL

DINNER TONIGHT: Roast beef

with scalloped potatoes

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER WORK:

After supper a cold beer and a movie

CURRENT HOME IMPROVEMENT

PROJECT: Cleaning out my garage



◄ Will Smith

COMPANY: Will Tile - Georgian Design Centre

SPECIALTY: Ceramic tile, glass, slate, limestone, marble

FAVOURITE TOOL: Wet saw

LUNCH TODAY: Sandwiches

HOBBY: Woodworking. Making solid oak furniture and playing pinball

BEST WAY TO START THE WORK DAY:

Extra-large double double

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING IN

SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY: Close to home

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO AT WORK:

Cool 107.5

DINNER TONIGHT: Shepherd's pie and fresh bread

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER WORK:

Woodworking and playing pinball in my arcade

CURRENT HOME IMPROVEMENT

PROJECT: Completely renovating a motor

home and building an entertainment unit

for the living room

Continued on page 68



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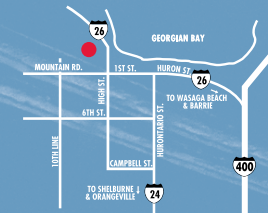
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◀ Judy Martin

COMPANY: "Just Ask Judy" Painting

SPECIALTY: Interior painting

FAVOURITE TOOL: Signature

2 1/2 inch paintbrush

LUNCH TODAY: Peanut butter

and honey whole wheat wraps

HOBBY: Riding my motorcycle in the summer

– snowboarding in the winter

BEST WAY TO START THE WORK DAY:

Enjoying the quiet of early morning with

a cup of coffee

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING

IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY: There are so

many amazing styles of homes with homeowners

as unique as the colours they choose.

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO AT WORK:

I love satellite radio

DINNER TONIGHT: Beef stew in the crock-pot;

I'll serve it with garlic bread.

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER WORK: A snack

of crackers and fruit and chai tea with a little TV time

CURRENT HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Helping my daughter renovate her kitchen

and bathroom



Duwhayne Dargie ▶

COMPANY: Legendary Logcrafters Ltd.

SPECIALTY: Handcrafting the

Scandinavian Full Scribe log homes

FAVOURITE TOOL: Chainsaw – I use it to shape logs

LUNCH TODAY: Today I'm having Pasta Aioli with

yogurt for dessert

HOBBY: I collect vintage tools.

BEST WAY TO START THE WORK DAY: The best

way to start my workday is with a coffee.

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING IN SOUTHERN

GEORGIAN BAY: The breathtaking views

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO AT WORK:

I listen too 104.1 the Dock

DINNER TONIGHT: Meat pie, mashed potatoes

with gravy and yellow beans

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER WORK: I like to enjoy a

hot home-cooked meal, a cold beverage and watch some TV.

CURRENT HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: I'm

working on organizing my workshop.

Continued on page 70

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people

Robert Abbott ►

COMPANY: Village Builders Inc.

SPECIALTY: Problem solving

FAVOURITE TOOL: Anything made by Hilti

LUNCH TODAY: Subway

HOBBY: Skiing

BEST WAY TO START THE

WORK DAY: With three coffees

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING

IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY:

The lack of traffic.

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO

AT WORK: Anything

DINNER TONIGHT: Pork

tenderloin

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER

WORK: Red wine

CURRENT HOME

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Bathroom reno



◄ Craig Stewart

COMPANY: Clearlite Electric

SPECIALTY: Services

FAVOURITE TOOL: Cordless Hilti drill

LUNCH TODAY: Leftovers

HOBBY: Fishing, golf and playing with my wife and kids, Lacey, Will and Harmony

BEST WAY TO START THE DAY:

Extra-large double double

BEST THING ABOUT WORKING IN

SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY: The people

MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO AT WORK:

102.1 The Edge

DINNER TONIGHT: Pork chops

BEST WAY TO RELAX AFTER WORK: Cold beer

CURRENT HOME IMPROVEMENT

PROJECT: Bathroom OH



NEXT ISSUE... YOU!

In our next issue's People section, we'll be featuring you and your home!

Send us an email and tell us what you have done to make your home a more comfortable place to live. We'll feature the top eight home ideas...remember: It doesn't have to be big to be beautiful.

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BY SHELBY HILSON // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

The time to buy a new home is now. OUR HOMES takes you on an incredible tour of three beautiful model homes and one spectacular country estate.

COUNTRY LUXURY

Heaven on earth by many standards, this country estate, surrounded by breathtaking views in every direction is located just 15 minutes from Thornbury and is up for sale.

Bill Brennan's beautiful home sits on 50 acres of pure natural beauty and has come to be known as the **Epping Falls Farm**. The name couldn't be more fitting as Epping Creek wanders through the property, creating a private waterfall amongst the many trails. It's perfect for exploring the land by foot, bike, snowshoes or skis.

If the sweeping views of the Beaver Valley and private trails aren't enough, the property is also located right across from the Epping lookout and abuts the Bruce Trail, which offers endless miles of scenic discovery.

Along with the 16 acres of recreational land are 34 acres of certified organic farmland divided between three separate fields. Brennan currently leases the farmland to a local farmer who plants something new each year, with the latest crops being organic hay and spelt, which is a more soluble species of wheat.

The home, located on the magnificent property's rolling hills, has an easy-living contemporary interior.

Brennan's entire home is furnished with pieces from his very own home décor store, **Terase Art and Home** in Thornbury. All of the art is from the Black Dog Gallery, which is located on the third floor of Terase and was suitably named after his Portuguese water dog Lola.

The large three-or-four bedroom home, completely renovated by **Terase Contracting and Development** in 2003, features a high quality wood siding exterior resembling a modern mountain home and three levels of uniquely designed living space.

The main floor is filled with tons of natural light entering through many windows and skylights built into a soaring 20-foot vaulted ceiling. The floors are made of an eye-catching walnut-stained, German-steamed beech that adds a great deal of warmth to the cosy living room, expansive dining room and lovely galley kitchen.

There are deep-set, wood-burning fireplaces in both the living room and master bedroom, but they aren't necessary to heat the home. Brennan installed a GeoThermal furnace and air conditioner that also heats two hot water tanks and keeps utility costs to a minimum.

The upper level has well positioned openings that look over many areas of the main floor and the master bedroom has an incredible view looking down the long country driveway to the street that is often referred to as The Millionaire Mile. It also features a great ensuite with double-headed stand-up shower and a Jacuzzi tub.

Other home features include: a large dressing room with Murphy bed, two lovely guest rooms, an open lower level with family room and wine cellar, and of course, an extra-large, in-ground gunite pool, complete with a pool house attached to a separate three-car garage, that can also serve as a workshop or coach house.

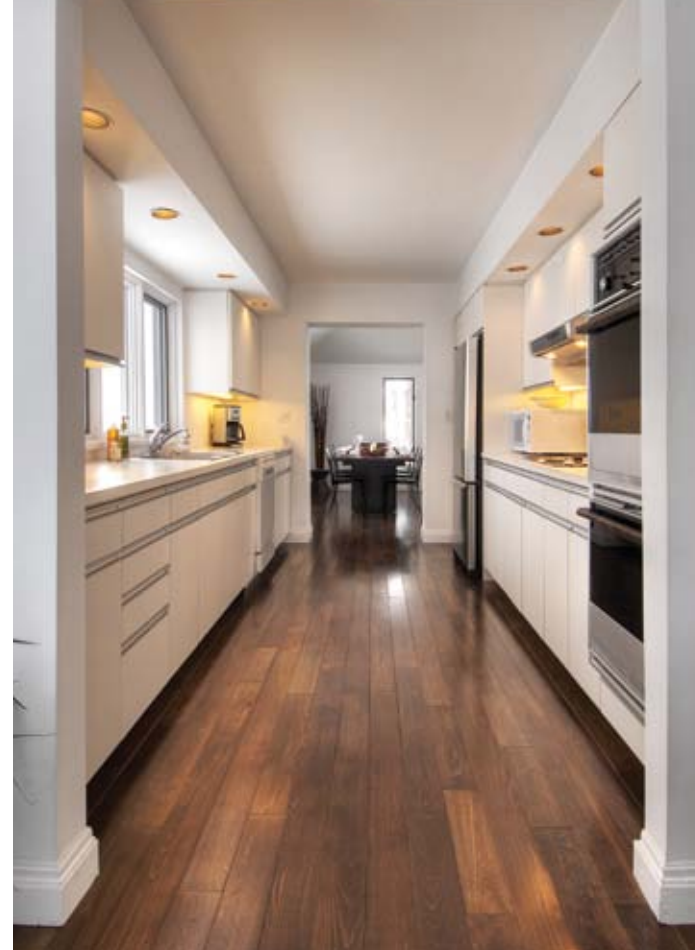
So much more could be said about this one-of-a-kind property, but seeing is believing. **OH**

Bill Brennan has decided to sell his estate.

Contact: Al Shreeve, Darbyshire Real Estate 519.599.2131, or

Josie Schywiola, Century 21 Offord Realty Ltd., 705.445.5640

Continued on page 76



FROM LEFT: The modern kitchen connects the west and east ends of the home. Lola grabs a quick nap in the comfortable living room. The master bedroom features a wood-burning fireplace. Sweeping views are seen from the ensuite tub.

The home, located on the magnificent property's rolling hills, has an easy-living contemporary interior.



EXTRA EXTRA!

Grandview Homes always finds a way to give you that little extra something that makes a big difference to a homeowner. Mountaincrocft, their newest home development in the area, is certainly no exception.

Located in a desirable area, surrounded by natural beauty on Poplar Sideroad at High Street, **Mountaincrocft** is attracting families of all sizes; from couples who just want a second home to stay in while skiing in winter to young professionals with small children.

The development's proximity to the mountain and outdoor recreation, while still being so close to town and schools is luring many. There are an incredible number of home styles and sizes to choose from.

Mountaincrocft offers more than 20 designs ranging from 1,270 sq. ft. to 3,650 sq. ft. and from \$224,900 to \$437,900, making it possible for even first-time homebuyers to live in a gorgeous home and community.

Grandview's generous bonus packages make this price range even more attractive. Packages often include free upgrades like hardwood flooring and nine-foot ceilings on the main floor, an oak staircase with custom stain and thousands of dollars in free kitchen upgrades.

Your chalet style home can be built with all brick, maintenance-free Maibec wood siding or a combination of both. Each home features rounded drywall corners, upgraded baseboards and California ceilings

for a cleaner look. Like this designer-decorated model home, every design boasts high-end finishes, which can all be chosen from the home's full design centre located in the expansive, finished basement.

The designer decorated model home features gas fireplaces to warm both the family room and the master bedroom, which features double door entry, a large ensuite and sprawling walk-in closet. Grandview has also built this five bedroom model into a three bedroom by creating a relaxing retreat room off the master and having vaulted ceilings above the living room rather than a bedroom, allowing for more natural light and open space.

The second of six phases in Mountaincrocft has just been released with approximately 65 per cent of the first phase sold. With lots still available that back onto a large pond at the back of the development and others available overlooking a future park, now is a great time to invest in this growing community surrounded by trails and all the beauty Collingwood has to offer. **OH**

Contact Deborah LaLande

705.444.0333, grandview-mountaincrocft@live.ca

Continued on page 78





real estate

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MOUNTAIN VIEWS

Falcon Chase – The Estate Homes of Mair Mills offers the best of Collingwood living: situated perfectly between the town, the mountain, the bay and adjacent to an 18-hole golf course.

A new model home has just been opened at 12 Frances Dr. – just south of Mountain Road – that beautifully illustrates the quality of craftsmanship that Carandale Homes offers.

This home is set on a large lot, which is what makes this particular development unique – the standard lot size at Falcon Chase is 70 feet, compared to half that at most other new communities. This gives the neighbourhood a more balanced look with more space between homes and larger backyards to enjoy through all seasons.

That's a backyard that could back onto the ninth hole at the Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club or out to the mountain where skiing is just five minutes away.

Approximately half of the 73, fully-serviced lots at Falcon Chase are left to choose from with some as wide as 80 feet and as deep as 240 feet. There are 28 incredible, ENERGY STAR-approved home designs that range from 1,550 to 3,400 sq. ft. to suit every family size.

Each design boasts a two-car garage with direct entry to a main floor laundry room, a gas fireplace, soaring nine-foot ceilings on the main floor, full basement and the choice of clay brick, wood siding, and architectural stone for the exterior. *Continued on page 80*



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real estate

Many of the kitchens feature gorgeous islands that help shape an open concept living design and extended height kitchen cabinets for extra storage space. An abundance of natural light fills the homes through numerous high-quality, energy efficient windows that stretch toward cathedral ceilings as tall as 20 feet.

In the model home, a cosy loft area – which would serve wonderfully as a media room – overlooks the expansive living room and kitchen with a phenomenal view of the mountain through the windows surrounding the fireplace. There are also two large-sized bedrooms on the upper level in addition to the two main floor bedrooms, including a huge master with stunning ensuite and roomy walk-in closets. The model is beautifully decorated and features photography by **Andrea Hamlin** of **Sportography**.

You choose all your finishes from flooring and countertops to faucets and staircases right inside the model home's very own design centre.

With a park and tennis courts on site with hiking, biking, snowshoeing and snowmobile trails all within walking distance on the Collingwood Trails Network, the Falcon Chase community has something to offer every age and lifestyle. **OH**

Contact Faith Tomney or Elaine Heasman

705.445.8298, faith@carandalehomes.com, Elaine@carandalehomes.com

Continued on page 82



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BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS

It's a wonderful time to buy at **Pretty River Estates** Collingwood because you can have just about any lot you like. Located in a very picturesque neighbourhood on Poplar Sideroad, **Delpark Homes** has designed a unique community development set to start building this March.

This development is very well suited to those looking to downsize or retire in an active four-season community. More than 70 per cent of the models are bungalows with optional lofts and the "bungalofts" are already a big hit. If you decide you don't need a loft, your home will still have a nice high pitched roof and be filled with natural light.

The design of Pretty River Estates was inspired by the Village at Blue Mountain with a meandering creek running behind the community, and many lots backing onto the Collingwood Trail System, where residents can freely go walking, hiking or cross country skiing. Sitting just on the edge of town, this development combines the benefits of town and country life together in a very attractive package. Currently, you can visit three model homes to compare styles and finishes to see what works best for you. Some standard features offered include: kitchen islands, two-car garages, coloured vinyl casement windows, five-and-a-quarter-inch baseboards, smooth California ceilings, rounded bevelled corners and nine-foot ceilings on the main floor. The builder is also offering \$15,000 in free upgrades to be selected in the on-site Design Centre for the first 20 buyers, along with complementary Rogers Internet and cable for one year. Purchasers can also enjoy a \$2,500 gift voucher from **Foley's Furniture** for a new Plasma TV, bedroom set or whatever is needed to complement your new home. *Continued on page 84*



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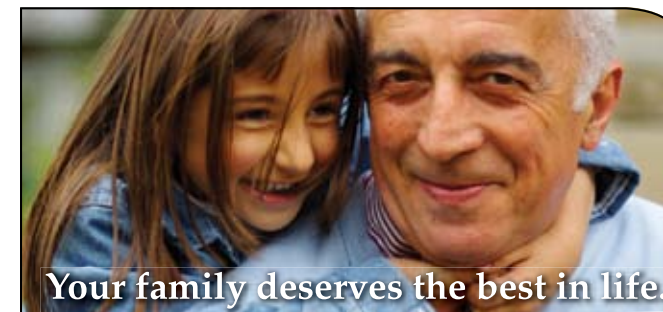


With over 30 designs and elevations to choose from, you need not worry about your home looking exactly like your neighbour's. At Pretty River you can choose from three high quality building materials or combine them for a more unique appearance. Every home is detached with the exception of two semi models offered that will line the lots along Poplar and sport a one-and-a-half car garage.

The models range from 1,292 to 3,011 sq. ft and sit on 30, 45 and 50-foot lots starting from \$297,990. The site is prepped for 260 homes to be built over the course of two phases with the second phase scheduled for 2012.

Within close walking distance to the downtown core and both an elementary school and high school, Pretty River is a great location for families, retirees and weekenders to build a home and enjoy the great outdoors. **OH**

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...WHAT IS ART?...CONTINUED

There are several ways you could go on this, but my suspicion is that one will get you better results than the others.

I could tell you that ART plays a large part in making our lives infinitely rich. Imagine, just for a minute, a world without ART! (You may think "So what?", but please consider the impact that lack of graphics would have on your favorite video game.) ART stimulates different parts of our brains to make us laugh or incite us to riot, with a whole gamut of emotions in between. ART gives us a way to be creative and express ourselves. For some people, ART is the entire reason they get out of bed in the morning.

You could say "ART is something that makes us more thoughtful and well-rounded humans."

On the other hand, ART is such a large part of our everyday lives, we hardly even stop to think about it. Look at the desk or table where you are, right this minute. Someone designed that. It is ART. Your shoes are ART. Your coffee cup is ART. All functional design, well done, is ART. So, you could say "ART is something that is both functional and (hopefully) aesthetically pleasing to our eyes."

You might say "ART is in a constant state of change, so nobody can really pin down what it is." The constant change part is true, but the not pinning it down part is going to get you. It may even raise a comment or two about your being some sort of wisenheimer. Don't go this route.

You might even say "ART is subjective, and means something different to every single person on earth." This, too, is the truth. I would caution against this approach, however, as it would require a stack of paper from here to the moon to cite all of your 6.3 billion references.

Now, everything just stated has elements of truth, but is largely based on opinion. My opinion is, frankly, useless. Form your own opinions and be sure to sprinkle them in your answer...which needs a factual basis...to be continued in the next issue...References - many!

Gallery de Boer - Fine Art & Jazz has over 4000 square feet of gallery space and has just opened an additional 1500 sq. ft. street front gallery called Gallery de Boer - Fine Art The Annex. We offer an array of services, which include: fine art restoration, custom framing, collection management, art leasing and evaluations. Private viewings are available upon request and there are great incentives for designers.

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GEORGIAN TRIANGLE REAL ESTATE BOARD

The Georgian Triangle Real Estate Board (GTREB) is pleased to announce the release of their newly enhanced website. The new and improved www.GTREB.com was designed by GTREB's MLS® & Information Systems Committee and local company, Running Tide.

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Paul Ygartua - acrylic on canvas -
checkmate #1 - 48x48

Continued on page 90

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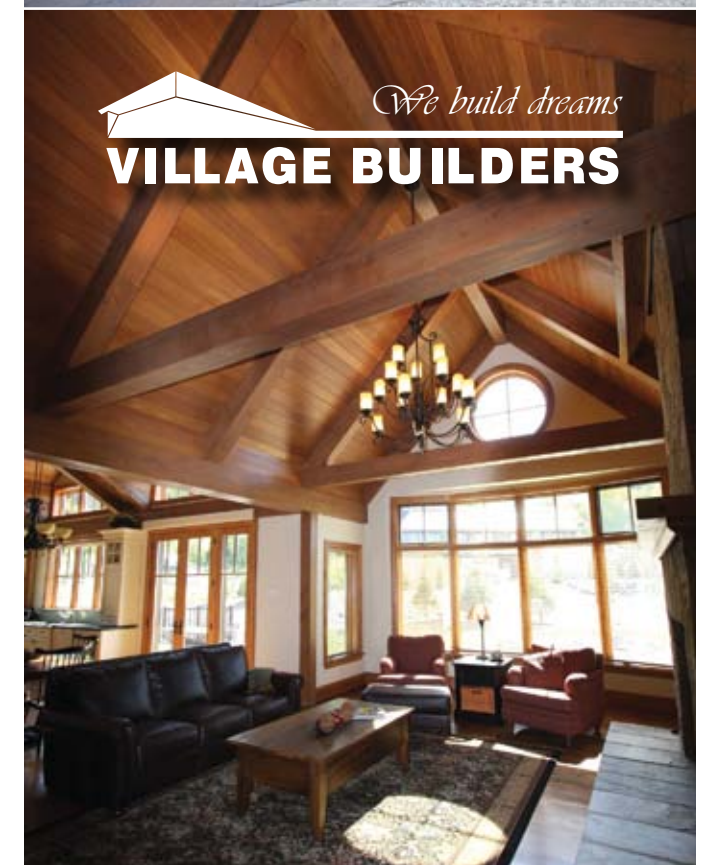
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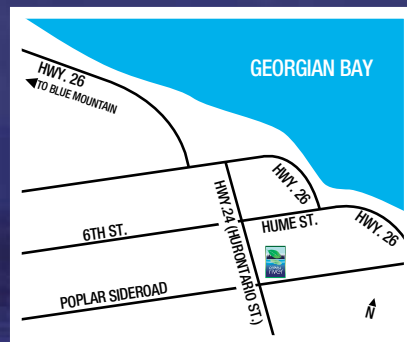
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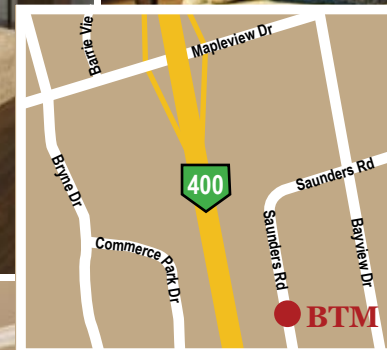


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ALPINE HAVEN



Not everyone who ventures north on winter weekends to enjoy the Collingwood area is an avid skier. In fact, some outdoor enthusiasts don't take up the sliding sport until their early 40s – like Steve and Gerry Ferguson of Port Credit. They enjoyed the Georgian Bay lifestyle for 20 years before they even considered strapping on the boards. *Continued on page 96*



The exterior of the home built by Village Builders and the majestic backyard waterfall by The Landmark Group make living in the shadow of Blue Mountain a dream come true.

INSET: The stone fireplace and soaring pine ceiling are the focal point in the ultra-comfortable, main living area of Steve and Gerry Ferguson's mountain retreat.



LEFT: The sideboard between the living room and kitchen is all dressed up and ready for family and friends to enjoy a mid-day Mimosa.

ABOVE: Steve and Gerry Ferguson relax by the fire.

RIGHT: The view into the kitchen from the living room shows off the soaring 22-foot-high pine ceiling and the glorious bank of windows that let the sun shine in.

Now, the couple and their three children enjoy skiing in and out of their spectacular new home at the base of Alpine Ski Club. “We love it here. We can’t wait to get up on weekends,” says Gerry. “Steve and I didn’t ski. We had no intention of coming here, but then the kids got older and wanted to try a few winter sports. Now we belong to a ski club. The girls snowboard. Jeffrey skis. And I take lessons every year because it’s a great way to meet people.”

The Fergusons moved into their 3,500 sq. ft., six-bedroom weekend retreat in August, 2009. Designed by Architect Brian Lee and built by **Doug Abbott** of **Village Builders** in Creemore, Steve and Gerry are delighted with their abode, which features meticulous craftsmanship and attention to detail. Designer Marilyn Lake (Lee’s partner) added several special touches to the décor.

Abbott has been in the building business for 30 years, constructing homes at Blue Mountain, in Thornbury and along the water to Lora Bay. Village Builders specialize in quality custom homes, as well as additions and renovation projects.

Light floods the Ferguson home. “It was all about the view,” says Gerry, “We wanted windows, windows, windows at the back.” A wall of generous windows offers a stunning view of the ski hills. High end, self-cleaning **Kolbe & Kolbe** windows feature LoE (low emissivity) argon gas-filled insulating glass.

The pièce de resistance is a spectacular cathedral ceiling in the living room. “Doug’s guys did an amazing job on the ceiling beams,” explains Gerry. The 22-foot pine ceiling is Abbott’s favourite part of the home. “I like the woodworking in the living room ceiling. I had one of my best guys do it and he did a great job. Because those ceilings all come in at different angles, it takes a very good carpenter to make that all come together. It’s very detailed.”

Reclaimed elm floors add an element of warmth to the spacious main floor. “An antique floor has a patina to the wood that you just can’t replicate,” says Abbott. The main floor is an expansive, open-concept space that includes living and dining areas, media room, master bedroom with ensuite, powder room, sizeable mudroom with a Chinese slate floor, as well as an equally roomy high-end kitchen. *Continued on page 100*





The custom kitchen has a built-in wine cooler, a top loading microwave, iridescent, blue-green granite countertops and an elevated island bar with solid Brazilian Jacoba wood.

home & builder

The focal point of the living area is a 60-inch gas fireplace that throws off amazing heat (**Chantico Fireplace Gallery** in Craighleith). It's also Gerry's special spot. "A woodburning fireplace is nice," says Gerry, "but in the morning when I get up and want a coffee before I go skiing, no one's building me a fire. After skiing, everyone sits on the hearth to warm up."

The master bedroom is conveniently located on the main floor. An ensuite features electric radiant in-floor heat, a shower that converts to a steam room, and a self-drying tub that blows air through the lines until the tub is dry.

A waterfall (**The Landmark Group** in Thornbury), complete with a large stone bridge, cascades down a rock face outside the master bedroom. All summer long, the Fergusons listen to the soothing sounds of running water. "It started out as a window well," says Gerry. "We don't like window wells. Now we've got a firepit and a sitting area with interlocked stone, and it's so beautiful."

Gerry smiles when she talks about her custom-crafted kitchen. She loves her built-in wine cooler, top loading microwave-in-a-drawer, custom lazy Susan, and iridescent, blue-green Labradorite granite countertop. "It's like the mountains; it's perfect up here." Plenty of counters mean lots of working space. An elevated island bar features solid Brazilian Jacoba wood; an understated backsplash showcases soft, mint green glass tiles. *Continued on page 102*



TOP: The spacious master ensuite is designed for two.

The serene master bedroom has an unobstructed view of the ski slopes.

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LEFT: The front entrance of the home is styled for every season.

BELOW: Samantha Ferguson (left) and her friend Maggie relax in the TV room just off the living room.

BOTTOM LEFT: The mud/gear room is a must in any mountain retreat. This one is well used by the Fergusons, who enjoy all that Georgian Bay Living has to offer.



One feature that Gerry is fond of is the instant hot water tap. Tea on demand! The Ferguson home also features a tankless hot water heater. “The newest, latest thing we’re putting in houses is tankless water heaters,” explains Abbott. “They’re very energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Once you turn the tap on, it starts heating the water.”

OUR HOMES visited Doug in his new showroom in Creemore’s original firehall. He’s in the process of renovating the building to showcase his company’s many specialties, and in keeping with the historical significance of the building, is decorating the presentation centre with firefighting memorabilia.

Abbott is making full use of his website so clients and friends can click on current projects and see their homes being built. “We built a house in Creemore for people who live in South Korea and emailed pictures back and forth,” he says. “We’re doing a lot through our website, trying to keep in contact with our clients.”

The Ferguson home features a few neat extras, says Abbott, like a maintenance-free deck from the Trex Accents® line. Made from recycled plastic, it has a wood texture and feel and never needs staining. The home also has a natural gas standby generator if the power goes out – a must for people who need the sump pump to work at all times.

“My favourite part of the house is in the living room looking at the fire,” says Gerry. “I like being by this back window, and in the summertime, I really like sitting by that waterfall. Next year, Steve and I will definitely spend a lot more time here.” **OH**

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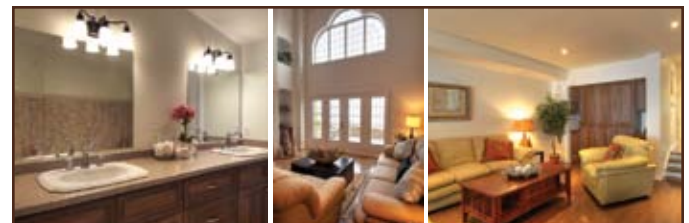
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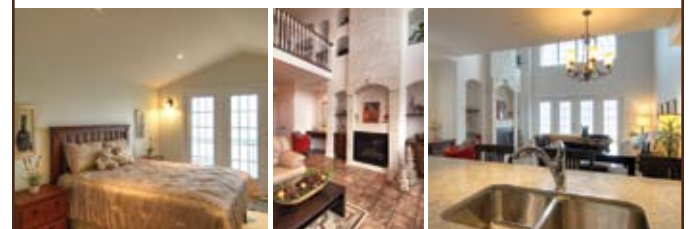
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WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER



WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

Makes 6 servings

3 tbsp vegetable oil

1 1/2 lb boneless skinless chicken thighs or breasts

1 white onion, diced

2 cubanelle peppers, seeded and diced

1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced

4 cloves garlic, minced

1 1/2 tsp each ground cumin and ground coriander

3/4 tsp salt

1/2 tsp oregano

1/2 tsp pepper

2 cans (each 19 oz) white kidney beans

2 cans (each 127 mL) chopped green chilies

4 cups water or chicken broth

3 tbsp flour

2 tbsp lime juice

1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro

When I was younger, après ski meant one thing, chili for dinner. Arriving home exhausted and rosy-cheeked from a day on the slopes we would be greeted with hearty, spicy scents from the simmering pot on the back burner. We stripped off soggy gloves and jackets and gathered around the table in our long undies and ski socks to tuck into bowl after bowl of mom's delicious chili.

Now, après has come to mean more and often includes a drink or two by the fire. But some things never change. Chili is still my favourite winter meal to come home to after a day on the hill. The combination of spice, hearty beans and meat never fails to please a famished crowd. And while the classic red chili is a staple in my home, sometimes it's fun to mix things up. Enter, white chicken chili. Green chilies, white kidney beans, tender chicken and a hint of lime bring a taste of the southwest to the après table.

Happy Trails!

TO PREPARE:

- In large pot, heat 1 tbsp of the oil over medium-high heat. Brown chicken in batches, transfer to plate.
- In same pot, heat remaining oil over medium heat. Sauté onion, cubanelle peppers, jalapeno pepper, garlic, cumin, coriander, salt, oregano and pepper until vegetables are softened and golden, about 10 minutes. Return chicken to pot. Stir in beans, chilies and water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 45 minutes.
- In small bowl, whisk together flour and 3 tbsp water until smooth. Whisk into chili. Boil for two minutes to thicken. Stir in lime juice. Sprinkle with cilantro.



SLOW COOKER VARIATION:

Brown chicken and sauté vegetables as above. Transfer to slow cooker. Stir in beans, chilies and water. Cover and cook on low for about six hours. Whisk flour with water as above. Whisk into chili and cook on high for 20 minutes to thicken. Stir in lime juice. Sprinkle with cilantro. **OH**

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Floral Arrangements

PHOTOS AND STORY BY SAMANTHA MARTIN

Flowers are a powerful bunch. Studies show that keeping fresh-cut flowers in your home boosts happiness and creativity and reduces stress. OUR HOMES shares some tips on creating your own flower arrangements from simple bouquets. *Continued on page 112*



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WHAT YOU NEED:
Interesting vases
A couple of simple bouquets
Sharp trimmers



CHOOSE YOUR MATERIALS

There are bunches of inexpensive options out there at grocery stores and flower shops. Choose shades that complement the season, as you would clothing – lighter, brighter colours for the warm months and deeper, warmer colours for the cold months.



THE RIGHT BLOOMS

Roses last and come in various shades. Daisies are a popular option and are varied in colour and size for optimum arrangement opportunities. Pick a couple of flowers you like and a bunch of something interesting like button mums, purple heather or berries to mix in.

GREENERY IS KEY

Most bouquets come with greenery, but you can also browse the garden or local trail for some snippets. Pick interesting leaves, a scented sprig like lavender or mint or something

with a seasonal flare. Greenery means you don't need as many flowers to fill your vase.

VASE VARIETY

Simple is better. You want the flowers to be the main event, but shape adds to the overall appeal. Everyone has a glass vase in a cupboard somewhere, but bulbous, antique pitchers and smaller, rusted buckets add that sense of whimsy and give the illusion that you simply plucked the blooms from your plentiful garden. Remember to fill it. You don't want the arrangement to look incomplete or sparse.

ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Even if you trim only half a centimetre off the stems, it takes off any dry ends and refreshes the flowers so they can drink freely. Also, remove excess leaves on the flowers (usually around 50 per cent) so they don't overtake the colour and cloud the water.

THE ART OF ARRANGING

Add stems one by one, equally dispersing the different blooms and greenery. Don't over think it. You want it to look effortless. Add extra greenery around the outside to frame the burst of colour.

UPKEEP

Most arrangements will last more than a week. Use the plant food included in your bouquet as it extends the life of your flowers by two to three days. Also, change the water every three days for additional freshness and longevity. **OH**

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