

# LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

There's a lot that goes into making a house a home. Tap into these nine talented businesses to work on your home's underbelly.



## NANCY DRISCOLL

*Owner  
Fresh Design*

**Tell us about this project:** This is our in-house workroom where we create custom window treatments, bedding, slipcovers and toss cushions and reupholster furniture. This chair is from a set of four that originated at the Park Plaza Hotel rooftop lounge circa 1980. My client wants to restore them to their original glory. Each chair will be stripped down to the frame, any repairs required to the frame will be done, new foam and wrap will be added and the legs will be stained a dark espresso. The new upholstery fabric is a lustrous-patterned blue velvet. Bronze nail-head trim will complete the original design. They will be beautiful once again.

**Tell us about Fresh Design:** Our motto is "Your Dreams, Our Expertise." We go above and beyond to make your dreams for your home come true. We have been passionate about interior design since our inception in 2003. Fresh Design collaborates with clients to find the best design solutions within their budget to suit their personal style and lifestyle. We offer research and concept development, design development and space planning, furniture placement, paint colours, and material and finish selection. Custom sewing and upholstery is our forte. We also source new furniture, rugs and accessories to complete your design.



## BRYAN RICHARDSON, *Owner* & THEO *BEAR Electric, Collingwood*

**Tell us about this project:** BEAR Electric is fortunate to be involved in the Collingwood Earthship Project with Free Spirit Tours. It's a home designed with a low carbon footprint and to be as energy-efficient as possible – challenging us to find alternative energy solutions. My son Theo shares my enthusiasm for electrical solutions and enjoys visiting jobsites. This home will use solar panels to offset its electrical costs with the future potential of using Net Metering to achieve a zero

kilowatt hour (kwh) reading over the course of a year. A Net Metering system would return energy to the grid during sunny periods, and access energy from the grid as needed at other times, without the cost and maintenance of energy storage and batteries.

**Tell us about BEAR Electric:** I first apprenticed in electrical work years ago in British Columbia with my dog Bear at my side. I settled in the Georgian Triangle over 10 years ago and founded BEAR Electric. I now proudly employ several valued electricians and apprentices. Our goal is to provide a genuine, personable, expert approach to all aspects of our customers' electrical requirements. We work on residential, commercial and industrial projects, as well as alternative ventures such as solar.

*Continued on page 72*



**ERIK WOOD**, *Mason*;  
**STEVE WALL**, *Owner*;  
**JOHN THIFFAULT**, *Apprentice*;  
**TRISTIN WALL**, *Apprentice*  
*Steve's Masonry, Collingwood*

**Tell us about this fireplace:** My crew and I are up on the mantel of a massive Rumford fireplace. We constructed it from foundation to second storey, using block and firebrick with clay flues, including the firebox itself. The Rumford is designed to draw smoke very efficiently, and its shallow firebox reflects more heat into the room. We ordered rough slabs of stone and I cut them individually to fit the hearth and mantels, in single, solid pieces. The hearth and mantel are approximately 1,000 pounds each, hoisted with a heavy-duty jack. We selected a custom blend of stone to work with the timber and copper found in the home.

**Tell us about Steve's Masonry:** We are a full service natural stone specialist. We do exterior and interior stone walls. We also build one-of-a-kind fireplaces, often incorporating our own designs. We love the artistry involved in our work and are truly passionate about the natural product we get to spend our days with. There are infinite options and colours to work with when it comes to stone and we work with styles from rubble walls to the precise. One of our favourite types of work is when a client asks us to age their house by making the stonework look centuries old. We are also known for our precision; we got our company slogan "Chiseled to Perfection" from shaping and fitting stones with very tight joints and straight corners.



**ANDREW BEROFSKY**, *Owner*  
*Blue Mountain Vacuum Centre, Collingwood*

**Tell us about this vacuum:** This model is a built-in central Cana-Vac unit made in Stratford, Ontario, and comes with a full 10-year warranty. We are proud to stand behind this Canadian unit. We are able to take care of any warranty issues in-house (not that we have many warranty issues). No need to ship it off somewhere for service. Not everyone needs a heavy-duty powerhead for carpets when all they have are tile and/or hardwood flooring. The nice thing about Cana-Vac is that you get to pick and choose the accessories and attachments that make the best sense for your home and flooring.

**Tell us about Blue Mountain Vacuum Centre:** We are a family owned and operated store, conveniently located in downtown Collingwood and serving the Georgian Triangle. Blue Mountain Vacuum Centre is your one-stop shop for all your vacuum sales and service needs, from Dyson to Miele and so much more. We specialize in selling, repairing and installing residential, commercial and built-in central vacuums. We now offer online purchases on our website at [bluemountainvacuum.com](http://bluemountainvacuum.com). We love being a local store and being a part of this wonderful community. Our store recently relocated to Third Street, where we can offer more stock in a more welcoming and streamlined showroom.

*Continued on page 74*



**JAKE, JAMES & BEN CASSIDY**  
*Clearlite Electrical, Excavating & Haulage, Collingwood*

**Tell us about this project:** We've been involved with many aspects of this property in Loree on the escarpment. We tore down and removed the original home and then graded the site to excavate for the new foundation. We put in a new septic system and have installed the temporary electrical service that is used during the building process. We will be returning once the frame is up to rough-in the electrical, and then again when the drywall is up to complete the electrical work. Outside, we will grade the property to specification.

**Tell us about Clearlite Electrical, Excavating & Haulage:** Clearlite started as an electrical company in the Beaver Valley area 25 years ago. We are a family-run business and as we have grown, so have the services that we can offer a client. We have found that many of our customers want to streamline the building process as much as possible, and taking that into account, we now offer all electrical and excavating services. These are the basic needs at the beginning of a new-home build and are often needed when renovating an existing house. We pride ourselves on great communication with our customers and complete satisfaction.

*Continued on page 76*

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## NATHAN METUS

Owner

*This Stone Home, Collingwood*

**Tell us about this project:** I am finishing the pointing on the stone facade of my family's personal home. After years of working for inspirational builders within the Southern Georgian Bay area, an opportunity arose to build my own home. My wife and I love the look of a traditional stone farmhouse. The main section of our home is built out of a combination of stones left over from previous projects. It's truly a collage of my history, and very similar to how a traditional farmer would have built – with all and any stone they had available.

**Tell us about This Stone Home:**

Currently, This Stone Home is operating as what I call a “boutique” masonry company. I work very closely with interior designers, architects and homeowners to transition designs, colour schemes and textures into the rugged world of natural stone. We often get asked to do some very unique, unconventional installations in which I particularly enjoy the challenge.

*Continued on page 78*



**Turn your home on.**

 A modern living room with large windows, a fireplace, and a TV. A smartphone in the foreground displays a smart home control interface.
 

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**DARREN LOBB**

General Manager  
Clarksburg Contractors Ltd.,  
Heathcote

**Tell us about this installation:** I'm in the mechanical room of a new cidery, just west of Meaford, where our client accessed nearly all of the trades that Clarksburg Contractors provides. We installed the latest generation of tankless hot water heaters, the Navien, which will provide in-floor heat and domestic hot water for the building. We connected all of the cidery's chillers that maintain proper temperature for the cider process, installed the electrical service and connected the domestic water to the cistern for potable water.

**Tell us about Clarksburg Contractors:** We are a local company that has been in business since 1954. We offer residential, commercial and industrial electrical and mechanical installation and repair. Our company has a staff that includes licensed plumbers, electricians, refrigeration and gas fitters (G3 to G1) who are able to install and repair air conditioning, refrigeration, water treatment systems, generators and saltless water softeners. We also service and install geothermal systems. No job is too big or too small! *Continued on page 80*

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## MARTY TENGELIS

General Manager  
Harbour MicroTrends, Meaford

**Tell us about this installation:** We are improving the wireless Internet access for a client, to extend the wireless coverage 100 metres from the house to their outbuildings, rather than running actual cable. Mounting a wireless access point can sometimes be difficult depending on the surface material, but a nearby small building offered us a suitable option. We're also enhancing the security camera system around this client's property. The camera seen here is an older model we're using for testing purposes, as cameras now come in a variety of shapes and sizes to accommodate their placement or range.

**Tell us about Harbour MicroTrends:** Harbour MicroTrends is a full-service IT and computer-solutions provider that strives to remove the burden of all things IT-related for residential and commercial customers by supporting their complete network infrastructure, including computer hardware and software sales and service. This means our customers only have to consult one business if they want security cameras installed, for example, or their office networked, websites managed, or even to purchase new computer equipment. We've been in business 20 years throughout Grey, Bruce and Simcoe counties and our staff of five ensures clients receive response times above expectations. We guarantee fair value and quality service. *Continued on page 82*

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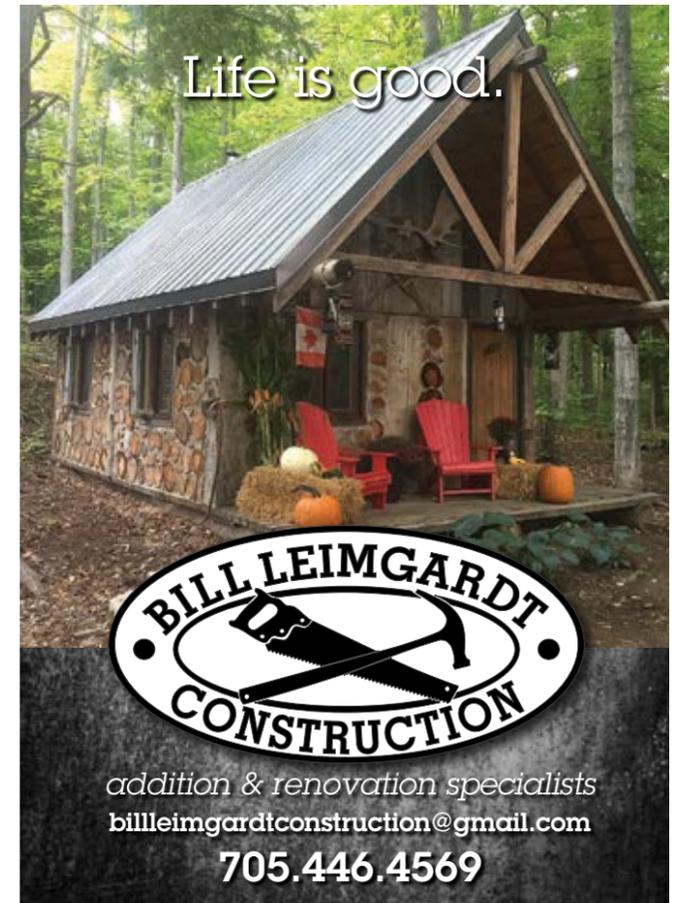
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### TOM RAMAGE

*Sandy Hamilton  
Plumbing & Heating Inc.,  
Collingwood*

**Tell us about this installation:**

These are in-floor radiant heating pipes waiting for the cement to be poured in this new home's lower level. This project in Lora Bay is one of 17 custom homes that we currently have on the go throughout Grey, Bruce and Simcoe Counties. We love to be involved in the design and execution of the more sophisticated plumbing and HVAC systems that custom homebuilders and clients expect.

**Tell us about Sandy Hamilton Plumbing & Heating Inc.:**

We are comprised of three businesses under one roof. In 2013, Sandy Hamilton acquired two of Tom Ramage's companies: Classical Gas and Northern Heating and Ventilation. All three companies have now been family-owned and in business for over 27 years. The talent and expertise you'll find in our 14 experienced associates speaks for itself. Ask our customers. **OH**

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