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314 MARINER'S WAY \$319,000



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146 SETTLER'S WAY # 10 \$224,900



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64 CONNOR AVE. **SOLD**



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LORA BAY BUILDING LOT \$134,900



Looking to be part of this wonderful and friendly community? Fully serviced and treed building lot is perfectly located on the 11th tee. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this property is ready for your dream home.

116 CLAIRE GLEN \$799,000



This newly renovated 8 bedroom Chalet/Cottage is a grandfathered, short term rental property with proven income. Great location and INDOOR heated pool make this one of a kind.

Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale. *Independently Owned and Operated E&OE **Award information available at Century 21 Millennium Inc.



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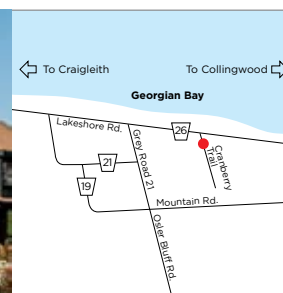
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Nestled in the Escarpment with Huge Views to the Bay \$2,279,000
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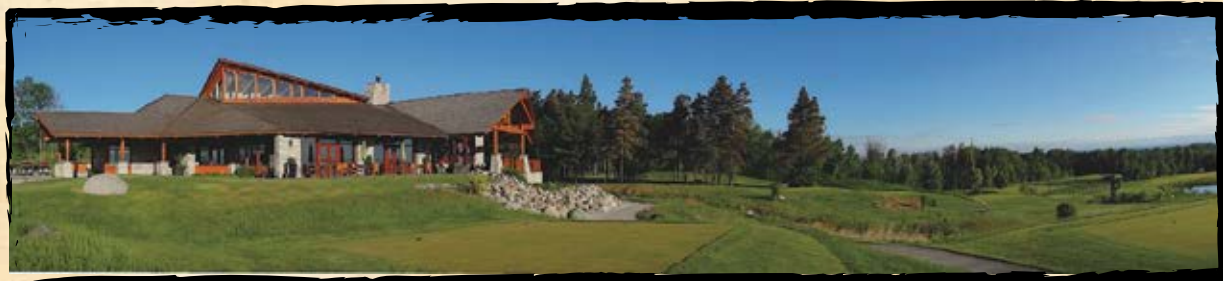
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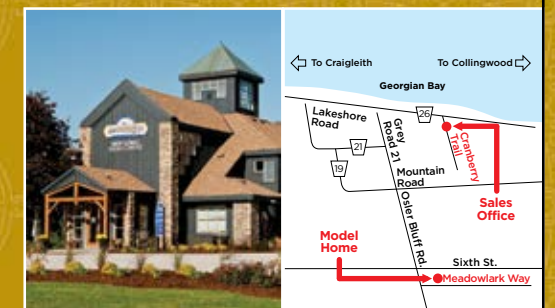
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Prices and specifications correct at press time. Rendering is artist's concept of a Windfall Phase II streetscape. E. & O.E.



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\$749,000
127 Kitzbuhl Crescent
Blue Mountains
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\$1,995,000
138 Blueski George Crescent
Blue Mountains
6 Bed | 4/1 Bath | 4318 Total sqft



\$2,495,000
147 Stone Zack Lane
Blue Mountains
7 Bed | 4/1 Bath | 6462 Total sqft



\$1,449,000
627492 119 Grey Rd.
Blue Mountains
4 Bed | 4/1 Bath | 6483 Total sqft



\$799,000
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Collingwood
3 Bed | 2/1 Bath | 3126 Total sqft



\$995,000 NEW PRICE
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4 Bed | 4 Bath | 4517 Total sqft



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3672 124 County Rd.
Clearview
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\$292,000
10 Silver Glen Blvd.
Collingwood
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\$374,900
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146 Blueski George Cres.
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5 Bed | 3/1 Bath | 5000 Total sqft



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788113 13 Grey Rd.
Blue Mountains
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\$1,295,000
8677 91 County Road
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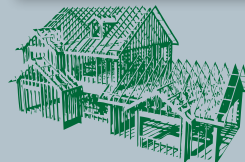
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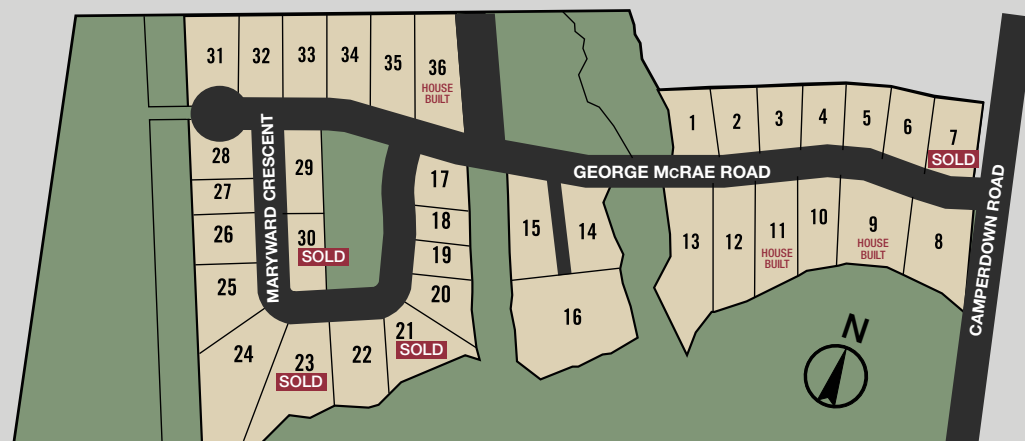
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MY LOVEABLE DOG MAX DOES NOT LIKE HARDWOOD, laminate or ceramic floors. He is only comfortable on carpet, blankets or our new sectional sofa (sigh!). Every time Max needs to go outside, he digs deep to find the courage to scamper across the ceramic tile flooring to one of three exits. He doesn't bark at all, so he stands at the door waiting for someone to notice that he wants to go outside.

When we brought him home from the pound three years ago, we discovered quite quickly that he had issues. Issues – that's what my brother-in-law Lindsay says we should have named him. My boys decided on Max.

Three years have now passed, and we are absolutely in love with our Max. He's still terrified of the floors, he's still silent and he now walks backwards up the stairs.

I'm telling you about my Max because this issue of OUR HOMES features people who bring their pets to work. I could never bring Max to the OUR HOMES office – the place is covered with hardwood flooring. If you are considering a new pet, please visit or contact one of the many organizations that rescue abandoned dogs and cats. There are so many that need a good home.

Spring uncovers work and new possibilities around the house. This issue is full of inspiration and stories about people who are celebrating life at home here in glorious Southern Georgian Bay.

I also encourage you to visit our new website ourhomes.ca for even more great ideas for your home, inside and out.

Sincerely,

Georgette McCulloch, Editor-In-Chief
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spring



ON THE COVER

The Best View In Town,
Story, Page 44.
Photography By
Sandy Mackay.



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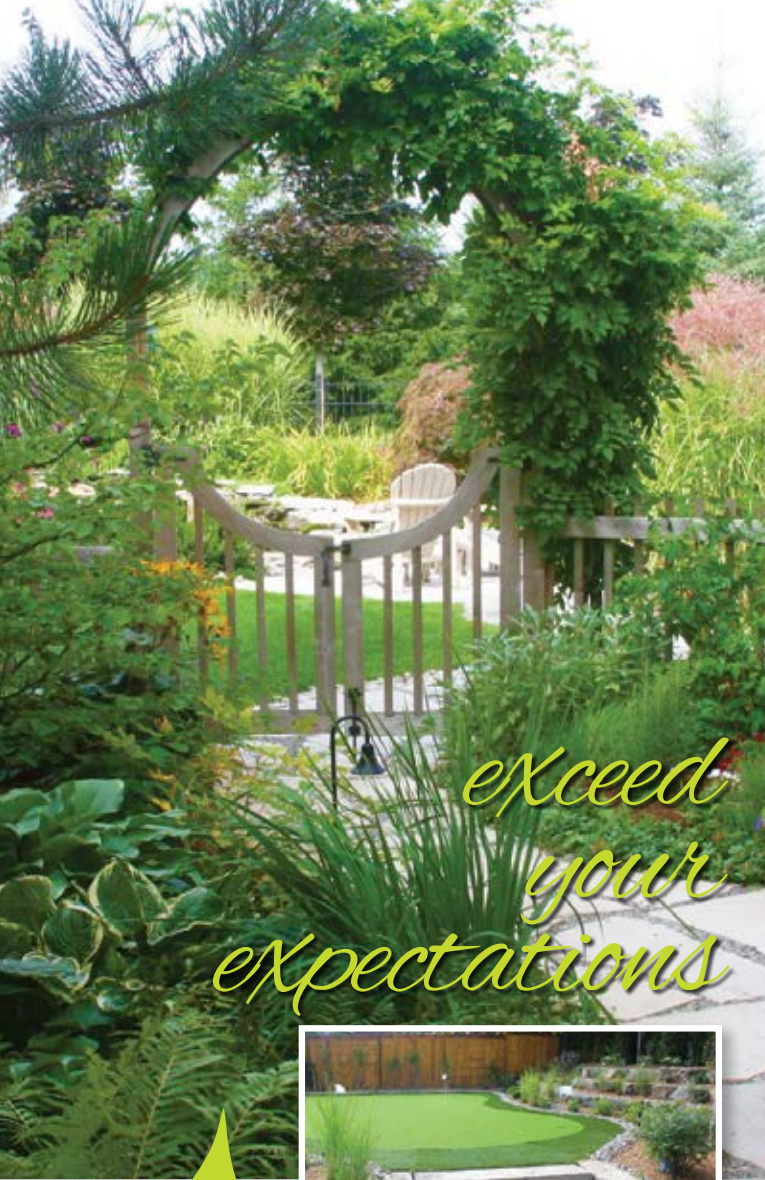
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publisher's note



CHUBBS, MY LITTLE, ALMOST BLIND PUG HAD A difficult winter. Day after day, he slowly slid down icy sidewalks and bounced off snow banks. When temperatures hit record lows he avoided the front door altogether, and, completely out of character, I did the same!

Usually, I brave the elements that Mother Nature throws our way in order to do all the winter activities I love, but not *this* winter. Instead, we booked a last minute flight to visit family in sunny California. It was 98 degrees (F) in the shade, and was just what the doctor ordered! Upon our return, the sun finally peeked out and the melting began.

Chubbs and I hit the sidewalk with a new bounce in our step, feeling more excited for spring than ever. We hope this spring issue will make you feel the same way!

In Comfort Zone, our retail feature, we introduce you to a new partnership in Thornbury. Baywood Designs has the creative duo of Lindsay and Lisa, who can bring all your décor ideas to fruition (page 56).

Our People pages spotlight some of the beloved pets that go to work with our clients, and man's best friend isn't always a dog (page 60).

Our home features include a visit with a young couple at their new home in Thornbury, a tour of the weekend retreat of the owner of Oslerbrook Golf Club, and a stop at the top – a penthouse reno for a dynamic Collingwood couple.

After this past winter, I think I finally get the snowbird concept. 'Til then, I have my to-do list – paint, re-shingle and attempt a container garden, again.

Here's to spring!

Simone

Simone Sterio-Risk, Associate Publisher
simone.steriorisk@ourhomes.ca



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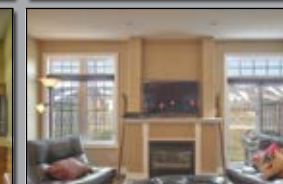


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SCANDINAVIAN (INTERIOR) DESIGN

STORY **STEPHANIE REDMOND**



1

THE FASCINATION AND popularity of Scandinavian interior design is remarkable to me. It's not that it isn't well deserved, quite the contrary. These countries – Denmark, Norway and Sweden – are characterized as dark and cold. Yet the interiors are white and simple. Somehow, the starkness of the interior reflects the chill of the landscape, but still evokes incredible warmth. How is this possible? And what's the obsession? A main characteristic of Scandinavian furniture design is minimalism, but also incredible craftsmanship. Simple lines using natural elements – wood, metal, stone, paper and felt. When something is really simple, you tend to see every working part unless it is carefully hidden. Take this Alvaar Aalto stool as an example. Instead of hiding the screws that hold the backrest to the stool and the footrest to the legs, they become the simplest design element. Other than the shape of the piece, it remains the single outside element that decorates this stool. (He was Finnish, but Finland is oft considered a



2



3

1. **STANLEY SOFA** : De La Espada 2. **STOOL**: Alvaar Aalto 3. **LITTALA MENO HOME BAG**: Iittala Finland 4. **EPOCA WOOD FIREPLACE**: Rais 5. **ARM TABLE LAMP**: Claesson Koivisto Rune



Designer
Stephanie Redmond
shares her ideas.

Scandinavian country). Simple and beautifully crafted; this is typical of a Scandinavian piece.

It's not to say that Scandinavian design is clinical, not by a long shot. The backdrop may be white, the lines might be clean, but there is often a sense of humour. What pops out of the strictness of this white palette are primary colours and fun patterns in some cases. Take this table lamp by Claesson Koivisto Rune. It follows the rules of simplicity, but comes in



5



4

a fabulous bright green for added pop. We also see these primary colours in textiles with patterns that reflect a rich history in weaving and embroidery.

In a modern arrangement, we typically see a more organic approach: wool, felt and linens in off-white and soft grey. What stands out in this type of setting are the items placed against the backdrop. It's a gallery style setting – fabulous if you have an art and/or photography collection. The key to this approach though, is to keep it simple. If you have a vast array of tchotchkes and knickknacks, Scandinavian living may not be for you. One of my favourite things is a collection of curiosities. Odd found items put out on display. It's the kind of thing my husband might throw in the woodstove. But this creates warmth. A great piece of bark hung on a wall can look like a masterpiece in the right setting.

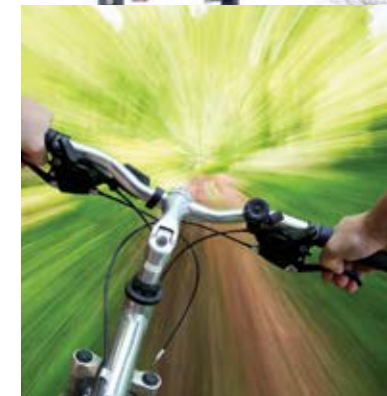
The best modern designs in woodstoves are also Scandinavian. No question. Take the Rais Epoca as an example. A woodstove is a quintessential item in this setting and the lines on this piece follow the typical aesthetic – simple yet beautiful. Paired with a fur rug we have immediately created a warm environment, both aesthetically and physically!

So what is the obsession? I believe a clean surrounding that is relatively clutter free gives us a sense of calm in an otherwise hectic life. This style is like a detox for your home. And let's be honest, who wouldn't want to kick back in front of a wood stove at the end of a long day? **OH**

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PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

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Continued on page 32

7



8



9



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A BEAUTIFUL *and edible* LANDSCAPE

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY
MELANIE REKOLA



Scarlet Runner

As happens so often in fashion, what is old is new again. Adding edibles to the landscape is presently very stylish, however being the world's oldest form of horticultural cultivation it is, in fact, the origin of the modern-day garden.

MELANIE'S TREE PICKS

Fruit Trees:

- Apple
- Pear
- Peach
- Plum

Nut Trees:

- Chestnut
- Shagbark Hickory
- Walnut



Nasturtium

Evidence suggests plant-based gardening began in prehistoric times where our ancestors planted favoured food species along jungle-clad river banks. By 10,000 BC, we were enclosing our food gardens, very likely to protect our crops. The word "garden" descends from the Old English term "geard," meaning fence or enclosure.

Adding food plants to your landscape is easier than you may think. Many are quite lovely, performing double duty. Other common garden plants are both edible and delicious proving there is no need to sacrifice beauty for a food-fare garden.

Add A Fruit Tree Or Two

I never hide the fact that I am in love with woody plants of all types. Most properties lack trees for privacy, to mask ugly sight lines, to ground the house and to give outdoor spaces that content and cosy feeling. Many fruiting trees are quite good looking, and though you may have heard fruiting trees are high maintenance, by choosing disease-resistant varieties, you can cut your work in half. Yes, you will have to prune thin to increase the size of the remaining fruit and spray a safe, chemical-free pesticide to be successful, but the reward far outweighs the work in my opinion.

They all bloom, and some are even fragrant. Many are self-pollinating (meaning you only have to plant one), yet others must be planted in pairs, of male and female, to produce fruit. Select tree placements wisely. If you are not judicious about harvesting, the fallen fruit will attract wasps. Therefore, they are best planted away from patios and walkways. If fruit trees are not your thing, then don't forget about the low-care nut producing trees and sugar maples for syrup.

Berry-Bearing Shrubs

Fruiting shrubs are lower maintenance than fruiting trees due to the smaller size and faster maturation of fruit that makes insect infestation less likely. As they take up less space than trees, they are also easier to fit in.

Serviceberry (can also be a tree) produces tasty berries, and it looks gorgeous with lovely grey bark, great form, fluffy white flowers and red scarlet fall pigment.

Elderberry is another great choice. It comes in standard leaf and lacy cut-leaf variation that mimics a Japanese maple (but is much hardier). Leaf colours also vary wildly from yellow to deep wine, making them highly ornamental. Its prolific berries taste great on their own and also are perfect for pies.

Low-growing velvet leaf blueberry is appropriate for the front of the border. Though it is not highly ornamental, it makes a good filler plant and is worth considering due to its supremely luscious berries.

Continued on page 38

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Oregano

MELANIE'S PLANT PICKS

Herbs:

- Chives
- Thyme
- Oregano
- Sage

Perennials:

- Daylily
- Echinacea
- Lavender
- Yucca
- Violets

Annuals:

- Nasturtium
- Pansies
- Calendula



Arctic Kiwi Vine



Daylily

Underused and vigorous, vivacious vines are a wonderful way to screen unsightly walls or fences and maximize vertical space. They also give a garden a much-needed sense of age.

For grapes, by deciding on native or cold hardy, disease-resistant varieties and by using careful pruning techniques, you'll have a great chance of success!

Hardy kiwi is a lower-maintenance but aggressive vine to ponder with lovely reddish stems, thick mid-green leaves and succulent fruit.

Scarlet runner beans are yet another delightful option. They grow fast and have gorgeous red blooms that hummingbirds love and develop into edible beans. Scarlet runner beans are an annual and, for this reason, require planting every year, but it's easy to let a few beans develop and save the seed for sowing the following year.

Edible Perennials (and a few annuals)

Interestingly, the flowers of many common garden perennials are edible or partially edible. Flower cookery can be traced back to Roman times but was especially popular during the Victorian era. Most herb blooms are just as tasty as their foliage, and many are quite handsome, available in colourful leaved and variegated variations. You may recognize some



Chives

of these edible and vibrant annuals, perennials and herbs (listed above) already growing in your very own garden. And if cooking with flowers doesn't delight you, they can be used as a lovely plate garnish or frozen into ice cubes for a fancy dinner party.

Gorgeous Kitchen Garden

You could also choose to be all-out obvious with your edibles and plant a kitchen garden. Kitchen gardens can be a thing of beauty when formal geometry is bordered with low-herb hedging, and are best situated in a spot with easy kitchen access. Select but one good-looking food plant per quadrant. Finish the look by decorating the space with lovely potted edibles such as vibrant hot peppers. Save those ugly tomatoes and potatoes for the designated veggie plot.

In a world where many children grow up eating from the grocery store (and many ingesting mostly packaged food), it is especially important to demonstrate just where all this food is coming from. Growing edibles creates an important teaching opportunity by showing first-hand the life cycle of food, including the importance of (and the necessity of protecting) our pollinators. To sum it all up, food gardening can be both attractive and appetizing, is fun, convenient and healthy, offers educational opportunity and will save you money. What's not to love? **OH**

Melanie is a certified horticulturist and landscape designer.

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STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**

INSPECTIONS MAKE GOOD DEALS AND *better homes*

Buying, selling or maintaining a home are all a lot easier with professional help.

It's one reason many people turn to home inspectors to help them decide whether to purchase a home, when to repair it or spruce it up for sale.

"Inspections help home buyers make an informed decision," says Blaine Swan, a registered home inspector and owner of Home Probe Canada.

"Buyers are usually inundated with details about colour choices, how their furniture fits and the home location," he says. "A home inspection is the nitty-gritty details. An inspector looks at the multitude of systems that all come together to make the home – the roof, structure, heating system, plumbing system, electrical, etc.," says Swan.

"It is a large financial investment they're about to make and it provides them with a number of answers, but primarily, is the home safe, is the home habitable, are there significant costs needed to make it safe and habitable," says Swan, who's been inspecting homes since 2002 and is president of the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors.

Home inspectors don't prescribe repairs or estimate the cost of renovations, but their findings can help prospective buyers choose whether to renegotiate the sale or accept the home as is and deal with repairs later, Swan explains. "Sometimes, the information provided is walk-away information. There's just too much, and it's a deal breaker. It happens all the time."

While most older homes often need some work and are carefully scrutinized, newly-built homes are also worth a professional look. The quality of building materials and contractors can vary widely in new construction. "You've got the low end and you've got the high end," Swan says. "Not everybody is at the high end. That's why we

inspect. The problem with new homes is that sometimes it's not readily evident what the problems are."

Pre-sale home inspections performed for homeowners can help prepare them for selling their home and give them time to ensure the house is ready for sale. "This allows the seller to be proactive," Swan says. "In other words, if it needs a new furnace, or it needs a new roof or something like that, the homeowner can go out and gather the pricing and information, or even get the jobs done, prior to putting the home on the market," he says.

Inspections can also assist home maintenance, especially for those people with limited mobility, knowledge or skills in home improvement.

"Not everybody can crawl on the roof," Swan says. "A lot of people are older and can't get up there and look at the roof. Even if they could look they may not be able to interpret what they see. A home inspector would." Inspectors are knowledgeable about the life expectancy of different materials, products and systems and can advise homeowners accordingly. "It's better than laying awake at night, worrying about what's over your head, or what's happening in the basement," he



says. "It's just good information so you can do financial planning."

Before choosing a home inspector, homeowners and buyers should check the websites of the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors (cahpi.ca) or the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors (oahi.com). Their published standards of practice define what you can expect from a home inspector. Just as importantly, these standards state what inspectors don't do. For example, inspectors are not required to determine the advisability of purchasing any property. Nor are they required to determine the remaining life of any system or component. They're not required to move suspended ceiling tiles, furniture or debris or to determine the strength, adequacy, effectiveness, or efficiency of any system or component or the causes of any condition or deficiency. Both sites list nearly 80 exclusions.

The Canadian and Ontario home inspectors' associations can help homeowners and buyers find trained and qualified inspectors. **OH**

online Five questions to ask a home inspector: ourhomes.ca/mag/inspector

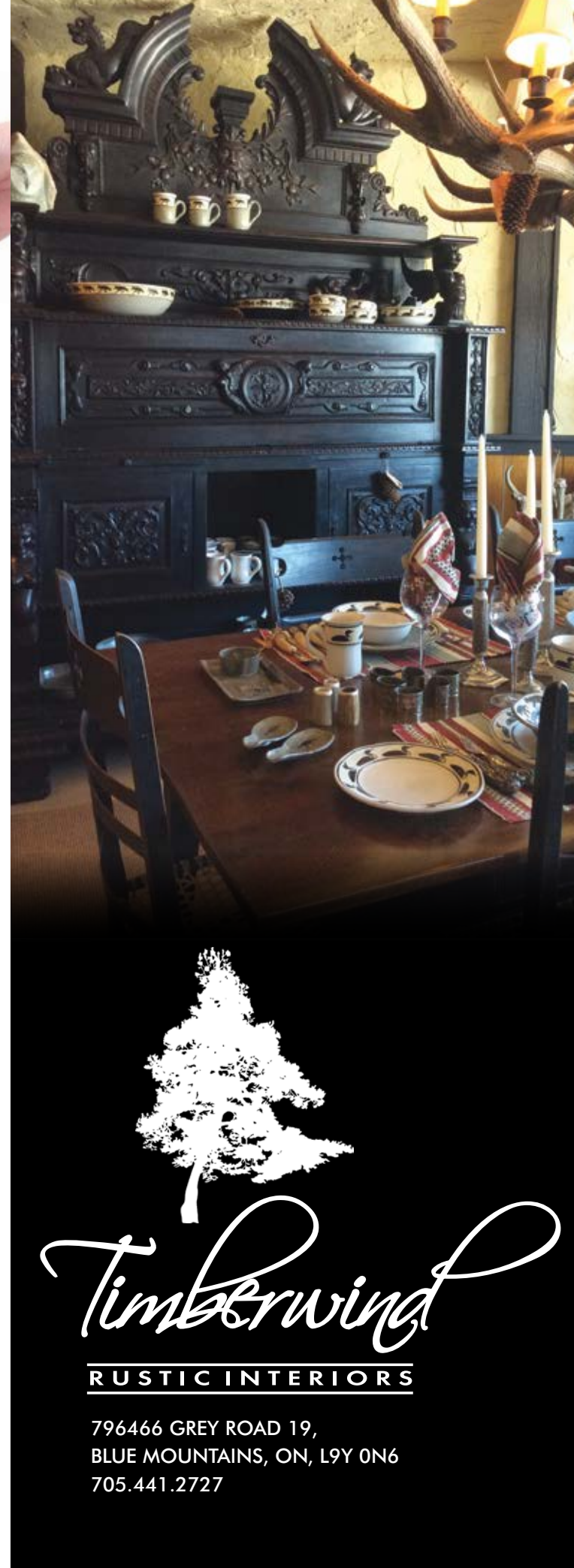
The Ontario government urges homeowners and buyers to do some research to find a reliable and knowledgeable home inspector. Here are some of its tips:

Look for a home inspector who:

- provides written inspection reports
- will give you references
- has experience with the type of home you're considering (e.g. condos, heritage-era homes, cottages)
- has an accreditation that shows training and experience
- will provide a written contract

When hiring a home inspector make sure to:

- get quotes from more than one inspector
- check references
- ask about their training and experience
- ask to see a copy of the inspection report they use
- ask if they choose to have insurance



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STORY **MELODY WREN** | ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

THE LUXURY OF LESS

Living a decluttered life in a streamlined, simplified house sounds easy. Why is it so difficult?

It is generally true that “outer order contributes to inner calm,” as Gretchen Rubin writes in her bestselling book *The Happiness Project*. Massive decluttering is likely to leave you feeling lighter. Your first step should be getting rid of things, and then there will be less to organize. Choose experiences over material goods. Get familiar with your stuff and your spending habits. Experientialists are not against spending, not even against stuff, but they are against having too much of the wrong stuff. Making sure your possessions play a healthy role in your life and knowing exactly what you own leads to the following question: Do my things give me experiences and make me happy, or are they creating debt, stress and unhappiness?

“Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.”

– William Morris

One way of finding out what you need is to put everything you are unsure about in a box or garbage bag. Over the next month, take out items as you need them. By the end of the month, you will know what you don't use because it will still be in the box. Your next step is doing it for six months. Start anywhere – do any small thing to train the brain that change is coming. Once you are in the mindset to declutter, the following steps will help you get started:

One of the easiest methods to subscribe to is the four-box method:

- Decide which room you are starting on and line up boxes in the following categories: keep, sell, charity, trash. Place each item from every room into one of the four categories. Some rooms will take hours, and others will take days. But the technique and principles remain the same.
- Consider each item individually. Be ruthless and if you can't be, make sure someone is helping you that can question everything

- you decide to keep. Whatever is in the keep pile, look at it a second time.
- Pick up one item at a time and make an instant decision – when was the last time you used this? If you haven't used it in a few months (six months at the longest), get rid of it, excluding seasonal clothes, of course.

Deal With Each Box

- **Keep Pile:** if you decide to keep it, organize it before you put it away, keeping similar items together. You might have scattered notebooks and stationary – keep it all together in a nice-looking container in the office area of your home.
- **Sell pile:** List it immediately on Kijiji or Craigslist and keep it separate from the remaining items to sort so you aren't tempted to keep it. List it for a reasonable price with a photo, description and measurements so it sells quickly.
- **Charity Pile:** Donate as much as possible. Most charities are willing to pick up large pieces, otherwise load up the car and deliver as soon as you can to keep things moving. If you hold onto an item too long, there might be a temptation to keep it.
- **Trash Pile:** Papers often fall into this category. For anything you can use for tax purposes, the general rule of thumb in Canada is to save pertinent financial records for seven years.

Henry David Thoreau, everyone's favourite 19th-century hut-dwelling minimalist expressed the sense that owning things constitutes a spiritual burden. He advocated simplicity; not throwing out so much as not acquiring them in the first place. **OH**



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THE BEST VIEW *in town*

STORY **SARAH ISBISTER**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
STYLING **SARA MARTIN**

Gail and Gerry Bascombe’s formerly pink penthouse has been transformed into a beautiful abode with a comfortable, yet elegant feel.

Their friend **Jerry Patten** completed the renovation. The Bascombes had worked with Patten and his family-owned company, **L. Patten & Sons Limited**, on many previous projects. “Jerry and his team can bring a huge renovation project like this together,” says Gail. “Everyone who worked with us was part of Jerry’s team, and we simply couldn’t have done it without him.”

Bayview Tower is the tallest building in Collingwood, and when it was 25 years old in 2013, it underwent a rejuvenation initiated and completed by the people who live there. Residents of the landmark building decided to mark the anniversary with a renovation of the public areas on all 10 floors. (OUR HOMES, Ski Issue 2014). Gail was a member of the committee that completed this project, and her style can be seen throughout the building, as well as in the penthouse she and her husband own. She also provided the design and decorating ideas that make their space beautiful and functional. *Continued on page 46*



The breathtaking 360-degree panoramic view of Georgian Bay and the town of Collingwood as seen from the Bascombe’s penthouse terrace. **ABOVE LEFT:** Homeowners Gail and Gerry Bascombe (seated) were thrilled with the final outcome of their penthouse renovation by builder Jerry Patten. These lucky homeowners also enjoy a gorgeous view of the Escarpment and ski trails.





Entering the Bascombe's top floor suite, the light and views of both Collingwood and the Bay immediately draw guests, as well as the owners, to the floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall windows and hurricane sliding doors. As they planned the renovation, highlighting these views and using the space for maximum practicality were of particular interest to the owners and to Patten. Beyond the glass

is a large terrace, which offers comfortable seating. The living room, dining room and kitchen are open and evolve into each other with a high counter between the kitchen and living area. The ceilings in the main space are a soaring 23-feet high. A simple Marquis gas fireplace, installed by **Nottawasaga Mechanical**, is the centrepiece of the left wall. To the right, built-in shelves and

cupboards from **Clearview Woodworking** highlight artifacts from the owners' extensive travels. To the left of the fireplace, an antique Quebec pine cupboard defines the dining-room space. The floor tile provides a border along the glass doors and easily joins the walnut on the rest of the floor, which is scattered with area rugs from **Georgian Design Centre**. *Continued on page 48*

ABOVE: The open-concept living/dining area is flooded with light year-round. Soaring 23-foot ceilings add to the feeling of spaciousness and gleaming walnut floors warm the space.



LEFT: The front foyer features an eclectic mix of art and antique treasures, as well as a handy wooden bowl for car keys. **BELOW LEFT:** Built-in shelving to the right of the fireplace houses numerous family collectibles, pieces of contemporary Canadiana, and unique antiques.





ABOVE: A functional, open-concept galley kitchen features stainless appliances from Macdonald's Brandsource Furniture & Appliances, cabinets by Clearview Woodworking and a granite, acid-wash countertop. **RIGHT:** When needed, a convenient counter spanning the kitchen windows slides out to provide an additional space for cocktails and appetizers.



Patten reconfigured the entrance, removing a wall to create a cleverly designed dining area. A banquette with a view of the Bay lines one side and offers built-in storage in its padded seat. A unique walnut table, designed by the owner and **Clearview Woodworking**, sits on felt pads, which can be moved to allow diners into the banquette and then easily pushed back into place. Its simple lines and material tie in with the furnishings and colour scheme.

Greg Andrews of Clearview Woodworking worked with the owner on all wood-related projects, including the walnut dining table, as well as the living room, kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Gail commented, "Greg is a wonderful, very creative young man, with a great sense of humour, which is important, and most of all delivers a quality product." The

Continued on page 50



Gail is very proud of the moveable walnut dining table that she designed with the help of Greg Andrews of Clearview Woodworking. It has a unique bar on the floor that sits on felt pads and the padded seat lifts to provide built-in storage.

RIGHT: The Bascombe's home office was painted Hailstorm by Benjamin Moore; the built-in desk, designed by Clearview Woodworking, showcases a lifetime of family memorabilia, including Trucker, one of the couple's many Golden retrievers. **BELOW AND BOTTOM:** Homeowner Gerry was a successful broadcaster for many years. In fact, he was the voice of Hercules on the popular TV show.



kitchen cupboards are also by Clearview Woodworking. A narrow counter spans the kitchen window and provides an additional eating area or serving counter. The kitchen counters are acid-wash granite and the hardware is stainless. The backsplash from Georgian Design Centre follows the silver theme that is seen here and there in art choices

on the walls, with a little more glitz in the glass tiles. **Dave and Helen Labelle**, the owners of Georgian Design Centre, were integral to many of the design inspirations, from lighting and area rugs to flooring and the backsplash. Gail is pleased with the selection and advice she received from the owners of this Collingwood shop, and thinks the results are wonderful.

Continued on page 52




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LEFT: The spacious and bright master bedroom was completely reconfigured by L. Patten & Sons Limited to include more cupboard space. The walls were painted Titanium by Benjamin Moore. **BELOW:** On a clear day, this comfortable seating area in Gerry's office sanctuary offers a stunning view of the Blue Mountains.

The colour scheme, chosen by Gail, includes natural tones, providing a backdrop for the many art pieces on the walls and complementing the furnishings and art from **At Home Interiors/ Food For Thought** and Gail's friend, Didi Hanna. The main area was painted Parchment and the trim and ceilings are Cloud White by Benjamin Moore.

The couple's office space has wonderful views of the ski hills from Osler and across Blue Mountain. Windows on one side and a sliding hurricane door on the adjacent wall lead to a smaller deck. The colour here is Hailstorm by Benjamin Moore. Built-ins by Clearview Woodworking complete the space. The guest bedroom is comfortable and also features great light and views.

The master bedroom was remodeled by Jerry and L. Patten & Sons Limited to provide ample cupboard space. Another large window

Continued on page 54





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provides plenty of additional light and the high ceilings in the room continue the same colour themes. The master en suite, located off the bedroom, features double sinks in a vanity by Clearview Woodworking. The toilet is cleverly installed in its “own little room,” allowing access to the rest of the bathroom. The walk-in shower (by **Robert Morrill Plumbing**) has all the added features the owners desired.

Every space in this gorgeous penthouse includes natural colours, sitting areas, and art and treasures that give interest to the rooms. The overall impression, created by the owners and the work of various professionals, is that of a comfortable home that showcases not only the owners’ lifestyle, but also the best view in town. **OH**



Homeowner Gail’s impeccable taste is apparent throughout the renovated penthouse in small details like the orchid and whimsical bunny in the guest bathroom. **RIGHT:** Recessed shelving in the master en suite is accentuated with down lighting to create an ideal cubby for towels and other bathroom essentials.



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- At Home Interiors/Food For Thought
- Clearlite Electric • Greg Andrews of Clearview Woodworking • Dave & Helen Labelle of Georgian Design Centre • Leon’s Furniture • Jerry Patten of L. Patten & Sons Limited
 - Macdonald’s Brandsource Furniture & Appliances • Nottawasaga Mechanical • Robert Morrill Plumbing
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Lisa and Lindsay



TWO ENTREPRENEURS POOL THEIR TALENTS

STORY **JUDE WAYLAND**
PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

THE PLACE: When Lindsay Herbert moved to Clarksburg after working for a design firm in Calgary that specialized in custom window treatments and renovations, she started a home business called Inside Elements. Out of curiosity, she visited a shop in Thornbury called Ashbury Cabin. “As it turned out,” says Lindsay, “Lisa (Proctor) and I were carrying a few of the same lines, so I set up a desk in her store. We soon discovered how well we worked together and how beneficial this arrangement could be for both us and our clients.” Now, **Baywood Designs**

combines the best of both businesses, drawing on each co-owner’s individual style and experience.

THE STYLE: Lindsay has a diploma in interior design. Her tastes favour modern décor, clean lines and moderately priced pieces. Lisa specializes in milk and chalk paint and custom barn-built furniture. “Our store is a resource centre where designers are welcome to come in and collaborate with their clients,” says Lindsay, who also offers in-store design consultations.



THE SPECIALTIES: Baywood Designs features a mix of both modern and rustic product lines that beautifully reflect Lindsay and Lisa’s different characters. A Nuevo table juxtaposes modern chrome legs with a rustic recycled wood top, and a Style in Form coffee table is fashioned from a funky tree root with a glass top. Arteriors, a unique blend of mid-century modern and traditional furniture, also figures prominently, as does a soft furnishings line of custom upholstered sofas from Whittaker Designs.

OTHER WARES: Plenty of local art, in addition to a wide variety of window treatments from Hunter Douglas, custom FaAb drapes, and commercial motorized blinds from MechoShade Home Systems. Also featured are Jaipur area rugs, poufs and decorative pillows, and colourful braided rugs from Capel.

WHAT’S HOT: Born in a Barn birdhouses made in Canada from recycled wood and tin, and custom furniture painting are hot. A new line of luxury linens from St Gèneve is all the rage. “The hottest design trend right now is mid-century modern,” says Lindsay. “Pairing mid-century modern with rustic elements is also very popular.”

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pets ON THE JOB

STORY JUDE WAYLAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BONNIE FOX



Meet a few fuzzy and furry friends who go to work in Southern Georgian Bay. For the owners of these trusty companions, it's really all about the love.

RENÉE DESROCHERS *Owner, Adorn II* & L.B. (LITTLE BUDDY)

Why do you bring your dog to work with you?
Simply because I love him. I've had L.B. (Little Buddy) for five years and he's a chorkie – half longhaired chihuahua, half Yorkshire terrier.

If you could have dinner with anyone who would it be? I would most like to have dinner with my family, L.B. included, in Paris.

What colour is happiness? A rainbow of colour. I love all colours.

Where will you go on your next vacation?
Probably France.

What's your favourite TV program? *Downton Abbey*.

CHRISTINE HARRINGTON *Project Manager* DAVE HARRINGTON *Owner, Absolute Craftsmen Ltd.* & BELLA

Tell us about your helper: One of the guys who works for me had a dog that had puppies and we took the kids to see them. I told them we're not getting one. They asked why I brought them to have a look. I told them if I showed you a nice Ferrari, does that mean I'm going to get you one? No. Bella is six and she's a yellow Lab. She creates a nice environment around the site, which personalizes us a bit. She's also well known by the local trades; they hide their lunches because she goes right into trucks and steals lunches. Her favourite thing is an electrician's lunch.

Shiny red convertible or loaded pickup truck? Christine: I'd take the pickup truck. Dave: I'd take the pickup truck too.



Do you play any musical instruments? Christine: No, we're the least musical family in the world, but we listen to loud music! Dave: No. We don't have a musical bone in our bodies. What instrument would you like to play? Christine: The guitar. Dave: A saltshaker.

Did you have a favourite toy as a kid? Christine: Yup. Puppy Surprise. It's a puppy that has a Velcro stomach and you open it up and you get up to six puppies. Dave: My mini dirt bike.

If you could order anything you want for dinner, what would it be? Christine: I'd probably order tacos. Dave: Duck confit.

Continued on page 62



MILAN SMEH
Owner, The Legendary Group
& FINNEGAN

Who is your helper and why does he come to work with you? My greatest helper is Finnegan. He's an Australian shepherd crossed with an Alaskan malamute. I bring him to work because he's an excellent companion and he's always in a good mood.

What's your favourite TV show? I still like *Survivor*.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Mexico, doing what you do in Mexico.

Motorcycle, truck or car of your dreams? A 1969 Dodge Charger.

What's your favourite tool? My construction calculator... and my mind.

Continued on page 64

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TOULA LLOYD
Manager of Administrative Services
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& MALIBU

How long has your dog been coming to work with you? Right from the get-go, she's been coming to work with me because she's very much a "people person." I think it's nice to bring your dog to work with you so she's not alone all day. She's so friendly with everyone and everyone just loves her. She's a six-year-old chocolate Lab and she has a very beautiful disposition. She calms people. She's our official greeter, or mascot.

What matters the most to you? Family.

What's your favourite flower? My favourite flowers are pink lilies.

Where can we find you in the springtime? I'm a piper. I play the bagpipes with the Beinn Gorm Highlanders, so we play a lot of functions around the area, and I spend a lot of time with my grandsons, who get me into plenty of trouble.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? I think I'd like to take a trip back to Greece. I was there a few years ago with my brother, but I'd love to go back again.

Continued on page 66



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What's your favourite spring plant or flower? I would say a profusion flowering crabapple tree.

Would you sign up for the space shuttle if you could? Oh sure! For the adventure and travel experience.

What's your favourite type of music? Either jazz or classical.

Spring is the season for... Getting busy, but I like spring because every day gets a little bit warmer and greener and then everything comes into bloom. We bring our crew back for a week or two in the spring to do spring maintenance, vehicle and equipment maintenance and get things ready for the season. *Continued on page 66*

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DAVE SCHNEIDER, IAN
SHEEN**

Tell us about this lovely friend of yours: I got Madonna for my daughter Emilie 10 years ago to keep her company. Unfortunately, my partner isn't good with cats, so Madonna became a shop cat and has stayed in my shop day and night ever since. She's part Persian, part Calico, a varied combo.

Has Madonna ever gotten into trouble or spilled paint on the site? Not one single time. She is a circus star. See all these racks? (gestures to paint-drying racks) She climbs these racks daily and not once has she mis-stepped and she's never ever knocked a door off.

If money was no object, would you sign up for the Mars expedition? 100 per cent. Even though it's a one-way trip? Oh then I wouldn't. Not in a million years. I'd sign up if I knew I would absolutely come back.

What's your favourite spring colour? Purple.

Hard rock, jazz or blues? 100 per cent jazz. I listen to a lot of jazz. *Continued on page 70*



DAVID LABELLE
Sales & Consultations
HELEN LABELLE
Co-owner, Georgian Design Centre,
MARLEY & SADIE

Tell us about your pets, and how long they have been coming to work with you?

Helen: Our black Labs Marley and Sadie have been coming to work with us since they've been puppies. Marley is 10 and Sadie is eight and we consider them our official store greeters.

African safari or train trip through the Rockies? **Helen:** Train trip through the Rockies. It's on my bucket list. **David:** Train trip through the Rockies. I've been on safaris, but I've never been through the Rockies and it would be nice to see another part of Canada.

What's one thing on your bucket list? **Helen:** Tahiti **David:** Santorini, Greece **Helen:** You're asking someone what's on their bucket list... well, my son just got engaged in Venice, Italy on Valentine's Day in a gondola. Does it get any better than that?

What do you like to do in the spring? **Helen:** I would have to say my passion would be my yard and gardening. **David:** I'd have to say golfing, taking the dogs for walks, enjoying the sunshine and looking forward to the Toronto FC starting up again. *Continued on page 72*

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SUE MEALEY
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WITH DYNA

Introduce us to your pal: I'd like you to meet Dyna Mealey. She is a four-year-old Golden Retriever. She was born in Thornbury and was one of 12 pups in the litter. She has been by my side since she was born. She's really mellow; she loves people and kids and she's just really easy to have around. I love having her here with me at work or wherever I go.

Have you read any good books lately? Yes, I'm reading *The Happiness Project* and it's really good.

What's in your lunch today? Quinoa salad with goat cheese and chicken.

Road trip through Ireland or Danube riverboat cruise? Can I bike? I would rather go to Ireland and hike and cycle.

What do you love about spring? The new buds. I love the change of seasons and knowing it's going to get warmer and greener and the flowers will bloom. I just love the colours and the way those buds pop. *Continued on page 74*



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RYAN CASWELL
*General Contractor-Owner,
Caswell Contracting*
COOPER & CALLIE

Tell us a little about your sidekicks. Do they help at work?
Cooper is a purebred Beagle who is three years old, and Callie is two years old, and she's a purebred Beagle as well. And yes, they come to work whenever I can make it work for myself. Obviously I can't take them if I'm working outside without a fenced-in area. And yes, they absolutely get into trouble at work... other dogs, rabbits running by...

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? An auto mechanic.

What's one of the first things you'd do if you won the lottery? I would take my travel trailer and travel Canada with my wife and daughter and two dogs.

Hot air balloon ride or whitewater rafting? Whitewater rafting for sure. It's more exhilarating.

What's your favourite tool? I like the table saw. *Continued on page 76*

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STORY **SARAH ISBISTER** | PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY** | STAGING **SARA MARTIN**

This landscaping team tackled winter by taking on their first ever home build. The results are impressive. *Continued on page 80*

ABOVE: After successfully completing their first home-build in Thornbury, the Oasis North Landscapes team took advantage of this corner lot to add several landscaping details that ensure privacy.
RIGHT: Mike Chapman and Tavis Yeats, owners of Oasis, built this beautiful starter home for Mike and his partner Jessie.



RIGHT: A dreamy acrylic on wood painting by Janie Barker, purchased at Matilda Swanson Gallery in Clarksburg, hangs above the kitchen island. **FAR RIGHT:** Left to right: Homeowners Mike Chapman and Jessie Taylor, and Tavis and Keri Yeats unwind in the kitchen over pizza and beer.



Mike Chapman and **Tavis Yeats**, owners of **Oasis North Landscapes**, have a successful landscaping business in the Town of the Blue Mountains and the surrounding area. They enjoy working with both their residential and commercial clients; they've

built a good reputation for themselves, as well as an active referral network. The team primarily does custom landscape design and construction. Their company website lists their areas of expertise: "Oasis North Landscapes specializes in the design and

construction of outstanding patios, water features, driveways and walkways, decks, and various other outdoor structures, such as outdoor kitchens and fireplaces, pergolas, arbors and gazebos."

Oasis North Landscapes is a small

Continued on page 83



company that was established 10 years ago by the two partners. A large part of their business involves the public relations side of working with clients, attempting to obtain new clients, and ensuring the satisfaction of everyone involved. Onsite work with any project is an everyday and all-day commitment. Tavis and Mike follow the philosophy that each landscape is unique and provide every client with a personalized plan to fit the specific landscape. But the landscape business is seasonal, so what does this talented team do in the winter?

During the winter of 2013-2014, landscapers Mike and Tavis decided to try

their hand at building a house for Mike and his partner, Jessie, along with their dog, Edith. Using a design from **Beaver Homes & Cottages**, which can be found at home building centres and **Home Hardware Building Centres**, was the starting point. The packages from Beaver Homes & Cottages focus on design, quality, price and quantity. Modifying an existing model from the collection can make the design that much more personal.

The exterior and landscaping features of the 1,650 sq. ft. home built by Mike and Tavis make the house truly unique and attractive, and even private on its corner lot. The

LEFT: A simple yet comfortable living area features a vaulted ceiling and plenty of natural light. Flooring throughout most of the home is rich, hand-scraped hemlock. **BELOW LEFT:** Dennis Risk of MCR Industries in Meaford fashioned a tasteful custom oak and steel railing that leads to the lower level. **BELOW:** Nine-foot ceilings throughout the home give the impression that the eight-foot solid wood custom doors are much narrower than they look.

Continued on page 84



RIGHT: The master en suite features a generous glass walk-in shower and custom cabinets. **FAR RIGHT:** In the master bedroom, the homeowners ingeniously used apple crates for bedside tables. Bedding, throws and pillows (as well as the beer bucket and sofa throw and cushions) are from Clarkson's Home Store.

entrance is large and welcoming, with natural stone steps and an overhang leading to the solid front door. A covered deck of significant size is attached at the back of the home. Beyond that, is a large stone patio in the corner of a privacy fence. All of these exterior features are generously proportioned. Plantings are also a highlight of the exterior of the home. Several specimen, or noteworthy plants, take centre stage, while smaller plantings added around the base of the plant, shrub or tree, highlight the focal specimen. The featured plant in this garden is the magnolia stellata “royal star,” which is a stunning pure white flower. To make the yard even more private, the landscapers added a row of full-size spruce trees across the back of the property. To add an element of interest to the gardens, as well as to ensure privacy, grasses and shrubs were planted on a berm at the side of the house.

The interior of the home has many special features. Most trades and materials were locally sourced. The ceilings throughout the home are nine-feet-high, and much higher in the living room, which boasts a vaulted ceiling. The overall space is open and flooded with light. All the doors are eight-feet-high, shaker-style, and solid wood. The homeowners and builders chose a shade of Benjamin Moore paint called Perspective, sourced at **Birch & Benjamin** in Thornbury for most of the rooms. It's a soft grey hue that changes at different times of the day, depending on the light. **Deborah Masters** of **Masters Designs Studio** was instrumental in the selection of paint colours, as well as other design choices. Mike and Tavis worked with **Mike Krompholz** (of **Krompholz Fine Carpentry**) for a number of years, and thought highly of his work. As part of the building team, Krompholz worked his magic with all of the trim and fine carpentry on this project.

The open-concept kitchen (from **Knights' Home Building Centre** in Meaford) and the dining area includes a large island topped with charcoal-coloured Caesarstone – an integral part of the design. The ceiling in

Continued on page 86



LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

- Beaver Homes & Cottages • Birch & Benjamin • Campbell Mechanical Ltd. • Chantico
- Fireplace Gallery • Clarkson's Home Store • Floorcrafters Finishing Touch Centre
- Georgian Design Centre • Jeff Walker Plumbing & Heating • Knights' Home
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French doors off the foyer lead to Mike, Edith (their English bulldog) and Jessie's home office. The birch tree painting is by local artist Sue Tupy. **RIGHT (TOP TO BOTTOM):** (1) Mike Krompholtz of Krompholtz Fine Cabinetry was instrumental in doing the trim and fine carpentry in this stunning home build. (2) The impressive front foyer features a heated stone floor, sizeable wood pew and ample closet space. (3) A practical mudroom/laundry room is accessed from the garage.



this area is tongue-and-groove coffered pine, painted Snowfall White by Benjamin Moore. Several attractive and rustic island stools from Restoration Hardware add an element of warmth to the space and complement other features in this area. **Floorcrafters Finishing Touch Centre** in Thornbury provided the flooring, which is hand-scraped hemlock throughout most of the home, and stone with in-floor heating in the front foyer.

To date, the lower level of the home remains unfinished; perhaps that's a project for next winter. The railing leading to the lower level was custom built in oak and steel, by **Dennis Risk** of **MCR Industries** in Meaford. Other practical features for the owners of a landscape business include

an office just inside the front door and a mudroom/laundry room off the garage. Two bedrooms, generous closet space, two bathrooms, one with a glass oversize shower with all the comforts, complete the main floor of this bungalow. The home offers plenty of space, light and practicality.

Overall, the indoor spaces include access to the garden, covered deck and patio by creating an open feeling between the two. Doors and windows toy with the idea that the outdoors and indoors are one and the same. The excellent work and taste of the owners of this successful landscape company, Oasis North Landscapes, is reflected in every aspect of this starter home. **OH**

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STORY **YANIC SIMARD**
PHOTOGRAPHY **BRANDON BARRE**

ANY SIZE, MAXIMIZED

Whether our interiors are big or small, we all hope to make the most of the square footage we have. With that in mind, I pulled together my best advice for expanding your horizons in every room – in any home – for the feeling of additional space, without the addition!



Tip: Tiling from top to bottom will make walls appear neater and taller.

In the Living Room

Balancing Act: To maximize seating flexibility, start with a large, plush sofa or sectional for everyday lounging, and then add compact seats or stools to seat everyone at a large gathering. If your dining chairs also suit your living room décor, they can serve double duty in a pinch.

Don't Shrink Away: Avoid the temptation to make everything in your space “condo sized” just to fit more in it. Anchoring a space with some large objects (especially large art) creates a less cluttered, large-scale look.

Even Out: I can't stress the importance of layered lighting enough! A more even wash of light created by multiple light sources will open a space, so aim for ceiling lamps, sconces (or lamps near the periphery) and specific task lighting to round it out.

In the Kitchen

Keep a Low Profile: Achieve a more seamless look by going knobless, or with minimalist knobs that mount to the underside of the door, giving you less to bump into and smooth surfaces. You can then reintroduce character with earthy tile and wood flooring.

All Wood Everywhere: Speaking of wood flooring, yes, you can apply it in the kitchen. I usually avoid breaking the floor material between rooms where possible to create longer visual planes and continuity throughout the home.

White on White: White cabinets and white walls create a clean and fresh look, while again, avoiding colour breaks that can disrupt the visual flow of your space and shrink the walls. Also consider a pale grey, greige, or blue for a similarly airy appeal.

In the Bathroom

Double Dip: A large vanity mirror is a perfect way to visually double a bathroom space. Feel free to extend the mirror beyond the edge of the vanity (or to the ceiling, or both). This will also reduce the amount of wall area to be tiled, which can save you in the long run.

Go Big: In a primary bathroom or en suite, an oversize tile (grouted to blend out) creates the feeling of a single expanse of material, which helps the walls appear larger in all directions. If you don't want to invest in tiling every wall, tile just a few walls top to bottom rather than breaking them midway up – it'll look neater and taller.

Or Go Wild: In a powder room, forget about expanding the space and indulge your wildest décor desires, applying the bold colours and loud looks you wouldn't risk in the main spaces. You can get your daily dose of design drama here while leaving the rest of your home breezy and open.

In Everywhere Else and Beyond

Get Elliptical: An oval table is one of the best options for fitting in many seats without wasting space or creating circulation issues, and you can use chairs on the ends or remove them as needed.

Divide and Conquer: Creating functional zones within an awkward space (often by breaking it down into smaller squares) avoids waste. Try bridging two areas, such as a TV zone and reading nook, with an open-backed bench or lightweight chairs that can be used in either zone.

Blank Slate: I often use one paint colour throughout a room or even an entire home, dressing both the walls and ceiling to blend out the divisions and any flaws. Benjamin Moore's OC23 Classic Gray gives some depth and warmth without weighing the space down.

Don't Miss the Point: Although consistency is key to creating large-looking spaces, don't forget the power of the focal point. Creating some standout moments (like a wallpapered accent wall or punchy palette of sofa pillows) is essential to directing the eye and giving it the structure it craves. Make sure to include one-to-two focal areas in small rooms, with two-to-three in bigger spaces to keep the eye moving. **OH**



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DON'T wait six months to a year before applying any sort of treatment on a new wood deck. The elements begin to attack wood immediately, destroying its lignin (lignin is the organic substance binding the cells).

DO the splash test. Splash some water onto a few boards. If it is absorbed, that means the wood is not protected and it's time to clean and seal. Three big **DO's** are cleaning; stripping old finishes; then staining the deck. There are excellent products in the market for cleaning your deck; stripping your deck; and finally staining and protecting your deck. If the manufacturer's recommended application is followed, your deck will look spectacular.

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HOLE IN ONE

STORY **LAUREL FORTIN**
PHOTOGRAPHY **SANDY MACKAY**
STAGING **SARA MARTIN**

Pat and Bill MacWilliam built a weekend house in Thornbury and liked it so much they considered buying the neighbouring lot. Instead, they had a slight change of game and bought a nearby golf course.

Responsive strategic decisions are what made Bill's 50-year ongoing career as a professional golfer. Every golfer has a game plan, but those who adjust patiently to terrain and wind and, perhaps more importantly, handle a miss with ease, see their game improve. While the Aurora couple's decision to buy **OslerBrook Golf & Country Club** with their partners was quick, it wasn't impulsive.

"We put up our chalet in 2012 right in the town of Thornbury to use in the winter when we ski, but with the idea that we would retire here some day," says Pat. It wasn't until early 2014 that they were approached as potential investors in OslerBrook, a club nestled into the Escarpment, a few minutes southwest of Collingwood and the Town of the Blue Mountains. The couple operate two other golf courses, one in Aurora and another in Stouffville. "We took one look at OslerBrook – it has stunning views over the Bay and a beautiful clubhouse," says Bill. "I knew it would be a great fit for us." And just like that, the approachable couple put down a few more roots in Southern Georgian Bay.

"We're spending more time in the chalet than we expected to when we first built it, and we've come to love and appreciate it more," says Bill, "**Don Hewgill** did an impeccable job." The couple were thinking about building and had been introduced to Hewgill (who operates **DH Contracting**), six years prior because he knows the area so well. "Friends recommended we get Hewgill's opinion on a few properties

Continued on page 100



OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: The front entrance to this charming chalet in Thornbury has rustic post and beam trim construction that continues inside. **OPPOSITE LEFT:** Bill MacWilliam sits atop his BMW motorcycle. **ABOVE:** Pat and Bill MacWilliam, with Roxi, toast their new home and their partnership in OslerBrook Golf & Country Club.



we were looking at and Hewgill's family is pretty well a straight line to the founders of Thornbury – there's a Hewgill on every part of the mountain," teases Bill. Hewgill could advise on the terrain and all the communities in the area.

When Bill spotted a for-sale-by-owner sign on a lot on a quiet street in Thornbury, it seemed like a great location for the couple, backing onto the Georgian Trail and within walking distance of downtown. They called Hewgill, who suggested they thumb through some floor plans at **Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre**. The Beaver Homes & Cottages Design Book revealed a two-storey chalet that could be built on a slope with an attached garage and walkout from the master bedroom. And just like that, the "everyman" home (as Bill calls it), was erected.

Home Hardware furnished the plan details and blueprints and the couple and Hewgill worked with the Beaver team to modify the original plans. They enlarged the front deck and made a few rooms bigger, shifted the laundry room downstairs and put a pantry in the kitchen. Pat and Bill kept the home a modest 3,200 sq. ft. "As it turns out, we do almost all of our entertaining at the clubhouse. When we come home, our retreat is simple and comfortable," says Bill. *Continued on page 103*



The home measures a modest 3,200 sq. ft. with large rooms and an open-concept main floor. The finished look, with wood-planked ceilings and post-and-beam elements create a comfortable, cosy atmosphere. **LEFT:** Don Hewgill of DH Contracting and Bill MacWilliam stand on the covered balcony above the three-car garage.



Finishing touches inside feature furniture from the [Meaford Factory Outlet](#) and [The Rusty Star](#), with two showcase pieces from Clarksburg metal artist [Michael Pocock](#), who styled a mountain and skier that soar above the great room, as well as a hall mirror frame. Hewgill's daughter Brittany served not only as a finish carpenter on the job, she also painted the interior (paint from [Birch and Benjamin](#)), and supplied dried floral arrangements.

"The build went off without a glitch," says Pat. Hewgill finished the house on the day he said he would.

"I'm a particular guy for scheduling," says Hewgill. "Once Bill and Pat make a decision, it's final, and I love that. They had everything

Continued on page 104

Tracey Whiteside of Thornbury's Home Hardware helped the MacWilliams design their kitchen. The design includes light cabinets on the perimeter and a dark, granite-topped island installed on an angle, which separates the kitchen from the rest of the great room.



Roxi relaxes in the master bedroom, which has a fabulous en suite.



picked out before we started, so it was easy to build to fit exactly what they needed.” From flooring and fixtures to kitchen cabinets, windows and doors, the couple found what they wanted at Thornbury Home Hardware.

Two custom features they desired were the oversize, covered front deck (roofing by **Edward McNabb Roofing**) and three-car garage. The couple both remark on the cosiness and quietness of their home. “You can heat it with a candle,” says Hewgill. “We insulated to above R-50 with 20-inches of blown insulation in the roof.” Heated floors under all the tiling in the bathrooms, kitchen and front entry (plumbing, heating and gas fireplaces by **Warren MacDonald Plumbing and Heating**), plus spray foam around the foundation and Roxul in the

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walls (insulation by Great Northern Insulation, with soffit venting by **Advanced Aluminum**) equal an air-tight, quiet, warm home.

“It paid to have a builder who had local knowledge, and not just about how to build the house,” says Bill. “Don’s family knew that this lot was once an apple orchard. He knew there wouldn’t be any water problems because every 50 feet there was drainage tiling – we just had to find out where the farmers laid it and tie into it.” Hewgill had permits issued through the Town of Blue Mountains within days. “We needed a drainage plan by a surveyor,” Hewgill explains, so they planned for two dry wells at the front of the property that tied into the orchard tiles, and incorporated them into the landscaping (by **Bay-Mount Service** and DH Contracting).

Bill and Pat have consulted Hewgill for some wood refinishing in the clubhouse at OslerBrook. If their collaboration turns out to be as successful as their everyman home in Thornbury, the results will, no doubt, be another hole in one. **OH**

ABOVE: The office is tucked away in a small alcove off the great room. **RIGHT:** The home features metal art from Michael Pocock, including this skier and mountain.

LOCAL SOURCE GUIDE

Advanced Aluminum • Dan Harrison of Bay-Mount Service • Birch & Benjamin • Donald & Brittany Hewgill of DH Contracting • Edward McNabb Roofing • Great Northern Insulation • Michael Pocock of Ironworks Canada • Warren MacDonald Plumbing & Heating • Meaford Factory Outlet • Paperwhite Flowers • The Rusty Star • Tracey Whiteside at Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre • Thornbury Steel Fabricators • Tony Salvatore Electrical



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STORY **SHELBY HILSON**

RE-FRESH-MINT

When we read about the world’s healthiest foods, the focus is often on fruits and vegetables, but fresh herbs offer some of the highest medicinal benefits and are, quite frankly, delicious!

One such herb, which brings our spring gardens to life with its sweet, fresh scent, is mint. Scientifically known as *Mentha*, mint has more than two dozen species and hundreds of varieties.

Mint is somewhat of an overachiever in the natural health world with a list of benefits that is long and impressive. It contains an antioxidant known as rosmarinic acid, which has anti-inflammatory properties and has been studied for its effectiveness in relieving seasonal allergies. It also acts as a natural decongestant, helps ease sore throats, aids upset stomachs and indigestion, speeds the digestion process, relieves nausea and headaches, and is a natural stimulant, which

can give you a boost and help you focus when you’re feeling depressed, anxious, fatigued or sluggish. We also know that mint helps to freshen our breath and gives many products, like toothpaste, their refreshing flavour.

So, how can we incorporate this beneficial and refreshing spring herb into our daily lives? Simple... add it to your drinks.

Fresh mint can enhance the quality and taste of so many refreshments. Add it to your water to help with nausea or fatigue, or simply to enjoy its wonderful flavour. Toss in a lemon wedge and getting your eight glasses a day won’t feel like a chore anymore.

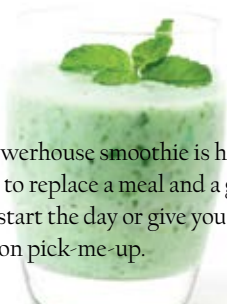
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With the addition of ginger and raw honey, this tasty drink boasts even more health benefits and is a wonderful solution for upset stomach and indigestion.

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½ cup chopped fresh mint leaves
⅓ cup chopped fresh ginger
⅓ cup raw honey
2 cups boiling water
Juice of 2 lemons
1 ½ cups cold water

- Combine mint, ginger and honey in a bowl. Add boiling water. Let steep for half hour. Strain into juice jug, extracting as much liquid as possible. Add lemon juice and cold water. Pour over ice and garnish with mint leaves and lemon slices.



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MINT SUPERFOOD SMOOTHIE
Makes one 16 oz serving
1 cup almond or coconut milk
8-10 leaves fresh mint (try chocolate mint variety)
1 frozen banana
½ cup spinach
1 tbsp cacao nibs
1 tbsp hemp seeds
2 medjool dates, pitted
1 scoop protein powder
½ cup ice

- Add all ingredients to a high-powered blender and blend until smooth. Serve immediately. **OH**

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Celebrate Canada Day at home on July 1st with a shout out to our 50-year-old flag. We've gathered some products to mark the day and acknowledge how lucky we are to live in this great country.

Party Time

1. PRINTABLES: Marley Design 2. POTTER'S WORKSHOP TABLEWARE: West Elm 3. SUMMER DRINK BOTTLE GLASS: Crate & Barrel 4. LAUNDRY STRIPE NAPKIN: Pier1 Imports 5. CANADIAN VANILLA, EH!: Chapman's 6. CLASSIC CAESAR: Mott's 7. STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE: Sarah Bakes Gluten Free Treats

Backyard Bliss

8. CANVAS CATALINA COLLECTION WICKER PATIO LOVESEAT: Canadian Tire 9. THE CANADA COLLECTION GEOGRAPHY BBQ APRON: HBC 10. BBQ SET: HatTrick BBQ 11. THE CANADA COLLECTION CANADA DAY LED LANTERN: HBC 12. CHUNKY LUXE BEACH TOWEL: HBC 13. MYSINGSÖ BEACH CHAIR: Ikea

Indoor Style

14. KEG FRIDGE: Elmira Stove Works 15. NET CERAMIC STOOL: Pottery Barn 16. DRAGGAN CART: Ikea 17. CANADA FLAG TOSS CUSHION: Urban Barn 18. HV1 TAP: Vola 19. FRAMED MINI FLAG: Restoration Hardware



Imagine
Creating Beauty One Job at a Time



"No job is too big or too small"

We take enormous pride in our knowledge, creative approach, expertise and commitment to quality. Zwart's offers convenient business hours and a prompt delivery service. Our retail yard is home to a large selection of natural stone, landscape supplies, soil and sand, aggregates and much more. When planning your next project, whether it is improving your yard, your driveway or require a full landscape project, consider the service, quality and competitive pricing that sets Zwart's apart from the rest.





Invest in a new healthy lifestyle

As you enter you'll realize the location is unique. The view of the Bay is breathtaking, the proximity to outdoor amenities sublime. Five minutes to the Georgian Trail, seven minutes to the beach, a five minute drive to skiing, and all around you, the award winning Georgian Bay Club with its Health Fitness Centre coming soon.

The Private Residences are a tribute to custom built craftsmanship with hundreds of choices to allow the ultimate in personal expression. As for the quality, it will be obvious the moment you walk in.



THE PRIVATE RESIDENCES
AT THE GEORGIAN BAY CLUB

The Private Residences represent more than just luxury living, they demonstrate our commitment to supporting a healthful lifestyle, both for our residents, and for the community around us. Over the last twelve years the Georgian Bay Club Foundation has proudly donated over one million dollars to local hospitals.

In further support, we will donate five dollars for every person who visits our model home. It's our way of thanking you for your visit and investing in our healthy lifestyle for the future.

Model Home & Presentation Gallery Open Fri-Mon 1-5pm
(located off 7th Line beyond Club entrance gatehouse)

Or by Appointment: 705.444.3597
relliott@georgianbayclub.com

PrivateResAtGBC.com
(see website for map & details)