

MID SUMMER 2009

STYLE ■ COMFORT ■ IDEAS ■ REAL ESTATE

# ourhomes

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

**2 SUMMER  
GETAWAYS**

**IDEAS YOU'LL LOVE  
LANDSCAPING  
WHO TO HIRE**

*plus*

p. 36 **GRILL THE BEST STEAK**

p. 34 **SAVE WATER EASILY**

p. 110 **MAKE A MOSAIC TABLE**

p. 24 **STYLE YOUR HOME  
WITH LOCAL PICKS**

*Special*  
**OUTDOOR  
LIVING**  
*Issue*



**Offord Realty Ltd. BROKERAGE**  
72 Hurontario St., Collingwood, ON L9Y 2L9

**Call Josie today & get started!**

Josie Schywiola, Sales Representative  
*Direct:* 1-866-295-6743 • 705-606-0046  
josie@collingwoodproperties.com

*Is there \$1 million in your backyard?*

You may have a million-dollar development opportunity in your own backyard.

Call *Josie* to get started. Development packages, Draft Plan approved, for the Collingwood, Huntsville, Port Severn and Niagara Region areas available.

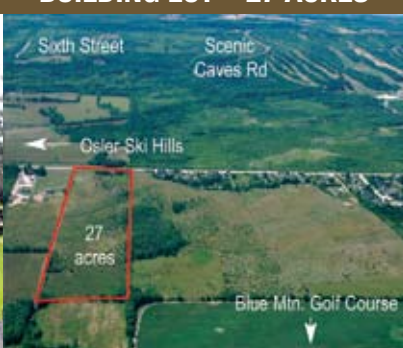
*Toronto's Connection to Collingwood*  
**collingwoodproperties.com**

#### PRETTY RIVER VALLEY



24 Acres. No Niagara Escarpment Constraints, 4 bdrm, 2 baths. Close to Devil's Glen. Views of the Valley and Bay.

#### BUILDING LOT – 27 ACRES



Includes log home or build your dream home. Views of Osler and Blue ski hills. Great financing available.

#### GROUND FLOOR MASTER



\$30k in custom upgrades, 3 or 4 bedrms, 3 baths, possible nanny suite, \$459,9k. Mountain View.

#### SPECIAL REQUESTS

- **Need** Waterfront Home less than 5 yrs old
- **Need** contemporary Home with acreage close to Thornbury
- **Need** 1 Acre Commercial Land on First Street
- **Have Developers** looking for land
- **Listing Soon...** Bed and Breakfast in Collingwood

#### HOUSE, BARN, PLUS 62 ACRES BESIDE LORA BAY



##### SMALL SCALE COMMERCIAL, RECREATIONAL ON 62 ACRES

Zoning permits wholesale of outdoor wooden furniture, B&B, Vet Clinic, Nursery, Daycare in Home, Equestrian Facility, Farm produce outlet, Nursery, return barn to agricultural, build another 8000 sq ft building. Includes approx 1400 sq ft house.

#### VIEW FROM LIVING ROOM



Westin Hotel, 2 balconies, 2 bdrm. Phenomenal price, amenities include Oliver & Bonacini, steps to Plunge yr round water park, \$489,9k

#### BACKS ONTO GOLF COURSE



Snowbridge. Ground floor, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, furnished. Steps to Shuttle Bus to ski hills.

*In times of greed be cautious...In times of caution be courageous and shrewd.*

*Author Unknown*

*Ladies and Gentlemen:* Interest rates are historically at their lowest. The market has adjusted itself and it is now a Buyer's Market. Sales are up since June. *What are you waiting for?*

*Remember*, you can't ski on a mutual fund! Real Estate has always stood the test of time...Put your money into an investment that does two things: It grows in value, and provides a wonderful launching pad for a world-class lifestyle.

*Josie* knows the best properties which will help you achieve both objectives.

#### FEATURE PROPERTY



Between Blue Mountain & the Peaks – Ski Hills. 4 bdrm, 2 bath, \$289k. Owners have access to Georgian Bay. Large lot, quiet street.



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**\$7875**  
rebate

## GEO THERMAL FOR YOUR HOME



## LIVE AND PLAY



Spend the morning on the beach. Take a short trek along the trails to the charming town of Thornbury. Enjoy a glass of wine at The Raven Grill while overlooking the waters of Georgian Bay. With its endless amenities, social activities and dedicated staff, Lora Bay strikes the perfect balance of mind, body and soul.

At the heart of the community is The Raven Golf Club at Lora Bay, host of the 2007 TELUS World Skins Game and co-host of the Ford Wayne Gretzky Classic.

Visit us today and see for yourself what life is like here. Golf, play and live life beyond par.

*For membership opportunities or to play the course call 519 599 7500.*

*For real estate information call 519 599 1900.*

**LOTS** from  
\$135,000

**GOLF VILLA TOWNHOMES**  
starting at \$435,000

## LORA BAY

Thornbury, Ontario The Blue Mountains [www.lorabay.com](http://www.lorabay.com)

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



[www.ravenatorabay.com](http://www.ravenatorabay.com)

# Now can be the best time for that renovation you've been putting off!

Consider the following incentives as to why NOW is the right time:

- ecoEnergy Retrofit Grants, both Provincial and Federal government rebates up to \$10,000
- 2009 Canadian Government Home Improvement tax
- Implementation of the HST tax

How can I use these benefits on purchases of a Fireplace or Stove?

The ecoEnergy Retrofit is a gentle push towards the change-out of old wood burning stoves. The old stoves do not meet today's standards of emissions, adding pollutants to the air. The governments are offering a combined rebate of \$750 for the change-out. The rebates will expire; however, the regulations for clean operating appliances will become mandatory and the use of old wood burning stoves will be banned.

The home improvement tax can be used on any stove or fireplace purchase, including decorative mantels/surrounds. This credit is applied to your 2009 income tax.

Installed fireplaces and stoves have always been exempt from the PST. With the new HST tax, this purchase will now be subject to the combined tax (which is just adding the PST and the GST to make the HST). For example, for a complete fireplace and surround/mantel renovation that may cost \$10,000, the tax will change from \$500 to \$1300. The timing for any large renovations should be seriously considered before this tax is implemented next year.



CAMPERDOWN **CC** COMMUNITIES

## TWIN PEAKS

ON THE ESCARPMENT; NESTLED BY THE FOREST,  
RESORT STYLE LIVING DOESN'T GET BETTER THAN THIS

Take a deep breath. This is the essence of everything you love about the Collingwood area.

Choose from two enclaves – Georgian Glen with craftsman-style homes on 80' lots surrounded by woods and the Georgian Trail or Peaks Meadows with mountain-style homes on 80' to 100' lots on the escarpment. Either way, this summer is the peak of opportunity.

[georgianglen.com](http://georgianglen.com)

[peaksmeadows.com](http://peaksmeadows.com)

For further information concerning the rebates, tax credits and how you can apply them to your Fireplace/Stove purchase, please stop by Chantico Fireplace Gallery.

**CHANTICO**  
fireplace gallery

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Tel | 705 | 445 | 9688 Email | [chanticofireplaces@rogers.com](mailto:chanticofireplaces@rogers.com)

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Custom built ranch bungalow with 48.5 x 16.6' great room, main floor master, 3 bay garage, wine cellar, much more. Beautiful pond and great views of countryside & Georgian Bay. Unique & rare property carefully created & maintained.  
**\$1,995,000** MLS@20093193



**REGENCY STYLE HOME**

Beautifully renovated & professionally decorated 3 bedroom home on 3/4 acre. Very private & picturesque. Numerous upgrades including furnace, A/C and shingles. Original plank flooring, tin and coffered ceilings. Minutes to beach (3 blocks), schools, shops & library.  
**\$529,000** MLS@20093016



**THE ORCHARD AT CRAIGLEITH**

Soaring cathedral ceiling & windows, floor-to-ceiling stone gas fireplace in great room, view of the hills. Walk to Craigleith Ski Club, close to Intrawest Village, golf, skiing, trails, Northwinds Beach, Collingwood & Thornbury.  
**\$589,000** MLS@20092966



**NATURE LOVER'S RETREAT**

Enchanting property with 2000' of Beaver River frontage. Unique & beautiful home designed to showcase Mother Nature. Open concept, hardwood floors and cook's kitchen with SS appliances. Close to Georgian Bay & Lora Bay Golf Clubs, skiing, Georgian Bay & Thornbury.  
**\$1,699,000** MLS@20092921



**GEORGIAN BAY CLUB LOTS**

1) Ridge lot custom home site with spectacular views of the golf course & seasonal views of Georgian Bay. 2) Premiere lot backing onto the 4th fairway and green space. 3) "Orchard" lot, backing on to Orchard Pond, with views of Georgian Bay and the mountain. **Lots range from \$425,000 to \$750,000**



**ALTA/ALPINE FLATLANDS**

2200 sq. foot custom bungalow on approx. 1/2 acre lot. Eat in kitchen with SS appliances, separate dining room, floor to ceiling wood burning fireplace in living room, master suite with walk-in closet & impressive ensuite. Close to Alpine Ski Club.  
**\$749,000** MLS@20092237



**WEXFORD**

Attractive new bungalow on cul-de-sac in centre of Thornbury. Beautiful hardwood floors, maple cabinets & granite counters in kitchen, great room with vaulted ceiling & gas fireplace. Finished media room in lower level plus 3rd bedroom & 3 piece bath with custom shower.  
**\$399,900** MLS@20092062



**GEORGIAN BAY WATERFRONT**

Cozy, well maintained 3 bedroom, 1 bath partially winterized cottage, close to Georgian Peaks. Fieldstone fireplace, bright kitchen, large deck and separate Bunkie. Beautiful sunsets over the Bay, shale beach.  
**\$625,000** MLS@20092308



**MILLPOND IN THE VILLAGE**

Luxury townhomes nestled on the Millpond shores in Thornbury; close to Georgian Peaks, Lora Bay Golf Club & Georgian Trail. Vaulted ceilings, open concept living area & main floor masters. Variety of floor plans & options available. **Priced from \$299,000 to \$339,000.**



**ALPINE HILLS**

Beautiful Mountain style custom home near the base of Craigleith and Alpine Ski Clubs. 5 bedrooms, 3-1/2 baths, main floor family room, Rumford stone F/P, covered porch. Close to skiing, golfing, hiking/biking, Georgian Bay and the Village at Blue.  
**\$1,295,000** MLS@20093268



**ONE OF A KIND**

Arguably the most desirable lot at the Georgian Bay Club & possibly in the whole area. Unobstructed expansive view of Georgian Bay & the 3rd green. Build your dream home in an exclusive & totally private community setting & enjoy a lifestyle of quality, comfort & prestige.  
**\$995,000** MLS@20092623



**NEWER HOME IN COLLINGWOOD**

Attractive side split with great curb appeal. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, walkout from kitchen/dining area. Finished lower level with family room & 3 piece bath. 35 year fibreglass shingles, 25 year real wood siding.  
**\$269,000** MLS@20093244



**CUSTOM BUILT LOG CHALET**

Exceptional 5300+ sq. foot 6 bedroom 4 bath home located just steps from Craigleith Ski Club. Gourmet kitchen, open concept living/dining area with oversized F/P, pool/games room with sitting area & bar. Bridge to parking lot, walk to Craigleith Ski Club.  
**\$2,995,000** MLS@20090182



**SILVER GLEN PRESERVE**

Silver Glen Preserve just west of Collingwood & close to Craigleith. 2 and 3 bedroom units with full basements, attached garages with inside entry, 5 appliances & central air. **Prices range from \$239,400 to \$259,900.**



**DREAM HOME**

Beautiful home/chalet close to ski hills, golfing & Northwinds Beach. Well designed kitchen, formal dining room, screened in sun porch & enclosed hot tub room. 4 bedrooms & 4 ensuite on 2nd floor, including luxurious master suite.  
**\$895,000** MLS@20092221



**GEORGIAN BAY CLUB HOME**

Dramatic post & beam construction with 2-storey windows looking out to Georgian Bay. High end finishings, wireless smart home system, home theatre, balcony overlooking 11th fairway. Full Georgian Bay Club membership included.  
**\$2,795,000** MLS@20091075



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Golfers or Skiers Retreat. 2 bedroom, 4 bathroom Condo. Many upgrades & eat-in Kitchen. Gas fire-place, oversize deck with BBQ hook-up. Master bedroom has ensuite. **\$219,000.** Bob Muir, Cell: 443-0773, bob@CollingwoodLifestyle.com



Live where the pros play! Exceptional, stone bungalow backing onto the 12th tee of the Raven golf course at Lora Bay. 4,000 sq. ft. finished, 3 bedrooms, den, 3.5 baths. **MLS 20092538 \$899,000.** Rick Crouch rickcrouch@propertycollingwood.com



Paradise found! 65 acres, 3,000 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath Caledon log home. You must walk this property to appreciate the acres of trees, trails, stream, lake & more. **MLS 20092464 \$795,000.** Doug Brown douglasbrown@royallepage.ca



**GRAND OPENING Aug 8/09** Collingwood Delpark Homes presents Pretty River Estates, **\$307,990-\$455,990.** Bungalow, Bungalow/Lofts, 2 sty., Back-splits. Call Listing Broker Rita Giglione now to register, 1-877-445-5520 #228, www.ritagiglione.com



**\$639,000** Country Elegance! Custom 3+1 bdrm home in Snowbridge on Monterra Golf Course. Professionally decorated & landscaped. Furnishings neg. Maggi Olson Ext 248, CollingwoodResortProperties.com



**\$269,000** Beautifully redecorated "Laguna" model 2 bedroom ground floor suite in Sunset Cove. Maggi Olson Ext 248, CollingwoodResortProperties.com



**\$189,900** Great Value! Compare with developer's new inventory! Boutique inspired Bachelor in Mosaic - year round pool/hot tub. See complete list of Village condos on website. Maggi Olson Ext 248, CollingwoodResortProperties.com



**\$387,800** Tons of curb appeal and cute as a button! Enjoy the balance of summer in this delightfully decorated Cameron St. 3 bedroom cottage w/deeded beach access min from Thornbury. Maggi Olson Ext 248, CollingwoodResortProperties.com



Charming property in Nottawa. Almost an acre, unique landscape features, large detached shop/garage, 3 BR, stone and frame home. **\$239,900.** Call Neil Thain @ ext 253 or 705-812-0627, www.realestatewiz.ca



You will feel like you are away before you open the door of this 1,380 sq ft 3 bedroom end unit condo nestled in the trees at Cranberry. **\$159,000.** Karen Poshtar 705-445-5520 Ext 243



Custom Built Home In Lora bay: Live the Lora Bay Lifestyle from this well appointed custom chalet style home, backing onto the Georgian Trail. Call Sheila Shepherd direct at 705-441-6085, sheilasshepherd@rogers.com



Waterfront living without the waterfront price. Enjoy all of the conveniences, town, hills & golf courses from this well located, bright, freshly renovated 2 bedroom condo. Call Sheila Shepherd direct at 705-441-6085, sheilasshepherd@rogers.com



Georgian Bay View! 3 bedroom with fully renovated custom professional kitchen which offers the charm and character of yesteryear! Mature treed ¾ acre lot on dead end road. **\$314,900.** Call Vicki Bell direct at 705-446-4539



Garden of Eden! 50 acres with the Noisy River meandering through it! Home offers 8 bedrooms, 3 full baths and 6 two piece baths. Minutes to Creemore! **\$1,200,000.** Call Vicki Bell direct at 705-446-4539



Panoramic views for miles! Just minutes to Creemore from this hilltop 100 acre beauty! Custom built home, horse barn, studio and lots of privacy. **\$962,000.** Call Vicki Bell direct at 705-446-4539



**CRAIGLEITH WATERFRONT** Three bedroom waterfront home on Georgian Bay. Minutes to Village at Blue, ski clubs & much more. Open concept. **Asking \$749,000.** Call Ralph Kertcher Cell 705-446-5670



**GREAT FAMILY HOME** Spacious 3 bedroom bungalow on the edge of Thornbury. Large lot with 32' x 36' detached garage/workshop. **Asking \$269,000.** Call Ralph Kertcher Cell 705-446-5670



Like new 4 bdrm home! Updated kitchen w/granite countertops, baths w/custom vanities, jacuzzi tub, heated slate floors. Newer windows, doors, trim, cherry stairs, wood flrs & furnace, c/air installed in 2008. **\$259,000.** Call Cindy Ryerse direct 705-446-7254



Beautiful 3 bdrm home in Georgian Meadows. Fabulous kitchen, hrdwd & ceramic on main flr, 2 gas f/p's, c/air w/HRV, c/vac. Lrg master, finished bsmt wired for home theatre. Attached garage. **\$309,000.** Call Ian Hawkins direct 705-446-5136



**DELIGHTFUL CRANBERRY CONDO** \$169,900 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, with private patio and deck. Get set for the ski season or move in and call it home. Potential income property as well. Karen E. Willison Ext 240 or 705-888-0075



**BUILDING LOT WAS \$139,000 NOW \$99,000** Wexford in Thornbury. 2 fully serviced lots available in uptown development. Build your dream home within walking distance to shops, galleries, dining and more. Karen E. Willison Ext 240 or 705-888-0075



**POWER of SALE \$1,300,000** Approximately 5 acres backing onto the Georgian Bay Golf Club's 10th green. Views of Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay. Single family estate or development opportunities. Karen E. Willison Ext 240 or 705-888-0075



**70's INCOME CHALET \$399,000** Fabulous lot/location walking distance to Blue Mountain ski resort/Intrawest with views of the slopes. Make it your dream home in the heart of recreation. Karen E. Willison Ext 240 or 705-888-0075



**HOMESITES NOW REGISTERED from \$199,000** at The Ridge Estates - start digging. Stunning views of Georgian Bay, the Niagara Escarpment, and Georgian Bay Golf Club. Close to everything! Karen E. Willison Ext 240 or 705-888-0075

Helping you is what we do.



**LOYAL READERS OF OUR HOMES WILL NOTICE** some subtle changes to the layout of the magazine, beginning with this, our summer issue. The changes are so subtle, in fact, that you may notice something different, but you may not be able to put your finger on it. Our aim was to make the pages of OUR HOMES magazine cleaner, brighter and crisper. So enjoy the new look as you spend time among these pages.

I'm obsessive about watering my flowers every day in the summer. I fertilize, deadhead and prune once a week. Flowerpots dot the property and whenever I can, I love to sit and marvel at how beautiful and full my potted annuals have become. It's prime summer and they are looking good. I wish I could say the same about my perennial beds. They don't receive the time and attention they need. A few days of rain, a few more days of neglect and the weeds take over. It takes a full day of hard work (maybe more) to whip them back into shape. Clearly, it's all in the ingredients and the right plants in the proper place make the job easier. Still, I've discovered that picking the proper combination of plants, shrubs and trees is an art best left to the experts.

This issue is all about living outside and making the most of the summer season. We take you to homes with beautiful surroundings – pools, water features and full gardens with colour, texture and lots of natural stone.

Our Home and Builder (page 94) is fresh and fun, inside and out. It's a custom Viceroy by Braehall Developers, and that famous wall of windows makes it a spectacular summer home to live in and enjoy.

Our Feature Home is a design and architectural dream for the owners, their children and grandchildren (page 42). The home and story come courtesy of OUR HOMES Style Editor Stephanie Redmond. This home has space for everyone, yet everyone has their space.

And get ready to be inspired. Our Outdoor Spaces feature (page 60) will leave you fantasizing about your own garden oasis. Three homes... three incredible landscape designs.

The theme continues with our People feature (page 70). We introduce readers to the Georgian Bay area's best landscapers.

So get outside, find a comfy chair or lounge under a colourful umbrella and relax with OUR HOMES.

Sincerely,

Georgette McCulloch, Editor-In-Chief  
editor@ourhomesmagazine.com

# JUST RELEASED



## LONG POINT E·S·T·A·T·E·S

~ *Extraordinary waterfront lots* ~

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\$2,400,000 Exquisite 6 bed, 4.5 bath country estate on 26 acres w/30 ft ceiling in grt rm, 2 storey stone f/place, gour kit, mn fl master, media room, wine cellar, in-ground pool, outdr f/place, view of Georgian Bay. Carol Whyne\* 705.441.6709



HOLLY COURT - 1/4 ACRES

\$1,595,000 One of a kind, 5 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath customer design/built true bungalow bordering conservation lands and min. to Collingwood ships and skiing. A home for a weekend or a lifetime! Sue Mallett\* 705.444.7181



A LORA BAY GEM!

\$1,575,000 One of the most spectacular sites in Lora Bay with unobstructed views of the bay. Pride of ownership evident in every element of the 5 bedroom / 6 bath custom home with every amenity imaginable. Anthea White\*\* 446.8520



SPECTACULAR ACREAGE

\$1,500,000 One of the best parcels around. String 100 acres with pond, waterfall, Black Ash Creek, Bay views, rock face of escarpment, backing onto Osler Bluff Ski Club. A must to walk to appreciate. Judy Crompton\*\* 705.444.9312



PRINCETON SHORES

\$1,459,000 One of a kind waterfront home. Mesmerizing views, plank wood floors, cozy log family room, custom built-ins, bunkie. Boating and swimming at your door. Diana Lea Berdini\*\*/John M Kacmar\*\* 705.444.4968



135 FT. WATERFRONT LORA BAY

\$1,375,000. The use of glass brings nature & water views inside in a custom designed California style beach home w/multi decks and an unparalleled beach. Walk to golf, 2 min to Thornbury and min. to ski hills. Sue Mallett\* 705.444.7181



SENSATIONAL!

\$1,250,000 Idyllic setting, 46 acres w/ exceptional bay views, 1 ac. pond, charming Century Home w/ extensive custom renovations, doubling its size, 4 beds / 4 baths, custom features throughout. Anthea White\*\* 705.446.8520



PARADISE IN PRETTY RIVER

\$1,150,000 Lovely 4300 sq.ft. -designed for pleasure - GORGEOUS VIEWS of valley. Private 23 acres w/ 2 - Spring fed swimming ponds, pretty river, perennial gardens, nestled in mature forest. Shelly Paul\*\* www.shellypaul.com 705.888.0225



180 DEGREE WATER VIEW

\$995,000 All season views of the "Bay" from this Custom 5000 sq ft with separate in-law suite, ash flooring, views from all elevations, geothermal heat on 30 ac. Minutes to Thornbury and amenities. Sue Mallett\*\* 705.444.7181



FOUR SEASON RECREATION

\$950,000 Custom post & beam on 48+acres. Built w/150 yr old BC cedar timbers, 3200 sq.ft., 5 bdms, 3.5 baths, lrg kitchen, inground saline pool, geothermal heating/ac system, ponds, trails, mature trees. Barb Picot\* 705.444.3452



A HOME TO BE ENJOYED!!

\$755,900 Uptown urban feel in century home. Spacious principal rooms, master retreat on 3rd level w/spa like bath. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 gas fireplaces, fully fenced yard, in-ground pool. Simon Williams 705.888.3126



STUNNING POST AND BEAM

\$798,000 Stylish 3 bedroom home/chalet at Lora Bay offers a full list of upgrades! Main floor master with luxurious ensuite, gourmet kitchen. Full basement. Diana Lea Berdini\*\*/John M Kacmar\*\* 705.444.4968



100 ACRES OF SPECTACULAR PROPERTY

\$795,000 Custom built 5300 sq ft home in Ravenna. 7 natural springs, 35 acres of hardwood forest, lush shade/fruit trees and huge spring fed swimming pond. 5 mins to ski hills, 10 mins to Georgian Bay. Shelly Paul\*\* 705.888.0225 www.shellypaul.com



STUNNING WATERFRONT TOWNHOME

\$719,000 Incredible, panoramic waterviews! 3 bedroom, 3 bath designer decorated, expansive deck, oversize garage, 30 ft. boat slip. Enjoy the recreation facilities. John M. Kacmar\*\* /Diana Lea Berdini\*\* 705.444.4968



WWW.THEMOVIEGALS.COM

\$499,000 One of a kind 4 bdrm on secluded cul de sac at the base at Blue, steps to south chair. Custom kitchen, pantry, 2 gas fireplaces, large deck, mature gardens. Barb Thompson\* Anita Lauer\* 705.441.4777



STUNNING VIEWS OF BLUE

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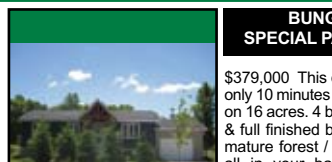
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OUR HOMES™ is a registered trademark of  
OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC.

OUR HOMES™ is published four times a year (January, April, July and October) by  
OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC. For subscription inquiries please call 519.599.7444.

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OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC.

OUR HOMES is distributed via Canada Post to the majority of homes in southern Georgian Bay and via addressed mail to the GTA addresses of everyone who owns recreational property in southern Georgian Bay, yet lives primarily in the GTA. OUR HOMES is also available for free pickup throughout Collingwood, Blue Mountain, Wasaga Beach, Clearview Township, Thornbury and Meaford. OUR HOMES is also distributed throughout Intrawest Village at Blue Mountain and at the area's private ski & golf clubs. Canada Post agreement number: 41692020

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## advice

Designer **Stephanie Redmond** answers your questions.

If you need help, send your questions to [stephanie@ourhomesmagazine.com](mailto:stephanie@ourhomesmagazine.com)

### Dear Stephanie,

I really liked your spring column on paint trends. My problem is picking colour combinations, specifically picking a wall colour that matches furniture and accessories. Could you give me some great combinations that will help in my décor decision making?

*Susan R.*

#### Stephanie Redmond replies:

Don't just look at the colour of the furniture when choosing wall colours; consider the weight of the fabric as well. A sofa with a heavy fabric such as leather or chenille can take a deeper tone on the walls. A sofa upholstered in cotton or linen will look nice on a much softer wall. For that red wine leather sofa (heavy!), choose something with a little more depth. Same thing applies for your furniture. If you have traditional dark wood pieces, they may appear heavy against a white wall. Your furniture needs a stage that suits its style and feel.

Here are a few combination ideas:

1. **EARTHY:** Chocolate brown sofa + sage green pillows and throw + toffee-coloured leather chair + crisp white pillar candles
  - Paint solution: Pick up on the toffee colour and use a mid-tone burnt butter colour on the walls
2. **SOPHISTICATED:** Light earth-toned sofa + navy blue pillows + chunky woven baskets + cream cashmere throw
  - Paint solution: Mirror the sofa and pick a light neutral with a brown base
3. **CALM:** Cream linen curtains + light grey upholstery + metal side tables
  - Paint solution: Introduce a bit of colour and choose a butter yellow or a light French blue on the walls

**HINT:** Take any element with colour into a space to see how it looks – a piece of clothing, a dish towel, a picture frame. This is an ideal way to test drive a colour without the long-term commitment!

### Dear Stephanie,

We just installed new hardwood flooring throughout the main floor of our home. I would like to purchase some area rugs for the living room/dining room but I have no idea how to determine what size I need. Is there a set standard? Should I buy two rugs for the same room or one big one? I also don't want to spend a fortune.

*Janice C.*

#### Stephanie Redmond replies:

The biggest mistake that people make with area rugs is going too small. A guideline to follow is that your furniture should sit comfortably on your area rug. You can inset the rug under the back of the sofa, but leave at least eight inches so that it doesn't look like an error. If you have ample space, allow chairs to sit comfortably on the area rug. Don't skimp. As far as one or two rugs go – if your space is very large or walls indent to decipher one

room from another, then use two carpets in the same style. This gives the illusion of a larger space. If your space is quite small, use one large one to lengthen the room. Area rugs are not inexpensive and they are long-term purchases. Make sure you inform your carpet dealer of what your needs are, whether you have children or pets, and your budget. Ask about stain resistance and edging details.



**HINT:** Use green painter's tape to tape out the size of the rug you think is right and then measure it!

### Dear Stephanie,

How can I use framed mirrors to make a room look larger?  
*Charlene W.*

#### Stephanie Redmond replies:

The options are endless, but I have one guideline: Place your mirror on a side wall, not on a wall facing an entry. You shouldn't feel as though you are walking toward yourself every time you enter a room.

A mirror will act as a window reflecting light into a space. Try a starburst above a fireplace or a slim, framed mirror on a side wall. Line up two or three of the same mirrors (horizontally or vertically) for an even more compelling reflection. Cluster small mirrors to add a fun sparkle, just as you would group a selection of your favourite family photos. Be bold! Don't be afraid to use a large piece in a small space. This will add some much needed scale. Can't find the right mirror? Visit a frame store and have one made that suits your décor.



**HINT:** Have a friend hold up your pieces to see what the mirror will reflect once it's hung. You don't want to make holes in a wall only to discover that you can see your toilet from your living room sofa! **OH**

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*“What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity.” – Joseph Addison*

BY STEPHANIE REDMOND // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

Our Style Picks offer simple ways to make your home a fun, happy place to be this summer.

1

### JINJER

#### (1) Beer Glasses

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##### (5) Room Divider With Shelves

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##### (6) Reclaimed Wood Stair

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7



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##### (7) Crazy Forts

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##### (9) Paysanne Chairs

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ideas



*"From now on,  
my mantra is: Grey  
is the new Green"*

# SOAKED!

## IS THERE A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO SOARING WATER COSTS?

BY PAUL WILSON

It's been humbling to discover that one of the most expensive items in the never-ending project of improving our old home has been human error – not the architect's, not the contractor's, not the electrician's or the plumber's, but my own. I could probably place a dollar value on how much I've cost myself, but it would be too depressing. Just thinking about it makes me cringe.

When we bought the building – a mid-19th century commercial structure – the previous owner had already begun the saga of turning it into a modern dwelling. Then he'd run out of money. Or maybe the sheer magnitude of the work had ground him down and he'd given up in despair. There were even rumours that marital strife had led him to sell – a not unknown consequence of renovations that go on for too long. Whatever it was, we showed up, and his last straw became our call to arms.

We discovered, among other things, that he'd roughed in two separate waste water collection systems, one for the toilets and one for all the rest – from the sinks, the showers, the washing machines, the dishwasher, the bathtubs. Though I didn't know it at the time, he'd actually created the infrastructure for what we would now call a "grey water system." The "black water" from the toilets would go into the holding tank, and all the rest – contaminated by little more than hair, grease and soapy residue – would go its separate way, in this case, through a pipe and straight into the river at the bottom of the garden. It would clearly have been both illegal and harmful and, feeling very righteous, we ripped out the secondary system and rerouted all the plumbing to the holding tank. *Continued on page 30*



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## ideas

Twelve years and thousands of dollars later, it pains me to admit that the former owner was, perhaps without knowing it, a visionary. Today, a growing number of householders and cottagers in water-rich Ontario are discovering what hundreds of thousands in arid regions like the American southwest or Australia or in places like Japan, already know: that separating grey water from black water is one of the best things you can do to conserve water, take pressure off overloaded sewage treatment systems and save yourself money while helping the environment.

There are several ways, all of them legal, to benefit from grey water. The most straightforward is to redirect your domestic grey water to an indoor tank that will filter out impurities, chlorinate it and then pump it back to the toilets for flushing. This way you get double mileage out of your grey water, which in most households accounts for about 70 per cent of the total water usage. There's a Canadian-designed system called the Brac that will do just this. Chris Thompson, who sells it through his company, The Install Team ([www.theinstallteam.com](http://www.theinstallteam.com)), has retrofitted his Barrie home with a Brac, and he reports that in the past 12 months, his five-member household saved about 100,000 litres of water. If the pattern holds, it will net him \$300 in savings next year, and if the cost of water continues to rise at the current rate, his Brac system will have paid for itself in five years.

Denis Orendt, executive director of the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association, confirms that interest in grey water systems is surging in Ontario. Orendt's company, eco-work ([www.eco-work.ca](http://www.eco-work.ca)), is involved in both residential and larger projects. The CNE, the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Trent University and some summer camps, like Camp Kawartha, are installing grey water reuse systems, some of them in conjunction with new rainwater collecting systems that lessen the demand for municipal water even further. And some homebuilders in Oshawa, Newmarket and Owen Sound are preinstalling the Brac, or similar systems, in their new housing.

David Brezer, director of Building and Development with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, told me that the Ontario Building Code, revised in 2006, is the first in Canada to provide specific guidelines for grey water recovery systems. Brezer says the changes have been driven, in part, by a heightened interest in such systems, but also by hopes that the new Code will drive innovation in the field.

Section 8, for instance, lays down the minimum legal requirements for another type of dispersal system, officially called a Class 2 Sewage System, but more commonly known as a "leaching pit." For those like myself, with an older home on an appropriately sized piece of property, this system may be the best choice. If the flow of grey water from your home does not exceed 1,000 litres a day, you can run it outside into a specially constructed pit. From there, the water will leach into the topsoil and be purified by the action of microbes and plants in the soil. The system is both legal and safe, as long as setback and construction guidelines are followed. (Further information at [www.ontario.ca/buildingcode](http://www.ontario.ca/buildingcode) or 416-585-6666.)

Although it's hard to find anything seriously flawed about modern grey water systems, the battle to gain them acceptance is just beginning. Many inspectors are nervous about requests for permits and some municipal officials are even hostile to the idea, apparently believing that a boom in grey water systems would mean reduced water revenue for them. It's a short-sighted view, especially given the increasing pressure on our water and sewage treatment plants. Some cities, like Guelph, have been quicker to recognize the benefits and are offering rebates to residents who install approved systems, something Denis Orendt believes the province and the federal government should take up as well.

Grey water systems aren't the sexiest fare on the eco-menu but they may well be the next big thing. From now on, my mantra is: Grey is the new Green. I will be repeating it often as I continue to shell out to rectify the stupid mistake I made so many years ago. **OH**

*Paul Wilson is a writer, editor and translator who lives full time in rural Ontario. He can be reached at [paul.heathcote@sympatico.ca](mailto:paul.heathcote@sympatico.ca).*



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BY GLEN PELOSO

# BRINGING YOUR INDOOR STYLE TO *The Great Outdoors*



Summer is here and I can see neighbours, friends and family heading outside to enjoy the warm weather. Dinners in the yard or garden visits are what we are turning our attention to. We want to enjoy living in the great outdoors with all the comforts of being indoors. With the advancements in outdoor furniture, that is completely achievable.

## POOL PARTY

Have a look at the space that you have at the back of the house and decide how best to divide it up to create both comfort and luxury. A pool offers a clear, central focus and function to the yard. This is the area around which to create your lounge or living area as it will be where people congregate for fun. Depending on how large the decking is around the pool, there should be lounge chairs for the sun worshipers. However, we are now able to gauge just how much sun we get with canopies being built right into the lounge chairs. The other new addition to the lounge is hydraulic lifts eliminating the need to get up and adjust that bar behind the backrest.

If the decking has a little more area, you can also incorporate an outdoor sofa and coffee table set up so that area also becomes an ideal place to entertain or to simply curl up with a book and a summer drink. Conversely, you can create a wild lounge area so that your backyard will be party central.

Even if you don't have a pool, all of this can be achieved on the deck or back patio.

## FURNITURE

With the advent of the woven, recycled plastic structure and fantastic outdoor, mould-resistant fabrics, we are allowed to play with shapes and styles like never before. There are many lines of this style of furniture in all price points.

## DINING ROOM

You also want to be able to create a dining room outdoors. I think it is always best to have this area closest to the back door of the house as this

is typically where the barbeque is and it allows for easy travel of foods and dishes from the kitchen to the table. Again, the advanced styles of furniture means that you no longer have to be tied to the white plastic chairs that are available at the big box stores. With the development of some really fantastic furniture you can see that you are able to create spaces that will weather well and last you for years to come, while achieving the look of fine hotels around the world.

In terms of making furniture choices, you want to look for items that have classic lines. You also want to be sure that they weather well, as our Canadian climate is hard on furniture. Being able to have outdoor furniture that is every bit as beautiful as your indoor furniture allows you to double the size of your living area in the good weather. In the past, it was difficult to host a brilliant dinner party in the backyard as the seating areas were never all that comfortable. I think it best to look at styles that are similar to what you have chosen for the indoors of your house so that you create a seamless feeling between the indoors and the outdoors.

## UPHOLSTERY

The upholstery for outdoor furniture can be changed when you tire of the look or pattern. If you use quality neutral-coloured fabrics for the main cushions, you can add a spark with great accent cushions in mould-resistant fabrics that can be found at any good fabric store. Summer by summer you can change these cushions, which will give you the feeling of a new space each year in the same way the surrounding gardens change year-by-year.

As we are pushing on the gates of time to get us back into the great outdoors, don't ignore the indoors but do what you can to marry the two. What you finally end up with is a fantastic space that will keep you feeling as though you have gone to a resort. Now, the only thing that needs sunblock is your skin! **OH**

*Glen Peloso is the principal of Glen Peloso Interiors, an internationally known Canadian interior design firm.*



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## ideas

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# Rain over me

## USING RAIN BARRELS AROUND THE HOME

Every home in Ontario should have at least one rain barrel. What is a rain barrel? It can be defined as any type of container – large or small – that is connected to the eaves-trough, or sits below, the downspout on your home to collect rainwater effectively for later use. The idea is not new. In areas where drought is common or running water is not a commodity, or where growing populations are stressing the current water system, municipalities urge residents to find ways to save and use rain water – even if the use is just washing your dog. The idea of a small individual effort making a big difference, if multiplied many times, rings true in the use of a rain barrel.

But how long will it take for the barrel to fill? The concept of helping the environment only works if the rain barrel is full of rain. If I have time to wash my car, and the rain barrel only has five centimetres of rain in it,

I will be using a garden hose. The basic formula is this: one millimetre of rain on one square metre of roof equals one litre of water. To put it another way, 25 mm of rainfall on a 1,000 sq. ft. roof produces 632 gallons. The average rainfall in Ontario for the month of March is 88 mm. If you install your rain barrel properly in early March, it will be brimming when the warmer weather allows you to wash your car, or when you want pure rain to water your garden.

Rain barrels are both economical and good for the environment.

### BENEFITS:

- A rain barrel decreases your water consumption during summer months (40 per cent of your water usage is for outside activities). Consumers will save money and help municipalities reduce wastewater and treatment costs.
- A rain barrel decreases storm-water runoff around your property, reducing your chance of basement flooding, which happens when storm sewers exceed capacity.
- A rain barrel decreases the burden on the municipality's wastewater treatment facilities and drainage systems during periods of heavy rainfall.
- A rain barrel provides naturally softened, chlorine-free water for greener lawns and gardens, delicate houseplants, auto cleaning, pet washing and window washing.
- When set up properly, a rain barrel directs water away from your foundation and reduces the chance of water damage.
- A rain barrel conserves water during hot, dry summer months.
- A rain barrel prevents mosquito growth by reducing standing water around a home and captures rooftop and gutter debris in a screen, which makes it easy to dump it in your composter instead of having it run down your paved driveway.
- A rain barrel reduces the amount of chemicals, salt, oil and gasoline (that might be sitting on your driveway) from being washed into storm drains and into our natural waterways.

### COST AND SELECTION:

- A standard 55-gallon plastic barrel with a leaf screen, spout and overflow valve costs between \$80 and \$200. Environmentally-conscious retailers with a "green movement" marketing strategy, will charge somewhere in that range. The cost will vary depending on the style. Some barrels are designed to be more aesthetically pleasing, others are more practical. If you are in the market for something a little more you can opt for a high-end wooden whiskey barrel. One built by a professional cooper will probably run you \$300. The other option is to find a 55-gallon blue food container drum, which can cost as little as \$20, and purchase the additional components at a hardware store. Directions for construction can be found easily using any popular Internet search engine.

A few things to be aware of:

- A full 55-gallon rain barrel can weigh 500 pounds. Be sure the drum is placed on a level surface. Some patio stones or a concrete pad would be best. You do not want to risk the drum tilting and losing water when full, and having it run into your basement.
- Be sure to make use of the overflow valve. You can run a hose to a smaller barrel, and continue that down to another smaller barrel still, creating a "Russian doll" appearance, or you can simply extend the hose away from the home to let any excess water out of the barrel.
- Be sure to face the faucet at the bottom of the drum away from the home and pointed in the direction that makes it most accessible.

For maintenance, be sure to clean the debris screen, and when the weather turns cold, drain it and disconnect it, or else the frozen water will expand and ruin your barrel.

If it works out well, the only time you will use the chlorinated water from your garden hose will be to rinse out your rain barrel. **OH**



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# THE MIGHTY FLANK STEAK

## *Summer Entertaining on the Grill*

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER

Thanks to an increasing popularity on restaurant menus, in magazines and on television cooking shows, the humble flank steak has made a comeback at meat counters across the country. How lucky for us, and just in time for summer entertaining.

Flank steak is a long lean muscle from the belly side of the cow and has some really good things going for it. As far as steaks go, they are relatively inexpensive, so you can impress guests with a fancy steak dinner without breaking the bank. Because it's a somewhat tougher cut of meat than tenderloin or rib cuts, it stands up well to marinades. This makes it great for entertaining because you can marinate the steak earlier in the day or the night before, freeing up time to cut flowers, mow the lawn or catch up on summer reading in the hammock before guests arrive.

Flank steak is also fast cooking, taking only about six minutes to grill to medium-rare. With flank steak, rarer is better. A well-done flank steak tends to be on the chewy side.

And finally, the flank steak is an incredibly versatile cut. Sliced flank steak makes a mean sandwich filler or salad topper. And the raw meat, thinly sliced across the grain, makes great beginnings for a beef stir-fry. Like any cut of beef, flank steak takes well to many flavours, so feel free to experiment. A French-inspired marinade with red wine and lots of herbs is great for entertaining (see recipe below), but an Asian-inspired marinade with soy sauce, chiles and rice vinegar or a Mexican-inspired marinade with the fresh flavours of lime, chiles and coriander will be great too!

Any way you slice it, flank steak is the ultimate summer entertaining steak. So, call your friends and fire up the grill. Summer's here and it's time to celebrate. *Continued on page 38*



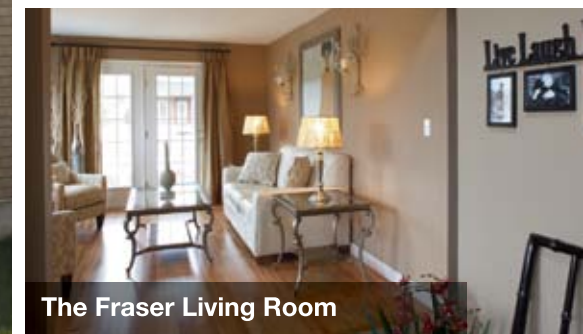
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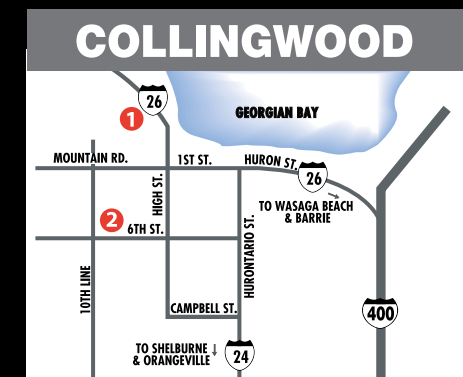


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## cooking at home



**GRILLED FLANK STEAK WITH ROASTED PEPPER AND ASPARAGUS SALAD**  
A two-pound flank steak will feed four to six people. Increase the amount of steak and marinade as needed to fit your crowd.

### FLANK STEAK:

- 1 tbsp peppercorns
- 1 tbsp coriander seeds
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 cup red wine
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 3 cloves garlic, halved
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 3 sprigs each fresh thyme and parsley
- 2 lb flank steak
- 1 tsp salt

### SALAD

- 3 sweet peppers (red, orange, yellow or mixed)
- 12 spears asparagus
- 8 cups mixed baby salad greens
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- White balsamic or white wine vinegar
- Sea salt
- Fresh ground pepper

### FLANK STEAK:

- In small skillet, toast peppercorns, coriander seeds and bay leaves over high heat, shaking pan often, until toasted and fragrant, about 2 minutes. Transfer toasted ingredients to cutting board; lightly crush with bottom of heavy saucepan. Transfer to 13 by 9-inch glass baking dish. Whisk in wine, oil, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, green onions, thyme and parsley.
- Poke steak all over with fork and place in marinade. Turn steak to coat both sides; cover and refrigerate for at least four hours or up to 24 hours. Remove steak and marinade from fridge one hour before grilling to come to room temperature.
- Transfer marinade to small saucepan. Bring to boil. Boil for one minute; set aside.
- Preheat grill to medium-high. Sprinkle steak all over with salt. Grill steak, turning once and basting with reserved marinade, for six to eight minutes for medium-rare.
- Slice steak thinly across the grain to serve.

### SALAD:

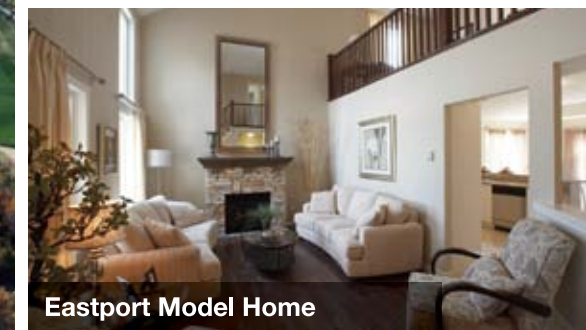
- Grill peppers until skins are blistered and blackened. Transfer to bowl; cover and let stand for 10 minutes. Peel off skins; remove seeds and slice.
- Grill asparagus on piece of foil paper or using grill basket until tender-crisp, about three minutes. Cut into thirds.
- In salad bowl, toss together peppers, asparagus and salad greens. Toss with oil, vinegar, salt and pepper to taste. Serve with steak. **OH**



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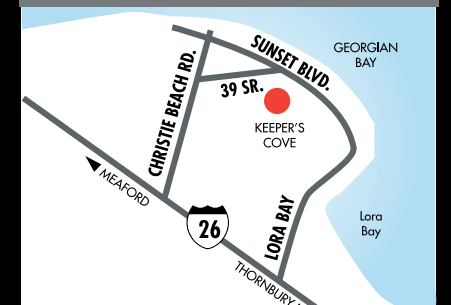
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"Boomerang will be on shelves as soon as we  
have sufficient quantity," said Michael Rushton,  
RONA's vice-president of big-box stores in  
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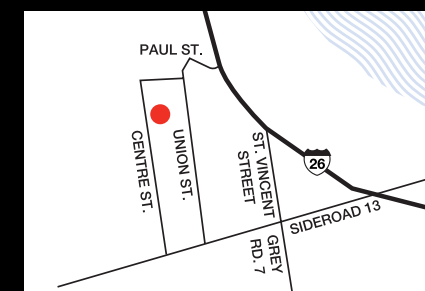
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The great room in the home is a central gathering area for the whole family.

# For The Whole Family

DESIGNERS STEPHANIE REDMOND & SANDRA MACGILLIVRAY COLLABORATE WITH ARCHITECT BRAD ABBOTT ON AN UNASSUMING CRAIGLEITH HOME FOR THE FAMILY TREE.

BY STEPHANIE REDMOND // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

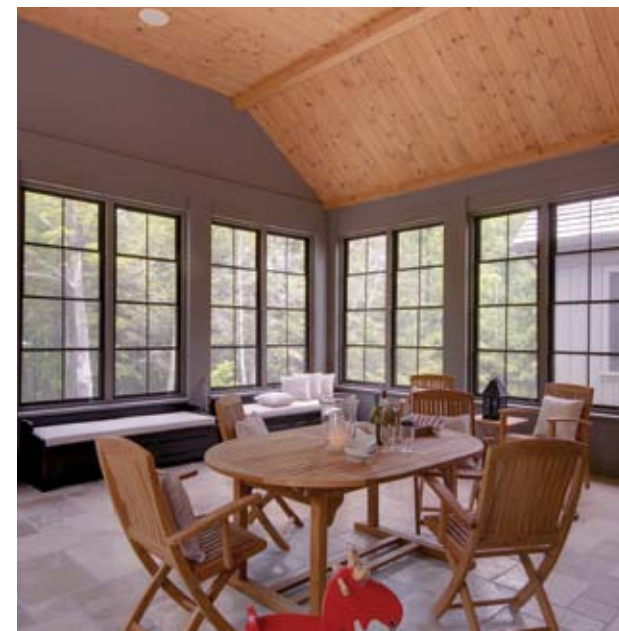


**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Custom sofas and Lee leather chairs on a textural wool carpet lend intimacy to the open concept living space.

**TOP LEFT:** Grey washed cabinetry and granite countertops give weight to the kitchen to balance the height of the ceilings.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Folding glass panels and an outdoor fireplace extend life on the screened-in porch well into the colder seasons.

**MIDDLE:** The turret is an elegant link to the children's wing with access to the side garden and outdoor hot tub.



## BRAD ABBOTT ON ARCHITECTURE

The homeowners are active grandparents who wanted to create an escarpment escape that would accommodate three generations. The idea was not uncommon for the area. The senior members of the family wish to provide a retreat for the younger generations on weekends and holidays. Fortunately, they already had the two most important assets: a bushel of fun-loving grandchildren and a fabulous lot.

The essence of the design was to imagine the home as a “mini village” and to make it feel as if it had grown up on this spot over a long period of time.

The main family gathering space with living, dining and kitchen became the stone “schoolhouse” anchoring the “village.” Linked by glass-enclosed bridges are three other buildings dressed in board-and-batten siding. One is the mudroom and art studio; another is the master suite with an office and home gym below; and the third is a two-storey building with two junior master suites and four bedrooms for the grandchildren. *Continued on page 47*



**LEFT:** The front porch resembles an old farmhouse complete with swallows nesting overhead.

**BELOW:** The position of the home takes advantage of the double-wide treed lot. The stone patio with fire pit is a place to enjoy company with a striking view of the bay.

**RIGHT:** The patio with fire pit.

Apart from the romantic “village” storyboard, there were four tangible benefits to splitting the home into the four buildings: The first was the outdoor spaces created between the buildings. Two very private courtyards resulted. The second was the generous access to natural light by way of large double hung windows. The third was that each building is separately zoned for heating and cooling and can be independently shut down when not in use. Finally, by splitting the home into smaller buildings, we kept each section to a manageable and human scale. The design successfully disguises its 9,200 sq. ft.

Today the home is buzzing with activity. No one complains as each person has a place of their own to escape to. The owners, in concert with builder **Dave Harrington** of **Absolute Craftsmen**, have succeeded in creating a place where everyone wants to be. *Continued on page 48*





**LEFT:** A brightly-striped carpet in cotton and woven stools keep the feeling casual and young in one of the master bedrooms in the children's wing.

**ABOVE:** With a two-tone maple vanity and white stone top, the light palette keeps the bath clean and contemporary.

**RIGHT:** A creative den on the main floor. The paint studio is a popular gathering spot for everyone.



## STEPHANIE REDMOND ON INTERIOR DESIGN

The homeowners are architecturally savvy and challenged design decisions with educated opinions. It was important to them to create warmth so the space did not overwhelm. It needed to be user-friendly for the grandchildren and relaxing for the parents.

In the centre of the home, the stage was set for years of gathering. All of the built-ins were designed with **Bernard Rioux** of **Rioux Cabinetry**. The shaker-style kitchen, island and bar are made of grey washed hemlock

and walnut. In the centre of this space is a dining table made of reclaimed wood surrounded by red paysanne chairs from Quebec – a whimsical nod to the red knobs on the stainless cook top.

The house evokes a sense of casual tradition. The paints are rich and subtle, the fabrics textural. A floral Cowtan and Tout linen on a William Birch chair sits in the corner of the master bedroom as a cosy reading nook. The space has an overall sense of calm.

*Continued on page 50*



**LEFT:** Library lights above navy blue headboards for late night reading in one of the grandchildren's rooms.

**MIDDLE:** The small pantry is a tiny gem off the entry with farm sink for washing potatoes or potting plants.

**BOTTOM:** The grandchildren arrive for a visit.



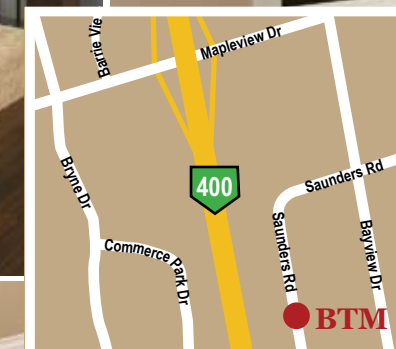
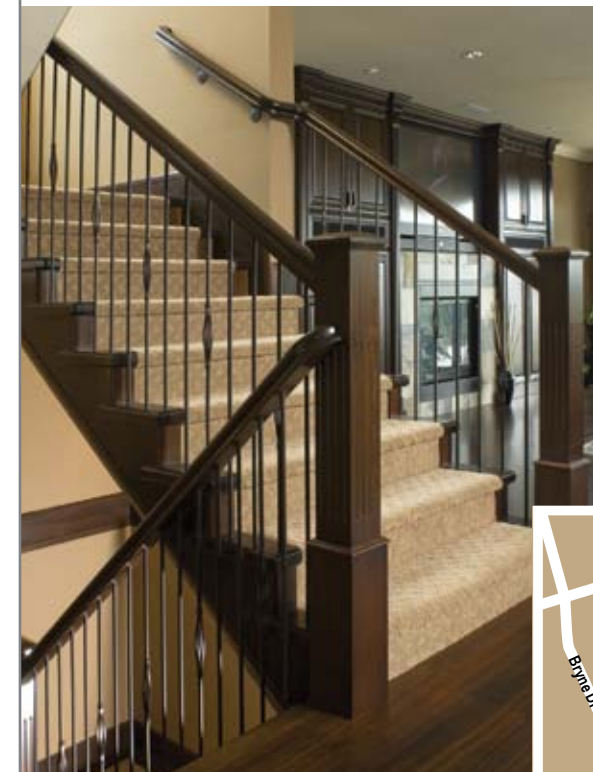
Although large, the children's wing feels like a big bunkie. The stair is carpeted in a wool Missoni runner that won't show a spec of dirt. Features include navy blue headboards, crisp white sheets, a large-scale leaf from Brunswick and Fils, textural neutrals and a multi-colored striped headboard.

The paint studio is where "granny" paints and the grandchildren learn. The finger joints on the cabinetry and the overall design were a huge success. The pantry is a nothing little space that was transformed with a sink and a vision – a place to wash potatoes and cut flowers from the garden.

The day these photos were taken, I saw the house in full swing: grandchildren running about, cookbooks open on the kitchen counter and one camera-shy grandfather watching golf in the family room. A well used home. And a job well done. **OH**

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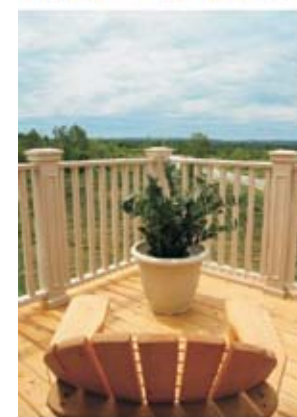
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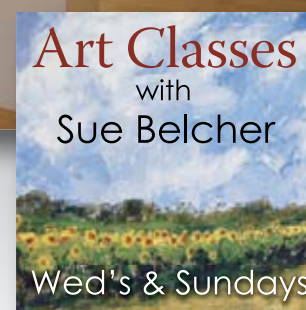
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BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX



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**THE PLACE:** When you arrive at Home Zone – Bed, Bath & More, you're greeted with a warm smile from Kathy McDonald or one of her friendly staff. This popular destination shop is located next to its companion store, Ladies Designer Fashions. The businesses owned by McDonald are linked by more than proximity. After eight years of success with her clothing store, McDonald extended her vision to include bedding, bath and home accessories two-and-a-half years ago. McDonald explains, "The shops work together well, once you understand that Home Zone caters to those looking for affordable fashion for the home." *Continued on page 56*

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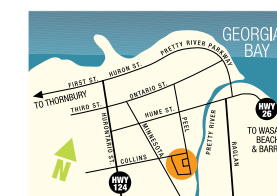
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**THE STYLE:** With her years of experience in the operational management end of corporate retail, McDonald knows the market well. "I enjoy researching the newest trends and finding fresh new products. I spend, on average, two days a week buying for the store with trips to Toronto and Montreal to find the latest items that we can offer customers at a mid-range price point. We have new goods arriving every week so that we can stay current. We're adding more home accessories to the linen and bedding that we already carry."

**WHAT'S HOT:** "Colour, colour, colour!" McDonald says. "We offer what's current and make suggestions to our clients as to how they can pull together the colours they like to make it work for their home."



**SEASONAL:** For summer, McDonald offers items for outdoor entertaining and a new product called an ice bag, which chills water or wine, making it a wonderful hostess gift. Keeping ahead of current trends in home fashion, McDonald's offerings suit each season – flannel sheets and throws for winter and lighter weight fabrics and duvets for spring and summer.

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A Sweet William wildflower garden in full bloom grows near the treeline at the bottom of the yard. The steps and the thoughtful placement of rocks around the garden add to the natural beauty of this splendid oasis.

RIGHT: A blooming Weigela in all its summer splendour.

# Paradise AT THE GARDEN GATES

BY SAMANTHA MARTIN // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

OUR HOMES presents three beautiful landscape projects at three incredible homes, all designed and installed by The Landmark Group.

*Continued on page 62*



**ABOVE:** Perennials enhance the grounds and add a burst of colour.

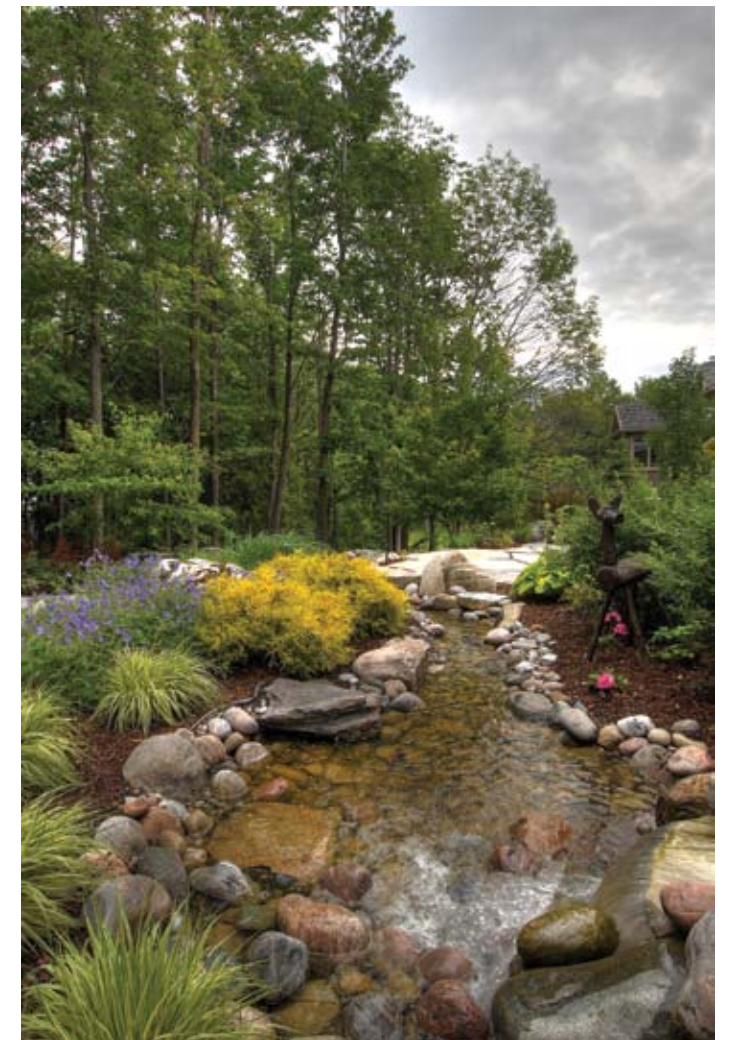
**LEFT:** The waterfall cascades over river rock to create a wonderful focal point. The sound is mesmerizing.



A flagstone patio, surrounded by natural stone and native plants.

**RIGHT:** Looking down as the water falls to the gardens below.

**BELOW:** The landscape at the front of the home, comprised of vignettes of trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses and the only grass on the property.



## 1 Where Water Falls

This home near the Georgian Bay Club is a dream come true for a delightful retired couple. They spend their time relaxing outdoors, watching the deer and foxes in the forest and listening to the tranquil sound of water fall in their backyard garden oasis. They hired The Landmark Group to design an outdoor space to fit their lifestyle.

The backyard was raised eight feet to meet the main floor, supported with a granite rock wall composed of about 200 boulders. Two lovely sheltered porches lead inside the home through French doors. Large natural stone steps cascade down to a patio constructed with huge flagstones, surrounded by beautiful, low-maintenance, perennial gardens.

A water feature was a must. A trickling stream now runs through the centre of their patio, flowing down from a tiered flagstone waterfall over

colourful river rock, cascading to the Sweet William wildflower garden below. A mini bridge connects the patio on either side of the stream. The untouched forest takes over below, blocking the home from the road at the bottom of the embankment.

A built-in fire pit blends into the flagstone and granite at the edge of the patio where the couple and their guests stay warm while relaxing or dining on the lower patio. The front of this home features spruce and cedar trees and shrubs surrounded by more perennial beds. The front features the only grass on the property, leaving little maintenance.

“Landmark has done a great job and they’re carrying on with the garden care,” says the man of the house, who enjoys every inch of his outdoor space when he’s not on the golf course. *Continued on page 64*

## outdoor spaces



Each rock is carefully selected and placed in just the right spot for maximum effect. This driveway allows water to percolate right through the interlocked stones.

## 2 Grand and Gorgeous

An old wooden fence frames half of the property, also at the Georgian Bay Club. It keeps the grandchildren from the ravine beyond. This feature was carefully chosen and executed by The Landmark Group, along with many other special outdoor features to fit the client's desire to complete their dream home, built by **Dave Harrington** of **Absolute Craftsmen**.

Hard and softscapes work together to enhance the beauty of the landscape. The Subterra paver stone used for the grand driveway entrance allows water to percolate through, preventing puddles from forming on the surface. The look flows seamlessly with the stone and cedar shake exterior of the stunning home.

The look of the wrap-around perennial garden changes as it flows from the front to the side and then to the back of the home. It begins with pine and serviceberry trees and tall grasses and moves to dogwood and creeping juniper and then on to ferns and holly and then to hostas, grasses and more pines. "We wanted to keep everything indigenous," the client says, explaining how she loves walking around her gardens in the evening. Strategically placed garden lights enhance the enjoyment of the outdoor space.

"To us, it was important to make it fit as best we could with the forest here," says her husband, adding that they had to respect the Nipissing Ridge and work with the slope of the lot. The couple wanted destinations in their landscape: a fabulous pool and different places to relax and enjoy the space. That's exactly what they got, with numerous patios, gardens and space on the lawn to play croquet.

They can't say enough about The Landmark Group. "They've got a very dynamic operation and the people who work for them are incredible. They have very distinctive designs and their use of rock and stone is unbelievable." *Continued on page 66*



ABOVE: The pool was built into the structure of the home. A sunroom provides a sheltered place for meals and friends and family to gather on cool nights. Windows from Cedarport.

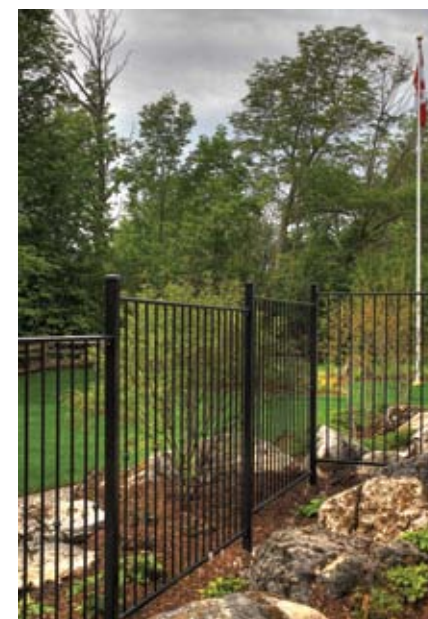
BELOW FROM LEFT:

The gardens are young, just planted this season, but the design, selection and hardscapes will be enjoyed for years to come.

The iron fence provides a safety barrier for the pool above.

A cool breeze flows through this covered porch at the back of the home.

Three flowerpots add colour, texture and interest to the landscape out front.



## outdoor spaces



This property has it all: privacy, a panoramic view and a landscape built for fun and relaxation.



**3.** *Rural Revival*  
Located a third of a mile off the road, hidden from view without a neighbour within shouting distance, this home, located on a hilltop in Meaford, was landscaped by The Landmark Group to flow into the countryside. It's also the ideal place to have a summer garden party. The property is bordered by farmers' fields and one of the homeowners' favourite activities in their outdoor space is "farm watching."  
The home was built by **Dave Harrington** of **Absolute Craftsmen**.

With "spectacular views, marvelous sunrises and sunsets, tons of critters and birds and copious amounts of peace and quiet," it was important that the homeowners felt comfortable in their outdoor space. Landmark made sure of this, designing a variety of seating areas for use at different times of the day. Landmark's experts also designed and planted gardens and trees that are easily maintained and fit beautifully into this rural landscape. *Continued on page 68*

### TOP STARTING FROM LEFT:

**Tidy perennial gardens hug the screened-in porch.**

**A view of the pool and home from inside the cabana.**

**The Landmark crew brought this huge rock from the field and found the perfect place to show it off.**

## LOVING YOUR LANDSCAPE

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

It seems fitting that The Landmark Group, specializing in landscape design and construction, has been recognized by peers in the landscape industry by receiving six awards from Landscape Ontario for designs over the last three years. The company has certainly left its mark on the many properties it has transformed over the years.

According to Gary Nordeman, President and General Manager of The Landmark Group, hiring the best people is the key to his company achieving its fine reputation. "You've got to hire the right people with the right credentials," Nordeman says. "Knowing where to find these people is important. Landscape Ontario has been instrumental in this process. Through word of mouth and advertising, people express an interest in joining us and it also brings clients to our door." Established in 1986, Landmark currently has a staff of approximately 40 full-time employees. Nordeman attributes growth to the company's commitment to its employees. "I don't want those who work here to look at their contribution as a job, but as a career – something they can build a home and family on, he says."

What's important for Landmark's clients? Nordeman has a ready answer. "Entertainment! A lot of people are coming up to this area to retire or semi-retire. Many come to take advantage of four-season outdoor activities and stay for extended weekends – from Thursday to Monday. For that reason the most important thing is outdoor entertainment. When people come off the golf course or the ski hills they want to relax and entertain friends and family. They want to leave their work behind and embrace a more natural setting. That's where we come in."

Landmark has the experience, expertise and personnel to take their client's dream for the outdoors to the fullest and to turn it into reality. "There are so many things to consider," Nordeman says. "Everything from outdoor sound and lighting systems to privacy and the kind of spaces people want. The current trend is extending the time people can spend outdoors in a pleasing, well-designed setting. To achieve this, a lot of variables must be considered: shade, dining, water, privacy, unique focal points in the landscape, views, outdoor kitchen, etc.

The design of the space itself leads to other questions that can be answered by Landmark's in-house design team and group of consultants. Are stone walls or natural elements needed to keep out the prevailing wind and weather? How will spaces be tailored to suit the homeowner's lifestyle?

Because of the many questions to be answered, Nordeman feels people should get professional help with their landscaping projects. "Our qualified and experienced staff know the industry and what's available and can take a proactive role in answering homeowners' needs," Nordeman says. Landmark has the resources to take people through the necessary steps in any project – initial consultation, the collaborative setting of objectives, overall design, detailed planning and the development of budget/costing for client approval. This process, which develops a confident, trusting relationship with clients, ends with warranties and a firm commitment to after-service.

Nordeman summarizes it best. "We ask clients, 'what's your dream?' Based on their answer we have the know-how to create it for them with an eye for detail." ☺





With such wide-open space, the homeowners worked with Landmark to create a landscape design that would define the outdoor space without fencing it off or taking away from the farmland and openness of the 100-acre property. “We wanted the formal landscaped areas to blend into the very large hayfield, but at the same time feel like a defined space,” says the homeowner. A low rock wall capped in limestone surrounds the main patio and pool area and trees were planted to help block the high winds on the hilltop.

Stepping stones are laid just so, creating a meandering pathway from one garden and seating area to the next, including a pathway to the fire pit.

Of course many personal touches were incorporated into the design, including a large rock found on the property that now stands near the pool as a defining piece of landscape art.

“They showed a lot of creativity and had lots of good suggestions regarding materials and finishes,” says the homeowner of her positive experience with the “hardworking group” at Landmark. **OH**

**Hardscapes, varying elevations, perennial gardens and pots with annuals work together, creating a magnificent outdoor space surrounded by farmland.**



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*Continued on page 72*

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## ◀ David and Matt Sharp

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**NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT...** proper lighting. Landscape lighting involves more than just placing a few lights in the ground. Garden lighting determines how you use the landscape at night and how the garden can be an extension of the interior of your home. A good landscape lighting plan allows you to determine the type of fixture required for each application, and forms an important element of the overall design.

**BEST ADVICE:** Landscaping is a big investment and will add value to your home. It really pays off to install a landscape that will perform over time. Plants and trees are not a short-term investment and it may take several years for a proper landscape to look established. Having an instant landscape may not be the best approach for the yard or the home.



## ◀ Martin Zeng

(with sons Josh and Daniel)

**COMPANY:** Zeng Landscaping  
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**BEST ADVICE:** For new landscaping or updating existing landscapes, hire a landscape contractor who has an understanding of the whole building process and a working knowledge of the vast array of materials available. This will ensure that all the elements tie together and will function well.

Continued on page 74

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**BEST ADVICE:** Do not cut corners by working without a landscape plan and a vision.



### ◀ Tavis Yeats and Michael Chapman

**COMPANY:** Oasis North Landscapes  
**SPECIALTY:** Designing and building custom landscapes while developing a close relationship with our clients.  
**NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT...** cold beers after a sod day.  
**BEST ADVICE:** Don't get a white dog for a landscape company mascot.

*Continued on page 76*



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### ◀ Brian Oostdam

**COMPANY:** Riverside Landscapes, Design/Build

**SPECIALTY:** Walkways, patios and retaining walls

**NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT...** an elegant patio. It is the centerpiece of the space that everything else comes together around and a must for sitting back and taking it all in.

**BEST ADVICE:** You may want to avoid using huge stone or rockery in a small scale landscape, unless it is necessary for retaining significant grade changes. Otherwise, huge stones may look odd close to a smaller-sized house or in a small setting.

*Continued on page 78*

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### ◀ Diane Lister

**COMPANY:** Diane's Garden/  
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### ◀ Juergen Keller

**COMPANY:** AquaFormations  
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**NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT...** an individually designed water feature with soothing sounds as a source of relaxation. It enhances the overall impression of a garden and attracts all kinds of birds, frogs and other wildlife – like an oasis in the desert. It provides endless hours of interesting observations and reconnects you with nature.

**BEST ADVICE:** Look around and visit as many water features as you can to find out what you like and get the best ideas and solutions for your project. Then, find the person you have the most confidence in to realize your dream. A professional contractor will always be open to suggestions and accept other people's input.

*Continued on page 80*

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### ◀ Doug MacMillan

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**BEST ADVICE:** As a client, it is very important to communicate with your landscape designer what you envision the final product will look like. Create a plan that suits your personal or family's needs and expectations. As an artistic landscape designer I try to create a yard that is unique to my client and reflects who they are as a person or a family."



### ◀ Teresa Matamoros

**COMPANY:** Garden Holistics Inc.  
**SPECIALTY:** Lawn and garden maintenance and rehabilitation using natural means wherever possible.  
**NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT...** a focal point! Be it a water feature, rocks, a specimen tree or garden sculpture.  
**BEST ADVICE:** Plant thousands or at least hundreds of spring bulbs, especially daffodils and tulips!

*Continued on page 82*

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### ◀ Dan Ladly

**COMPANY:** Ladly's Landscape and Garden Design

**SPECIALTY:** Maintenance, Water Features, Garden Design

**NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT...** shrubs and perennials that make a statement and show off your new creation. A mixture of foliage, leaf texture and colour can make all the difference in your final presentation.

**ADVICE:** Use fewer varieties of shrubs and perennials and plant them in great quantity. Sometimes less is more. Use more annuals in your garden to achieve the "Wow" factor.



### ◀ Rhett Mather

**COMPANY:** G. Mather Stonemasonry Ltd.

**SPECIALTY:** Traditional Scottish stonemason specializing in working with natural stone.

**NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT...** a stone fountain with matching stone patio.

**BEST ADVICE:** Ask for drawings of what you want made or create them yourself using one of the many available computer programs.

*Continued on page 84*

*Turkel Design 2009*

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## ◀ Allan Tamm

**COMPANY:** 3 Oaks Landscaping & Maintenance

**SPECIALTY:** Landscape design, installation and maintenance.

**NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT...** a harmony with those who most frequently utilize the space and a major focal point that can be anything from a pool, gazebo or perhaps even a large ornament or rock.

**BEST ADVICE:** With most projects, planning and preparation are the two key elements. Always include good soil and a practical and easy irrigation method if plants are involved. Establish a plan and make sure you communicate well with your landscaper. It's your space – dream bravely! **OH**

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(Please see ad on page 93)

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(Please see ad on page 17)

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### INTERIORS

#### WHAT IS ART?...THE BEGINNING

"ART" has not always been what we think it is today. An object regarded as "ART" today may not have been perceived as such when it was first made, nor was the person who made it necessarily regarded as an artist. Both the notion of "ART" and the idea of the "artist" are relatively modern terms.

Many of the objects we identify as art today - Greek painted pottery, medieval manuscript illuminations, and so on - were made in times and places when people had no concept of "ART" as we understand the term. "ART" lacks a satisfactory definition. It is easier to describe it as the way something is done - "the use of skill and imagination in the creation of aesthetic objects, environments, or experiences that can be shared with others" (Britannica) - rather than what it is.

But how did "ART" become distinguished from the decorative arts and crafts? How and why is an artist different from a craftsman? In the Ancient World and Middle Ages the word we would translate as "ART" today was applied to any activity governed by rules. Painting and sculpture were included among a number of human activities, such as shoemaking and weaving, which today we would call crafts.

During the Renaissance, the word "ART" emerges as a collective term encompassing Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, a grouping given currency by the Italian artist and biographer Giorgio Vasari in the 16th century. Subsequently, this grouping was expanded to include Music and Poetry which became known in the 18th century as the 'Fine Arts'. These five Arts have formed an irreducible nucleus from which have been generally excluded the 'decorative arts' and 'crafts', such as pottery, weaving, metalworking, and furniture making, all of which have utility as an end. In the latter half of the 16th century the first academies of "ART" were founded, first in Italy, then in France, and later elsewhere...to be continued in the next issue!... References...many!

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Continued on page 90

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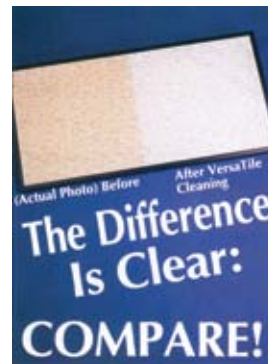
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*Featured Client Testimonial:* "Thank you Angiline and Rob! The Dubiens took the stress out of buying our vacation property in Collingwood. They were able to help us find an amazing place which fit our lifestyle needs

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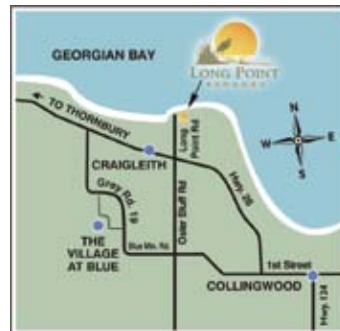
But what makes the lots at Long Point Estates truly extraordinary are the water frontages. They range from 170 feet to over 320 feet of waterfront. The views are nothing short of spectacular, with a horizon of open water accented by small islands. A number of building sites will also allow for the landmark lighthouse to be framed by a picture window. The waterfront itself is defined by natural vegetation and a grassy plain which invites you to create your outdoor living space.

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*Continued on page 92*

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Through Foundation sponsored performances, donations and fund raising events, our contributions to date include: a grand piano, high definition projector, opera house stage flooring, commercial stove to enhance hospitality capabilities, portable and hands-free microphones and special blinds for the Galleries.

All donations to the Meaford Hall & Culture Foundation are invested in bringing unique cultural experiences to our community and provide the opportunity to support and develop learning opportunities for all ages in arts and cultural related activities.

Join the Foundation Family: Call 519-538-6766 [www.mhcfoundation.ca](http://www.mhcfoundation.ca). Also visit [www.meafordhall.ca](http://www.meafordhall.ca) for upcoming performances. (Please see ad on page 57)



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Life is good at Lora Bay. Idyllic, in fact. Just ask Marlene McLean and Murray Watson. The Toronto couple toyed with the idea of purchasing a second property in Florida. They never imagined building a beautiful Viceroy bungalow on the spectacular Raven golf course at Lora Bay. But one thing led to another... and now they love their year-round retreat.

*Continued on page 97*

# SMART DESIGN

BY JUDE WAYLAND // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY // STYLED BY DEBORAH AND MARIAN MASTERS

Wood beams, high ceilings and a grand stone fireplace make the living room Murray's favourite place to relax. It's cosy and the view out the famous Viceroy wall of windows is incredible.

TOP RIGHT: The inviting foyer leads to the great room of this fabulous Lora Bay home.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A large granite island separates the kitchen from the dining and living areas in the spacious great room.



A few years back, by chance, Marlene's friend suggested the couple take a look at a property for sale down the street. Marlene's response? "Oh Angie, come on! The last thing I want to do is look at houses when I'm relaxing!" (Marlene is a realtor in Toronto.) "But off the four of us trotted, and it took off from there," she recalls.

Initially, the couple considered purchasing a resale property because they liked the area, loved to golf and wanted their own country abode. They even put in an offer on a home, but that fell through, and as Murray explains, "We couldn't find a resale that we could imagine living in, and we thought it might be a fun project to build a house from scratch. And then, we found this wonderful development at Lora Bay."

Marlene and Murray purchased their lot in 2007 and thoroughly researched their home-building options. They went to trade shows, looked through magazines and were impressed with Viceroy's quality, style and fabulous new Post-and-Beam plans. The couple was then introduced to **Trevor McMillan** of **Braehall Developers/Viceroy Homes** in Thornbury.

Braehall is a custom homebuilder, offering an extensive selection of Viceroy plans and top quality construction materials. "Viceroy is really the finest quality as far as framing materials, in-house drafting and engineering go," explains McMillan. "We can customize anything for anybody." *Continued on page 99*

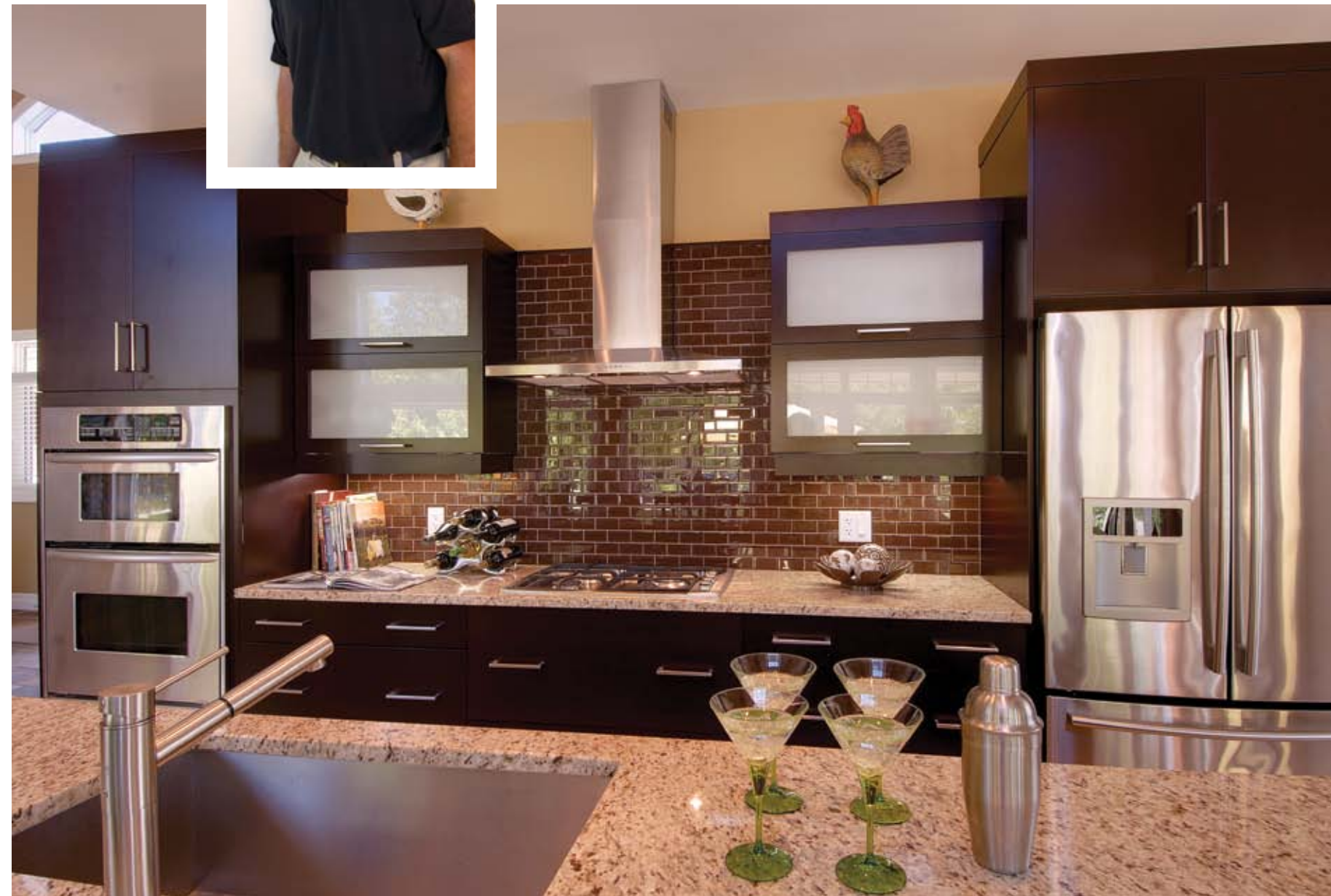




**OPPOSITE PAGE:** The dining table expands for large gatherings and the setting offers a view of the pretty private patio out back.

**LEFT:** Braehall Principal Trevor McMillan. Murray and Marlene say McMillan was a pleasure to work with, from start to finish.

**BELOW:** The contemporary kitchen may be compact but the smart design makes cooking and entertaining a joy. There's lots of storage and prep room. Faucet from Georgian Design Centre.



Marlene and Murray's two-storey plans underwent numerous modifications. The couple worked hand-in-hand with Braehall, removing the second storey, adding vaulted ceilings, oversized windows and a main-floor master bedroom, and moving two guest bedrooms to the lower level. "With the aging population, you want the master on the main," says Marlene.

The couple moved into their 4,400 sq. ft., three-bedroom, ranch-style bungalow in June 2008. Nestled into the tranquil woods off the 13th fairway at Lora Bay, the main floor features an open-concept great

room, dining area and kitchen, master bedroom with spacious en suite, sunroom, office (which doubles as a fourth guest room) with three-piece en suite, laundry room and Braehall's signature 'wall of windows,' offering formidable southern exposure and light galore!

A huge granite-topped island anchors the kitchen area. It's a wide-open space, simple, yet functional, featuring modern cabinetry and stainless appliances. "The kitchen is absolutely the heart of the home and this is where everyone gravitates," says Marlene. "We wanted a sleek, contemporary kitchen, but we wanted country. We think we've accomplished that."

*Continued on page 100*

# home & builder

Marlene's favourite space is her sunroom, originally designed as a screened-in porch, now enclosed, with in-floor heating. "The sun pours in. It's separate from the rest of the house, and I get to look over the gardens," she says. "When I sit here, I think this has to be what heaven must be like. This is where I read my newspaper and drink my latté."

What's it like building a home in Thornbury when you live in Toronto? "There was perfect communication with phone calls, emails and on-site meetings," says Marlene. "Trevor took care of all the subtrades, from the landscaping (**Gordon J. Leece Landscapes**) to the kitchen (**Corinthian Kitchens**). He brought all these people to us, and they were wonderful to work with."

Maple floors complement the decorative, non-structural Douglas Fir vaulted ceiling beams, and Marlene's interior designer friend, Leila MacDonald of Toronto, provided décor input and helped select Benjamin Moore paint shades. The front entry and mudroom is Decatur Bluff, the powder room, Estate, and the master bedroom, a beautiful green shade called Grasslands.

Two self-contained guest bedrooms on the lower level feature large windows, spacious closets and separate en suite bathrooms to accommodate visits from friends and family. *Continued on page 102*



The master bedroom is beautifully decorated and the wall colour, Grasslands by Benjamin Moore, creates a happy mood in every season.

TOP LEFT: An electric pink tea set complements the décor and is the perfect breakfast companion.

BELOW: The modern simplicity of the master en suite makes it an ideal place to relax in this exceptional home. Tub, faucets and vanities from Georgian Design Centre.



The sunroom off the kitchen is Marlene's favoured spot to enjoy a coffee and read the newspaper. The plans called for a screened-in porch, but Marlene and Murray chose to make the room an extension of the great room.

Murray's room of choice is the great room. "I always wanted to have a home with wood beams and high ceilings, a big stone fireplace and comfortable chairs, so I can sit there, have my morning coffee and read my newspaper."

And McMillan's preferred spot? "My favourite part of the house is the view from the back, the privacy in the backyard and the covered porch," says McMillan. "And I love the curb appeal of the house."

Today, there are close to a dozen Viceroy homes in the Lora Bay area, and Braehall's business is booming. McMillan is currently in the process

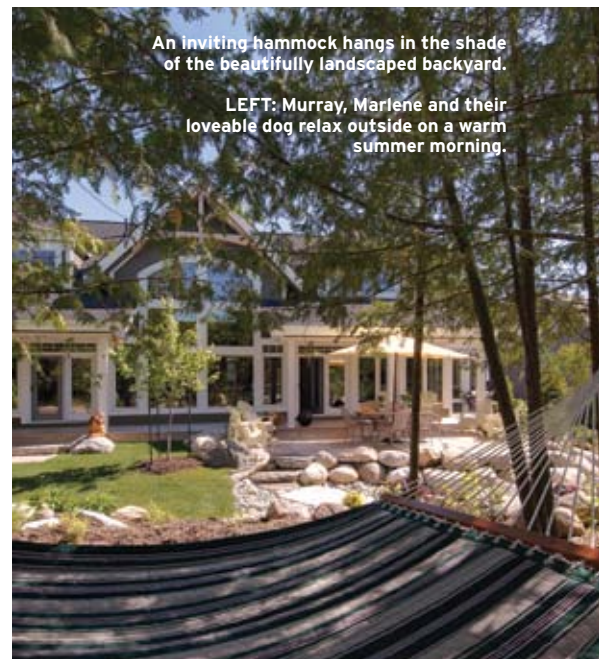
of building four homes – for people who are currently moving to the area from Brampton, South Africa, Calgary and Bangladesh. "It's a wireless world," laughs McMillan.

Both Marlene and Murray are self-employed, so they can make time to enjoy a game of golf at Lora Bay or a snowshoe around the course. "This place is fantastic and it's a great community," says Murray. "This is absolutely fabulous," echoes Marlene. "We use it to get away from the stress and hustle and bustle, and you can do as much or as little as you want," says Marlene. "And we do have an incredibly beautiful home." **OH**



An inviting hammock hangs in the shade of the beautifully landscaped backyard.

LEFT: Murray, Marlene and their loveable dog relax outside on a warm summer morning.



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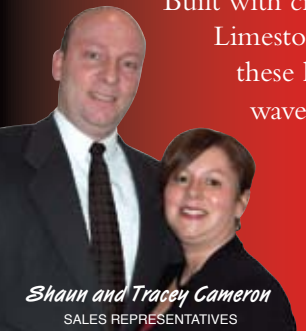
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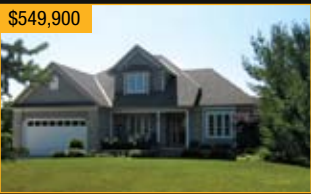


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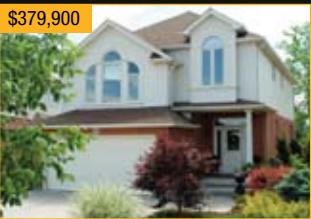
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# A crafty MOSAIC TABLE to make this summer

BY ANDREA RAMACIERI // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

OUR HOMES took a tired, weather-beaten, wooden patio table and gave it new life with old plates, bowls and tiles.

Continued on page 112



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## finishing touch



### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

(We found almost everything at the local re-use store.)

- Old plates, ceramic bowls and tiles
- Safety glasses and gloves
- Hammer
- Ceramic tile glue
- Grout
- Floater
- Sponges
- Sealant (a must for an outdoor table)

**HINT:** Select a colour scheme and a basic design. Make sure you have enough of one mosaic colour to fill in the desired area.

### GETTING STARTED

Wrap plates and tiles in an old tea-towel or cloth bag. Place them in a shallow plastic vessel or cardboard box. Put on your safety glasses and smash the plates and tiles with a hammer.

Separate the mosaic pieces by colour. Make sure you have enough pieces to complete your design.

**HINT:** We used the lips of the plates along the edges of the entire table.

### TIME TO GLUE

Cover your starting point with an ample amount of ceramic tile glue and start placing your mosaic pieces. You may have to apply glue directly to each piece. The thickness of each piece may vary, which adds interest to your table. Place pieces relatively close together. You can fill in the gaps with smaller pieces later. Continue to work in segments until the surface is filled and your design is complete.

Allow 24 hours for the glue to dry.

### TIME TO GROUT

This is a two-person job. One person applies the grout with a grout floater while the other cleans each tile as you go along. Clean the tiles as best you can, otherwise the grout will dry and you will spend hours scrubbing and digging them out.

Allow 24 hours for the grout to dry.

### CLEAN AND SEAL

Once the grout is dry and the tiles are clean, it's time to apply a sealant. We used Circa 1850 Nu-Lustre 55 – a thick, high-gloss clear epoxy finish. One coat of this product equals up to 55 coats of varnish. Follow the directions carefully. You can find this product and others at the hardware store.

**HINT:** We used a brush to apply the epoxy sealant. Once dry, it looks incredible. **OH**



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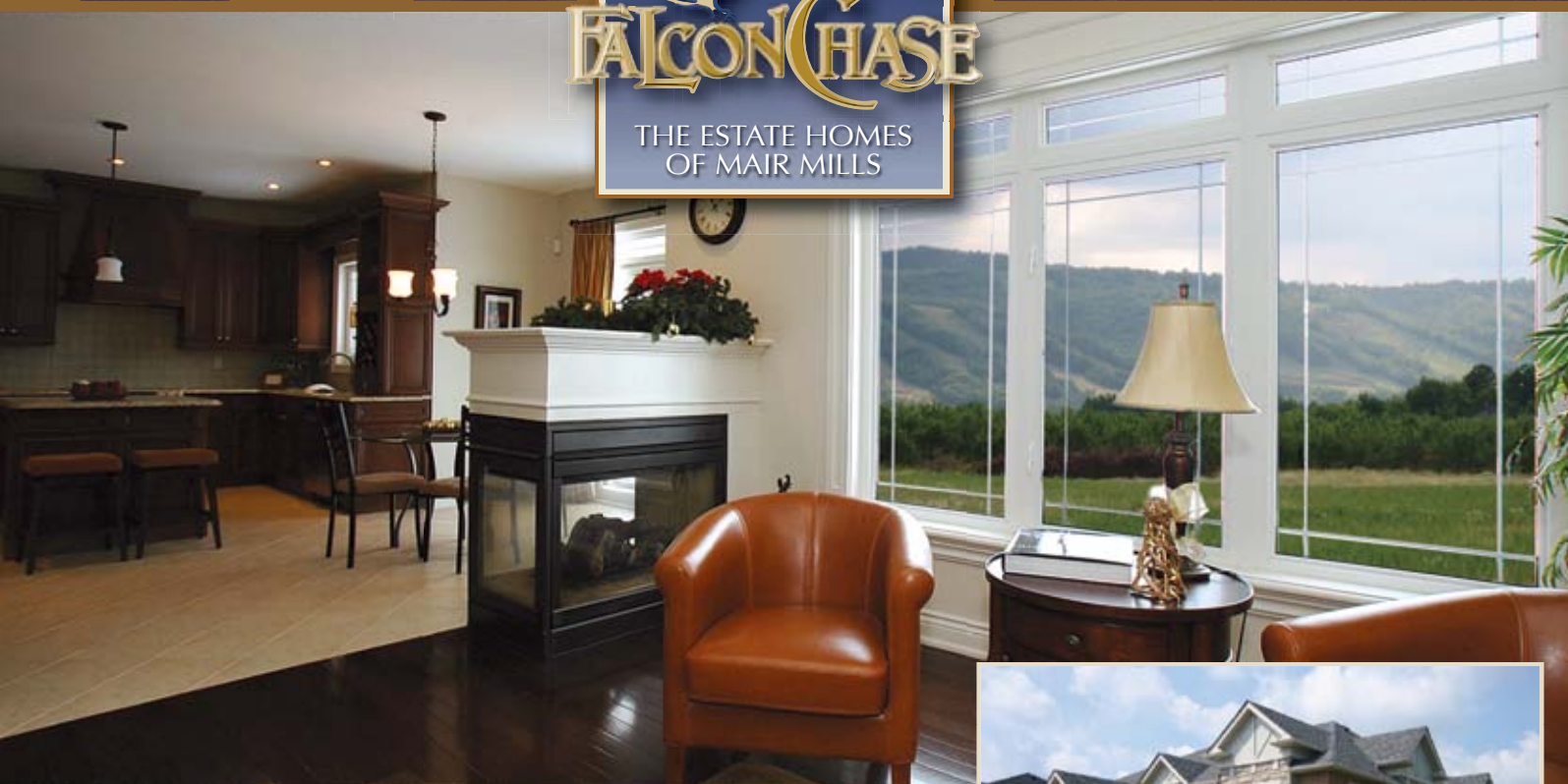
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