

Proud OWNERS

PHOTOGRAPHY TARA WEST

These local business owners are proud to do business in Waterloo Region. Get to know them and give them a call or drop in to see them this summer.



SHANNON ECKEL-BRAUN

Owner

Design Factory Interiors, Kitchener

What services do you offer? Design Factory is a full service decorating and design company. I offer everything from one-time consultations to full renovations, including custom millwork, window treatments, colour consultation, styling and concept development.

How would you describe your style? Strong, timeless foundations that can be built upon using polished modern lines layered with colour, texture and pattern. I love to incorporate thoughtful elements into my spaces, whether it's a re-purposed

item, vintage or rustic piece. It is very important to me that your space reflects who you are.

What projects are you working on right now? I have a few projects on the go, both commercial and residential – including my own 1930s home! I just wrapped up an orthodontics office in Waterloo, a complete build. It is such a rewarding experience to see a commercial space come together from the ground up. In the upcoming summer months I will be working on projects in the Muskokas and here in Waterloo Region.

CRAIG & JULIELYNN MILLER

Owners

Xclusive Elements, St. Jacobs and Waterloo

Tell us about your business: Xclusive Elements is a lifestyle store with locations in Bayfield, St. Jacobs and Waterloo. You will find unique fashion, gifts and home décor. Our customers are always intrigued by the treasure they find when visiting us. Our lines are constantly changing, keeping things fresh and vibrant. “We don't follow the trends... we set them!”

How would you describe your style? Our style is contemporary, mixed with a vintage, industrial flair. We enjoy keeping things simple, but with an element of “eye-candy” to it. We like to source items that are Canadian-made or have a story associated with it. Your décor should be a reflection of you as a person or family.

What's your favourite way to spend a summer weekend? Our favourite way to spend a summer weekend is hanging out with family and friends on our newly designed patio. If we are not on our patio we enjoy hitting the open highway on our motorcycle. *Continued on page 54*





KARA DERKSEN

Owner

Kara's Stained Glass, Kitchener

What makes Kara's Stained Glass different from competitors? Kara's Stained Glass deals with creating new and individual artwork that can't be found anywhere else. When customers come through the door, they speak with me, in person, to guarantee their vision comes to life. My custom designs are a direct reflection of what the customer wants. My work adds unique and attractive characteristics that can make a house your home.

Where do you find inspiration for your work? Inspiration is all around me. We live in such a blessed world and Canada is one of the most beautiful countries. I've always been inspired by all the places I have travelled. I offer a modern appeal to this classic style of art. As opposed to the traditional two-dimensional look of stained glass, I use textured glass and designs that often simulate movement within my glass canvas.

Tell us about your special summer ahead: I am looking forward with excitement to the reunion of family from afar, friends and festivities at the wedding of my daughter this summer. Spa day and hair are booked!



JOE SHEWCHUK

Owner

JPS Electric, Kitchener

Tell us about your business: JPS Electric was established in June of 2012. A satisfied, well informed client is of great importance to me. I give great attention to detail to all of my clients so they can make well-informed decisions about their electrical installations.

What are some of the services you offer? I specialize in residential electrical repairs, installations and service upgrades. Small jobs are very much welcome! Aluminum wire rejuvenations are a specialty of mine, as well as corrections to Electrical Safety Authority defect notifications.

What do you love most about working in Waterloo Region? Being born and raised right here in the Waterloo Region has many advantages. I've watched the region grow quite rapidly over the years and having a business based here is a good thing. We have a good population of senior citizens here who, by listening to them speak about this area, help me learn even more about the way things were here. It allows me to gear my business towards their electrical needs, as well as all my other clients. **OH**