



THEIR GRASS IS *greener*

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

Who do you go to when you have a new build with a blank canvas? A jungle that needs taming? Challenging terrain? A sick tree? Pool plans? Here are 10 local outdoor specialists to call upon.

KEVIN HACKSON
*General Manager &
Construction Operations*
DARLENE HACKSON
*Administration &
Horticulture Operations*
Hackstone Landscapes

SPECIALTY: **Kevin:** Stonework and outdoor lighting. **Darlene:** Horticulture.

NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... **Kevin:** Character – stone shouldn't be cut to look like concrete; I prefer to work with a piece's natural shape and texture. **Darlene:** Definition – gardens look their best with a crisp and clean cut edge.

KEVIN LOVES... to create an outdoor experience where people can connect with friends and family.

DARLENE LOVES... that my career is most people's hobby.

IN FIVE YEARS... **Kevin:** I'll be a bit older and little wiser. **Darlene:** I'll be in the garden.

JOSH BAKER
Co-owner
RYAN BAKER
Co-owner
Springscapes Landscaping

SPECIALTY: Interlocking stone.

NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... lighting so you can enjoy your yard day or night.

WE LOVE... to watch a project come to fruition and see what we completed.

IN FIVE YEARS... we see ourselves in Collingwood and the Blue Mountain area on bigger landscapes.

BEST TIME OF DAY: 2 p.m. after lunch and we're on track. *Continued on page 62*



LYNNE BARNES
*Owner & Operations
Manager*
MARGOT BYERS
Designer
*Heartwood Landscapes
& Gardens*

SPECIALTY: Interesting
lockstone work and gardens
designed with a wide variety
of plantings.

**NO LANDSCAPE IS
COMPLETE WITHOUT...**
knowing how it will change
through the season. Plants
and trees bring a landscape
together with hues of blue,
green and burgundy in the
leaves; textures layer upon
each other as plants grow;
gorgeous blossoms take the
stage at different times. This
is the life of any landscape and
we ensure ours are expressive
throughout the year.

BEST TIME OF DAY: From
mid-morning on, when job
sites are humming along and
my energy is at full steam...
without caffeine!

Continued on page 64



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ROBERT GRAY
*Designer & Owner
Belmont Landscaping
and Design*

SPECIALTY: Creating timeless landscapes that blend with the natural surroundings.

NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... well thought-out plantings.

I LOVE... that no two projects are the same, just like the people I work for and work with.

IN FIVE YEARS... I see a projected growth of 25 to 40 per cent to keep up to the demand for our services.

BEST TIME OF DAY: A couple of hours into the day, when all is running smoothly.

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PATRICK THOMPSON, *Owner & Project Manager*
BRENT BURTON, *Operations Manager*
Retreat Landscape Design/Build

SPECIALTY: Listening. I pay close attention to what our clients are asking for and interpret that into an aesthetic and fully functional outdoor space.

NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... a good plan. If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail. A solid landscape plan provides a vision and destination while mapping out all routes along the way, including budget.

BEST TIME OF DAY: 5 a.m. The sights and serenity of the early morning help me focus on upcoming tasks. I like to sit at the waterfront or my preferred nursery as I make my orders, answer emails and tie any knots in the plans for that day. *Continued on page 68*

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MARK HIGGINSON, Owner
Natural Stonescapes Inc.

SPECIALTY: Challenging sites utilizing natural stone to design and create custom landscapes and pools for fine homes.

NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... fine attention to detail.

I LOVE... transforming a raw landscape into a functional, aesthetically pleasing property my clients can enjoy for years to come.

IN FIVE YEARS... I hope I will be doing the same thing, welcoming and training a new generation into the business. *Continued on page 70*



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MARTIN ZENG, *Owner*
JOSHUA ZENG, *Lead Hand*
Zeng Landscaping

SPECIALTY: Estate residential landscaping.
NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... a homeowner's complete satisfaction.
WE LOVE... applying ourselves and creating environments that the owners and families we work with are excited about and will enjoy for years.
IN FIVE YEARS... we'll be applying our trade in an eco-friendly way to beautify our natural surroundings.
BEST TIME OF DAY: A few minutes after the second cup of coffee. *Continued on page 72*

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DARREN BOSCH
*Design & Client
Services Manager
The Landmark Group*

SPECIALTY: Big-picture design vision, client services and growing our team.

NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... people! A home's outdoor spaces are an extension of its inhabitants, reflecting their personalities and possessing a human quality. These are the spaces where people connect with themselves, with others and with something much bigger.

I LOVE... building a thoughtful team that brings magic to our clients' projects through innovation and care.

Continued on page 74

A large, two-story house with a dark roof and stone pillars is shown at dusk. The house has warm interior lighting and is surrounded by a well-manicured lawn and landscaping. A curved stone path leads to the entrance.

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A collage of three images: a close-up of a golden retriever's face, a young child in a pink dress standing next to an adult's legs, and a woman in a yellow shirt and purple pants stretching on a wooden floor.

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DAVID WHALEN
Owner, Certified Arborist & Forest Technician
WillowStone Plant Health Care

SPECIALTY: Landscape health assessment, from the smallest plants to the largest trees, including disease and problem insect identification as well as strategies to encourage a landscape toward healthy growth.

NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... focused care that ensures people's landscape investments are as healthy as they can be.

IN FIVE YEARS... As the sophistication of environmental attitudes change, people are recognizing that their landscape is an important part of their lives. I see an ever increasing awareness of the need to preserve and enhance, and I expect to play my part in providing care. *Continued on page 76*

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TYLER SPEIRS

*Designer & Owner
TS Design Build*

SPECIALTY: Pushing the envelope for the area by blending contemporary styles into the natural rustic setting of the Georgian triangle.

NO LANDSCAPE IS COMPLETE WITHOUT... fire, water, art and personality.

IN FIVE YEARS... I see us solidifying ourselves as one of the premier landscape firms in the region, maintaining a steady approach to our growth, making great connections every day and exceeding our clients' expectations.

BEST TIME OF DAY: I am at my best first thing in the morning and throughout the day after a good night's rest – aren't we all? **OH**

