

people

RAISING THE BAR



PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

Say hello to people with a passion for what they do so well.

**SEAN JAIKO,
JJ FRANCOEUR,
AMBER MINISTER
& SPENCER
DESCHAMBAULT**
Georgian Water and Air

Tell us about your company: At Georgian Water and Air we take pride in offering our customers the very best service and experience possible in Simcoe County and cottage country. We offer a no-charge water or air quality assessment and evaluation and our trained technicians will leave you with the results on the spot.

How do I know if the air or water quality isn't right? In water the question is simple: Are your ice cubes clear or are they white? Is your orange pekoe tea orange or brown? Your ice cubes should be clear and your tea orange. With the air, ever wonder why you wake up in the morning stuffed up, sneezing with itchy eyes? Poor air quality could be responsible.

How has pure air and water changed your life? When you have good water everything feels better, from your skin to your fabrics (towels, bed sheets, clothing). Food and drinks will taste way better without the chemicals. The air we breathe every day will feel fresh and crisp without any objectionable odours.



CAITLIN CORMIER
Elegant Solutions

Tell us about your company: Elegant Solutions is a Certified Install Associate of Cambria Quartz. We template, supply and install Cambria Quartz throughout central, eastern and northern Ontario. We have recently opened a Slab Gallery at our location in Barrie where you can experience full-size slabs, a meeting and design consult space as well as a working kitchen.

Where can I use Cambria Quartz in my home? Quartz is known for its superior durability and performance so the most common place is the kitchen. Cambria is 100 per cent non-porous and never requires

sealing. With over 140 designs to choose from, there's definitely something for everyone. Besides the kitchen, we have installed Cambria in a number of applications – baths, flooring, fireplace surrounds, outdoor entertainment areas and even as wall art.

What's your favourite way to spend a beautiful fall day? The fall has always been my favourite time of year. I love to go for a walk in the bush, wearing my favourite sweater, a warm fall drink in hand with the crunch of leaves underfoot. Top it off with a seasonal meal and a movie, cosied up in front of the fireplace. *Continued on page 66*



JUSTIN THOMPSON & MIKE RIBOUT

Alair Homes Georgian Bay

How does Alair Homes Georgian Bay offer a better construction experience?

Alair Homes provides certainty for your project through a very unique Client Control approach along with our proprietary online system. This gives our clients complete transparency throughout each project, allowing engagement every step of the way. We stand behind our motto that “Living Better

Starts Here” by helping all of our clients and their families live better while having fun throughout the project!

What kind of construction projects do you do? We specialize in custom home building and renovations. From a small facelift to a complete remodel or a custom home/cottage, our process doesn't change. We treat each and every project with a professional approach.

Why is the fall a great time to plan a project? A well-executed project has a solid plan and that is exactly what we do. The fall/winter allows plenty of time to get every detail on a project figured out, which allows for certainty in budget, schedule and material selections when the actual construction starts in the spring.

Continued on page 68




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people



RAY & KRISTY LINKLATER

Gaslink Complete Home Services

Tell us about your company: Gaslink Complete Home Services is a proud, 100 per cent family-run business focused on four key principles – unsurpassed personalized service, straightforward advice, quality home comfort systems you can rely on and strong relationships in the communities we serve. With Ray’s experience in the heating and cooling industry and Kristy’s successful marketing background, we have created a home comfort team you’ll want to work with and invite into your home. We service and install all natural gas and propane home appliances including furnaces, fireplaces and air conditioners. We can also convert your home from electric or oil appliances to propane and natural gas.

What should homeowners do to maintain their HVAC in the fall? The fall is a great time to have a certified technician complete

maintenance on your furnace and any fireplaces you have. Proper maintenance should include a visual check to spot if there is anything that stands out and needs to be further investigated, pressure tests to ensure there are no gas leaks anywhere and cleaning of the appliance to ensure excess dust and debris is cleared and doesn’t cause any further issues. The technician should also be checking venting and exhausts outside of the home to ensure there are proper clearances and no blockages.

Any energy conservation tips? Here are our Top 5 Easy Ways To Save Energy In Your Home: 1. Change your furnace filter regularly. 2. Use a programmable thermostat. 3. Get your HVAC system inspected and tuned up. 4. Swap out old light bulbs for LEDs or CFLs. 5. Seal drafty windows. *Continued on page 70*

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COREY PARKES & KELLY GLASS (Front)
BRANDON GOODMAN, ANGELO PAPANIA & JASON BUCHHOLZ (Standing)
Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home

What's new in Irvine's paint department? Benjamin Moore's UltraSpec SCUFF-X is a new industrial strength latex paint that is durable, washable and has a superior scuff-resistant coating for high traffic areas. ADVANCE paint is now available in a matte finish, which can be used on furniture, cabinets and much more, for customers who want to achieve that shabby chic look. Coming this fall from Benjamin Moore is *Notable*, their dry erase paint. It's great for offices, schools, and home use.

How does paint change a room? With endless possibilities available, just about any item in your home can be matched with a paint that is suitable for just about any application. Painting a room really has become more about fashion than just the need to

paint. Changing the colour in a room can not only set an ambience but it can also influence mood. While some colours may excite, others can have a calming effect. By selecting a warm hue, an inviting and cosy atmosphere can be achieved. By using bright and bold colours the environment can feel fun and playful. Implementing lighter tones and colours can make a space appear more open, airy and relaxing.

Tell us about Irvine's other departments: Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home is a full-service decorating centre, from flooring to paint and wall coverings to window fashions, we have everything you need to complete your project. Let our in-store interior decorators help you with your projects. *Continued on page 72*



Recommended by
Jim Caruk, Master Contractor,
HGTV Host and Editor-in-Chief
of Renovation Contractor Magazine

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**JOSH & SARAH
MANDELL**
Avenue A

Tell us about Avenue A: We established Avenue A with a desire to provide a comprehensive interior design, construction and maintenance package to clients. In collaboration with our clients and team, we work to create beautiful, high-end custom projects that exceed expectations. We have a background in construction and interior design, with a combined 18 years of experience. We bring this expertise to each of our projects and strive to find new and better solutions to ensure our clients love their space.

What sets your company apart? We provide a range of services in-house, including design and construction, millwork, landscaping and general repairs and maintenance. Because we don't contract these services out we are able to maintain tighter control of timelines and budgets and have the advantage of being in constant communication throughout each phase of the project.

What's next on your list of projects? We are starting to look for our next signature property to develop, while also working on some very exciting collaborations with local artisans. On the client side, we are working on custom builds and renovations in Barrie and the GTA. *Continued on page 74*

PHOTO: SANDY MACKAY

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SUSAN INRIG, *BOARD PRESIDENT*
JOANN STEPHAN, *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*
& PAM BRODIE, *FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR*
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe

Tell us all about The Showcase of Homes Tour: The Showcase of Homes Tour is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. A signature event for Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe, this annual fundraiser is held the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving. The event provides everyone the chance to tour and enjoy the beautiful and unique homes of Georgian Bay, and showcase the talented work of our local florists and home stagers. This self-directed tour is a full day event including a light lunch and is the perfect opportunity for family and friends to plan a day out to see various decorating themes and stylish homes in beautiful settings.

How does the event benefit your organization? Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe provides mentoring opportunities for youth aged 6-18 through our traditional 1:1 Match, our Big Bunch Group,

Go Girls programs and In School Mentoring. As a non-profit agency, we need to remain competitive in raising funds to support the agency and the programs we offer. The Showcase of Homes allows us to raise community awareness and provide support to our youth, volunteers and the agency.

What are your organization's other immediate needs? While our fundraising and the sustainability of the agency are important, so is the need for additional mentors for our programs. From a one hour a week commitment as an In-School Mentor to a full 1:1 Match with a weekly commitment of 3-4 hours, we can tailor the volunteers/mentors' lifestyle and work commitments to balance with the opportunity to make a difference for a youth in our community. **OH**



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