

Spring INTO ACTION

Experienced locals share their to-do lists for spring.

PHOTOGRAPHY **BONNIE FOX**

CAROL BASKERVILLE *Interior Moves*

What are some spring projects for our readers to tackle? Pull out that old piece of furniture that you love but don't know what to do with. Have it up-cycled by us in a colour and finish that will give it and you a fresh start. I think another wonderful and easy fix is adding toss cushions with uplifting spring fabrics, adding vibrancy throughout your home.

What is on your spring to-do list? To tear out our ugly master bathroom and install a claw-foot tub complete with wine and book holders! Then it will be on to adding some much needed curb appeal to the outside of our home with new paint, shutters and a pergola. And if there is time left, I would like to repaint the chicken coop for my girls.

What do you love most about spring? I just love seeing the spring flowers everywhere and the garden centres coming to life. Also, going to garage sales and flea markets and finding treasures that I can transform for my store.

SUSAN MEINGAST *Meingast Studio*

What are some spring projects for our readers to tackle? The snowdrops and crocuses are making their appearance, the trees are heavy with white and pink blossoms. With this renewal, what is more perfect than a spring room refresh project like changing your artwork? Maybe rehanging paintings in a new layout or treating yourself to a new masterpiece, that added to your walls, will refresh what is hanging there.

What is on your spring to-do list? So much, but one is to take my small sketches of abstract landscapes and florals that I have been working on over the winter and committing them to large canvases. Come and have a peek!

What is your favourite flower? It is a tie between ranunculus with their exquisite, rose-like blooms and the lush, full-rounded blooms of peonies. Both are gorgeous!

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**RHONDA KIRK
& ALYSSA KIRK**
Home Décor and More

What are some spring projects for our readers to tackle? Pack up winter! Go through your house and pack up everything seasonal, donate or recycle items that you have decided you can let go of. It is great to get this done right at the beginning of spring while your motivation is high. Summer feels like it is over in the blink of an eye, so tackling this type of chore will give you lots of time to fully embrace all the warm weather and longer days have to offer.

What is on your spring to-do list? Rhonda: I see so many beautiful light fixtures come through the store, so I would like to update many of my fixtures

in my home. It's time for me to stop visualizing and start installing! My office is also on the list. It is so great that every week there are new pieces of furniture coming in, so I know it won't take long for the right items to arrive to complete that space.

What do you love most about spring? Rhonda: I love that the windows are open in my house and that I can drive with the windows down in the car. Also, it is great to barbecue without 10 layers of clothes on. Putting out my patio furniture and sitting outside at the end of the day and watching the amazing sunsets is another warm weather treat.

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GILLIAN CRONE
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What are some spring projects for our readers to tackle? Update your flowers. Tulips are my go-to for spring. They have a bright disposition, a lovely scent and are relatively inexpensive. Next, clear out any ski features like the faux fur throws, cable knit pillows and transition to your spring accessories, such as cotton throws and linen pillows. They will lighten up the textures of your space.

What is on your spring to-do list? Painting the exterior of my home is top of the list. I think crisp fresh paint looks amazing and helps in

exterior maintenance. I am leaning towards Chantilly Lace by Benjamin Moore. It is a chalky white that will look amazing next to North Sea on my front door, also by Benjamin Moore.

How do you spend your time outside? My girls and I love being outside and everything that Blue Mountain has to offer. We enjoy hiking up the mountain with our dog and playing mini golf in the village. With the longer days we will take every opportunity to enjoy as much time outside, including riding Rueben my horse.

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ANDREA RAMACIERI

Designs by Andrea

What are some spring projects for our readers to tackle? Spring is a time of rebirth, so why not reflect that in your home. Select a new wall colour, lighten up with seasonal accessories like toss cushions, throws, candles and vases to hold spring blooms. Scheduling an interior design consult is a great way to get started on your new look. An hour consult will put you on the right page and help save you money, by prioritizing your project.

What is on your spring to-do list? Redoing the bunkie at the cottage. I have plans to paint

and decorate it with new linens and accessories. If time permits, I would like to paint the existing headboard or maybe even make one out of reclaimed wood. It will be fun to create an oasis for my guests to enjoy all summer long.

What is the best thing about spring? Longer days and more sunshine. Being outside and seeing the growth on the trees as the leaves unfurl. Watching plants come to life always amazes me. I have to admit that I have more energy in the spring and it's nice to live without muddy paws!

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**LORI MCRAE,
JENN LOVEDAY
& SALLY WRIGHT**
SALES ASSOCIATES
The Rusty Star

What are some spring projects for our readers to tackle? Have a good look at your back garden and figure out ways to make yard work and storage easier for this year. We have a large selection of sheds that can fulfil many duties – from a new pool house, storage shed or maybe a she-cave. Also have a look at your Adirondack chairs, if any need replacing, head out to the store,


we have lots available in all sorts of colours, in cedar and recycled plastic.

What is on your spring to-do list? Helping our customers. We like finding the perfect items to make their backyards and homes a treat to sit and relax in.


Are you looking forward to cutting the grass?
An enthusiastic YES from everyone!

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What are some projects for our readers to tackle? After all the wear and tear that our furniture goes through during the winter, have a good look at your favourite sitting pieces and see if maybe it is time to replace them. This time of year might also inspire a change of colour, maybe something bright and playful, which many of our Canadian furniture manufacturers are now including in their lines.

What is on your spring to-do list? We are undergoing some renovations at the store that

will improve the shopping experience for our customers. Better lighting and fresh paint are just some of the improvements. We are also increasing our giftware department and will be busy unpacking all the great new items that will be coming in for spring.

What is the best part of winter being over? We have two active children and not having to put on all that cold-weather clothing before heading outside is incredible. We will be out in t-shirts enjoying biking, hiking and basketball.

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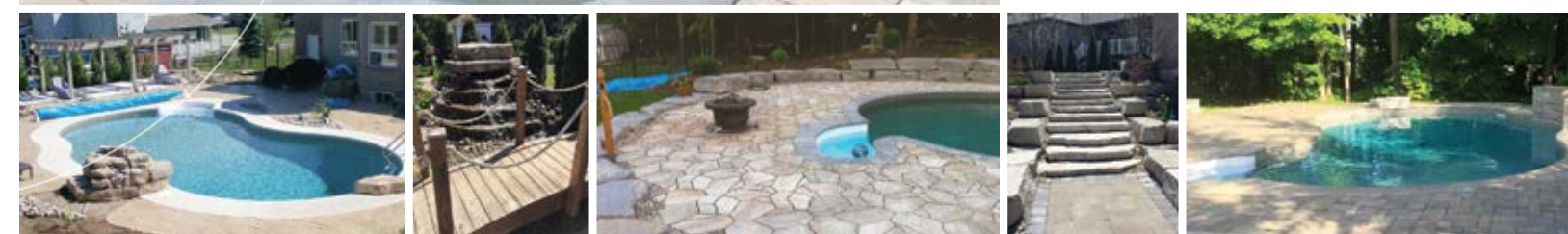
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ANDREW KRZYWICKI
The Blind Spot

What are some spring projects for our readers to tackle? With summer right around the corner, a simple update to your window coverings will not only freshen up your home and let the sunshine in, but will provide the look and feel of a newly renovated home at a fraction of the cost. I offer free in-home estimates and design consultations that will help you see which style works for you and your home.

What is on your spring to-do list? My children and I actually look forward to storing away the winter gear, refreshing the garden and spending time at the local farmer's market, picking out the tastiest treats to take home and barbecue.

What is your favourite spring activity? There is nothing better than a bike ride on the Georgian Trail or a vigorous hike up the mountain on a warm sunny day. **OH**

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