

people

BEHIND THE SCENES

STORY SARAH SLOAN | PHOTOGRAPHY STEVE SMALL

These backstage stars are here to make sure your home and property run as smoothly and efficiently as possible, so that you can focus your energy elsewhere.



ROB & JOY BLACK Blackline Power

What are the incentives for installing solar? The FIT Program (Feed-In Tariff) pays a set tariff rate for 20 years for electricity generated from renewable sources. Many of our clients are now choosing to offset their electricity usage via net metering. The prime incentive with this program is that electricity rates will only continue to rise, so savings will increase every year.

What if people have been told by Hydro One they cannot connect a system? You can still use solar to offset your electricity usage. Contact us to find out more.

Why choose Blackline Power? We are properly trained and qualified and provide excellent customer service. In the words of the owner of the system pictured here, "We wish we had considered a solar investment years ago. We installed both a MicroFIT to give us a direct financial return and a net-metered system to reduce our home energy costs." *Continued on page 70*

A smooth build from start to finish.

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MONICA MARTIN & JOANE KLINGENBERG

Custom Soda Prep & Paint

Most memorable or unique paint job: It's hard to pick one over the other. We recently finished a high-end cottage, which was all ice blasted and refinished. It was a really beautiful place. All of the projects we work on are unique, and not just the homes but the landscaping too.

What is dry ice blasting and why would someone need it done? Dry ice blasting is frozen carbon dioxide that comes in a block or pellet form, which sublimates from a solid to

vapor on impact and is used to clean surfaces. There's no mess, everything evaporates, unlike sandblasting. Dry ice blasting is more environmentally friendly and leaves a smoother, more even finish.

How do you bring old, weathered or rotting wood back to life? We carry and use a line of epoxy hardeners and fillers to restore decayed and rotting wood. We also replace logs where necessary while working on our log home projects.



PHOTO: BONNIE FOX

GREG WILKINS

Wilkins Fencing & Mulch-It

Decorative features: Our fencing system is based on concrete mortised posts with wood fencing boards and concrete driveway columns with steel and wood gates. Design features people can choose from include customizing their project with lighting, types of wood, steel and wood gate designs and our latest metal panel designs.

Types of fencing: We offer residential and commercial solutions. On the residential side we focus on entranceway gate and column-post packages, driveway markers, road fences and pool fences. For commercial clients we focus on front gates and posts, utility entranceways and pathway and boundary fencing.

What is Mulch-It? Mulch-It Specialized Land Clearing and Trail Creation is a service for cleaning up properties. We offer mechanical brush clearing, bush hogging and stump grinding to create trails, tidy-up property and fence rows and clear lots. We also offer agricultural limb trimming, land and pasture reclamation and wildflower and native grass establishment and maintenance.

Continued on page 72



KIM SCHAAB

Emke Schaab ClimateCare

Tips to be water conscious: Leak check your home for dripping faucets, running toilets or a leaking water heater. Replace toilets, showerheads and faucets with low consumption units. Upgrade to a high-efficiency metered water softener or install a humidifier water saver or an AquaTrip water monitor.

What is a heat pump and why switch? It's an electric system that takes heat from the air or ground and uses it to heat your home. In cooling season, it takes the heat from your home and puts it into the air or ground. Depending on the type of system, a heat pump boosts efficiency by 200 per cent and up to 430 per cent.

How is your company tech savvy? As the HVAC industry adapts to changing tech, unique solutions are becoming available. Smart thermostats allow remote scheduling and programming from the web or phone apps. Diagnostic tools are designed to give technicians easier access to faults and info, and to energy monitoring systems.



BACK: KEN BEITZ, DUSTIN MCARTHUR, CHARLIE WALL & CHRIS MACKENZIE
FRONT: CRAIG BRANNAN & CODY MACKENZIE
South-Port Mechanical/Geothermal Inc.

Why choose geothermal? It's an environmentally friendly, cost-effective and energy-efficient source of comfortable heating and cooling with increased dehumidification. No combustion flames or fuel.

How else can you help clients? We offer HVAC and fireplace installations, and plumbing, hydronic heating and sheet-metal fabrication. Free quotes are available plus 24-hour emergency service.

Are there any government incentives or rebates that come along with your services? Currently there are carrier and Ontario Power Authority incentives to take advantage of. Please contact our office for details. **OH**