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

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**471 Oxbow**



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**136 Ann Heggveit**



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This is your chance to own a chalet with UNOBSTRUCTED views to the hill. Badlands terrain park and chairlifts at your doorstep.  
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**347 Sunset**



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**106 Happy Valley**



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**76 Hurontario**



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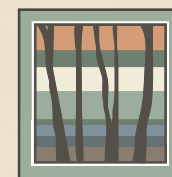
Home Staging



**Kate**

Marketing

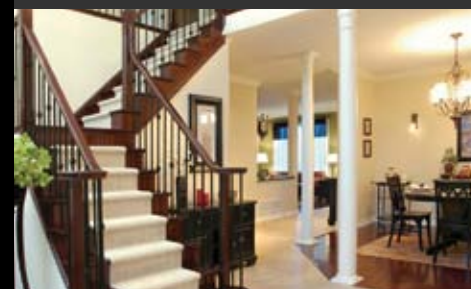
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Announcing the Grand opening of Phase III in the MountainCROFT community with a great selection of 83 crescent lots featuring all fully detached craftsman inspired homes, several backing onto greenspace.

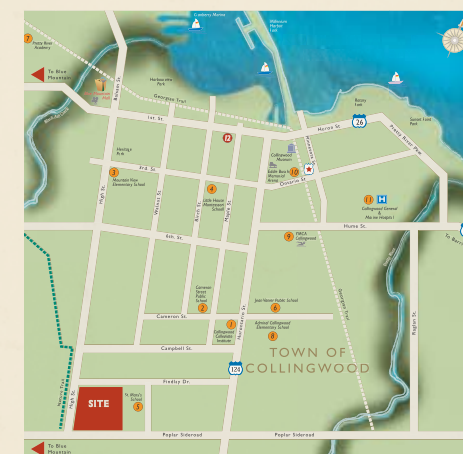


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# from concept.....



before

# to reality.



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**ALPINE HILLS** Luxurious mountain chalet. 3850 sq. ft. Architecturally designed. Loaded with character. 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 baths, wood burning fireplace, upgraded fixtures, reclaimed wood floors. Double garage with inside entry on treed lot with extensive landscaping. Winter view of Georgian Bay & ski hills. Close to Craigeleith & Alpine ski clubs & Intrawest village. Walk to Northwinds Beach. **\$1,450,000. MLS®# 20125952**



**SIERRA WOODLANDS.** Fabulous end unit. 3 bedroom, 3 bath town home back onto a protected green space, very private. Vaulted ceilings and a stone faced gas fireplace. Hardwood floors, granite counters & a custom kitchen. Huge deck off the living room. Oversized double car garage with an inside entry below. Just minutes to the Alpine Ski Club & a short walk to the Craigeleith Ski Club. **\$495,000. MLS®#20124653**



**PRETTY RIVER ESTATES** Customized, open concept 4 bdrm., 3 1/2 bath home with cathedral ceilings in living room & a floor to ceiling stone fireplace with 8 ft. high French doors on eith side. Fully finished, walkout lower level that has a large Bonus room, 2 bdrms., 3 pc bath. Large 17 ft. x 18 ft. deck. Premium location backing on to a green belt & walking trails. **\$549,500. MLS®#20130088**



**BASE OF BLUE MOUNTAIN** This chalet is a short walk to the Inn & the Village @ Intrawest where you will find some of the areas best dining, shopping, skiing & golfing. Once inside this spacious bungalow with a gorgeous stone exterior you will find 4 bdrms., 2 baths, separate family room, cathedral ceilings, gas fireplace in the living room. Large updated kitchen. **\$495,000. MLS®#20126546**



**GEORGIAN BAY CLUB** Custom build 6 bdrm., 3 1/2 bath chalet by Patrick Coulter & Associates. 4000 sq. ft. of living space, soaring vaulted ceilings in the Great Room w/stone faced wood burning fireplace & 3/4" Hickory wood floors. Main floor master suite w/ gas fireplace. Stunning kitchen with quartz counters. Finished lower level w/ large family room. **\$1,495,000. MLS®#20126066**



**UNIQUE & PRIVATE RETREAT.** Custom built 2500 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 3 bath chalet on 16 acres on the Niagara Escarpment. Forest setting overlooking Georgian Bay backing on to 900 acres of green space. Close to all amenities. Groomed trails leading to the slopes of Georgian Peaks Ski Club. Open concept main level with maple floors, floor to ceiling windows & large custom cherry kitchen. **\$1,450,000. MLS®#20125911**



**PRETTY RIVER** 28 acre private estate has the Pretty River crossing the entire property. Custom built 3600 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home features cathedral ceilings & a floor to ceiling stone gas fireplace. Open concept kitchen/dining area with lots of windows. Magnificent retreat located 10 minutes from the Devil's Glen Ski Club & 5 minutes to Osler bluff Ski Club. **NOW \$1,295,000.. MLS®#20124890**



**SILVER GLEN PRESERVE** Immaculate end unit in Silver glen Preserve with 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath. Upgraded kitchen with stainless steel appliances & a breakfast nook. Open concept dining / living area, hardwood floors & a gas fireplace. Bright fully finished basement with a 3 pc bath. Attached single car garage with inside entry. No HST!! **\$274,900. MLS®#20121014**



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



**PEAKS BAY** IRegistered waterfront development across from Georgian Peaks Ski club with great vistas of Georgian Bay & the Escarpment. **LOT RANGE FROM \$195,000. TO \$375,000**



**PRIME HIGH TRAFFIC LOCATION** First Street location. Well maintained plaza. 4255 sq. ft. available in the Rogers plaza. Great spot for sales / service, restaurant or retail. Busy location with lots of parking. Will divide to suit from 1279 to 4255 sq. ft. available **\$177/ SQ. FT. MLS®#20125282**



**SILVER GLEN PRESERVE** Brand new end unit backing onto a well treed green space beside a parkette 2 + 1 bedroom townhouse unit with 2 ensuite bathroom. Finished lower level with 3 pc bath, walkout to spacious deck. Open concept on main level. Single car garage with inside entry. **\$325,000. MLS®#20124219**

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Suite	Sq.ft.	Price
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103	981	\$153,900
104	1,406	\$220,615
105	1,268	\$198,962
106	1,275	\$200,060
107	1,319	\$206,964
108	1,406	\$220,615
201	1,437	\$225,480
202	1,411	\$221,400
203	1,411	\$221,400
204	1,437	\$225,480
205	1,437	\$225,480
206	1,267	\$198,805
207	1,383	\$217,007
208	1,437	\$225,480
301	1,436	\$225,322
302	1,411	\$221,400
303	1,411	\$221,400
304	1,436	\$225,322
<b>SOLD 305</b>	<b>1,548</b>	<b>\$242,897</b>
306	1,268	\$198,962
307	1,358	\$213,084
<b>SOLD 308</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>\$243,900</b>

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## FEATURED ATTRACTIONS



**Simply Exquisite** – 3100 sq.ft, panoramic view of Bay, 8 acres, pond, neighbouring miles of trails, min. to Osler. \$1,650,000



**Mulmur Privacy** – Custom timberframe, 64 acres, 4 bdrm, wine cellar, screen porch, geothermal, gym, tennis court. \$1,495,000



**1860 Farmhouse** – Recently renovated 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, 48 acres, spacious rooms, original features, bank barn. \$1,150,000



**Markdale** – 2400 sq.ft. bungalow on 10 acres, 3 bdrm, den, 3 1/2 bath, fireplace, cathedral ceilings, 2 family rooms. \$379,000



**Christie Beach** – Recently updated 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 acres, hardwood floors, steps to Georgian Trail and beach! \$239,000



**Views of Georgian Bay** – 4 Bdrm, 2966 sq.ft, walk out, triple garage. Cathedral ceilings, pool, 15 acres. \$490,000

## FAR HILLS



**Far Hills NEW 1 Bedroom** – 981 sq.ft, 9' ceilings, spacious patio, indoor parking, storage, pool & tennis. \$153,900



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



**Far Hills NEW 2 Bedroom** – 1268 sq.ft, 9' ceilings, spacious patio, indoor parking, storage, ICF, pool & tennis. \$198,962

## COMING SOON!



**Nipissing Ridge Craftsman** – 3100 sq.ft, 6 bdrm, 3 1/2 bath, main floor master, exceptional finishings, ravine, views to Craigleith.



**Osler Modern Mountain** – Under construction, 4300 sq.ft, 5 bdrm, 4 1/2 bath, superior finishings & layout, huge Bay views, privacy.

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**SUMMIT VIEW ESTATES**

5 bedroom 3 ½ bath chalet short distance to Georgian Peaks. Fieldstone w/b fireplace, timber frame wood beams and hardwood floors.

MLS®#20125333 \$699,000



**SUNSET POINT**

Spectacular custom built 4,400+ sq. ft. home with 5 bedrooms & 3 ½ baths. 2nd floor loft library, master suite with fireplace. Views of Bay.

MLS®#20126455 \$1,295,000



**BASE OF BLUE**

Custom 6 bed chalet at the south end of Blue Mountain. 25 x 25' great room, incredible kitchen, main floor master, fully finished lower level.

MLS® #20123637 \$1,199,000



**SNOWBRIDGE**

Custom built 6,000+ sq. ft. post & beam chalet with 5 bed & 5 baths. Views of Blue Mountain ski hills & Monterra golf course.

MLS® #20122295 \$1,249,000



**TUSCANY IN RAVENNA**

Unique stone "farmhouse" on 11.78 rolling acres with a river running through it. 6,400+ sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms, 4 ½ baths & fully finished lower level.

MLS® #20125412 \$1,784,484



**EXQUISITE LOG CHALET**

5300+ sq. foot 6 bedroom, 4 bath chalet located just steps from Craighleith Ski Club. Stunning interior with many unique features.

MLS® #20126208 \$1,649,000



**NIPISSING RIDGE**

Warm & welcoming 4 bed, 4 bath chalet. Large open concept living area. Master suite with fireplace, sitting area & balcony, fully finished lower level.

MLS® #20125704 \$895,000



**WALK TO SKI HILLS**

New chalet built to an extremely high standard. Bright & airy with views to the Mountain. Beautiful detailed stone & tile work throughout.

MLS® #20125215 \$995,000



**INCREDIBLE LOCATION**

Walk out the door and put on your skis! Bright & spacious 5 bed chalet located on private, treed lot at base of Blue. Walking distance to Village at Blue.

MLS®#20125082 \$779,000



**BASE OF BLUE**

Log chalet within walking distance of Blue Mountain Inn & the North Chair. 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large sun deck, attached garage with inside entry.

MLS® #20130005 \$649,000



**25+ ACRE RETREAT**

Unique & special property in the heart of nature. Existing 2 bed, 1 bath chalet & single car garage. Minutes to Osler Ski Club and base of Blue Mountain.

MLS® #20124765 \$449,000



**BROOKER BLVD**

Attractive chalet walking distance to Village at Blue. 3 bed, 2 baths, open living/dining area with gas fireplace. Upgraded kitchen & fully finished lower level.

MLS® #20125470 \$529,000



**PREMIER CHALET AT BLUE**

Custom built 4,000 sq. ft. 4 bed chalet across from South Base. Views from all rooms. Open concept living/dining/kitchen. 5 min walk to Intrawest Village.

MLS® #20124882 \$899,000



**HISTORIC SNOWBRIDGE**

Great mountain views! 3,600 sq. ft. of finished living space, including fully finished lower level. 5 bed, 3 ½ baths, main floor master. Quick possession.

MLS® #20126464 \$799,000



**SNOWBRIDGE**

Beautifully designed custom built chalet. 3,700 sq. ft. 5 bed, 3 ½ baths and fully finished lower level. Open concept main level with stone f/p and cathedral ceiling.

MLS® #20126059 \$779,000



**THORNBURY**

Stunning 3,700+ sq. ft. custom bungalow. Open concept main level living area with 10' ceilings, large kitchen, main floor master & fully finished lower level.

MLS® #20126022 \$849,000



**UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP: John Mealey | Diane Scott | Dave Patterson**



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# HEATING WITH WOOD

Engaging the public and giving them the tools to make the right decisions about what they burn and how they burn is the first step in an overall wood smoke plan. With proper burning techniques and well-seasoned wood, emissions (even in older stoves) can be significantly reduced.

## **Two reasons why people are tempted to smolder wood fires:**

First, they are reluctant to burn the appliance hot enough because they are worried about overheating nearby combustibles. Our response is that you can't burn clean if you fear for your safety because the installation doesn't conform to code requirements. So the first step is to get it inspected and brought into code compliance.

And second, they think that all the heat that goes up the chimney is wasted heat so they concentrate on keeping the flue gas temperature down. We say that about 20% of the heat released by the burning fuel must be given to the chimney to keep it clean and working properly. It is more efficient to burn the smoke and give plenty of heat to the chimney, than to waste the energy in the smoke by smoldering.

## **Two reasons why people often burn wet wood:**

Procrastination and wishful thinking, and most of us have been guilty of both at one time or other. Firewood dries very slowly, and the harder the wood, the slower it dries. The wetter the climate the slower wood dries. The more shaded the location, the slower wood dries. It has become clear that the super hardwoods like oak and maple will not dry sufficiently in just the summer months. These are difficult lessons to learn.

## **Five ways to tell if firewood is dry enough:**

❶ It darkens with age and sun exposure ❷ Cracks or checks form in the end grain ❸ Two pieces of seasoned wood sound hollow when knocked together ❹ A freshly split surface feels warm and dry ❺ It does not hiss or bubble from the end grain when burned

Match the size of the fire to the heating needs of the home. When the weather is mild, avoid filling the firebox to capacity; rather, build a small compact fire and load the appliance more often. Use dry wood. The moisture content of the wood has a large effect on the ability of your appliance to make heat. Never let the fire smolder. Think of wood smoke as wasted energy and operate the stove in such a way as to use it before it enters the flue pipe.

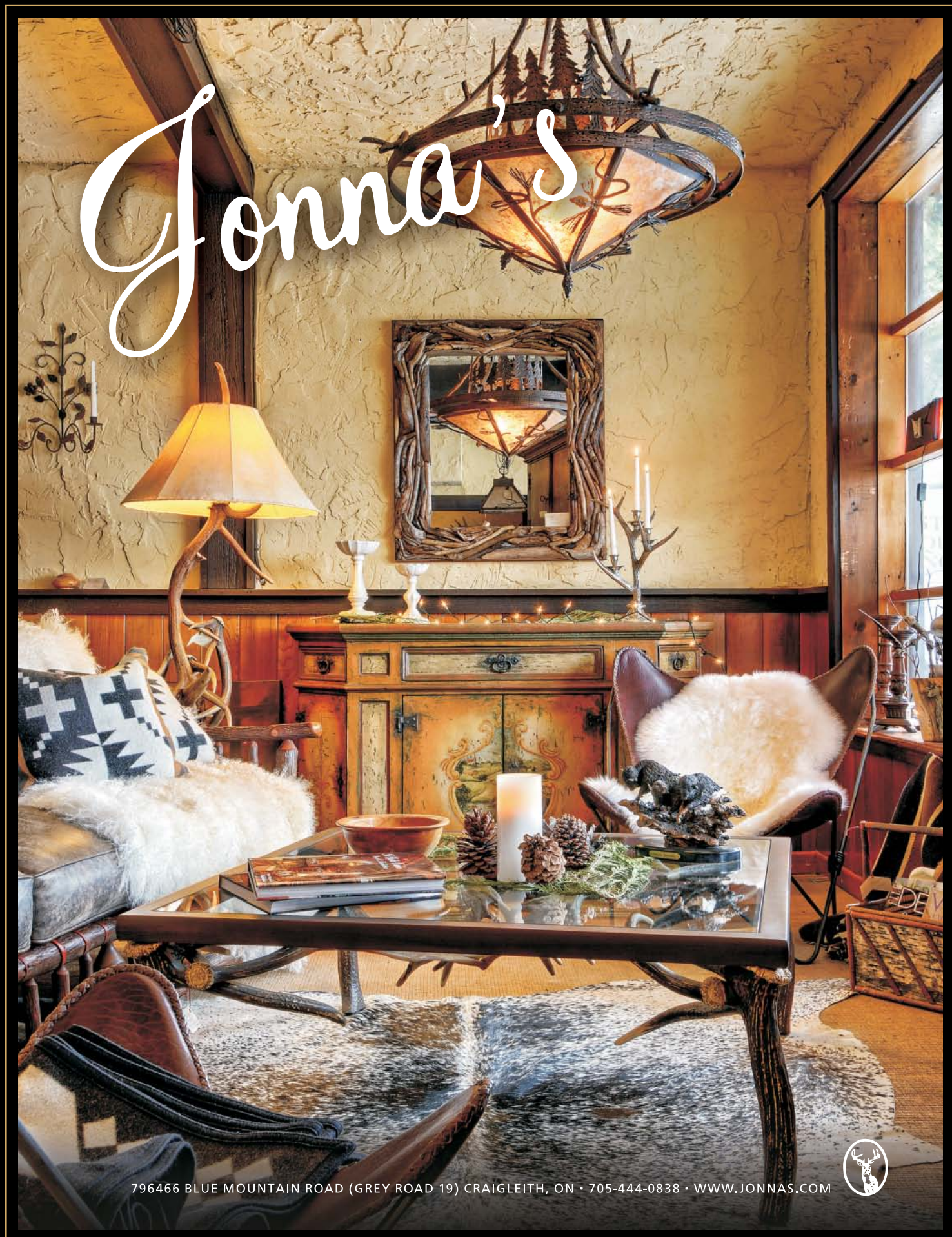


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PHOTO BY ROBYN EKMAN

WITH EVERY YEAR THAT PASSES, I learn much from my own experiences and from those of people around me.

Over the course of the year, I unearthed many lessons that I hope to carry with me into 2013 and beyond. The one that sticks out most though is this: the greatest gifts in life are those that you give.

This particular lesson presented itself throughout the year, in both my personal and professional life.

The first sadly came with the loss of a very special man – Jim Otterson. Jim was the loving husband to a cherished co-worker, Suzanne Strong. He was also a much-loved volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of

the Georgian Triangle. At his memorial, his Little Brother Mack spoke about the profound difference Jim made in his and his family's lives. Mack's speech and Jim's incredible dedication to the program moved me to become a Big Sister.

Funny enough, I was matched with Mack's youngest sister, Savannah (pictured above). My hope was to bring a little extra joy to someone's life, but I never expected to have so much joy brought into my own life.

Savannah is so smart and fun; she's reminded me what it's like to be a kid again. With a home full of siblings, a little one-on-one time with a caring adult goes a long way for her, just as it would for the many girls and boys waiting for a "Big" of their own, right here in our community.

Savannah has definitely become a part of my family and both Adam and I feel like we're a part of hers also. She is hands-down the biggest gift I received in 2012.

The team here at OUR HOMES also made an effort to give back to the community, and we have big plans for 2013, too. Last summer we partnered with Habitat for Humanity South Georgian Bay on their Penny Drive initiative by collecting pennies and sponsoring and running a barbecue at Sobey's. Then, in the fall we sponsored the first annual Collingwood Holiday House Tour, which raised money for each of the homeowners' preferred local charities. It was a huge success and we're confident it will be even bigger and better this year!

I am so thankful for the opportunities I've had to be more involved with our beautiful community, and look forward to this time next year, when I can look back on all the new lessons I've learned.

Happy 2013!

*Shelby*

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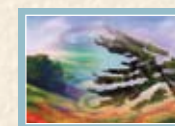
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Sandy MacKay.

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## publisher's note



**IT'S AN EXCITING START** for me as Associate Publisher of OUR HOMES Southern Georgian Bay.

Since I joined OUR HOMES six years ago, under the guidance of company President David Loopstra, we've had astonishing growth. Readers are amazed to learn that OUR HOMES is now published in 17 regions across Canada and counting!

Friends, family and clients ask me what I do as Associate

Publisher. They say, "Are you a writer now?" No, I am not a writer (other than writing this), but I am surrounded by an amazing team of writers, editors, graphic artists and support staff.

Smart, loyal, dedicated and hardworking is an understatement – and they put together a mean gluten-free potluck!

I will continue to focus on marketing and sales, connecting our local builders, developers, realtors, trades people, storeowners and charities to each other and our community.

My new duties include planning, coordinating and overseeing the upcoming issues for Southern Georgian Bay.

If I can help connect you or a new venture, send me an email!

Health & Happiness

*Simone*

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

I agonized over my first cover choice! Which option below would you have chosen? Email me your choice by March 1st to be entered into a draw for a prize!



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advice

## TRENDING *forward* RAW & INDUSTRIAL IN 2013

With watermelons and popsicles a distant memory, it's time to share the upcoming trends for 2013. Ironically, when I look at the number "2013," I think of space travel and futuristic design. Maybe we're not quite there, but we are definitely heavy on industrial style – metals, glass and a whole lot of technology and innovation.

Have designers been drawing inspiration from manufacturing plants? Not sure. But we will certainly be able to decorate our homes to look like one.

### METALS

Hot rolled, cold rolled, powder coated, you name it; steel is an unbreakable trend. Tables, chairs, tiles; the industrial trend is becoming more refined than factory, but the presence of steel will be huge.



WAVE LEATHER PULLS BY SPINNEYBECK

Another metal that will continue to make its comeback is brushed brass. Not the shiny kind. That disappeared after the financial crisis in the 80s. Brass evokes quality and timelessness. Cabinet hardware, faucets, lighting; brushed nickel hasn't gone by the wayside, but we now have a serious contender.

### WOOD

Completely contradicting what we'll be seeing in paints, woods are appearing softer, muted and grey-washed. We'll see a lot of smooth looking oak in the market, wide planks, very Belgian in feel. From flooring to furniture, this natural aesthetic will make the jump from high-end to mainstream.

### CONCRETE

Concrete flooring, faux wallpaper and products (yes, there are concrete lights out there!) are just some of what we'll be seeing.



CONCRETE WALLPAPER BY PIET BOON



Designer Stephanie Redmond  
answers your questions.

The wallpaper is fascinating because the optical illusion that it's concrete or another material is so realistic you literally have to go and touch the paper to see if it's the real deal.

### WALL COVERINGS

Poor old paint may just not be enough anymore. Glass, leather, metals and wallpaper are just some of the wall cladding we'll see in the upcoming year. Using back-painted glass panels in a shower creates a completely seamless wall leaving you with a translucent feel and no grout lines. Leather tiles will also become more popular as a wall material (and floor, actually) adding richness and texture to an otherwise drab piece of drywall. It's becoming available in several patterns and colours taking the place of wallpaper for a slightly more luxurious effect.

### COLOUR

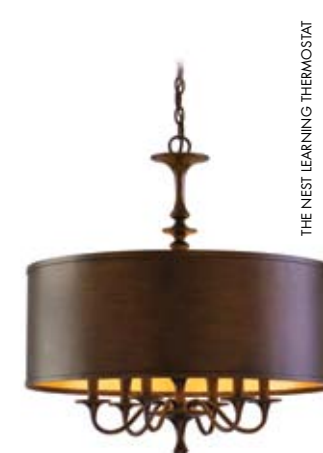
For the colour enthusiasts out there, it's definitely your year! With this natural base of wood, glass and metal, colour will be hot and anything goes. It may just be a pop of colour, but the pop is definitely more dramatic – more of a go big or go home approach. Admittedly, after so many beige years, it's uplifting.



PIXEL CUSHION BY BEV HISEY

### TECHNOLOGY

Trending forward we have to touch on technology. We've seen USB outlets added to regular power outlets and thermostats that teach themselves your schedule and that you can adjust from your phone. I can't wait to see what comes next but I know it will make our lives easier and of course, more stylish! **OH**



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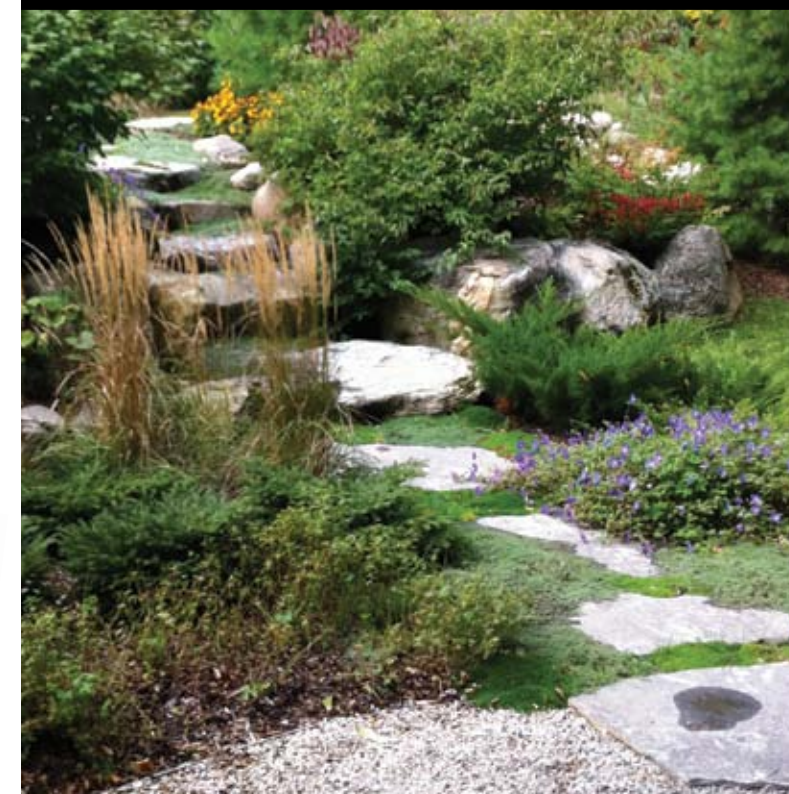
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— Dr. Seuss

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2



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Continued on page 30



## style picks

### CLOSETS AND THINGS

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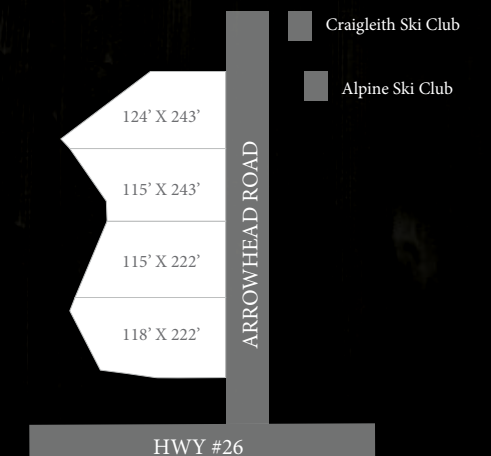
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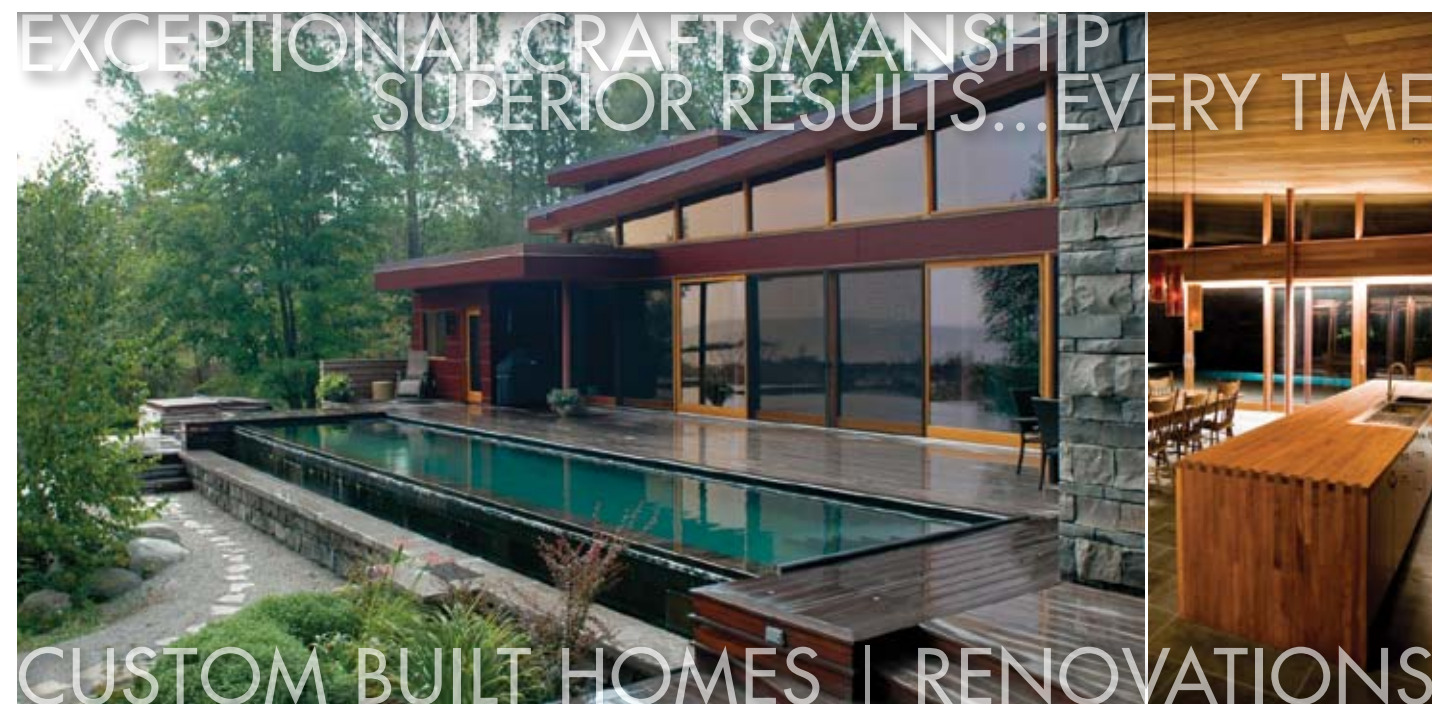


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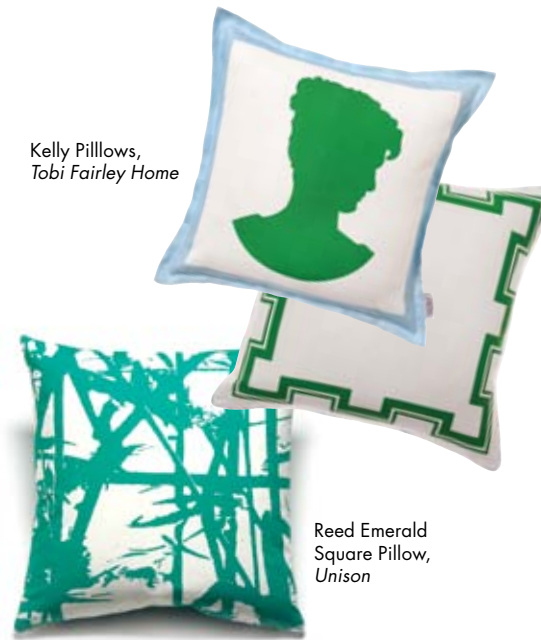
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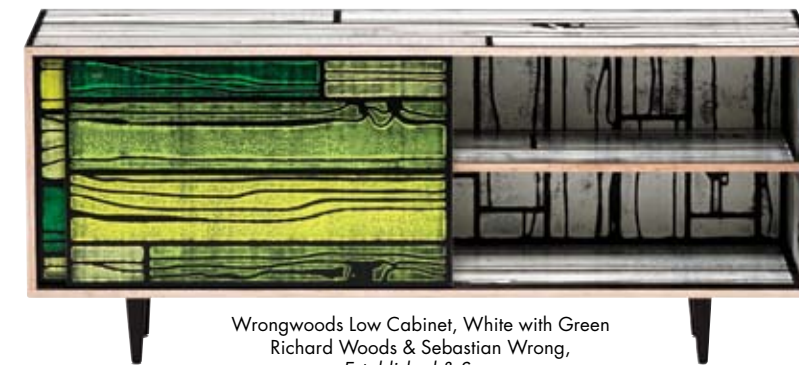
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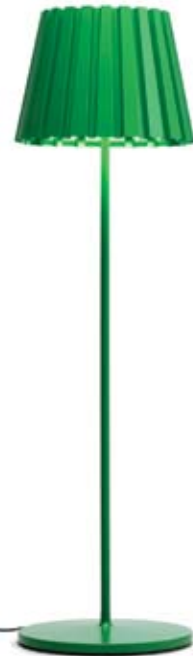


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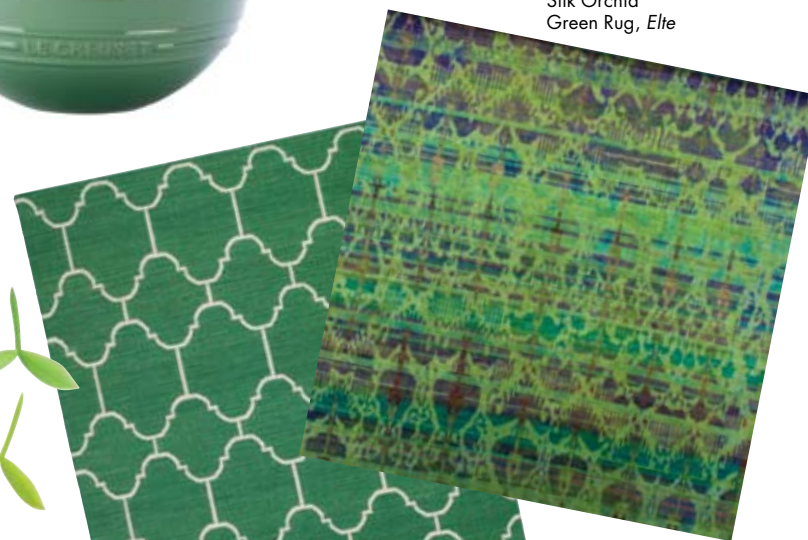


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# HOME INSPECTION RAISING THE BAR

BY JILL ELLIS



Bill Mullen has high hopes! The Ontario-based home inspector is also the director of external relations for a new organization, the National Home Inspector Certification Council (NHICC).

The NHICC is pushing for nation-wide licensing of home inspectors, but at this time Ontario, the Atlantic Provinces and Saskatchewan are just looking at this possibility.

Alberta and British Columbia already license home and property inspectors. B.C. led the way, endorsing inspectors since April 1, 2009, while Alberta came onside September 1, 2011. Neither of these came about without a lot of pushing from interest groups within those provinces, and Mullen doesn't expect it to be much different in Ontario, though he hopes that the timeframe to have licensing passed into law could be shortened because of the groundwork done by those first two provinces.

According to Peter Link, manager of house and property inspection registration for the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. (ASTTBC), his organization lobbied for two decades to make this happen.

Helene Barton, Executive Director of the B.C. branch of the Canadian Association of Home and Property & Inspectors, (CAHPI), agrees. "We lobbied the government for eight years to have our industry regulated because prior to that anyone who bought a ladder and had a business card could say they were a home inspector. Many were charlatans."

Though there are training courses and college programs in all provinces, in most provinces there is no onus on someone who calls him/herself a home inspector to take such education. In the two provinces that currently license, the several certifying organizations that exist require some or all of the following to become licensed: specialized education (number of hours varies from organization to organization), a practical (or field) test, written exam, a peer inspection process, and, finally, an application to the provincial licensing body. In the case of B.C., that's Consumer Protection B.C. For Alberta, it's Service Alberta. The outcome of the application process is not ideal, according to Darcy McGregor, secretary and founding member of CAHPI Alberta. "We thought they (the government) would raise everyone to the highest level, like our members follow, but they said that wouldn't be fair."

While the expectations aren't as high as he'd like, McGregor says, "Licensing at least gives homeowners a bit more assurance that the person they are dealing with has some education and the ability to look after them as a home inspector."

Link echoes this sentiment: "We pushed for one certifying organization and one standard of practice, but there are four in B.C." So buyer beware is still in force, and homeowners must research any home inspector they are thinking of hiring. "The onus is still on the homeowner. (They should ask) where did they get their education; do they have experience in the field to have the ability to recognize problems."

Barton, though, feels that the process has been overall positive. "It got rid of a lot of people who are unqualified. We are still trying to get the consumer to ask about the licence before hiring a home inspector. It gives them peace of mind knowing that they (inspectors) are qualified."

Though there is mixed reaction to the outcomes in B.C. and Alberta, there's one point that McGregor, Link and Barton all agree on – home inspectors in those provinces are now required to carry errors and omissions insurance. They must be insured up to \$1 million, so if they miss something during an inspection and this results in a costly repair, the homeowner may have financial recourse.

One piece of the puzzle that is still missing, according to Nigel Trevelthick, of Harper Grey LLP and legal counsel for CAHPI B.C., is a "cooling off period, like many other large purchases." He thinks it's regrettable that the "government hasn't mandated that every real estate transaction must involve a home inspection. This is especially important in an overheated housing market, like Vancouver." He feels that this is key to consumer protection.

So, though Mullen's hopes for the future of licensing in Ontario – and throughout the country – are high, experience tells us that the outcome may be less than stellar but better than the status quo. **OH**



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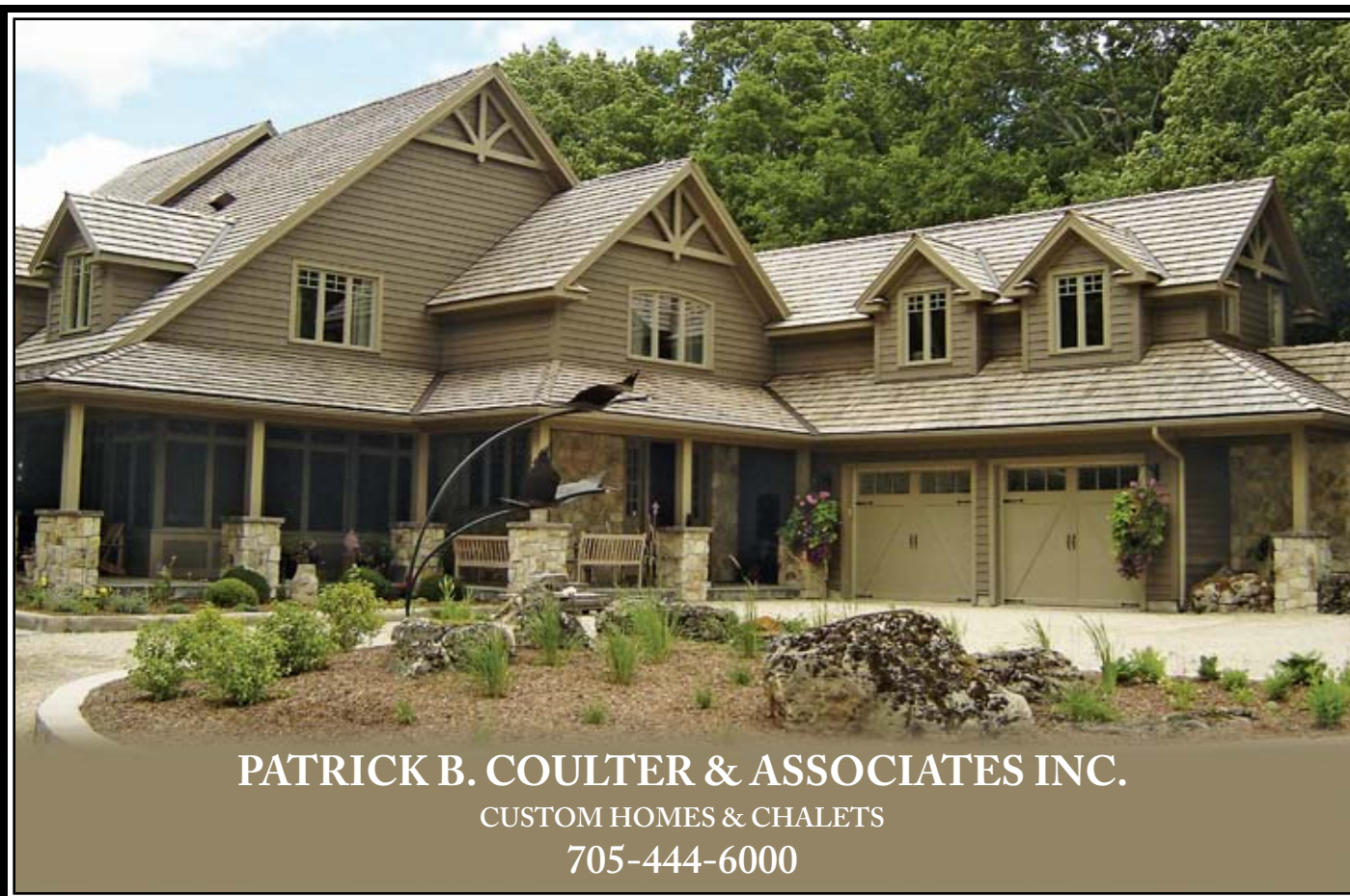
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# PRACTICAL, FUNCTIONAL, BEAUTIFUL

BY JUDE WAYLAND // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

There's no shortage of passion in the Farrow home. After 20 years of marriage, it's obvious that Blake and Marina are still nuts about each other.

They're passionate about life, their kids, Kyle, Jake and Olivia, their family and about gathering with friends to break bread, share succulent food, exquisitely prepared by chef Marina, and savour fine wine around the dining room table, which morphs in size depending on who drops by on any given evening.

That zest for life is also evident in the couple's professional lives. Toronto native Blake has been in the construction business for years (**Blake Farrow Project Management Inc.**). Marina, originally from Milan, Italy, runs a successful interior design company and retail store in Collingwood (**F.A.D. – Farrow Arcaro Design**) with her business partner of 10 years, **Katherine Arcaro**. *Continued on page 45*



With function, durability and sustainability at the top of their priority list, Blake and Marina Farrow have created a home that suits their lifestyle to a T. Every detail was carefully thought-out, including a place to plug in the meat slicer to slice prosciutto, and an ideal spot for a pizza oven (Marina's specialty).





**ABOVE:** Located just off the kitchen, the pantry leaves little to be desired. Practical shelving displays Marina's canned goods and a huge Italian-brand poster pays homage to the place where her love for cooking originated. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The bright yellow Bertazzoni gas stove adds an extra pop of personality to the kitchen. **RIGHT:** Radiant-heated polished concrete floors offer a durable industrial look that's balanced by sturdy oak cabinets and island with Caesarstone countertops. The unique, lower-island sofa provides comfort and colour. **OPPOSITE:** The main-floor living space flows together brilliantly, making it perfect for entertaining friends and family.



The Farrow home-adventure began with the purchase of a three-acre property on the edge of town, featuring a meandering creek and an early '70s-style bungalow/barn, "...complete with shag carpet and rumpus room panelling," says Blake. Delighted with the location, they sold their home in Collingwood and started designing an energy-efficient LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) home. "It's one of the first LEED projects in the area," says Blake. "LEED provides a framework for comprehensive green building, design and material life cycle." Plans were to demolish the existing house, but Blake was swamped with work and Marina was antsy about finding a winter nest, so they did a quick gut and reno. "It was cosy and cramped, but the delay gave us an opportunity to re-visit the design and re-live the '70s. In fact, we changed the plans several times," Blake says. Rather than downsizing, like most families do when kids leave home,

they decided to recycle and incorporate the old house into the new design. "We want our kids to come and visit and be part of the family," explains Blake. "The way we designed it, there's a completely separate spot for them and we have our own space." "We don't know how long the kids will be here," adds Marina. "The whole idea is flexibility, so we can close it off if we don't need it." Smart. So what happens when an experienced builder and his wife, who studied interior design and architecture, pool their remarkable talents to design and build a home that reflects their lifestyle and character? Sheer magic. The original house is now a separate, but joined 1,300 sq. ft., three-bedroom space for their two sons, while the couple and their daughter share the 3,000 sq. ft., two-bedroom main building. There's no pretence, fuss, or by-the-book design here. Just Italian-inspired living... where simplicity rules! *Continued on page 48*



A stunning contemporary, wood-burning fireplace (B&R Hearth & Geothermal) takes centre stage in the living room. With practicality in mind, as always, Blake made it possible to load firewood from behind the fireplace, outside of the home! **TOP RIGHT:** Beloved family pets, Heidi and Rosie, enjoy hanging out by the fire with Kyle, Olivia and Marina. **MIDDLE LEFT:** A bold, mountain-inspired wallpaper sets off the main-floor powder room. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** The laundry room/dog room sports an industrial auto shop look with durable, low-maintenance materials. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Fresh greenery arrangements by Paperwhite Flowers give this front gathering room a seasonal look.







Marina designed the rift sawn oak stairs that lead to the second level and an awe-inspiring view, which she often enjoys from the landing at the top.



All the walls are white; window trim is simple. The main floor, featuring a no-maintenance, radiant-heated polished concrete floor, is a bright, wide-open “life” room, encompassing a spacious kitchen, dining and living area. Air quality is key – no carpets or curtains in this home.

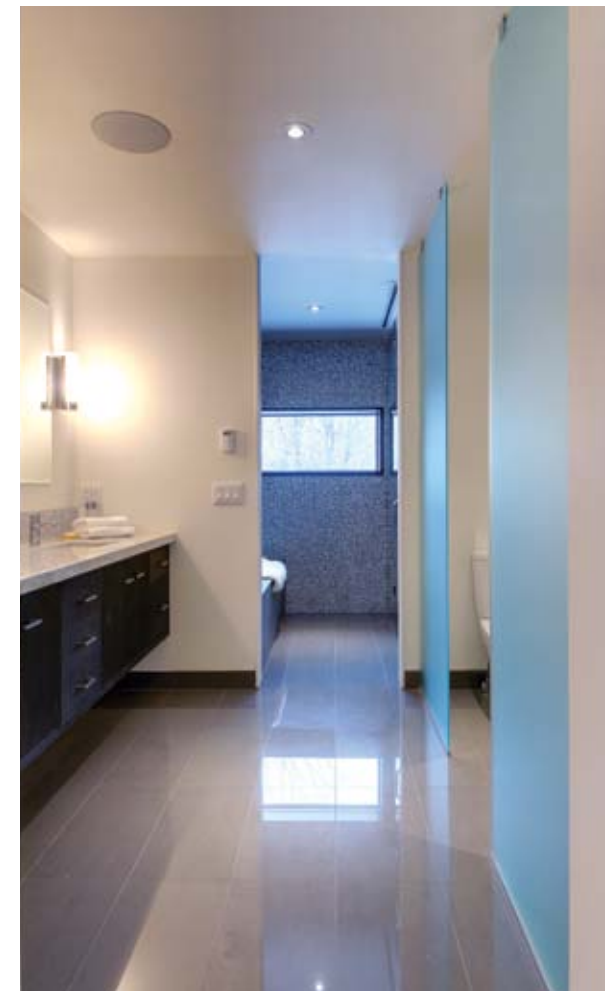
Two air handlers and boilers provide domestic hot water and hydronic heating, which allows the climate to be easily controlled or dialled back when the kids’ area is unoccupied. “**Air Star Mechanical** contractors get it,” says Blake. “They design and build user-friendly systems.”

“It was primary that the form of our house has great function,” explains Blake. “If it’s not practical, it’s useless.” Adds Marina, “Tables are on wheels and everything is easily moved or flexible enough to adapt to our changing needs.”

They have a casual, spontaneous lifestyle, where practicality and flexibility reign supreme. “The idea of the house is that we want it to be low maintenance and durable,” says Marina.

Flat kitchen cabinet doors by **Heritage Cabinetry** are made of sturdy oak (reducing dirt build-up, limiting maintenance). A custom, two-level (scratch and stain resistant) Caesarstone countertop from **Granite Works** and commercial pizza oven accommodate Marina’s pizza-making fervour. A practical pantry, loaded with pasta and sauces, features jars of Marina’s canned goods. The star of the kitchen? A bright yellow, Italian-engineered Bertazzoni gas stove.

F.A.D. furnished the home with an eclectic array of European antiques, functional fixtures and pieces sourced from their store. Rich walnut wine cellar doors came from Marina’s Milan apartment and a fabulous bull sign from England (shipped to Milan, Vancouver, and then back to Collingwood), graces the wall in the modest mudroom, where practical and durable checker-plate lines the dog-feeding area. There’s even a sensible commercial foot grill in the front foyer. *Continued on page 50*



**TOP:** Marina calls the master bedroom the tree house. “Every morning, it’s like having five Ansel Adams’ pictures in front of me,” says Blake. **LEFT & ABOVE:** The master en suite is a true retreat with a floating double vanity, a huge glassed-in shower, a soaker tub with TV and separate area with a toilet and bidet.





“One thing that LEED is very strong about is the durability of a home,” explains Blake. “Durability refers to not needing repairs and having a lifespan that far exceeds most others.”

Low-flow Grohe plumbing fixtures and valves, and Toto toilets were installed, reducing water consumption, while the extensive use of LED lighting helps conserve electricity. An elaborate water purification system, complete with reverse osmosis filtration, is housed in the basement.

The Farrows chose commercial, steel-frame interior doors for durability and simplicity. They ingeniously recycled a piece of rusty metal for the wood-burning fireplace.

A moveable 26-foot glass NanaWall opens the dining room to the great outdoors, providing more daylight and natural ventilation. This stunning German-engineered product is both energy-efficient and weather resistant.

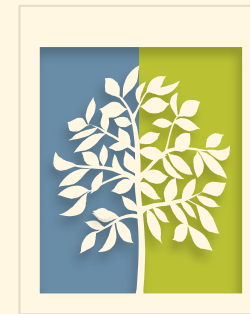
The couple partnered with Roxul insulation, a Canadian producer of stone wool, spun from bath salt and recycled slag. “The walls and the envelope far exceed OBC (Ontario Building Code) standards in terms of R-value,” says Blake. *Continued on page 52*



The couple's daughter Olivia couldn't be more pleased with her new room with space to play, study and relax. The painting above her bed was a gift last Christmas and is her favourite feature.

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# feature

**RIGHT:** Blake did a complete reno on the property's original house and turned it into a separate area for his and Marina's two teenage sons. Features include a rusty mesh metal railing on stairs, stained plywood floor in the boys' bedrooms with commercial rubber baseboard and steel-framed doors. Kyle enjoys a workout before returning to ski races with the Ontario Ski Team. **BELOW:** A fully-stocked wine cellar is made handy right off the kitchen. **BOTTOM:** Blake re-designed the entry to accommodate the artwork – an amazing, welcoming colourful lady with arms wide open – an original piece Marina found on a furniture-buying trip.



With today's rising energy costs, building green makes perfect sense. Now that Blake is experienced at building a LEED home, and has a qualified LEED consultant, **Matt Hill**, as his right-hand man, he's excited about building more sustainable homes.

"This is my dream house," says Marina. "It's the best house, and has everything I want. There's nothing that I'm missing in this house."

Cheers to living life with passion! **OH**

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Air Star Mechanical, B & R Hearth and Geothermal, Barill Engineering Ltd., Baymount Plumbing Ltd., Benchmade, Blake Farrow Project Management Inc., DC Electric, F.A.D. - Farrow Arcaro Design, Farrow AV Design Inc., Foley's Furniture, G. Lawrence Enterprises, Gannon's Hardwood Flooring, Granite Works, Heritage Cabinetry, JTI Design, Just Counter Tops, Loewen, Macdonald's BrandSource Furniture & Appliances, Nepsco Electrical & Plumbing Distributors, Paolo's Custom Flooring, Paperwhite Flowers, Robinson's Paint & Wallpaper, Rossco Stone Design, Sheridan Machine & Welding, Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre, Torbram Electric Supply, Vogel Landscape Design & Consulting Group Ltd.



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## WINTER WHITES

BY SHELBY HILSON // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

**THE PLACE:** Soft whites, earthy textures and natural fibres come together to form a place of inspiration and style: **Lëuk Bij Hermas** in downtown Collingwood. Herma Vegter-Petrie, the shop's creator, is no stranger to home fashion or retail. She's been in the business since 1987, having owned successful shops in both Cookstown and Oakville before moving to Southern Georgian Bay to "retire." Herma's love for the industry didn't retire with her though. "A Dutch friend and I thought it would be cute if I could involve my Dutch heritage in the name of a new store," she says, "a word or term to reflect the store and products – something fun, funky and interesting." Lëuk was born.

**THE STYLE:** A strong European influence is evident at every turn – luxurious bedding, French Provencal-style tableware, old-world accessories. The clothing line features unique, sophisticated European designs and



includes one-of-a-kind pieces exclusive to Lëuk. Beautiful, up-cycled items, such as tin buckets, wire baskets, vases and light fixtures fill the shop and accessorize the larger furniture pieces, like the fabulous linen slip-covered sofas, accent chairs and reclaimed wood tables.

**SEASONAL:** Show off your personal style when entertaining guests this ski season, choosing from a gorgeous assortment of unique tableware and serving accessories. All-natural pepper mills and coasters, wrought-iron barbecue forks and ceramic water pitchers are sure to be a hit. When the party's over, stay warm and cosy with plush, handmade bedding, heavy hand-knotted throws and big, down-filled pillows.

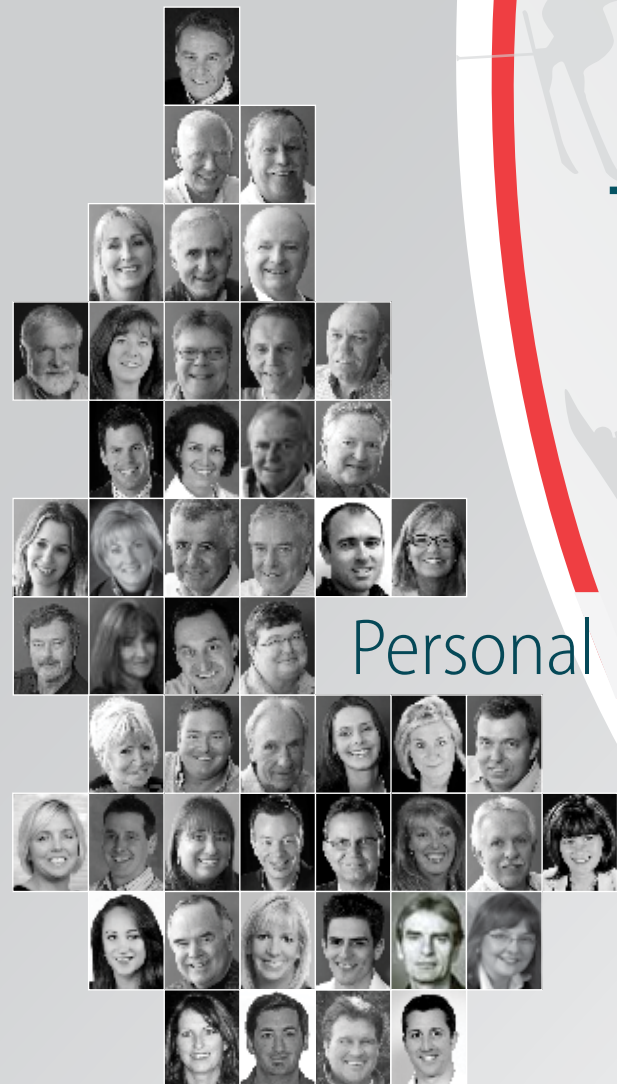
**FRESH:** Aside from stylish home décor, clothing and fashion accessories, Lëuk also encompasses a small, full-service flower shop run by florist Heather Cook. Fresh flower arrangements beautify the shop and are available for walk-in, order and special events, including weddings and anniversaries. Very popular are the "Kleine Bloem" arrangements of fresh flowers in small Chinese take-out boxes.

**FAVOURITES:** "There is something here for everyone," says Herma. "I pretty much love everything from the luxurious linens and the smell of amber, to the fresh flowers and gorgeous fur hats. I love it all!"

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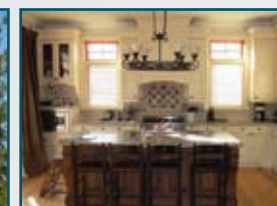
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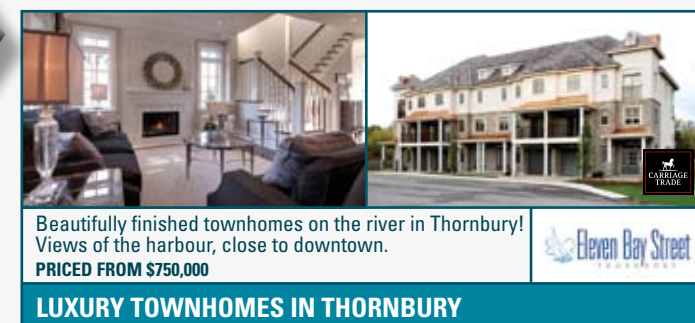
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*Continued on page 64*



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**WHAT'S HOT IN BATHROOM DESIGN FOR 2013?** Zen soaker tubs and larger rain-shower heads are two very popular items, as are the low-flow toilets we offer.

**ANY FAMILY PLANS THIS YEAR?** As a family business we can't all take holidays together, but we do manage to travel for a cruise or golf getaway. *Continued on page 68*



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*Continued on page 70*

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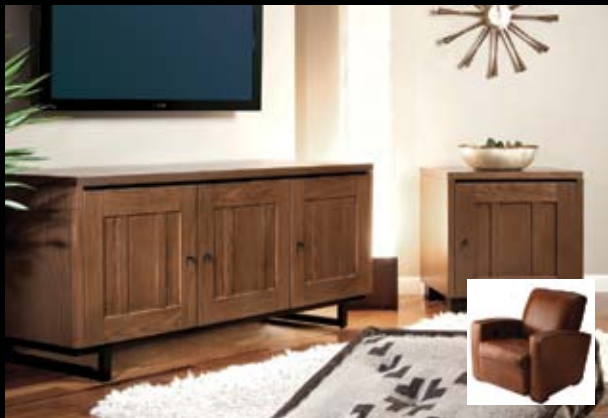


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**WHAT'S HOT IN KITCHENS FOR 2013?**  
 Clean lines, flat surfaces and natural woods.

**FAVOURITE WINTER ACTIVITY:** Coaching my son's hockey team. *Continued on page 72*

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*Continued on page 74*



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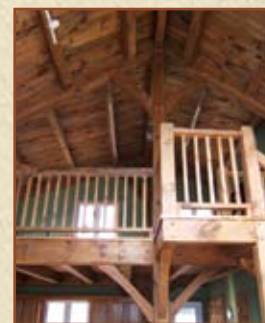
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**FAVOURITE FLOORING AND WHY:** Porcelain, it looks great and requires little maintenance. It's a strong wearing floor.

**SKI, SNOWBOARD OR SNOWSHOE?** I love to ski! *Continued on page 76*



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**FAVOURITE WINTER MEAL:** Prime rib of beef

*Continued on page 78*






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A life-long apprenticeship to my father, a master carpenter. I also have experience as an executive chef, which provides unique insights for today's better homes.

**WHAT'S TRENDING FOR STAIRCASES?**

Clean lines and beautiful aesthetics, but really there's great design opportunity regardless of home styles and owner preferences.

**ANY BIG PLANS FOR 2013?**

Enjoying my family and a new boat on Georgian Bay. **OH**

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## relaxed living AT THE BEACH

BY LAUREL FORTIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

With nine-foot ceilings and generous windows, the bright homes in Wasaga Beach's **Stonebridge by the Bay** community balance the casual atmosphere of the beach with the quality of an exclusive resort. The 353-unit development of two-storey town homes and bungalow town homes has Cape Cod-style exteriors of either board and batten or cedar shakes in soft, beach-inspired hues: lake blues, sand beiges and sunset reds.

"No two blocks are identical," notes sales representative Margaret Byrne. The design evolves as the units are sold. Twelve floor plans and exterior designs are available, ranging from 1,100 to 2,300 sq. ft. "Some units are suited for the ends and some for the middles," says Byrne. "Once we have the units sold, every block goes back to the architect to draw and unify the roof lines and set the colours so that it can all combine."

*Continued on page 82*





showcase



Proudly developed by **Mark Crowe of Stonebridge Building Group**, the homes are tucked behind the three-year-old Stonebridge Town Centre in Wasaga's east end. Restaurants, shopping and professional services such as dentists and hair stylists are all within walking distance, not to mention the development's private pool and waterside clubhouse. The Stonebridge community initiated and continues to host the annual Wasaga Blues Festival, as well as outdoor jazz on summer nights in the on-site music pavilion. Several kilometres of walking trails and naturalized space encourage residents to keep active. Part of the Stonebridge property has been donated to the town of Wasaga Beach for a future public library.

Units include standard features such as high efficiency two-stage gas furnaces, five-inch baseboards and smooth ceilings. Buyers receive \$11,000 in credits to apply to upgrades of their choice, such as hardwood flooring, granite countertops, pot lights and gas fireplaces. "We're very proud of the community," says Byrne. **OH**



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## active getaway NEAR SHORES & SLOPES

BY LAUREL FORTIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

The lane leading to the **Silver Glen Preserve** winds nearly a kilometre through protected forest and wetland. The serene 174-unit community west of Collingwood has, since 2009, been enticing residents who love their active lives just steps from Georgian Bay, minutes from Blue Mountain and with direct access to the Georgian Trail. Silver Glen is managed by **Sherwood Homes**, a division of **Reid's Heritage Homes**, renowned for its Georgian Meadows and Lora Bay communities in the region. With two-storey town homes and bungalow-with-loft town homes available in multiple floor plan configurations, the development has attracted weekenders and empty nesters alike. *Continued on page 86*



# showcase



“Weekenders want two bathrooms upstairs, for example,” explains George Dickson, sales consultant at Silver Glen. “Whereas empty nesters like the idea of one large luxury bathroom that they use themselves most of the year and share with guests when the kids or friends come to visit.” The bungalows are popular with retirees who want to have their main living space on one level, with room for guests on the loft level. “The homes have the same feel as a large home in the city, with upscale finishes, but without the responsibilities,” says Dickson.

While the natural setting might be draw enough, Silver Glen

offers some of the only Energy Star certified homes in the region. The highly-insulated building envelopes mean a quiet, comfortable living environment and lower monthly operating costs. With the inclusion of upscale interior and exterior home finishes as standard, the bungalows have granite counters, a gas fireplace and hardwood in the great room, a tiled shower with a bench seat and a frameless glass door in the master en suite, and double car garages. All units are equipped with five appliances and air conditioning. Silver Glen Preserve is an elegant community with an active lifestyle. **OH**

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# family style AT THE EDGE OF TOWN

BY LAUREL FORTIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

Offering detached homes on lots up to 50 ft. wide, views of the escarpment and easy access in and out of town, **Grandview Homes' Mountaincroft** single family home community in the south end of Collingwood is an inspiring neighbourhood to call home. Commuters find it convenient to travel to the city and families like the proximity to several local schools.

With a choice of exteriors in full brick, stone and Cape Cod engineered wood siding, or a combination of all, homes have a range of colours reflective of the Southern Georgian Bay region – deep blues, hunter greens, regal reds and classic earth tones. The streetscapes are cohesive, yet each home is unique.

This is the first community outside of Barrie for Grandview Homes. “Every aspect of our new home construction is instilled with the latest building technologies, quality materials and trades, strict attention to detail and, most of all, pride,” says Marc Cousineau, Director of Sales at Mountaincroft.

Grandview's contemporary style and traditional elegance considers the active family's needs when designing floor plans – welcoming front porches, ample storage, wide foyers and second-floor laundry in some cases. Bungalows range from 1,350 to 1,900 sq. ft. and two-storey homes range from 1,270 to 3,650 sq. ft. All models have full basements and standard features that include rounded drywall corners, California-style stucco ceilings and nine-foot ceilings on the main floor.

Interior finishes include quality Kohler fixtures, Mirage hardwood flooring, Cheyenne two-panel doors with unique beaded detailing, ceramic tile in the foyer, main hall, kitchen, dinette, bathrooms and laundry room, soaker tubs in the master en suite, and custom kitchen cabinetry. Landscaping packages complete all builds to make each Mountaincroft residence feel like home. **OH**







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## Canadian Colour Scheme (Benjamin Moore)

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CC-90 Natural Linen



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY TV

Glamwood:  
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# COMPLETELY CANADIAN

Whether you're from Canada or not, it's hard for anyone not to be inspired by the True North and its beautiful elements, which we are lucky enough to find in our own backyard, the great outdoors.

## Here are my three favourite ways to incorporate our heritage into our homes.

1. THE USE OF FABRIC: Add Canadian character and charm to your home with the simple use of textiles.

**Plaid Upholstery:** Whether it be gingham, tartan, or tattersall, this popular pattern consisting of several crossed horizontal and vertical lines (usually in two or more colours) speaks directly to the essence of Canadian settlers. My favourite way to incorporate it in décor is with upholstery. I personally prefer it in smaller doses, such as for sofa pillows or dining room seats, however a club chair completely covered looks amazing as well.

**Cosy Throws:** Curling up on the sofa on a cold winter's day wouldn't be the same without one of these. Here are my three favourite classics:

- **Point Blanket:** It wouldn't be right if I didn't start with this iconic blanket by The Bay – this wool Point blanket dates back to the 18th century and used to be traded. It continues to be a number one seller and is sold exclusively by The Hudson's Bay Company.
- **Faux Fur:** Fox, mink or coyote – these Canadian creature-mimicked furs can be the perfect Canuck-inspired addition to your space for added comfort and even luxuriousness.
- **Matelassé:** Meaning quilted, padded or cushioned, and normally referring to hand-quilted textiles. It is meant to mimic the style of hand-stitched Marseilles, a type of quilt made in Provence, France. Incorporating these fabrics into your décor can be the subtle hint of pattern and texture you're looking for.

2. THE USE OF WOOD: Nothing warms up a space quite like the use of natural wood.

**Walls:** I particularly like walls sheltered in large, real-wood planks. Douglas fir or cedar – both known for their distinctive grain patterns and tight knots – are each suitable choices when it comes to selecting the type of wood to use.

**Accessories:** Dress up the inside or the surrounding area of your fireplace with logs of wood – even without the use of fire, this actually does create a feeling of warmth too.

3. THE ADDITION OF ANTIQUES: If the northern vibe is the look, an old piece of Canadian history is most definitely calling. Usually an item made of wood, such as an old sled, pair of skis or a rocking chair will feel the most rustic and true to the heritage.

My tips for antique hunting:

- Do your research before heading out – know what you are looking for.
- Bring with you a magnifying glass to check for dates, signatures, imperfections.
- Touch, smell and handle the piece. Get familiar with what you're looking to buy before you buy it. If you have any doubts, don't be afraid to ask questions. **OH**

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Today, the colours are more neutral and I think homeowners have a stronger sense of design - creating looks that flow and work with every room of the house. But it's still paint that puts the magic of colour to work.

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(Please see ad on page 23)

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(Please see ad on page 113)

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(Please see ad on page 39)



Continued on page 96

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# DOVETAILING

BY LAUREL FORTIN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY  
STYLED BY ANDREA RAMACIERI

The anticipation that builds after seeing your home's log walls stacked one upon the next and the ends dovetailed neatly together in the yard at **Legendary Logcrafters Ltd.** is a little like picking up your ski pass before the snow flies: you know what's around the corner and you can hardly wait.

The owners of a 3,600 sq. ft., handcrafted log home at the base of the mountain at Craighleith Ski Club felt just that in 2010 while their home was being constructed. Taking less than a year from start to finish, the log structure popped up on their lot in a single day, once the handcrafting process had finalized the precise placement of each log. The main floor was quickly topped off with a Hybrid Building System second storey and roof, finished with Synergy insulated panels – both prefabricated in the Legendary Logcrafters' workshop. Installation of the entire structure took less than a week.

"We've been skiing up here for close to 20 years and when we were ready to build a chalet, we were drawn to the style of a log home," say the homeowners, a professional couple from Toronto. "We had had some initial contact with Legendary 10 years ago when we first started thinking about building. We were impressed with how hands-on the owner, **Milan Smeh** was and how involved in the process he was, start to finish. So when we were finally ready to go about building, the decision was easy – we knew that they were local and built with quality." *Continued on page 100*



The living room is bright and colourful with lots of natural light, red accents and a stunning painting from the Loft Gallery in Thornbury. All flower arrangements were supplied by Paperwhite Flowers. **OPPOSITE:** Once the handcrafting and prefabrication processes were completed, the installation of this custom log home took less than a week! The second storey features Legendary Logcrafters' Hybrid Building System.



## feature

The homeowners opted to build with Legendary's premier dovetail log profile that uses sustainably forested, eastern white pine logs that are 10 inches thick and up to 40 feet long. Dovetail log homes are very traditional with logs flattened on two sides – an aesthetic that appealed to the homeowners. The edges of each log are shaped by hand with a drawknife. The logs are then stacked and fitted together at the corners with a secure dovetail joint. The space between each log course is filled with a long-lasting, contemporary latex-based chinking that expands and contracts as the logs settle – giving the log home its traditional look.

"The exterior of the log walls are adzed by hand, as are some interior details such as the fireplace mantel, leaving a textured surface," says **Sandra Smart**, office manager at Legendary Logcrafters. Throughout its homes, Legendary also offers a choice of handcrafted timber accents, such as king post trusses to enhance a cathedral ceiling or exterior roof

peak, porch or deck. Insulated roof panels are prefabricated with factory finished tongue-and-groove pine on the interior surface. They work with Legendary's heavy timber roof system. "Once they are installed, you have a finished interior cathedral ceiling."

"We have three grown children, and we wanted three separate spaces in the house so we could eventually host several different families here and offer them privacy," says the homeowner. In consultation with Legendary, the owners drew their own floor plan and had drawings drafted by **Jasper Design**. In addition to the main three-bedroom house, which includes the great room and kitchen, they designed a one-bedroom private suite over the garage and three bedrooms in the basement that can be accessed by the basement door. "It's nice for guests to have a fridge and the ability to make their own coffee and tea in the morning. Then you can get together when you want." *Continued on page 102*



**LEFT:** A huge gourmet kitchen with oversized island, high-end appliances and wet bar, makes entertaining a breeze. **ABOVE:** The cabinetry colour was matched to the chinking that fills the space between the logs – tying the kitchen in with the rest of the open living area. **RIGHT:** Entertaining essentials – a cheeseboard from Dags & Willow and a fondue set – continue the theme of red accents.







The owners hired general contractor [Ralph Spadafora](#), recommended by Legendary, to finish the home. For balance, a combination of stone and iron was used with the wood. “We used black window frames and banisters in metal and wood,” says the owner. Stone tiles line the foyer and side entries. The deck entry features stone leading from the door to around the fireplace in the great room (Masonal Stone, installed by [Rossco Stone Design](#)).

The kitchen offers a striking contrast to the rest of the main living area. The homeowners knew the cabinet style they wanted and matched the warm grey chinking colour to the cabinets, tying the open space together. The massive island is topped with a single piece of granite, approximately 15 by 10 feet, with a corresponding slab on the counters around the perimeter of the room.

“We found a great sectional sofa for the recreation room at [Terase](#) in Thornbury,” says the homeowner. “I told the saleswoman that I was looking for a metal bed for our master bedroom and she said we really needed to see [Skot Lawrence](#) of [Desiron Custom Metal](#) in Clarksburg. We met him at his workshop and, as it turned out, we commissioned him to create not only our bed but a huge coffee table and dining room table and chairs. He works very collaboratively with people – he’s an artist and good with proportions and suggestions. We’re now working with him on a design for an entertainment cabinet for the great room.” *Continued on page 104*

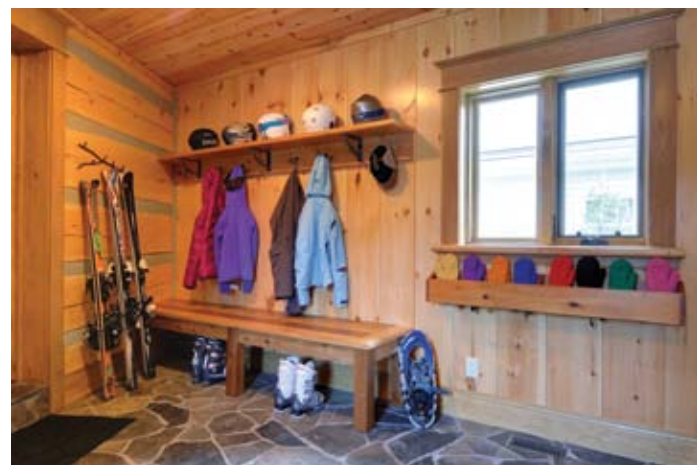
**OPPOSITE TOP:** The kitchen opens to a dining space and living room, where a king post truss mirrors the huge wall-to-wall window and accents the cathedral ceiling. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** A heavy, bright red door with black trim provides a striking contrast to the wood logs at the front entranceway. **ABOVE:** The master bedroom features a cosy sitting area with gas fireplace (Chantico Fireplace Gallery) and mountain views. **TOP RIGHT:** A large glassed-in shower provides contemporary convenience while a claw-foot tub offers traditional comfort in the master en suite. **RIGHT:** Skot Lawrence of Desiron Custom Metal designed the homeowners’ bed frame, and several other furniture pieces throughout the home.







The basement rec room is fun for all ages, encompassing a wet bar, wine cellar, games table and big screen TV with a comfy viewing area. **BELOW LEFT:** A mudroom was a must for this active family. **BELOW RIGHT:** Guests are offered the ultimate luxury with a SaunaRay sauna and steam shower.



The master bedroom suite features a walkout to the yard and a gas fireplace ([Chantico Fireplace Gallery](#)). The en suite offers an invigorating walk-in steam shower and a double vanity. Opposite the en suite is a large closet with built-in cedar shelving by [McMillan Millwork & Joinery](#).

On the upper level, the plank flooring in the hall and bedrooms doubles as the ceiling of the kitchen below. The main house includes two lovely bedrooms, a small TV room and a large bathroom with beautiful graphic mosaic tile floors and a glass shower. A crossover leads to a suite with a kitchenette above the garage, offering a private space for family and guests.

On the lower level, a separate entrance allows guests to filter downstairs to three bedrooms, two of which feature double sets of log bunk beds. A recreation room with a bar and wine cellar provides opportunities to entertain and relax. Down the wide hall is an exercise room complete with ski training machine and [SaunaRay](#) sauna. *Continued on page 106*



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See a sample of our listings on page 59 of this publication.



# feature



With over 20 years of experience in log home building, Milan Smeh's Legendary Logcrafters has provided handcrafted quality to homes across Southern Georgian Bay, Canada, the United States and Asia. The combination of handcrafted log walls, Hybrid Building System wall panels and Synergy insulated roof panels have made the log-home lifestyle a true alternative for building. The homeowner fondly remembers "watching the huge crane lifting the logs into place and Milan with his big wooden mallet standing on top as they go up, pounding all the joints. There's nothing quite like it." **OH**

## SOURCE GUIDE

Air Star Mechanical, At Home Interiors, Baymount Plumbing Ltd., Bill Brown Woodworking & Building Supplies Ltd., Brights Gallery, Burt's Roofing, C.C. Tatham & Associates Ltd., Chantico Fireplace Gallery, Clearlite Electric, Clearview Nursery Ltd., CRS Collingwood, Dags & Willow Fine Cheese and Gourmet Shop, Desiron Custom Metal, Farrow AV Design Inc., Foley's Furniture, G. Lawrence Enterprises, Georgian Audio Video, Gorilla Gutters, Hamilton Bros. Building & Farm Supplies Ltd., Huronia Alarms, Jasper Designs, John Martin, Legendary Logcrafters Ltd., Loft Gallery, M&K Painting, McMillan Millwork & Joinery, Paperwhite Flowers, Ralph Spadafora General Contracting, Robinson's Paint & Wallpaper, Rona Cashway Collingwood, Rossco Stone Design, Salnek's Custom Window Treatments, Terasse, Van Allan Design Centre, Van Dolder's Home Team, Inc.



The home's upper level houses two warm, welcoming spare bedrooms, each with rocking chairs and vintage Craigleith ski posters from At Home Interiors in Collingwood. The trio of metal art above the bed is from Van Allan Design Centre in Craigleith.



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# GLORIOUS grilled cheese

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER



Whether for a cosy lunch on a blustery day,

a DIY after-school snack for bottomless teens, or a last-minute dinner for busy nights, grilled cheese is the ultimate go-to food. And, there's the comforting nostalgia factor – who didn't grow up eating these simple, yet perfectly satisfying sandwiches?

These days, grilled cheese is enjoying its day in the limelight. Restaurants are springing up across the

country, dedicated solely to serving gourmet versions of these humble sandwiches. High-end bistros everywhere are guaranteed to have a cheesy sammie on their menu. Even cookbooks featuring only grilled cheese are published.

What lends the grilled cheese sandwich to these gourmet adaptations is its versatility. While processed cheese slices and white bread work in a pinch – or for everyday enjoyment – playing with the variety of cheese, artisanal breads and the addition of meats and veggies takes a plain old grilled cheese to grand heights.

To help you liven up your grilled cheese, here's an epicurean delight, sure to please, and some tips for making the perfect grilled cheese, no matter the filling.

## AGED GOUDA GRILLED CHEESE WITH CARMELIZED ONIONS AND BACON (Makes 2 sandwiches)

4 slices thick-sliced bacon

1 tbsp softened butter

4 slices sourdough bread

2 tsp Dijon mustard

½ cup each grated aged Gouda cheese and grated mozzarella cheese

### CARMELIZED ONIONS:

1 tbsp butter

1 onion, thinly sliced

Pinch each salt, pepper and sugar

- CARMELIZED ONIONS: Melt butter in small saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, salt, pepper and sugar. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender and golden, about 15 minutes. Set aside.
- Meanwhile, in large skillet, cook bacon over medium heat, turning once, until crisp and golden, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to paper towel-lined plate and set aside.
- Butter one side of each slice of bread. Spread mustard on the other side of each slice of bread. Arrange the cheese, onions and bacon on two slices of bread (on the mustard side) – sandwich with remaining bread.
- In large non-stick skillet, cook sandwiches over medium heat, turning once, until bread is crisp and golden and cheese is melted, 6 to 8 minutes.
- Slice in half to serve.

## 7 TIPS FOR THE BEST GRILLED CHEESE EVER

**1.** Choose your cheese wisely. The best grilled cheese sandwiches combine at least two different types of cheese – one for its flavour profile, the other for its melting properties. For flavour, consider aged cheeses, smoked cheeses, parmesan or blue cheese. Best melting cheeses include mozzarella, fontina, cheddar or provolone.

**2.** Grate instead of slice. Grated cheese allows you to cover the surface of the bread more evenly. And the cheese melts quicker, so the bread doesn't scorch while you wait for gooey cheese.

**3.** Consider the bread to cheese ratio. There is nothing more disappointing than biting into a grilled cheese sandwich and having to literally search for the cheese. To avoid this, slice your bread no thicker than 1/2-inch thick and pack in the cheese!

**4.** Use a non-stick pan. This ensures that not only does the bread not stick to the pan – making the flip easy – but those bits of crunchy melted cheese also don't stick. And I think we can all agree that those crispy bits are one of the best parts of the grilled cheese sandwich experience!

**5.** Medium heat is the way to cook your grilled cheese. Too high, and the bread burns before the cheese melts – too low, and you'll wait forever for the sandwich.

**6.** Use a lid. Cover the skillet while the grilled cheese cooks. This gives the cheese a chance to get ooey-gooey before the bread chars.

**7.** Don't shy away from condiments. Of course, there is always ketchup. But pickles (bread & butter or dill), mustard, mayonnaise, sauerkraut, olives, cranberry chutney and roasted vegetables are just a handful of other condiments that will feel right at home alongside your sandwich. **OH**

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BY HEATHER COOK &  
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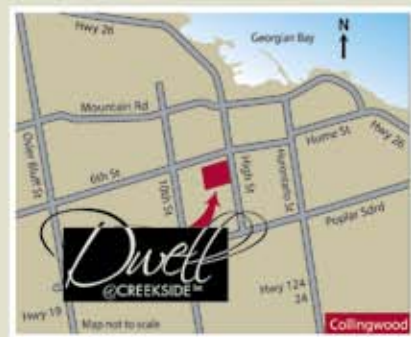


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