

LUMINARIES

THESE BUSINESSES ARE LIGHTING THE WAY FOR OTHERS.
WE'RE SHINING THE LIGHT ON THEM.

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

HEIDI EHLERS

Green Love

Tell us about Green Love: Green Love is a studio that builds preserved green walls. Unlike traditional artists that work with paint, my palette is plants. Enjoy the serenity that nature imbues. Put the walls that are year-round maintenance-free in your living room, dining room, entrance hall, retail space, restaurant, spa or fitness studio. No two are alike as they are custom designed and created to reflect your taste and décor. Many designers are including green walls in more and more of their work for residential and commercial clients. The walls are dramatic, unique, creative and they will be as beautiful as they were on the first day, forever.

Your go-to winter meal: Hands down, Bern's Lobster Mac and Cheese!

Favourite winter getaway: Coachella. The light, the desert, the cactus, the architecture, lemon drops and spending time with my family.



CRAIG ASHTON & GUY LAPORTE

*Collingwood Flowers &
Home Decor*

Tell us about Collingwood

Flowers: After 42 years of providing Collingwood with beautiful arrangements from their historic main street location, Rick and Susan Lloyd have retired from Smart's Flowers. Drawing on years of personal design and hospitality experience, we bought Smart's and created Collingwood Flowers & Home Decor. You will still see many familiar faces as the team of floral design associates has stayed on. Our home décor department is stocked with urban-chic accent items that are unique to our store. Everything is carefully selected to bring new style and update your home, cottage or chalet. No time to stroll? Visit us online for delivery direct to your home, workplace or a loved one somewhere else in the world. Join us as we start a new chapter for this old building, serving Southern Georgian Bay with beautiful flowers and more.

What book are you reading now?

Guy: For Christmas I had Santa bring me Hilary Clinton's new book *What Happened*. Hopefully, there will be some stormy nights so I can enjoy it. **Craig:** *Falling Backwards* by Jann Arden.

Who clears the snow from your

car? Craig was born and raised in Fergus, Ontario, so he is the expert snow clearer!

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**HEATHER
McILWEE**
Red Apple Electric

Tell us about your company:
Red Apple Electric is a one-woman band! From fixing that hall switch that has never worked, to hanging a chandelier or installing a new hot tub, I am who you are looking for. My focus is small jobs. I take pride in returning calls and trying my very best to make time for customers and fellow tradesmen, no matter how big or small the project may be.

Go-to winter meal: A big plate of chili. Growing up my Mom always served it on a bed of rice so to this day, that is how I eat it. Chili was the first recipe I learned to cook and has a special place in my heart.

Favourite winter getaway: It would have to be a road trip to our Nation's Capital. A skate on the Rideau Canal, a stroll around the ByWard Market and a trip to the National Gallery would be just what the doctor ordered!

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DON KILBY WITH BROWNIE *Kilby Gallery*

Tell us about Kilby Gallery: It is one of the oldest buildings in Clarksburg and where I paint in the style of “painterly realism.” My goal is to capture the essence of what I paint, such as the sound of waves crashing on a beach or the bright freshness of a cold crisp day. Each canvas is totally unique and an original. Commission work is a large part of what I do. I love turning someone’s idea into a piece of art that will be cherished and admired for years to come. Not only do I showcase my artwork in this relaxing space, I also teach art classes for any level of experience. If you cannot visit the gallery in person to meet Brownie and me, please visit my website.

How do you pay it forward? I like to think that my artwork is what I pay forward. My images bring to light the hidden beauty of our surroundings and hopefully, sharing my efforts through art will heighten others’ appreciation of this special part of the world that we call home.

Tell us about your favourite winter activities: I adore winter, and am always waiting impatiently for the first snowfall to give me something to ski on. Swishing through the woods on a well set track, by sunlight or moonlight, is among my most treasured ways to spend winter.

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JENN AGEEB

Serendipity Soy
Candle Factory

Tell us about your business:

It all began in the Bahamas. I moved there in 1999 and after a few years, I realized there was a huge need in the souvenir market to create something unique to the Bahamas. That was how the idea was born for the all-natural soy candles. I was very concerned about the pollutants and carcinogens omitted by paraffin candles. My soy candles burn clean and pure! After a move back to Collingwood, we opened our brick-and-mortar factory in November 2016 and now we have our dream retail space on Balsam Street. Not only do we have a large selection of candles and marketplace items, we offer classes for you to make your own candles with custom scents.

What book are you reading now? *Sweet Tea Tuesdays* by Ashley Farley.

Who clears the snow from your car? My amazing husband!

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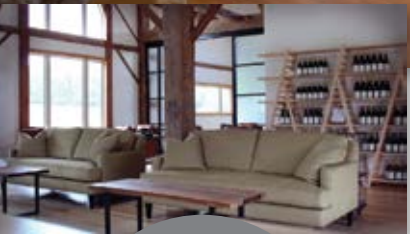
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ROB ABBOTT
Great Lakes Custom Homes

Tell us about Great Lakes Custom Homes: We are a new home and renovation company. We specialize in high quality workmanship. We pride ourselves in keeping an open dialogue with the homeowner, it gives them the opportunity to have a say in the design and finishings that go into their custom build or renovation. We believe in using the finest materials to bring that wow factor to a home.

How do you pay it forward? It is important to

give a chance to young people. We are hiring and training them to be carpenters. This will give them a trade that will always give them the ability to obtain a job, wherever they may end up.

Favourite winter activity: Spending time skiing with my family at the Georgian Peaks Club, and at the end of the day, having a great snowball fight with my son!

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ANDY BARBOSA**
Northern Iron

Tell us about Northern Iron:

Northern Iron is a Canadian family-run business specializing in artisan lighting, furniture and metal art inspired by Canada's robust strength and ruggedness. Our craftsmen forge elegant handcrafted pieces to grace your home or cottage. Each piece is individually made from solid iron. Come and visit our 2,000 sq. ft. Barrie showroom, where we offer lighting consultations, furniture design and also an in-house, full service decorator to make your spaces shine bright and show a style that is uniquely yours. You can also browse our online collections and ironwork options as well. Our mission is to offer lighting designs to reflect your lifestyle and vision and to complement your unique home.

What is your go-to winter meal? A large bowl of hot homemade soup or chili.

A favourite winter getaway: We love getting in the car and going for long drives up north, where the trees are taller and the snow is deeper!

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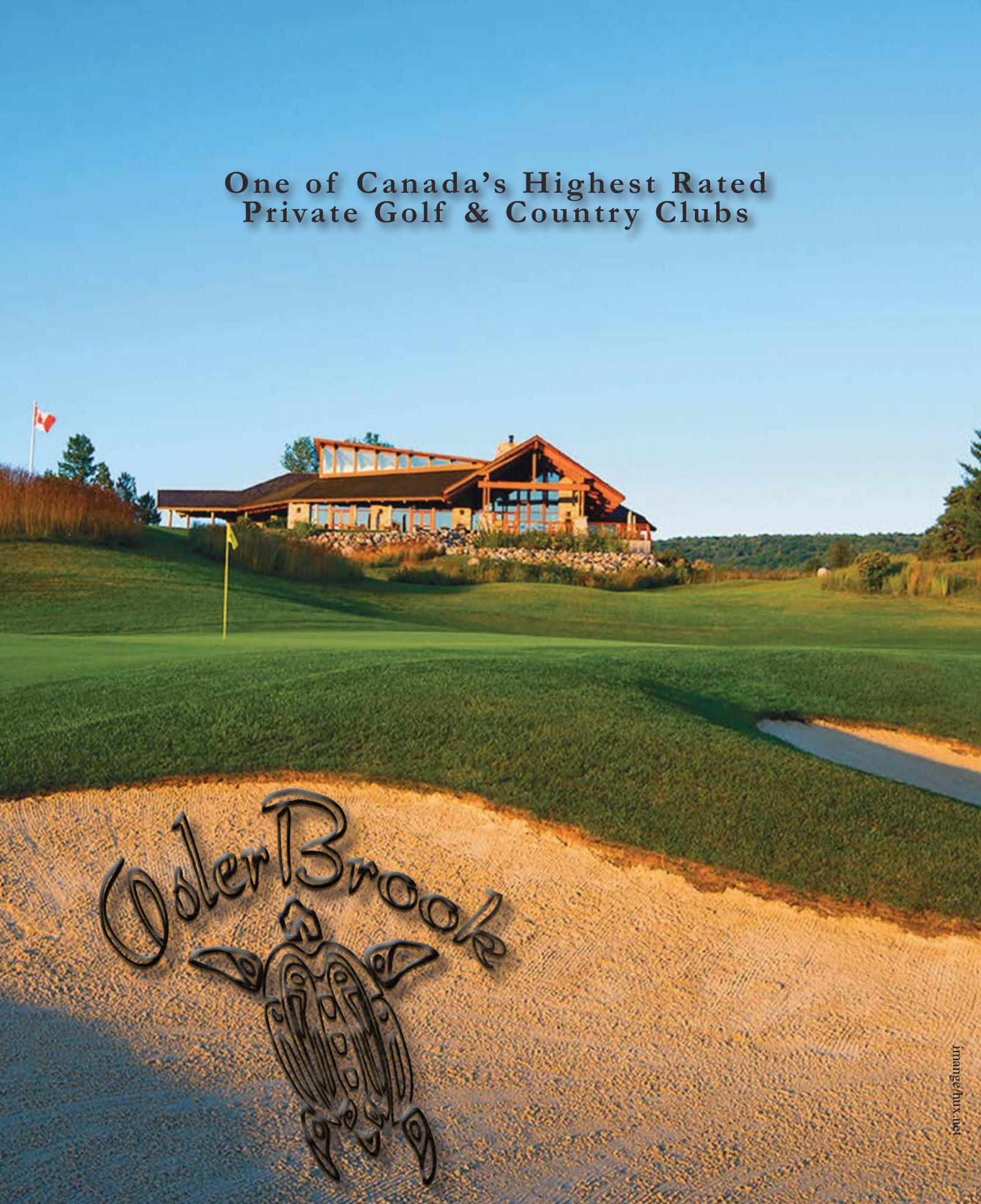
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NOAH HANLEY,
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, CLEARVIEW
YOUTH CENTRE
MICHAEL FISH,
YOUTH CENTRE PROGRAMME COORDINATOR
Clearview Youth Centre funded by
United Way Simcoe Muskoka

Tell us about the United Way’s involvement with the new Clearview Youth Centre: The current wellbeing and future success of Southern Georgian Bay children and youth are a priority for all of us at United Way Simcoe Muskoka. In Clearview Township, many young people are struggling, which is why we partnered with the municipality to help fund the Clearview Youth Centre.

What other initiatives is United Way involved with in Southern Georgian Bay? We direct funds where they are needed most in our communities. We also support the In-School Mentoring program delivered by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Georgian Triangle, the Mental Health Response Unit and other local programs that promote poverty reduction, accessibility and inclusivity. We’re proud to contribute to these vital initiatives.

What winter activities do you enjoy? Michael: I love being part of my young son’s first winter. Noah: Just staying at home and snuggling up with a hot chocolate and a warm blanket. At the centre, we both like to challenge visitors to Xbox games, billiards, foosball and riddles. **OH**

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