

people

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

Loving MY LANDSCAPE

Take a peek inside some of the most beautiful backyards in the area, created by talented local landscapers and designers.

David and Julia Gascoine

TELL US ABOUT YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE: The natural beauty that has been incorporated into the space is unique. All the retaining walls and stairs are natural stone. The areas around the pool are planted with wild flowers and once they bloom it is a ridiculous sea of colour. The attention to detail that **Gordon J. Leece Landscapes** provided is remarkable.

HOW DOES YOUR SPACE IMPROVE YOUR FAMILY LIFE? My daughter and I have been on our own for the last three years and needed a change of environment from the city. We purchased our house as a weekend getaway, but decided that moving to the country is what we needed. Hardly a day goes by that we are not enjoying the outdoor space together. It's why we are here.

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Don Raymond and Jennifer Keenan

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE?

We love how the space reflects the natural beauty of the property and how it acts as a bridge between the barn and the house. **Zeng Landscaping** did a beautiful job implementing the landscape design by **Vogel Landscape Design and Consulting Group Ltd.**

FAVOURITE FLOWER OR PLANT ON YOUR PROPERTY: We chose flowers and plants that are indigenous to the area. We love the fresh look of the Shasta daisies, which grow naturally in the fields and have been placed in our garden. Also, the Boomerang Lilacs are wonderful and will bloom twice in the season.



PHOTO BY TARA CHATTELL



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Brendan, Jordan, Jenn and Brooke Thompson with family pets, Indigo and Azura
TELL US ABOUT YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE: Our space was created by **Sharp Image Group**. After only a brief discussion, they instantly seemed to understand who we are as people and magically created a space that fits our personalities to a tee – a simple, rustic, serene design.
HOW DID ADDING A POOL AREA BENEFIT YOUR FAMILY? I (Jenn) suffer from a debilitating disease that's made it impossible to enjoy physical activities with my family, until we put in the pool. You can't beat exercising in a private, beautiful outdoor setting! This space has an instant, calming effect on us all no matter how stressful of a day we have had. It is spiritually fulfilling!

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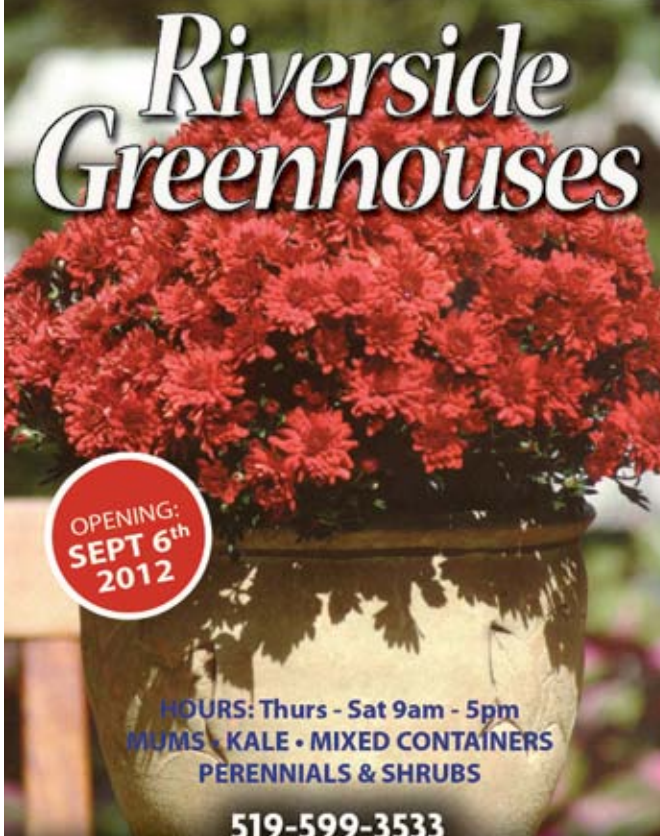
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WHAT WAS THE VISION FOR YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE? It was our goal to have the magnificent beauty of this area enhanced by gardens that respect my Eastern aesthetic and include sculptures that reflect my husband's Franco-Ontarian Heritage and our Northern Ontario roots. The team at **The Landmark Group** was incredibly gracious with regards to working the space until there was incredible harmony in patterns, colour and texture. **HOW DO YOU USE YOUR SPACE?** The very first thing we do when we arrive is walk the gardens as our way of resetting the pace of our lives. Every meal is prepared in our outdoor kitchen and we sit together outside no matter the weather. We swim in our pond after a day's work and unwind by a fire in the evening.

PHOTO BY TARA CHATEL

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Darryl D'Costa

WHAT'S YOUR NEW OUTDOOR SPACE LIKE? Our new outdoor area was designed by **Vogel Landscape Design and Consulting Group Ltd.** and constructed/landscaped by **Hackstone Landscapes**. The pool is sunk down by several feet from the main yard and makes it feel nestled into the yard. The rugged granite boulders and all of the plantings help the space blend into the existing surrounding forest. We now have a totally new area to spend time, play with the kids and entertain friends. **FAVOURITE PLANT IN YOUR YARD:** We love the ornamental Japanese maples that we have planted, the shape and colour add to the visual appeal of the gardens.

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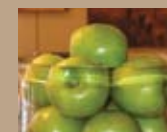
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Tim Dwyer

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE? We provided **Oasis North Landscapes** with a picture of the firepit from our cottage and they designed the project around it, and did a wonderful job. We love it.

HOW HAS LANDSCAPING IMPROVED YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE? It has brought us outside and we now have come to appreciate our backyard even more.

DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL SUMMER DAY: Golfing, barbecuing, a good bottle of wine and relaxing with a fire in the firepit at night.



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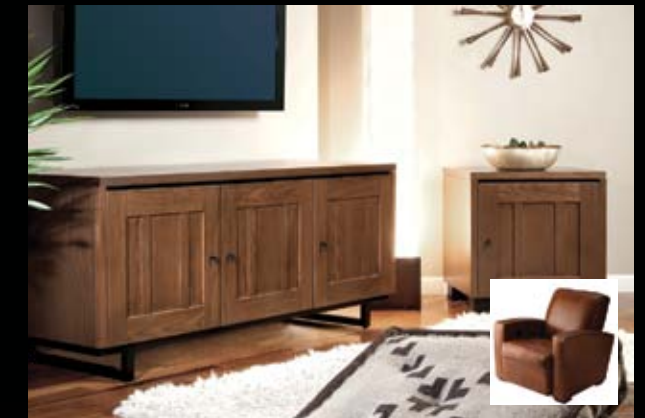
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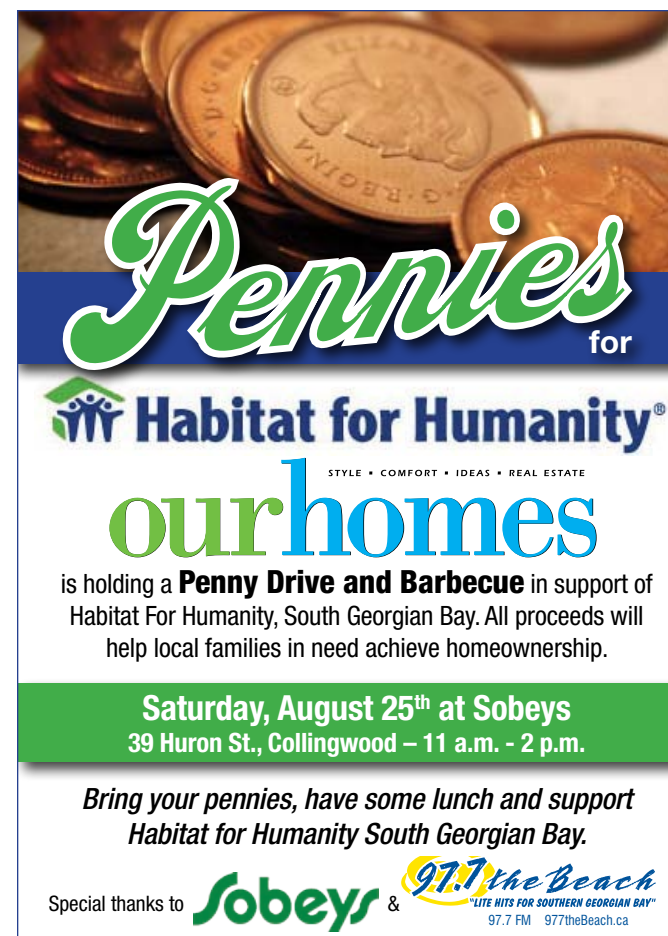


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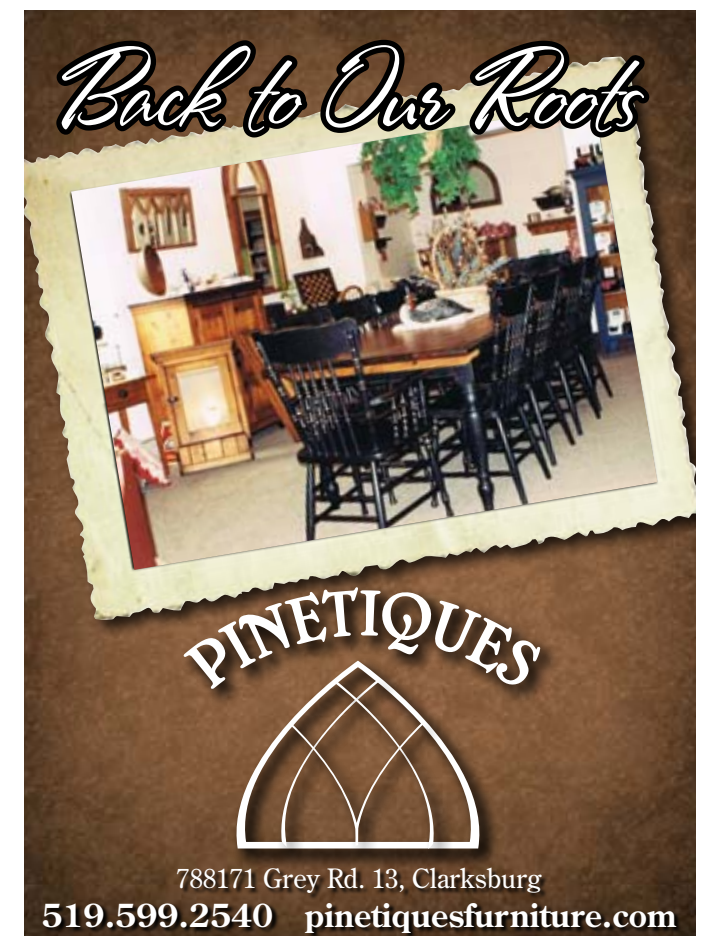
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is holding a **Penny Drive and Barbecue** in support of Habitat For Humanity, South Georgian Bay. All proceeds will help local families in need achieve homeownership.

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Terri Eichenberger

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR BACKYARD? Our backyard consists of a 1,500 sq. ft. golf green, three tee decks and an outdoor play area for our daughter. This space was created by **Jeff Eichenberger**, creator of **Ikes Turf Synthetic Grass Solutions**.

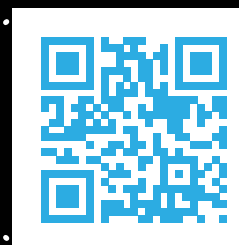
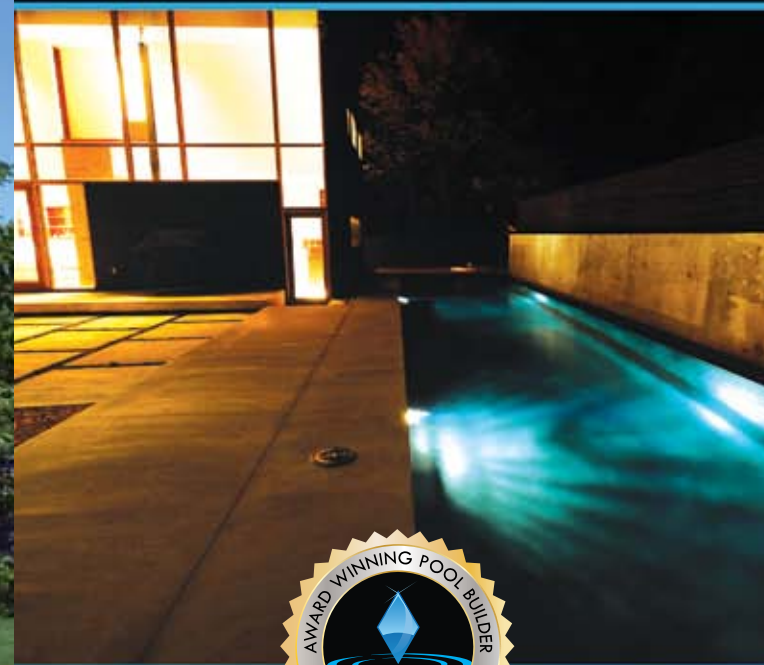
HOW DOES YOUR SPACE IMPROVE YOUR FAMILY LIFE? Golf has always been a passion for my husband. Now that we have a young family, time spent at home together is more important than ever. Our golf green keeps him close to home but also allows him to get his fix while practicing his short game. Our play set, that also features synthetic turf, is a clean and friendly environment for our daughter.



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PHOTO BY TARA CHATEL

Claudio and Anna Di Stefano

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR BACKYARD? Our outdoor space was created by **Tim Meijs** of **Gardens of Prestige Ltd.** Tim helped us turn our dream into a reality. The space has become an important part of our living space. It has extended our indoor living to now include the outdoors and everything the outdoors has to offer. Our home is now a true four-season oasis. Even when we are not outside, the views from inside our home are just as enjoyable.

DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL SUMMER DAY: Relaxing by the pool with a good book listening to trickling water from the waterfall. **OH**



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