

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR HOME



Resolutions aren't just for improving your life in the coming year. Why not set some goals for your home in 2019 as well? Advice from local businesses can help you accomplish your plans.

PHOTOGRAPHY KEVIN BELANGER

**SACHA LECLAIR**  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
**MELISSA LECLAIR**  
DESIGN DIRECTOR  
*Leclair Decor*

**What is your business?** Leclair Decor operates LD Shoppe, a home goods store specializing in furniture and décor for modern, stylish homes. We started as an online store in 2015 and have recently opened a 4,000 sq. ft. bricks-and-mortar retail space located at Ottawa Train Yards. We've worked hard to build out the store in a way that inspires great design and offers reliably stylish, unique and good quality pieces.

**What are your personal New Year's resolutions?** Our personal resolution this year is to stake out more time to volunteer, connect with our community and teach our young children how important giving back is. We're also putting the foot on the gas to finish renovating our home after our home projects were put on the back-burner these past few years as we grew our business.

**Do you have tips for clients with home-related New Year's resolutions?** Overhauling an entire room at once can be overwhelming. Our suggestion in that case is to break down larger redecoration projects into smaller, more manageable chunks. For example, consider finishing your sofa vignette (including artwork for above, the perfect throw cushions, a cosy blanket, etc.) before moving onto other areas in the space. Tackling a room makeover one zone at a time sharpens focus and reduces stress.

**GLENN WISEMAN**  
SALES MANAGER  
*Top Hat Home Comfort Services*

**What is your business?** Top Hat began as a small chimney sweep company in 1974. Over the years, we've added chimney repair, sales and installation of gas, pellet or wood fireplaces, stoves and inserts often attached to these chimneys as well as roofing, eavestrough, soffit, fascia, carpet and duct cleaning. With the addition of our Carleton Place location, we showcase close to 100 models of fireplaces, stoves and inserts.

**What is your personal New Year's resolution?** I don't typically do New Year's resolutions, but I do make a point of trying to learn something new every year, whether it is personally or professionally. This year, I want to build the success that we had last year with our website. I plan to learn personally more about expanding our online presence, because it is such a great way to connect with clients and share my knowledge.

**Do you have tips for clients with home-related New Year's resolutions?** Make maintenance a priority. Stop looking through that dirty fireplace glass! Setting up a regular maintenance schedule can enhance and maintain the beauty of your gas fireplace, not only with clean glass, but a multi-point refurbishing of burning embers, as well as a multi-point safety inspection. Similarly, regular chimney cleaning and inspection of wood stoves and fireplaces can identify problems early.

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MATT BROCK

OWNER

*Silver Brook Paints*

**What is your business?** We opened our Barrhaven store in the summer of 2014 and just recently opened our design centre at Bank Street and Hunt Club in March 2018. The business name stems from my son's middle name (Silver) and my daughter's first name (Brooklyn). We are passionate about paint and design and even more passionate about the service we provide.

**What is your personal New Year's resolution?** My resolution is one that I've heard from a number of people: to hoard a little less. I'm motivated to do this because decluttering can be very liberating, opening up space at home and at the office. With more space, I can now see accent pieces or imagine what an accent piece would look like in our new, clean space.

**Do you have tips for clients with home-related New Year's resolutions?** Motivating ourselves is never easy, especially when attempting to alter our comfort zones. I suggest hiring a professional to help guide you on current and long-term strategies. In-home consultations from our decorators to help redefine your space are available through Silver Brook Paints.

BERNIE TEKLEBURG

OWNER/OPERATOR

*Beckwith Galleries*

**What is your business?** Beckwith Galleries is a supplier of fine, hand knotted area carpets to architects and designers. We have been in business for over 25 years at the same location in Ottawa. We are also open to the public and are happy to help with purchasing, an appraisal, cleaning, repair or even with a conversation regarding the art or history of Oriental carpets.

**What is your personal New Year's resolution?** I plan to integrate balance into my thoughts, physical presence and future plans. No sport is mastered without balance, and the same can be projected to mindfulness. All decisions have risk and reward; all changes have momentum and inertia. For business this means balancing price and quality, while ensuring we exceed the expectations of all clients.

**Do you have tips for clients with home-related New Year's resolutions?** Think of your floor as your fifth wall. A carpet is the foundation of a room. Some designers suggest choosing a carpet and working with the colours and design of the carpet to begin with. On the other hand, if the project has already started, we would suggest that clients take photos of the space to ensure a balanced approach.

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BARBARA ANN  
VOCISANO

OWNER/TEAM LEAD

Executive Cleaning Home Organizing

**What is your business?** I founded Executive Cleaning Home Organizing (ECHO) in 2011. ECHO provides help for people in need of decluttering, home organizing and purging. ECHO also provides closet design and build, renovation management, donation management, home cleaning and staging services. We begin every project with a free, in-home consultation to discuss your goals and challenges.

**What is your personal New Year's resolution?** My New Year's resolution is to use all of the candles, hand creams, lotions and potions people have given me over the years. They no longer need to be decorative! It's time to use up the travel-size items I have acquired, which will free up space in my home.

**Do you have tips for clients with home-related New Year's resolutions?** If your New Year's resolution is to reclaim your space, simply start by getting rid of packaging (shopping bags, appliance boxes, shoeboxes, bubble wrap, etc.). We always start with this task when we begin any home organizing project. Next, separate your clothes by season and store off-season clothing in a leaf bag. This is also a quick and easy way to free up space and get organized.

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**What is your business?** I work with real estate agents and homeowners to get top dollar when selling by showcasing a home in its best light. I accomplish this by bringing attention to a home's unique features. I also educate homeowners on what staging is and how it is an essential part of bringing your house to market.

**What is your personal New Year's resolution?** I plan to make everyday occasions more special by using my good china. I plan to hire a cleaning service so that I can spend more time making memories with my friends and family. I'm also going to make sure that any décor items I buy are for clients and not for me!

**Do you have tips for clients with home-related New Year's resolutions?** If you are selling your home this year, it is to your benefit to be open to new ideas and perspectives in how to present your home. When it comes to selling your home, less really is more, which is how staging can help. Less stuff means more space, which will help the most interesting features of your home to shine through. **OH**



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