



CARLA BECRAFT, *Manager*
Crafty Gift Emporium

Tell us about Crafty Gift Emporium: We're a truly unique gift/home décor store with a hometown feel. We take pride in selling gifts that matter. We have gifts for all ages, all genders and all price ranges. We also offer pre-packaged gift sets at reasonable prices. We offer free gift wrapping and sell greeting cards at very reasonable prices and that makes us a one-stop shop for gifts for any occasion. Within our store you will find local artists/vendors displaying their articles and crafts. We love promoting local talent.

What's new for spring? Whimsical wind chimes, garden accessories, bird feeders, birdhouses, Easter articles and wall art.

What would you recommend for mom on Mother's Day? We have Secret Jewel candles with different scents – inside is a piece of jewelry valued from \$10 to \$200. How about tea towels with cute sayings? Or bath bombs, scarves, fun jewelry, wine covers and gift bags, wind chimes, mugs, dishes, pillows, ornaments, or perhaps the best of all...we offer gift certificates.

CAMERON GATES
Regional Sales Manager
Mason's Masonry Supply Ltd.

Tell us about Mason's Masonry Supply: For 50 years our company has been a specialty supplier of brick, stone and related masonry products. We are truly specialists in masonry and offer a vast selection of masonry, landscape and thin veneer products. We have high-quality products, knowledgeable staff and customer service that is second to none.

What's new in masonry products? Several new types of manufactured stone that mimic natural stone are now becoming popular, as well as an increasing variety of thin veneer products in both natural stone and manufactured stone. Outdoor living spaces, including pizza ovens and fire pits, are also in demand.

Tell us about a favourite project: We did a home this past year at the base of Blue Mountain. This project has natural stone from the Owen Sound area with a traditional stone fireplace. Natural stone houses have become increasingly more popular again over the past 10 years. There is something about the beauty of a real natural product that draws your eye and takes you back to a time when craftsmanship was a true art.

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BRIGHT IDEAS

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

Shine a light on your home this season with products and services in and around town.



KELLY LAZAR AND DAVID WAGMAN, *Sales Representatives*
Forest Hill Real Estate Brokerage Inc.

Why is the Oro-Medonte real estate market so hot right now? Oro-Medonte is unique with both pockets of residential and waterfront properties. It provides rural locations for buyers who don't want to live in Barrie or travel to Muskoka for waterfront cottaging and for buyers who find Innisfil too expensive. These reasons, along with confidence in the financial markets, make Oro-Medonte attractive and result in the increased activity.

What do you do for your clients that sets you apart and above? With permanent residences in both Toronto and Oro-Medonte, we have access to both markets for our buyers and sellers. Living on the water gives us the knowledge to educate buyers, and being local allows us to provide top-notch service to our clients. We provide 24-hour service and our clients wonder if we ever sleep!

Why do you love the spring season? Spring is the start of something new and fresh. With much success, we kick off our spring season every year with our booth at the Spring Cottage Life Show. We are ready to spring into action and bring you results. Come visit us at the Cottage Life Show. Need tickets? Give us a shout.

DOMENIC BIANCHI

New Wave Travel

Why do you love living and doing business in Barrie? The City of Barrie is no longer a small town, as it was once known to be. Today it boasts a gorgeous waterfront that is being renovated and upgraded to attract and entice boaters to stop by, have brunch and walk in our downtown shops. The residents of Barrie are very friendly and easy-going and I wouldn't pass up the opportunity to service this kind of town.

Tell us about your company: New Wave Travel is one of Canada's largest independent travel agencies and we recently merged with Vision Travel. I have been an independent affiliate with New Wave for over 25 years, servicing leisure vacation requests for small to medium companies ranging from on to 250 employees. Making me an extension of their business saves them time and money.

What's your favourite destination? Hands down, I have to say, Nassau, in the Bahamas. It's a beautiful place with amazing service and people. *Continued on page 68*





RON EDGER
Territory Manager
Centennial Windows & Doors

Tell us about Centennial Windows & Doors: Centennial is a family-owned and operated business with a dedicated team, offering an end-to-end solution for homeowners. We sell, manufacture, install and service our own complete line of award-winning, energy-efficient windows and doors.

Tell us about your products: We specialize in vinyl replacement windows, steel and fibreglass entry door systems, and vinyl sliding patio doors. With Centennial, every product is custom manufactured to the unique specifications of your home. Whether you own a century home, recently built, or anything in between, our products will preserve the personality and enhance curb appeal while offering some of the highest energy-efficiency ratings in the country. All of our products are installed by Centennial installers and are backed by our no-fine-print warranty that lasts for as long as you own your home.

What do you love most about spring? Experiencing the fresh smells, forgotten sounds, and welcome sights typical of the changing seasons! *Continued on page 70*

PHOTO: JASON HARTOG



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ADAIR GUERIN, Owner
Dwellings Rustic & Refined Living

What's new and exciting at Dwellings? For me, personally, the most notable change is that I became the new owner of the store in July of 2016. It's been an exciting new adventure for me, presenting some challenges but also an opportunity to be creative and infuse my own ideas and style into the existing heart of the store. As the new owner of an established business, the Craighurst/Horseshoe community has been nothing but welcoming, encouraging and supportive. I love meeting locals, speaking with tourists and establishing relationships with my now regular clientele.

Tell us about your spring products: This spring, we are injecting some fresh colours into the store with new offerings in indoor/outdoor décor, fun tableware, linens and bedding. We're also expanding our distinctive selection of lighting and artwork. We have also introduced a gourmet coffee bar and are considering a patio for the warm weather months. We also focus on items that are unique, searching both worldwide and right here in our own backyard. People express their desire to support local and Canadian artisans. Our area is so rich with talent; I'm looking forward to showcasing that talent and bringing it to our clientele.

What do you plan to do around your house this spring? Over the past several years I have completely renovated a house (for the purpose of resale) and am now planning the look for my new home!

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JOEL LAURIN, *Owner*
JVL Home Improvements Ltd.

Tell us about JVL Home Improvements: We are a second-generation custom homebuilder in the Simcoe County/Georgian Bay area. We proudly build quality custom homes for our customers. Our dedication to building and our unique design abilities stand out beyond the competition. As the principal, I am there every step of the way, offering complete project management, including assisting with design, construction permits and by-laws – right down to the last final important details of building a custom home or cottage.

What's your specialty? We specialize in building custom homes and cottages in unique designs and styles. I am always up for new

challenging builds with unique elements that create a true custom home. Our talented team of carpenters, designers and tradespeople can definitely build your perfect dream home. We manufacture custom stairs, railings, custom millwork, doors and more in our 3,000 sq. ft. woodworking shop.

What's on tap for spring? This spring we have two very different custom homes/cottages to start. One of them is a teardown of an existing waterfront cottage and replacing it with a 4,000 sq. ft. modern design cottage. The other build is a 6,000 sq. ft. contemporary home with many high-end finishings. **OH**

SEE DIRECTORY FOR CONTACT INFO



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