

pets ON THE JOB

STORY JUDE WAYLAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BONNIE FOX



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*.

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.



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.

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TOULA LLOYD

*Manager of Administrative Services
Royal LePage Locations North
& 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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TIM MEIJS
Owner, Gardens of Prestige
& ROSIE

Introduce us to your friend: Rosie's a Golden Retriever. She's eight years old and we take her to the job sites regularly to keep us company. She's our little job-site mascot.

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 SPIRES
Co-owner, Kitchen Painters Inc.

& MADONNA

Kitchen Painters Team

(L to R front to back):

**STEPHANIE JESSOP,
MARLENA CRACKNELL,
JESSICA CONRAD, JOSH
FALLER, FRED WOODS,
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*

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DAVID LABELLE

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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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DAUGHTER CLAIRE & CALVIN

Tell us a little bit about your helpers: Claire is going on three, and Calvin is eight in March. They both come to work with us every day. So they're mommy's little helpers 24/7. Calvin is a yellow Lab and the official store greeter.

What's your favourite thing to do in the spring? I love getting outside and walking with the troops and getting all the fresh air we can.

What would you do if you won the lottery tomorrow?

I would probably take a great big vacation. It's been a long time. I'd go to Tahiti or Fiji, somewhere warm.

A beach in the Bahamas or a road trip through France? If I could have my whole family with me, including Calvin, then I'd take a road trip through France.

What did you have for lunch today? Actually, the whole family went to Oliver & Bonacini and we had poached eggs with bacon and hash browns, and it was delicious! **OH**



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