



branching out

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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 Tavis Yeats, and Jessie Taylor, and Tavis and Keri Yeats unwind in the kitchen over pizza and beer.



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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

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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.

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feature

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 Krompholtz** (of **Krompholtz Fine Carpentry**) for a number of years, and thought highly of his work. As part of the building team, Krompholtz 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

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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 Building Centre • Limberlost Stone Inc. • Deborah Masters of Masters Designs Studio • MacDonald's Brandsource Furniture & Appliances • Matilda Swanson Gallery • MCR Industries • Oasis North Landscapes • Paperwhite Flowers • Ron Pringle Electric • Sue Tupy





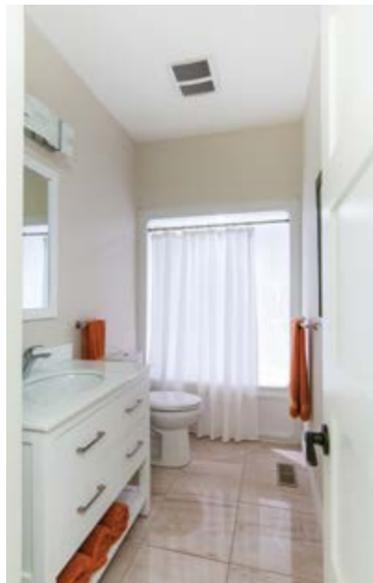
French doors off the foyer lead to Mike, Edith (their English bulldog) and Jessie's home office. The birch tree painting is by local artist Sue Tupy. **RIGHT (TOP TO BOTTOM):** (1) Mike Krompholc of Krompholc Fine Cabinetry was instrumental in doing the trim and fine carpentry in this stunning home build. (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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