

HOLIDAY/WINTER 2018/19

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JINGLE ALL THE WAY!

I'm so excited to finally be bringing you this extra-festive issue of OUR HOMES. Photographing our two holiday homes got me into the spirit extra early. Both homes have lots of beautiful holiday décor and inspiration. I'm going to attempt to do up my front porch like Heather Eimers' (page 44) and I'm taking lots of cues from Carolann Mackie's holiday decorating tips that start on page 26. Her style is fun and achievable in a real home, which I appreciate!

On the other hand, this editor's note is tough to write: it's my last one for OUR HOMES Waterloo. I'm expecting my third child early in 2019 and it's time for me to take a step back and focus on my family.

After seven years, it's hard to leave OUR HOMES, but I'll still be around! You'll see me out shopping with my favourite local retailers I've come to know through this magazine and loyally picking up a copy of each latest issue. I've learned so much during my time here but 2019 will be a big change for me.

The team at OUR HOMES will continue to bring you fresh content featuring some really fabulous local homes. Waterloo Region has changed so much since this magazine launched and it continues to change and grow every year. There has never been a shortage of gorgeous homes or hardworking businesses to feature in these pages. I can't wait to see where the magazine grows from here, too!

So now it's on to the next chapter for me. Wishing you all the best this holiday season, into the new year and beyond. Thanks for reading and always sending me your questions, tips and comments. I've loved getting to know you and your homes.

Cheers!

Adrienne

Adrienne Brown, *Managing Editor*  
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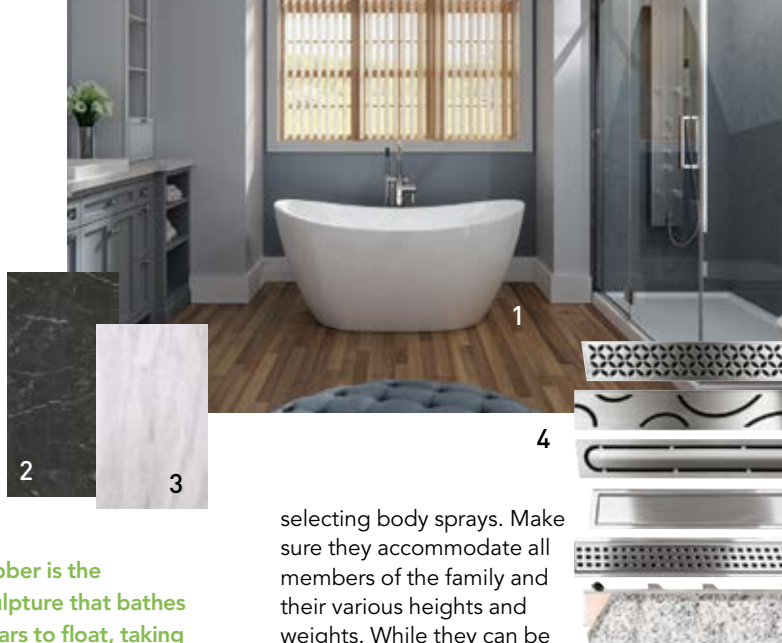


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# KEEPING CLEAN

Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.



Keeping clean has never been more luxurious and spectacular. The master bathroom, in particular, is the second-most-popular renovation after the kitchen. Visual appeal, functionality and unique design elements are what we are now looking for in our bathrooms. Tubs and showers are a great way to make your unique statement. Here are some tips that interior designers think you should know.

## TUBS

**The new attention grabber is the freestanding tub. A sculpture that bathes you in comfort, it appears to float, taking less space than a built-in and easier to clean.**

### Tips:

- Test your tub for body size when sitting. A taller person requires a longer tub. A small tub will result in knees to the chin and not comfortable at all.
- Statement lighting over the tub can add that wow factor. Make sure your fixtures are rated for damp or wet locations. Place on a separate switch.
- A soft white lighting colour temperature of 2,700 to 3,000 degrees Kelvin provides a warm, cosy atmosphere so you'll always look your best.
- Dimmers set the mood and can be pre-set to the timing of your choice. Place on a separate switch.
- Leave three inches or more around the tub for cleaning. The handle of a mop still needs to reach around the back.

## SHOWERS

**The shower is where you stimulate your senses. Glass shower enclosures have eliminated thick tiled walls, allowing for more space. Glass doors can now roll or hinge effortlessly.**

### Tips:

- Curbs virtually disappear with curbless shower systems made possible by Schluter Kerdi-Line Systems. They have shower kits that provide the necessary waterproofing membrane and floor sloping for drains. Linear drains, which are long troughs two-inches deep, lie beneath the floor and need to run in the direction of joists or can be carved out of a concrete floor.
- Water can rain on your head or jet you from three sides. Be careful when

selecting body sprays. Make sure they accommodate all members of the family and their various heights and weights. While they can be adjusted to suit your needs, jet sprays can be very powerful and you could end up with a mouthful of water or even injure sensitive body parts. You may need a grip rail.

- Large format tiles, quartz stone or Corian are now used for seamless shower walls, eliminating the need for those pesky, hard-to-clean grout lines. Ask your contractor if you have enough room to get them up the stairs or in an elevator prior to installation.
- Shower floors need small tiles for foot grip and safety so that you can avoid slipping. Make grout colour the darkest colour that coordinates with the tile.
- Install a waterproof light fixture overhead for safety. (Yes – you can still install an overhead shower.) Place the fixture on a separate switch with no dimmer.
- Shower benches are useful for a quick sit down during a long shower and also to perch your foot while shaving your legs.

## SPECIAL TOUCHES

- **Heated floors.** Made more affordable and doable with Ditra-Heat-E-Kit by Schluter. It has a quarter-inch profile that minimizes the thickness of the finished tile floor.
- **Wall niches.** Scavenge space from wall cavities with niches. Wall niches can come in stainless steel or tiled. A slight slope is needed to drain water. Not only are they a décor element, they make all items more accessible.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF

Check out bathroom manufacturers' sites for your specific needs. Tubs and showers are just two of the elements to explore so that you can create your own unique fabulous bathroom. **OH**

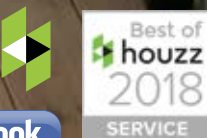


1. **PRODUITS NEPTUNE:** Florence Freestanding Tub
2. **CASALGRANDE PADANA:** Marmoker Nero Creta Tile
3. **CASALGRANDE PADANA:** Marmoker Olimpo Tile
4. **SCHLUTER:** Kerdi-Line Floor Drains
5. **PRODUITS NEPTUNE:** Malaga Shower Tower
6. **MIROLIN:** Cruz Acrylic Freestanding Tub
7. **SCHLUTER:** Ditra-Heat-E-Kit

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# Deck YOUR Halls

PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG

When the weather outside is frightful, dress up your home for entertaining and for staying cosy inside. Here are a few of our top picks for the holidays and into the new year.



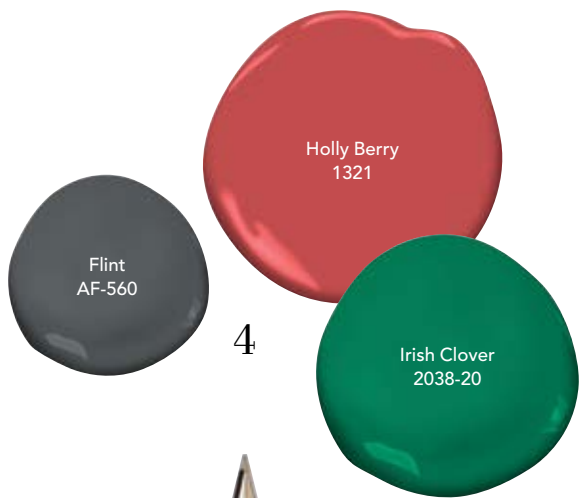
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2



3



4



5



6

1 GIFTED WATERLOO

Wintery Cushions

These toss cushions add a sense of holiday whimsy to a space without being overly Christmassy – the mounties add a nice pop of red to a space regardless of the season.

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2 KATHIE JORDAN DESIGN & ARTHAUS 150

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150 Victoria St. S., Kitchener  
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3 THE ART OF HOME

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4 HEER'S PAINT & DÉCOR

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'Tis the season! Get festive with some traditional holiday colours, such as Irish Clover (2038-20), Holly Berry (1321) or silvery, goes-with-everything Flint (AF-560).

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245 Edinburgh Rd., Guelph | 519.836.4731  
[heerspaint.com](http://heerspaint.com)

5 BREEZEWOOD FLOORS

Hardwood Flooring

These wire-brushed floors come in a variety of colours so you can find the right tone for your home. We like Dune/White, Dover Coast or Whisper Grey, but BreezeWood Floors has a variety of options in its showroom.

1580 Huron Rd., Petersburg  
519.696.2424 | [breezewoodfloors.ca](http://breezewoodfloors.ca)

6 GIFTED WATERLOO

Trees & Woodland Creatures

Create a sweet and whimsical vignette anywhere with these Tannenbaums by Design Ideas, paired perfectly with a series of little critters. The trees are available in neutral wood (pictured) as well as green, turquoise, pink, blue, yellow and red.

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# chocolate HAZELNUT FUDGE

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY **JENELLE MCCULLOCH**

*THIS EASY CHOCOLATE HAZELNUT FUDGE IS THE PERFECT GIFT TO IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. IT'S LOADED WITH TOASTED HAZELNUTS AND YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY CHOCOLATE.*



## INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups dark chocolate chips
- 600 mL (2 cans) sweetened condensed milk
- ¼ cup chocolate hazelnut spread
- ¼ cup hazelnuts, toasted
- Ferrero Rocher chocolates

## DIRECTIONS

Line an 8-by-8-inch baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine dark chocolate chips, sweetened condensed milk and chocolate hazelnut spread. Heat until chocolate is melted and ingredients thoroughly combined. Remove from heat and stir in toasted hazelnuts.

Pour into prepared baking sheet and spread evenly. Place Ferrero Rocher chocolates into the fudge until they are completely immersed.

Let fudge harden in fridge until set and slice into squares. **OH**

**online** Get more recipes at [ourhomes.ca/mag/cook](http://ourhomes.ca/mag/cook)



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DO-IT-YOURSELF

# tub teas

PROJECT AND PHOTOGRAPHY  
TARA CHATTELL



Make your bath luxurious with these do-it-yourself blends for your bathtub. Soak in the benefits of herbs and salts. Packaged beautifully in a no-mess pouch, simply drop in your bath, relax and enjoy. Try one of our recipes, or create your own with your favourite herbs. They make great gifts too!

TOOLS

- Mixing bowl
- Large spoon
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Large bags for tea (either reusable muslin or disposable paper tea bags will work, we've chosen 4-by-6-inch muslin bags)
- Tags (for gifts)

INGREDIENTS

Makes five bags each.

rose coconut milk tub tea

- 2 cups Epsom salt
- 1 cup Himalayan pink salt
- 1 cup coconut milk powder
- 1 cup dried rose petals and buds



lavender oatmeal tub tea

- 2 cups Epsom salt
- 1 cup coarse Dead Sea salt
- 1 cup powdered milk
- 1 cup oats (ground in a food processor or blender)
- ½ cup dried lavender



eucalyptus thyme peppermint tub tea

- 2 cups Epsom salt
- 1 cup coarse Dead Sea salt
- ½ cup baking soda
- 2 Tbsp dried eucalyptus leaf
- 2 Tbsp dried peppermint
- 1 Tbsp dried thyme



↪ Add a colourful tag to make lovely gifts for friends (or just for yourself!)

Directions

- 1 For each recipe, mix the ingredients in a large bowl and divide evenly to fill 5 tea bags.
- 2 Once filled, close each bag tightly, knot the strings and tie on a pretty tag. Store in a cool, dry place.
- 3 When it's time for a bath, toss in a tea bag while you fill the tub with water. Let tea steep for 10-15 minutes (or desired strength) before removing the bag. Happy soaking... OH

online Visit [ourhomes.ca/mag/tubteas](https://ourhomes.ca/mag/tubteas) to download printable tags in PDF format.

# For the Birds – Suet



Suet can be moulded into all sorts of shapes, allowing for personal creativity.

Whether your feathered friends are fall migrants or year-round residents, augmenting their diets with high-quality calories found in suet will help them survive and thrive.

Making homemade suet is about as easy as making hummingbird nectar. It's also more rewarding, affordable and often healthier than purchasing commercially made cakes, bells or blocks. Plus, making suet at home allows you to customize the ingredients to appeal to the specific birds in your yard as well as those you wish to attract.

### SIMPLE SUET RECIPE

1 cup rendered suet (tallow)

1 cup chunky organic nut or seed butter of choice

1/2 cup wheat or quinoa flour



When it comes to making suet, the more natural, organic and local the food ingredients are, the healthier the results are for the birds. A homemade suet blend is also free from nasty preservatives and fillers.

Start by purchasing rendered plain suet cakes or chunks from a wild bird supply store, garden centre, butcher shop or pet store. These cakes can be used as-is or can be melted down and used in more specialized suet recipes. You can also save beef fat left over from cooking to make homemade tallow (rendered suet). Once you have saved enough to make the batch size of your choice, just add a bit of water and let it simmer on the stove for a few hours until it turns a golden brown. Then strain the liquid fat with cheesecloth to remove any contaminants and the resulting liquid will be beef tallow. Use it right away or store in the fridge or freezer.

Suet recipes need not be complicated in order to attract a range of hungry fowl.

- 1 Melt the suet and nut butter together until they are smooth and liquid.
- 2 Add the flour, mixing well. Allow the mixture to cool slightly to thicken, then pour it into moulds, containers, muffin liners, plastic wrap or foil as needed for desired shape.
- 3 Refrigerate or freeze suet until it is firm and ready to use. Extra suet may be kept frozen until needed.

## Make It More Tempting

While a simple bird suet recipe is a great starting point, adding other ingredients to the mixture before it cools will make it more tempting to birds. Through experimentation you'll discover what your local birds find the most appetizing. These customizable ingredients include:

- Organic and unsalted/unseasoned/raw chopped nuts of choice
- Sunflower seed chips or other shelled seeds (many birds cannot extract the seeds encased with shells once fat is introduced).
- Organic dried fruit and berries
- Mealworms or crickets (my home bird populace goes crazy for these!)

Suet can be moulded into all sorts of interesting shapes leaving lots of room for personal creativity in your own bird buffet offerings. Given my personal affinity toward natural Christmas décor, my favourite way to display suet is by using a large pine cone that I run a stick through the middle of and attach with twine (the stick acts as a perch). I then smush the suet mixture on and into the pine cone and freeze it to set. I add a pretty double twine and ribbon combo to the top of the pine cone for hanging and voila, it's a gorgeous, natural and edible outdoor Christmas ornament. Bring on the birds! **OH**



**TIP:** To avoid attracting unwanted rodents, only put out enough suet for birds to consume in one day. This will also help the suet stay fresh.



# NEW HOME INSPECTIONS

STORY **MEHREEN SHAHID** | ILLUSTRATION **SHEILA BRITTON**

So you’re ready to move in to your newly built home, but is your home ready for you?

**A PRE-DELIVERY INSPECTION (PDI) IS A SIMPLE BUT CRUCIAL STEP THAT CAN HELP DETERMINE IF YOUR HOME OR CONDO IS READY BEFORE YOU TAKE POSSESSION.**

Ontario builders are required – under the New Home Warranties Plan Act – to conduct a PDI to help homeowners note the condition of the home, and document missing or broken items on a PDI list. To prepare, the list is available on the Tarion website, says Bryan Stott, manager in warranty service at Tarion, the independent non-profit corporation tasked with administering the Act.

In general, builders of new homes and condos are required by the legislation to register each home and warranty their work with Tarion, which acts as mediator and watchdog. However, according to the Tarion website, residential buildings converted into condos, renovated homes, previously occupied homes, owner-built homes, seasonal homes, and homes built on previous foundations are not covered in the legislation. If you are considering buying a custom-built home check to see if it qualifies for Tarion warranties.

This is how a PDI works. “The homeowner and builder will walk through the home and use that opportunity to document the condition of the home, look for damages and missing items,” Bryan says. Homeowners can see their house for the first time and ask about how systems function.

Houses are becoming more and more advanced and people may not be familiar with systems, such as heat recovery ventilators (HRVs).

“The walk through will start at the exterior of the home,” says Bryan. “Look for damaged brick, missing caulking, anything like that. Inside the home, look for missing or damaged items.”

The inspection should be done slowly and thoroughly, he adds. “Generally speaking, it should take an hour per 1,000 square feet.”

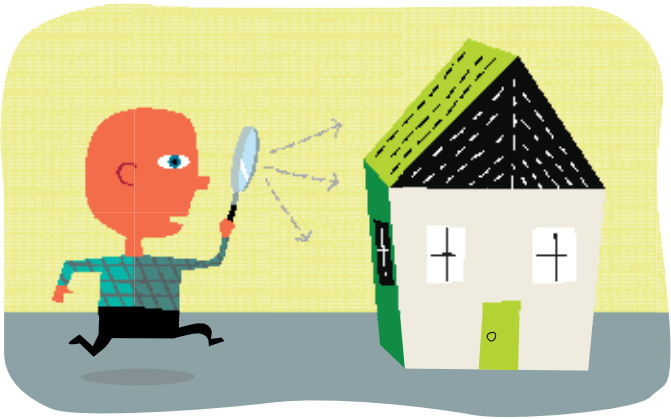
And there’s always something to put on a PDI.

“It’s not like a car, which is built in a factory by machines,” Bryan notes. “A home is built by people of different skills and calibre of workmanship. And there’s always going to be something that isn’t done to someone’s preference.”

Also, he says, at the time of PDI, homeowners and builders shouldn’t get into an argument about what is and is not under warranty. Yet homeowners shouldn’t hesitate to have something included on the list.

Usually homeowners conduct the PDIs themselves, accompanied by the builder, but if they are not confident in their ability to spot problems, they can designate another person to handle the PDI, like an independent home inspector. The builder must be informed of the designate, using a form that is also available on the Tarion website.

Once a list is created, it gives the builder a chance to make remedies. If unresolved by the time of possession, homeowners can put those items on their 30-day form for conciliation, Bryan says.



This triggers the 120-day period builders have to make changes. A year-end form may also be submitted to Tarion during the last 30 days of the first year of possession. It should list any items that are still unresolved and any new items that have come up.

Bryan also shares some pointers that could equip homeowners to confidently conduct a PDI. Builders should have the home in a clean state for the inspection, he says.

“Sometimes you’ll notice dust or construction material in the home, that should be noted on the PDI,” he says. “This can then be used to assist Tarion in determining if later scratches may or may not have been visible.”

Additionally, he says, there’s nothing stopping homeowners from taking photos as they go through the home and documenting the state of the home.

“It doesn’t mean we can 100 per cent rely on photos, but it increases the homeowner’s credibility with us,” he notes.

Open and close cabinet doors, check hardware, window screens, doors, toilets, faucets and do a close inspection of all surfaces to look for scratches.

Builders also must provide a homeowner information package. “(It) will outline all the warranty timeframes, guidelines and homeowner and builder responsibilities,” Bryan says.

Moreover, homeowners should document the humidity/moisture levels in the home at the time of inspection.

“Noting the temperature of the home is important,” he says. “Let’s just say it’s a hot day and there’s no air conditioning in the home and it’s sweltering, it could potentially cause issues with the hardwood floor.”

The PDI is just the start of the relationship between the builder and homeowner in the warranty process.

“If the relationship between the homeowner and builder goes well at that stage, generally speaking, the warranty process goes very smoothly,” Bryan adds. **OH**

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# Bring on the — CHEER —

*THERE ARE THOSE WHO DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE WHO REALLY DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS. IN THIS CASE, GOING ALL OUT FOR CHRISTMAS WAS ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE — AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN.*

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

**Carolann Mackie**, who, along with her team at **The Frugal Decorator**, transformed a Carriage Crossing home for the annual **HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre Holiday Tour of Homes**, creating a space with many great examples of how every homeowner can add festive cheer around a home.

Above all else, Carolann advises having fun with holiday decorating. “Be playful yet classy! We had the privilege of working with these homeowners to pick all of their surface decisions, decorative palette and furnishings when they were building with **Heisler Homes**,” she says. “The clients are fun, youthful and high energy people with busy lifestyles. It was important for the surfaces to be activity proof! The décor in this home reflects their personalities and we developed the holiday theme to reflect this too.”

No matter the size or style of your home, Carolann has a few tips to up your game this holiday season and make your décor the best it has ever been. Here are her top tips for decorating for the holidays:

**1** Keep the scheme neutral winter instead of Christmas or holiday specific. “That way the décor can be displayed longer and you can enjoy the festive feeling well into the new year,” says Carolann.



**2** Add extra sparkle on a console or hall table. “Keep it simple and elegant with candlelight that is contained in clear or clear-cut glass for sparkle. Milk glass is also lovely and mixing and matching works nicely, too. This creates a lovely warm welcome to holiday guests,” says Carolann.

*Continued on page 28*





**3** Don't overdo your holiday table. You still need space for the food. "Consider elevating your décor higher than the serving plates, for example up on cake platters or pizza servers, so the decorating doesn't interfere with serving food," says Carolann.



The transoms and stained glass panels in the cabinetry were created by Kara's Stained Glass. They add beauty to the space year-round.

**4**

Keep your holiday table scheme to one or two colours and a metal. No more than this, says Carolann, or you will be competing with the food palette.

*Continued on page 30*



**5** Get creative. One year for the holiday tour, Carolann and her team used natural-coloured wool leg warmers (a steal at \$3 per pair) scrunched up to hug the base of clear dollar store glass cylinders and added pillar candles. She says the effect was pretty and cost effective.

**7** Opt for warm white lights for your tree. They show off your tree best and look cosier than cool hue lighting.

**8** Don't forget the base and top of your tree. Carolann says fabric remnants can make a great tree skirt; find cost-effective unique remnants that suit your theme at fabric stores. Pocket-rod drapery panels and vintage tablecloths do the trick, too. "Just be sure to gather them softly under the tree, perhaps raising them underneath with cotton batting for dimension," she says.

*Continued on page 32*



## MIX UP SOME HOLIDAY CHEER

Elevate your holiday gatherings with signature cocktails. Here are two recipes The Frugal Decorator team shared in their holiday bar:

### THE SNOWBANK

1 ½ oz Malibu Rum  
3 Tbsp Coconut Cream  
6 large ice cubes

Blend until smooth and serve in a martini glass.

### THE MRS. CLAUS

1 bottle Champagne  
1 bottle Ginger Ale, chilled  
2 packages of frozen strawberries

Combine all ingredients in a pitcher and stir.

**6** Easy additions can make a big difference. An unexpected wrapped gift on a side table can add to the overall holiday feel (whether real gifts or fake for the effect). Write an inspirational message on the tag for a surprise and to spread cheer.





**9** Don't omit your bedroom – it deserves some holiday love too. "Add some sparkle in the master, perhaps to a dresser, above a headboard or at the window ledge," says Carolann. "It's a good way to infuse love and romance as well."

**10** Whites and mixed metals are classic in any space and will fit into any décor colour scheme. Aim for "winter wonderland" and you're set. *Continued on page 34*



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**11** Add holiday cheer in unexpected places: "Repurpose extra photo frames, add holiday sheet music to them and group them together on a shelf or interweave with your family photos. Paint the frames metallic or use mirrored ones if you choose to buy some new."



**12**

For the top of the tree, think nature. Consider a "stellar star" made from twigs dipped in sparkle glue as a frugal touch."

*Continued on page 36*



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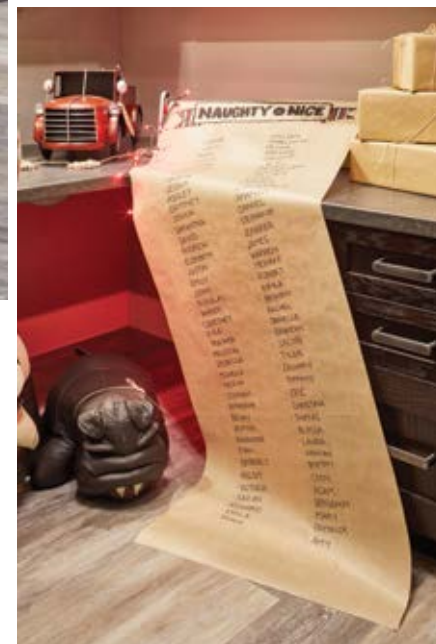
**14** Think outside the tree. Get creative with how you decorate your tree, says Carolann. "Improvise using non-ornament ornaments," meaning items that aren't traditional ornaments per se. Try botanical orbs, floral picks and wool. **OH**



**13** Use fresh florals and greenery to add that true holiday scent. Artificial greenery just can't compare. If fresh is too costly, try intertwining the fresh with artificial to achieve the look you're after.

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# PASS ON THE SALT

The annual war on winter is about to be waged close to home, literally on the doorstep. As Canadians pull snow shovels out of storage, service their snowblowers and stock up on sand, salt and other de-icers, a little planning for that annual skirmish can help prevent collateral damage to the environment and property.

STORY **WALTER FRANCZYK**

## NOT WORTH ITS SALT

Keeping stairs, walkways and sidewalks safe and ice-free during winter is a recurring task, habitually made easier with liberal applications of salt.

Yes salt, or sodium chloride, does a great job melting ice. Its low cost, ease of use and ready availability make it the de-icer of choice for many people. But it can cause considerable damage to concrete and the environment. When salt mixes with snow and ice, it creates brine that can seep into concrete and accelerate the corrosion of rebar, the reinforcing steel inside concrete. Over multiple winters, heavy doses of salt can cause scaling and flaking of masonry surfaces. It can also stain coloured concrete and flagstones. Concrete walkways and stairs should be at least six months old, or even a year old, before salt or other de-icing products are applied, most experts advise.

Canada uses about five million tonnes of salt to de-ice roads every winter. Most of that salt dissolves and flows into groundwater, sewers, creeks and lakes. At high levels, salt can concentrate oxygen near the surface of natural water bodies and harm aquatic life that lives deep below. When salt gets into soil it can interfere with how plants absorb water. Evergreens are especially vulnerable. Salt can dry them out and kill them.

Another de-icer, calcium chloride, is formed in rounded white pellets that generate heat when it comes in contact with ice or snow. It melts snow quickly, but it isn't any more environmentally benign than road salt.

## ICE-CLEARING ALTERNATIVES

There are alternatives for those who don't want to contribute salt or calcium chloride to the environment.

**Shovelling And Scraping:** The chemical-free solution is to simply shovel and scrape steps, walkways and sidewalks. This moderate, cold weather exercise will reduce the amount of salt or de-icer needed and will help keep shovellers healthy at the same time.

**Blowing Snow:** Snowblowers can tackle most walkways and can be handy after a heavy snowfall, however ice may still build up and need to be shovelled or scraped away.

**Sand:** Sand provides instant traction as well as longer-lasting traction than salt. In direct sunlight, sand heats up and is able to melt ice as well, though it is slower acting than salt.

**Calcium Magnesium Acetate:** United States highway authorities found calcium magnesium acetate to be less corrosive and environmentally damaging than salt or calcium chloride. Made from acetic acid and



*De-icing products dissolve and flow into groundwater, sewers, creeks and lakes. At high levels, salt can concentrate oxygen near the surface of water, harming aquatic life below.*

dolomitic limestone, it is mixed with salt in de-icers packaged for the retail market. But according to the Peters Chemical Company, a large U.S. supplier of ice melters, the concentration of calcium magnesium acetate must be at least 20 per cent of the blend in a de-icer to inhibit salt corrosion.

**Portable Melting Mats:** Made from moulded rubber, portable melting mats can be placed on top of stairs, walkways and driveways. The mats are strong enough to withstand the weight of cars and stay put. Just plug them in using a heavy-duty power unit.

**Radiant Heat:** Homeowners who want to make their walkways, steps and driveways completely salt-free and eliminate shovelling and sanding altogether can consider installing radiant electric heat. This is not a quick pre-winter fix, but requires planning and budgeting. Like interior radiant floor heat, this technology consists of electric cables and mats installed below driveway and walkway surfaces. Designed to automatically turn on when severe weather arrives, they will melt snow and ice for the duration of a storm and stay on afterward to dry walking and driving surfaces. Installing them in an existing paved driveway involves tearing up the old asphalt and repaving over heating mats. For existing stone walkways, stones can be removed to

allow installation of serpentine heating cables and then replaced over top. Installations are easier with new construction. Although the heating mats and cables aren't prohibitively expensive, installation requires skilled labour and expertise.

## IF YOU MUST

If you do use salt or a de-icer, always apply sparingly, after first shovelling away as much snow and ice as possible. Use it only on ice and in high traffic areas, away from the base of your home. De-icers are most effective when applied before the onset of snow, to prevent

ice from forming and sticking to footpaths, making them easier to clear.

When buying de-icers, check the labels for contents. The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), required by Canada's Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, provide the chemical composition of traction compounds. Some de-icers, including one priced at nearly five times the cost of salt, are promoted as green and environmentally friendly, but are mostly salt with only small amounts of additives.

Once winter is gone, washing down walkways, stairs and areas near plants and shrubs will help disperse de-icers. **OH**



*A chemical-free solution is to simply shovel and scrape steps and sidewalks. Sand provides better and longer lasting traction than salt.*



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# Unique BOUTIQUE

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**



Clockwise from left: Kristy Morgan, Jacquie Long, Sherry Geier and Erica Phanphila.

**THE PLACE:** Give yourself lots of time to browse at **Next Time Around**. It's the region's largest furniture and home décor consignment store. At 10,000 square feet, there's a lot to see, from large furniture pieces like dining tables, hutches and sofas to smaller accent furniture and accessories like throws, art, tableware, lamps, china, candles, wall décor, mirrors and artificial plants. Next Time Around just celebrated its sixth anniversary and has established itself as the local go-to place for Fusion Mineral Paint and Miss Mustard Seed's Milk Paint. It's a haven for local artisans who create one-of-a-kind pieces (you'll find work by almost 100 local artisans in store) and a great resource for DIY projects. Join one of their many hands-on workshops or drop in and chat with owner Kristy Morgan about a project you have in mind. "We are also excited to announce that we now have a 250 square foot space dedicated to jewelry, handbags, scarves and more, so be sure to come in and check that out," says Kristy.



**THE STYLE:** "We specialize in mid- to high-end furniture and décor and aim to bring items in that are in a style that sells well today," says Kristy. "We are not your grandmother's attic. Items must meet our high expectations to make it onto our showroom floor," she says.

**WHAT'S HOT:** According to Kristy, industrial farmhouse style is super trendy right now, although the Next Time Around team aims to appeal to as many styles as possible. At any given time, there is bound to be something in-store that appeals to everybody's tastes.

**SEASONAL:** "We bring in a lot of brand-new Christmas décor items along with vintage and artisan hand-crafted pieces," says Kristy. Visitors to Next Time Around during the holiday season will find "all sorts of styles from rustic to traditional and from shabby to blinged out."

**FAVOURITES:** "I love the terms recycle, reuse and repurpose so when an item comes in that ticks off those boxes I'm usually pretty excited," says Kristy. Timeless pieces and unique finds are both attention-getters – that's what's so special about the ever-changing stock at Next Time Around!

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Right from their front stoop, it's obvious the Eimers family really loves Christmas. Their festive décor welcomes guests before they even get inside. **OPPOSITE, LEFT:** This Christmas tree sits where the Eimers' kitchen table is usually found. They forgo the eat-in table for a beautiful tree during the holidays. **RIGHT:** A Scandi-inspired elf greets visitors inside the door.

STORY **ADRIENNE BROWN** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

# Making Spirits Bright



*TO SAY HEATHER EIMERS LOVES CHRISTMAS WOULD BE A MASSIVE UNDERSTATEMENT. HER WATERLOO HOME IS A CHRISTMAS HUB IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.*

She decks the halls to the nines for her family, but also hosts a number of holiday events for friends and family, including a neighbourhood meet-and-greet with Santa himself. It's Christmas cheer central.

Heather and her husband Jake even ditch their kitchen table to accommodate a large Christmas tree in a prominent position. They remove the table and lift the pendant light above it so there's lots of room for a stunning tree from **Benjamin Tree Farm**. In turn, Heather sets a pretty holiday table in the dining room instead.

*Continued on page 47*





Small details bring cheer into the kitchen, like wreaths on the cupboards and trees on the counter. From the island, the family can see the living room and the centerpiece tree, too.



Heather and Jake Eimers go big for their kids (and themselves!) during the holidays.

Elsewhere, swaths of greenery, charming rustic signs and Christmas characters abound. It's a holiday wonderland that still manages to be livable, which is important with four kids.

The Eimers' home, built by **Cityview Homes**, is located in the Vista Hills area of Waterloo. "It's a good thing we got the big house," they laugh, referring to finding out they were expecting their fourth child after they'd picked this 3,400 sq. ft. home, a significant upgrade from the 1,500 square feet they were living in before. Now the Eimers, plus their kids, ages 16, 11, 7 and 3, have plenty of space to spread out in – and to decorate for the holidays.

"If I could own a décor store, I would," laughs Heather. Building this home from the ground up and selecting all their finishes themselves was a project both she and Jake could sink their teeth into.

*Continued on page 49*



Small touches, like this monogram, help personalize the holiday decorations.

Heather complements her rustic décor style with lots of white, greenery and natural touches. The formal dining space is used more regularly during the holidays!



**ABOVE:** Woodland creatures add a touch of whimsy to the dining space. **RIGHT:** Heather uses pieces she already has – like this red wagon that’s always filled with kids’ books – to complete her décor. **FAR RIGHT:** Greenery leads right upstairs past the chevron wall art Heather and Jake created together. **BELOW:** Welcome to the North Pole!



They turned to **Sarmazian Brothers Flooring** for all their flooring needs, including the carpeting upstairs. For their audio and video, they had **Natural Sound** hook them up. **Brent Klassen** was their go-to stonemason. He took care of all of the masonry work around their home and installed backslashes, including the stone around their fireplace. The double-sided unit is beautiful inside, particularly during the holidays, and also adds cosiness to the back deck, which the Eimers designed themselves and Jake built with a friend this past summer. “We love that the main living space from the kitchen to the living room is completely wide open,” says Jake. They can see their kids playing or doing homework while they’re working in the kitchen, and it’s also great for conversation. *Continued on page 51*



Boughs of greenery and some simple twinkle lights help highlight the mantel above the double-sided fireplace that can be enjoyed inside and out. **RIGHT:** Family photos line the walls at the Eimers' house – they're even more treasured than any holiday décor.



Lanterns and pine cones are wintery décor, not specifically tailored to Christmas, so they can easily stay out beyond December 25th.

“I want this to be a comfortable home for our kids,” says Heather, “not just a place for them to put their stuff.” The family photos that line the walls around the house are a testament to how close their family is and it really personalizes the space. Heather calls the memories in the photos “the most important thing in the house.”

She also loves to personalize décor and projects around her home, often undertaking a number of DIYs at once. She tends to lean towards rustic accessories, which means plenty of painted pieces she can easily do herself.

“If I can make something over buying it, I’ll just make it,” says Heather, who learned from the best: she has decorations and pieces made by her mother, her father and her sister around her home, not to mention everything she’s made herself. *Continued on page 52*

home & builder

When it comes to shopping, she also prioritizes local stores and markets for the perfect finds. “I just prefer to buy locally rather than have something shipped from another country,” she says. “You can make or buy nice décor without breaking the bank.”

“And with four kids around the house, you don’t want anything too expensive,” laughs Jake.

Once Santa moves on, the home also has a wonderful backyard for summer entertaining. **Moser Landscape Group** has taken care of the landscaping and **Terry Howald Pools** installed a fantastic pool. The homeowners purchased some of their favourite outdoor furnishings from **Meadow Acres Garden Centre**. *Continued on page 54*



No space goes undecorated, including the master bath!  
**ABOVE LEFT:** A white tree glows in the master bedroom.  
**ABOVE RIGHT:** Although the bedroom décor is more subtle than on the main floor, it maintains the same style and feel so the home is consistent.



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“When we sit on our front porch in the summer, it literally sounds like you’re at a cottage with all the natural space around this neighbourhood – crickets, water and so on. We love it and we designed our home to have a cottage type feel, too,” says Heather.

Regardless of the season, both Heather and Jake prioritize making their home a safe, fun, and loving space for their family.

“It’s nice to be able to look around and know you’ve done things with love,” says Heather. **OH**



The Eimers’ kids all have beautiful bedrooms that show Heather’s love for décor – and each child’s tastes and personality.



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decorating



# DOUBLE DUTY

Where there's space, there's opportunity. This home needed a small office and the right place just happened to be in the bedroom. Designer Lisa Canning details her design and offers tips on how to create a multi-use space in a master bedroom.

STORY **LISA CANNING**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **DANN TARDIFF**

## 1 Designate a spot for the office

Once you've found the spot, plan your design. I opted for custom millwork to utilize every square inch of storage I could. Going custom allowed us to paint the desk this gorgeous turquoise colour, Benjamin Moore Waterfall. Take note of the brass, hand-cast cabinet pulls from Shayne Fox – they're like jewelry on this desk. The chair is from CoreChair. *Continued on page 58*



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Furniture can also pull double duty: under-the-bed drawers provide storage for extra bed linens.

## 2 Find the perfect bed

Everyone deserves a beautiful bed. After a hard day a beautiful bed is worth the investment. This bed with its tufted, wingback headboard is from Wayfair and it offers great value with storage. A beautiful bed needs a quality mattress. Here we used the award-winning Casper Mattress. I also chose Casper's sheet and duvet set in a crisp white.

## 3 Add your personality

This is important, regardless of the kind of space you are creating. It has to reflect you and your unique personality. Here I just had to add elements like the Metrie door painted Benjamin Moore Yellow Highlighter. To ensure this was the focal point, we kept the adjacent sliding closet doors in white to ensure some balance. Again, to ensure the space didn't feel too overwhelming with all the vibrant pops, I wrapped the room in Metrie's tongue and groove shiplap panelling and painted it Benjamin Moore Decorator's White. I love interior mouldings. They provide such a beautiful textural element to any space.

## 4 Get cosy

Every bedroom needs to feel cosy and comfortable, which is why I added ample blankets and pillows in a variety of textures, all within our colour palette to stay harmonious, and displayed them on the ladder. Lighting also makes a big impact in the room. I added a stunning modern chandelier that adds an architectural element. Lastly, add some fun accessories. The ladder, chandelier, tray and pen are all from Bouclair. **OH**



Design elements come together to make this shared bedroom and home office cohesive.

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STORY **TAMARISK MCNALT STEPHENS**

# BUILDING A NEW HOME

## Part 1: Lessons learned

OUR HOMES Managing Editor and Interior Designer (I) Tamarisk McNalty Stephens and her husband are in the midst of building a new home in Grey County. She shares the dos, the don'ts and the best practices she's learned along the way. The number one lesson? Be prepared to make dozens more decisions than expected.



*Hire professionals.  
Their experience is invaluable when it comes to architectural and interior design.*

### PLANNING

**DO:** Evaluate your needs. We lived in a small cabin on our property for five years. This experience taught us what was actually important to us – insulation and enough space to entertain friends and family – and the things we could live without, like a basement and an en suite bathroom.

Hire professionals when it comes to the architectural and interior design of your home. Experience is invaluable especially if it's your first time building. Professionals can help bring your vision to life.

Decide on a budget figure that you are comfortable with and speak to your bank early to arrange financing.

### PERMITS

**DO:** Talk to all authorities having jurisdiction early. Your local municipality's planning department will have by-laws that apply to the planned structures and all associated parameters, setbacks, etc. Our project is located within the catchment area of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, and it took several months to receive the final approvals.

Submit a complete application when applying for your building permit to avoid delays.

**DON'T:** Forget to contact your insurance company to get builder's insurance for the duration of construction.



*Take the time to design your home to suit your property.*

### DESIGN

**DO:** Design a home to suit your unique property. Each site will have natural restrictions, but take the time to consider the views and natural light, the location of outbuildings, where you'd like future gardens and outdoor living areas or a pool. Map out the footprint of the home in the proposed location. Morning sun is very important to me, and in our initial site I realized that I didn't have morning sun hitting the house until about 10 a.m. – that just wasn't going to work!

Pay special attention to the layout of doors and windows. It can be desirable for interior doors to align with windows.

Purchase the best quality windows that your budget will allow. Windows are a detail that are often overlooked, and aside from their thermal rating, they can truly make or break the overall exterior appeal and aesthetic of a home.

Think about kitchen and bathroom design, electrical layout, the switching plan and a furniture layout early on so you have all of the answers when your trades are ready to go. Select your appliances early, so, for example, you can plumb water to your fridge if you have an integrated water dispenser/ice maker.

Think about heating and cooling options early. Walk through with a mechanical contractor to understand how they need to run their duct work so you will know where you'll have bulkheads and registers.

Try to anticipate and integrate structural elements such as dropped beams and/or bulkheads needed to house mechanical equipment into the design – they could become an unexpected feature.

Consider various levels of lighting – general, accent and task – to create an inviting space and wire for it even if you don't intend to use it right away. It's easier and cheaper to do this before the drywall is installed.

**DON'T:** Rush the design phase. It takes a lot of thought and consideration to get a home that has a layout that meets your needs and is also aesthetically appealing from both the exterior and interior.

### COSTS

**DO:** Request quotes from two suppliers, which is generally sufficient. It is time consuming for suppliers to quote a job/project, so be mindful of that.

Decide where you want to splurge and where you can save. For me, the exterior presence of the home is really important. I didn't want to compromise on the exterior finishes (windows, doors and siding).

Create a spreadsheet to track expenditures and stick to the budget as best you can.

**DON'T:** Forget to include development fees when calculating the approximate cost of your building permit – they might be an unwelcome surprise.

### CHANGES

**DO:** Make sure you are able to devote the time required if you are taking on the project management. It involves being on site and scheduling trades and deliveries, pricing and ordering plus managing the budget.

**DON'T:** Make changes on site without considering the implications. Changes will invariably happen as the build progresses and it is important to be mindful of how these changes will impact other elements of the build. **OH**





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Heer's caters to a variety of styles, but always aims to keep things fresh. All the employees know what's trendy, but they also know what works in a room (and what doesn't!) so they can help customers with any project they have in mind.

Heer's now offers in-home consultations, floor plans and presentations, custom draperies and blinds, complete product installation, shopping services and building and remodeling assistance.

Each store carries a selection of accessories and artwork.

**Visit us at any of our three, full service decorating centres:**  
428 Gage Ave, Kitchener  
245 Edinburgh Rd S, Guelph  
583 King St N, Waterloo  
519.578.5330  
heerspaint.com

(Please see ad on pg 4)



## GRATEFULLY RESTORED

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Specializing in consumer and commercial/trade accounts for professional flippers or high-volume clients, and also offering hands-on workshops and individual consultations in order to give you the tools you need to succeed.

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Our Boutique and Studio are your one-stop destination for all your Fusion Mineral Paint supplies and more. As a Certified Fusionista merchant, our experienced staff and fully-stocked retail area are just waiting to help you "Paint It Beautiful". Come discover us today!

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(Please see ad on pg 53)



## DEVONSHIRE DESIGNS

At Devonshire Designs, it's our passion that makes us different. We apply the highest level of creativity and attention to detail into everything we create. We work closely with you in your space to transform it into your own unique place to truly enjoy the beauty and wonder of the outdoors.

Our love for nature and the outdoors inspires sustainable landscaping, believing it can be beautiful while taking a minimum amount of water and energy to maintain and thrive. Let's talk about how we can create an environmentally responsible, sustainable landscape for your outdoor space.

If you can imagine it, we can work together to make it happen. We inspect your property to learn its limits and its potential. We spend time getting to know you and listen to your needs and wishes, and how you use your space. And we will respect your budget, working within the resources available, while ensuring the best value for your landscaping project.

"To me, it's about building trust and rapport. I never try to sell my clients anything. I listen to their wishes, I work with their space and I create solutions that fit their budgets. I want to help them create their own personal oasis." – TODD ROBARTS/DESIGNER AND OWNER

**519.634.9274**  
devonshiredesigns.ca  
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## XANADU FINE CABINETRY

Proudly located in the village of Elora, Xanadu Fine Cabinetry and Interiors is your local resource for everything in design, cabinetry, renovation and construction! Our newly expanded showroom offers the latest styles and trends in tile, faucets, light fixtures and more. Walk through the exciting room-scapes to immerse yourself in the experience of a perfectly designed space – one that we can recreate in your home to suit your individual taste and expectations.

Let the Xanadu team do it all! Our designers understand and appreciate the complexities of combining function and comfort and will work with you to find the perfect balance. Xanadu's custom-built cabinetry is produced at our fabrication facility by expert craftsmen whose pride shows in each unique piece they create. The installation team pay close attention to detail and truly bring your new space to life!

Are you a do-it-yourselfer? Xanadu has the latest and greatest pieces to inspire as you complete your own projects. Our Design Gallery has all the key components and individual fixtures to make the job as easy as possible for you. Our in-house team is here to support and enhance your experience as you choose that perfect element for your reno.

Let Xanadu make your space an idyllic place!  
**6488 Wellington Rd 7, Elora**  
519.846.2323  
xanaduhomes.ca  
(Please see ad on pg 73)



## THE SCENTED MARKET

Hello, my name is Kristy and I am the owner and creator of The Scented Market. I am a mom of three boys, a wife to a loving husband and have an English bulldog named Dozer!

I have had a love of candles for years and literally woke up out of bed one morning (before coffee!) and decided to turn my love into my work!

After much discussion in our household I decided to move forward with The Scented Market!

My oldest boy set up my Etsy shop, website, Facebook and Instagram accounts. My middle son cuts the candle wicks and applies the safety stickers to the bottom of each candle, all while my youngest toddler feeds us goldfish crackers.

I run this business with hard work and pride, hand pouring each candle and tying each piece of twine with love from my kitchen.

If one day you ever find yourself driving through Ariss, Ontario, stop and enjoy nature, take a deep breath and be grateful for every day.

Together we are better xoxo.  
info@thescentedmarket.ca  
thescentedmarket.ca  
(Please see ad on pg 37)



## JAMIESONS BILLIARDS

A tradition since 1929, Jamiesons has provided families and businesses with a full range of billiard, ping pong, darts and unique games room décor.

Jamiesons is the largest dealer in the region and has supplied clients like Google and The University of Waterloo with their corporate and institutional needs.

We feature a wide selection of Canadian made tables from Canada Billiards, foosball games from Roberto, Swiftlyte table tennis and accessories from around the world.

We also offer a nice selection of used tables. And should you be looking to learn darts or are a seasoned player, you'll find a huge selection of boards and brands such as British Darts, Winmau and Unicorn.

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PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG

# They've Got Your Back

You don't have to be an expert in everything to pull together a beautiful home – you just have to know where to turn when you need some help. These local businesses make it easier to cross some projects off your to-do list.



PHOTO: NESO BASARA

## LAURA MUNZ *Paint By Munzy, Waterloo*

**Tell us about your business:** Celebrating our gallery's fifth anniversary, Paint By Munzy exclusively features a collection of original oil paintings and affordable, ready-to-hang canvas prints by my brother, artist Jonathan Munz. Art described by collectors as Group of Seven meets Tiffany stained glass, we proudly offer an extensive collection of truly northern canvas art that's available both online and at our Waterloo-based art gallery.

**What's the difference between a canvas print and oil painting?** Jonathan Munz's original paintings are hand painted using oil paints on canvas. When a painting is finished, he photographs that piece using a professional camera. Our canvas or "giclée" prints are then made-to-order by printing those high-resolution painting photographs onto canvas. Each canvas print is then hand stretched over wooden bars creating a piece of affordable art that has the look of an original Munzy.

**Any tips for selecting a canvas size?** Once our clients have narrowed down a shape and size (landscape, portrait, square, etc.) they're interested in, we recommend using green painters' tape (that can be purchased at any hardware store) to tape that size option directly onto their wall. We also offer a free in-room mockup service where clients can send us a photo of their space for us to photoshop some art examples into their room.

## SYLVIA HORN, OWNER *Gifted, Waterloo*

**What kinds of products will people find at Gifted?** Gifted is a carefully curated shop brimming with fun finds! From baby items and children's games to barware, kitchenware and home décor to fashion accessories and body care; I try to have a little something for everyone. I also love to carry handmade items from Canadian makers, which this community loves to support.

**Your advice for picking fun and memorable gifts:** Buying a gift can be challenging at times so I often encourage people to start with a theme, whether it's a favourite animal, drink or even colour. Another great place to start is picking something that the recipient wouldn't necessarily buy for themselves but would definitely use. This could be something as simple as a nice tea towel, cocktail picks or a water bottle.

**What are some of your favourite items for stocking stuffers this year?** I love purposeful gifts, even when it comes to stockings! For me this could mean: bottle openers, bath bombs, tea or cheeky napkins. These are fun, useful and come in a wide variety so you can tailor it to the recipient.

*Continued on page 66*



MARTIN RAWLINSON

OWNER  
Cornerstone Home Interiors,  
Cambridge

**Tell us about the two locations of Cornerstone Home Interiors:** Our family business is one of the few larger independent furniture stores in the province and we have been in business for 26 years. We started as an antique business in Toronto and grew from there. Our Toronto store has been open for 17 years and our Cambridge store, which is our larger flagship operation, has been open for 10 years. Now we're currently seeking a third location!

**What kinds of furniture and accessories will people find in store?** We have hundreds of pieces of furniture, from sofas and bookcases to tables and chairs. We personally source unique furniture and accessories from India, China, Malaysia, Singapore and more to bring a variety of products and styles to our customers.

**What are some of your favourite holiday traditions?** Our house is where everyone comes to congregate during the holidays. That's the great thing about Cambridge – we were able to buy a home that can accommodate lots of family. We have a big dinner and love to sit around the fire together.



KAREN DERKSEN, OWNER  
Kara's Stained Glass, Kitchener

**Tell us about your craft:** Being a glass artist for nearly 20 years, I enjoy drafting original works with fused or stained glass. I design stained-glass window screens, transoms, doorways, functional art with fused glass dinnerware, ornaments and so much more.

**What are some of your most popular items for holiday gifts?** Some of the more popular items during this time are the winter-themed ornaments and candle holders, however many customers know me for my custom work.

**What kind of music do you listen to while you're working?** I enjoy listening to Faith FM throughout my work day. My faith and nature are my two largest inspirations.

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THOMAS TODD, SARA MCTAVISH, MATT DIETRICH (STORE MANAGER), DARLENE GERTH, MICHELLE DRIER, ALICIA TRACEY, JASMIN WHITELAW, JULIE BIGNELL, RICK WEBER & STEPHANIE CLEMMER  
*Home Furniture, St. Jacobs*

**Tell us about your store:** We are located in the original Home Hardware store in beautiful downtown St. Jacobs, a 20,000 sq. ft. building with lots of character and history. With all the different levels and original floors, railings and tin roof we can certainly make our store look beautiful. Our qualified and friendly salespeople as well as an interior designer and an interior decorator are always happy to help. We love helping customers and have many customization options so you can find the right fit.

**What kinds of products will people find in store?** We pride ourselves on stocking Canadian and locally-made products, as well as paying tribute to our local Mennonite community. We also support American vendors and our import furniture lines. We

offer a variety of price points and a whole floor of clearance furniture, opportunity buys and scratch and dents! We have everything from bedroom furniture, mattresses and leather and fabric upholstery in stationary or motion. We also have a large appliance gallery and we carry accessories and décor, wall art and lighting.

**Your favourite ways to decorate for the holidays:** Our favorite way to decorate for the holidays is to create a feeling of warmth and to include family traditions in our store to help you visualize your own home setting. Whether you are going for chic, rustic or traditional Christmas, Home Furniture has everything you need. The holidays are a time to cherish friends and family and we are here to help!

MARY PELOW & ANITA PELOW, OWNERS  
*Pepper Pot Place, Conestogo*

**Tell us about your business:** Pepper Pot Place was born out of the love of fine furniture, design, architecture, fabulous food, wine, music and art. We have always been hunters and scouts for unique pieces, right back to before it was even cool or the thing to do to help Mother Earth. Our hunts have taken us through many barns, estate sales, auctions and antique markets throughout Ontario and beyond. We were a two-brother and two-sister team, each of us passionate and gifted in our own special ways, rescuing and reviving once-loved solid pieces that have lost their charm. We lost one of our hunters, but he is still with us in memory every day!

**What are some of the most unique items that have passed through your shop?** The massive chandelier in our store along with our store counter and our vintage clothing rack.

**What are some of your favourite holiday traditions?** Our annual trek out to the country to cut down our Christmas tree, along with the making of our stuffing; it brings me right back as a child helping my mother break the bread, cutting the onions and the great aroma coming from the kitchen. **OH**



SEE OUR DIRECTORY FOR ALL CONTACT INFORMATION.



# LIGHT BULB *place cards*

PROJECT **DAWN MCCONNELL** | PHOTOGRAPHY **TARA CHATTELL**

Delight your guests with personalized place cards created out of repurposed holiday string lights.

## TOOLS & MATERIALS

- Large holiday string light bulbs
- Acrylic paint in your choice of colour
- Paintbrush
- Sealant (we used Mod Podge)
- Marker in contrasting colour (we used silver, black and gold)
- Waxed paper
- Twine or ribbon
- Glue
- Tiny trinkets for decoration

Add a personal touch to your Christmas dinner!



## Directions

- 1 Cover workspace with waxed paper. Apply two coats of paint to the glass of each light bulb, allowing to dry between coats. Coat painted area of bulb with sealant.
- 2 When dry, write or print names on bulb using marker. Wrap bulb stems with twine or ribbon and glue in place. Decorate with bows and/or trinkets. **OH**

**online** Discover more DIY projects at [ourhomes.ca/mag/create](http://ourhomes.ca/mag/create)

double take

# BEDROOM bliss

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PHOTO: JASON HARTOG

1



2



3



4



5



7



8



6

1. HUDSON VALLEY: Aberdeen 6-Light Chandelier in Old Bronze 2. DASH & ALBERT: Fretwork Grey Tufted/Carved Wool Rug 3. WEST ELM: Rejuvenation Cylinder Sconce 4. WEST BROS FURNITURE: Hayden Night Table 5. AU LIT FINE LINENS: Loft 2-Line Bedding & Large Waffle Blanket 6. WEST BROS FURNITURE: Serra Wood Panel Bed 7. TONIC LIVING: Posh Velvet Pillow in Chrome 8. CB2: Potted Faux Succulent White Pot OH

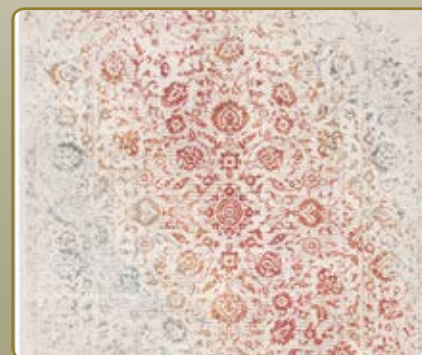
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# COUSCOUS SALAD WITH pan-fried HALLOUMI

RECIPE AND PHOTOGRAPHY JENELLE MCCULLOCH



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This salad has deep, earthy flavours topped with smoky, salty and sweet halloumi cheese, which is made from goat's or sheep's milk.

**SERVES 2**

## HALLOUMI

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 pkg (250 g) halloumi cheese
- 1 Tbsp honey
- Cumin and chili powder, to taste

Cut halloumi into ½-inch slices, lay on paper towel and pat dry. Season with cumin and chili powder, then drizzle with honey. Halloumi is a salty cheese, so there is no need to add more salt. The honey will balance the saltiness of the cheese and provide a caramelized crust. Set aside.

## DRESSING

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper, to taste

### DIRECTIONS

Combine all ingredients together in a small bowl and whisk until combined.



## SALAD

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup dry lentils
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 cup couscous
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 large onion
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp olive oil, divided
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 eggplant, cubed
- 1 cup mushrooms of choice, sliced
- Cumin to taste
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ cup feta cheese

### DIRECTIONS

Pre-soak lentils in hot water for at least 15 minutes, or up to 24 hours. Drain and rinse before use. Set aside.

Place couscous in a bowl. Pour a cup of boiling water over couscous and cover with a lid. Let stand for 5 minutes then fluff with a fork. Set aside.

Cut onion into ¼-inch slices. Add to saucepan with 1 Tbsp each of olive oil and butter. Cook slowly on medium-low heat and stir occasionally until onion reaches a golden brown colour. Add sugar and balsamic vinegar, stir and remove from heat.

Combine eggplant and mushrooms in a bowl and season with 1 Tbsp olive oil, cumin, salt and pepper. Mix thoroughly. Add mixture to frying pan over medium heat. Sauté until almost browned and add drained lentils. Cook until browned edges appear.

## TO ASSEMBLE

In a large bowl combine couscous, sauteed eggplant, mushrooms, lentils, caramelized onion and feta in a large bowl. Add dressing and season with salt and pepper to taste.

Just before plating, fry slices of halloumi in a dry pan over medium heat.

Fry and flip until both sides have a golden crust.

Plate salad and top with halloumi. **OH**

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