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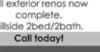
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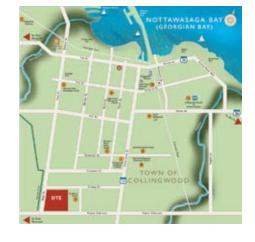




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PRETTY RIVER ESTATES Customized, open concept 4 bdrm., 3 1/2 bath home with cathedral ceilings in living room & a floor to ceiling stone fireplace with 8 ft. high French doors on eith side. Fully finished, walkout lower level that has a large Bonus room, 2 bdrms., 3 pc bath. Large 17 ft. x 18 ft. deck. Premium location backing on to a green belt & walking trails. \$549,500. MLS@#20130088



OODLANDS 5 bdrms., 3 1/2 bath French country home is located on 3 private acres. Spacious open concept floor plan is fabulours for entertaining. Great Rm. has soaring cathedral ceilings with exposed wood beams along with a limestone faced wood burning fireplace. Main



SIERRA WOODLANDS. Fabulous end unit. 3 bedroom, 3 bath town home back onto a protected green space, very private. Vaulted ceilings and a stone faced gas fireplace. Hardwood floors, granite counters & a custom kitchen. Huge deck off the living room. Oversized double car garage with an inside entry below. Just minutes to the Alpine Ski Club & a short walk to the Craigleith Ski Club. \$495,000. MLS@#20130899



GEORGIAN BAY CLUB Custom build 6 bdrm., 3 1/2 bath chalet by Patrick Coulter & Associates. 4000 sq. ft. of living space, soaring vaulted ceilings in the Great Room w/stone faced wood burning for sales / service, restaurant or retail. Busy location with lots fireplace & 3/4" Hickory wood floors. Main floor master suite w/ gas fireplace. Stunning kitchen with quartz counters. Finished lower level \$17/ SQ. FT. MLS@#20125282 fireplace. Stunning kitchen with quartz counters. Finished lower level w / large family room. \$1,495,000. MLS@#20126066



BASE OF BLUE MOUNTAIN This chalet is a short walk to the Inn & the Village @ Intrawest where you will find some of the areas best dining, shopping, skiing & golfing. Once inside this spacious bungalow with a gorgeous stone exterior you will find 4 bdrms. 2 baths, separate family room, cathedral ceilings, gas fireplace in the living room. Large updated kitchen. \$495,000. MLS@#20126546



steel appliances & a breakfast nook. Open concept dining / living area, hardwood floors & a gas fireplace. Bright fully finished basement with a 3 pc bath. Attached single car garage with inside entry



a quiet street in Clarksburg. Back deck overlooks a small pond with lovely landscaping & gorgeous perennials. This 3 bedroom home has an open concept living, dining, kitchen with a separate family room for entertaining. Detached 2 car garage / shop. Close to all the ame-



the base of Blue. Redwood cedar exterior. 4 bdrms., 2 full baths, open concept living & dining area with pine floors & floor to ceiling brick fireplace. Bright & spacious family room has cathedral ceilings. Ski room & an oversized mud room. Short walk to the Village & ski lifts.



ALPINE HILLS Luxurious mountain chalet. 3850 sq. ft. Architecturally designed. Loaded with character. 4 bedroom, 3½ baths, wood burning fire-place, upgraded fixtures, reclaimed wood floors. Double garage with inside entry on treed lot with extensive landscaping. Winter view of Georgian Bay & ski hills. Close to Craigleith & Alpine ski clubs & Intrawest village. Walk to Northwinds Beach. \$1,550,000.



located on 2 acres. 4 bdrms., 2 1/2 baths, 2900 sq. ft. of finished space. In-law suite, propane gas fireplace, cork floors in kitchen. Outdoor gazebo





distance to all of the many shops & fine dining in downtown Thornbury or the harbour in Georgian Bay. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, renovated home has hardwood floors on the main level, new broadloom on the second floor, new furnace. Small barn / garage at the rear that would make an excellent workshop. \$319,000. MLS@#20130825



Bright 1 & 2 bedroom suites with 5 appliances, 9' ceilings, patios, indoor parking with storage, ICF (Insulated Concrete Forms) construction. Swimming Pool, Tennis Court and Club House. All within walking distance to downtown Thornbury and a 15 minute drive to Blue Mountain!

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101	1,406	\$220,615
SOLD 102	981	\$153,900
<b>SOLD 103</b>	981	\$153,900
104	1,406	\$220,615
105	1,268	\$198,962
106	1,275	\$200,060
107	1,319	\$206,964
108	1,406	\$220,615
201	1,437	\$225,480
202	1,411	\$221,400
203	1,411	\$221,400
204	1,437	\$225,480
205	1,437	\$225,480
206	1,267	\$198,805
207	1,383	\$217,007
208	1,437	\$225,480
301	1,436	\$225,322
302	1,411	\$221,400
303	1,411	\$221,400
304	1,436	\$225,322
<b>SOLD 305</b>	1,548	\$242,897
306	1,268	\$198,962
<b>SOLD 307</b>		\$213,084
<b>SOLD 308</b>	1,550	\$243,900

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**Mulmur Privacy** Exquisite timberframe, set well off road, 64 acres, 4 bdrm, wine

\$1,495,000 Simply Exquisite \$1,495,000 The Perch 3100 sq.ft, panoramic view of Bay, designer touches, 8 acres,

\$1,350,000 Timber Frame One of the most colossal views of Massive beams, wall of glass, the Bay, 31.4 acres, quaint french quite road, pastoral views, open pond, neighbouring miles of trails, cottage, pond, extremely private, plan, walk out, hot tub, double tennis court, 70 min. to Toronto. minutes to Osler & Collingwood. minutes to Osler & Collingwood. garage, set on almost 4 acres.



Almost \$60,000 in annual income, Set on 10 acres, 3 bedroom, den, 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 acres, hardfully tenanted with 3 retail spaces 3 1/2 bath, fireplace, cathedral and 1 residential suite. High traffic area, excellent location!

Pine Street Landmark \$949,000 Markdale Bungalow \$379,000 Christie Beach ceilings, 2 family rooms, each bedroom has it's own ensuite.

wood floors, new deck, desirable location – steps to Georgian Trail and Christie Beach!

Views of Georgian Bay \$490,000 4 Bedroom, 2966 sq.ft, walk out, triple garage. Cathedral ceilings, spacious rooms, built in cabinetry, mudroom, pool & set on 15 acres.



FarHills #31 3 Bdrm, 2½ bath, den, 2400 sq.ft, 1268 sq.ft, ICF construction, 9' hardwood, granite, glass backsplash, 5 appliances, mudroom, ss appliances, double car garage. pool, tennis, south facing.

\$414,900 FarHills NEW 2 Bedroom \$198,962 Far Hills NEW 2 Bedroom & Den ceilings, spacious patio & storage. underground parking, storage,

\$242,897 - 1548 sq.ft, 9' ceilings, open concept, spacious patio, indoor parking, storage, bright end unit, pool & tennis.

1860 Farmhouse

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#### LORA BAY

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MLS® #20130441 \$999,000



#### WALK TO THE HILLS

Beautifully appointed 5 bedroom, 3 bath chalet within walking distance to Blue Mountain. Floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace. Dramatic view of ski hills.

MLS® #20130418 \$749,000



#### BASE OF BLUE

Custom built 4,000 sq ft 4 bed chalet. Incredible views from all rooms. Open concept living/dining/kitchen. Extra large garage leads to spacious mud rm.

MLS® #20130937 \$899,000



## NEWLY BUILT CHALET

View of Blue Mnt. 3860 ft. of finished living space with 6 bed & 3 1/2 baths. Custom cabinetry, 2 gas fireplaces, 18.8 x 22 ft great room & 31 x 22 ft rec room.

MLS® #20131763 \$869,000



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Unique stone villa. Charming & warm 6,400+ sq ft home/chalet with 4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Double car garage, detached barn & workshop.

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#### **EXQUISITE LOG CHALET**

Stunning 5300+ sq ft 6 bed 4 bath chalet just steps from Craigleith Ski Club. Gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry, oversized fireplace, pool/games room

MLS® #20126208 \$1,649,000



#### BASE OF BLUE

Custom built 6 bedroom chalet at the foot of O-Hill (South end of Blue Mountain). Open concept main level with soaring great room.

ML5® 20123637 \$1,199,000



#### SUMMIT VIEW ESTATES

5 bedroom 3 1/2 bath chalet located on a very large lot. Fieldstone wood burning fireplace in living room, timber frame wood beams and hardwood floors.

MLS® #20125333 \$699,000



#### NIPISSING RIDGE

Warm & welcoming 4 bedroom, 4 bath chalet in area of fine homes. Large open concept living area. Master suite with fireplace, sitting area & balcony.

MLS® #20125704 \$879,000



#### SNOWBRIDGE

Beautifully designed custom built chalet. 3,700 sq ft 5 bed, 3 1/2 baths and fully finished lower level. Open concept main level w/ stone f/p and cathedral ceiling.

MLS® #20126059 \$779,000



#### BROOKER BLVD.

Attractive chalet walking distance to Village at Blue. 3 bed 2 baths. Upgraded kitchen & fully finished lower level. Attached double garage, outdoor hot tub.

MLS® #20131687 \$519,000



#### TANGLEWOOD

Crenshaw model. 1154 sq ft 2 bed, 21/2 bath townhome in Tanglewood golf community. Gas fireplace, large master, 4 person sauna, attached garage.

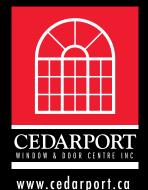
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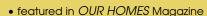
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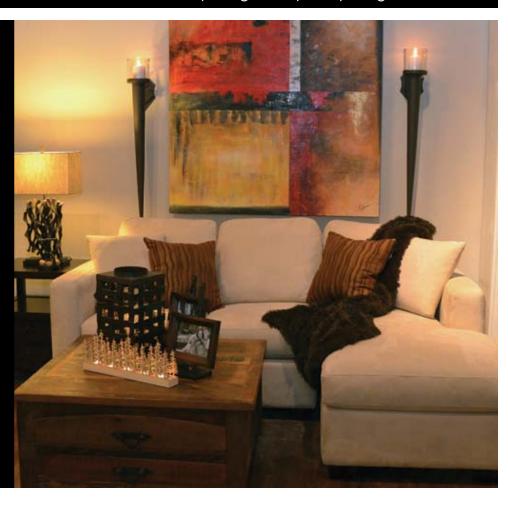
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## re-de-fine (transitive verb) 1: to change the nature or limits of something: to make people consider something in a new way.









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## editor's note





"A true home is one of the most sacred of places. It is a sanctuary into which men flee from the world's perils and alarms. It is a resting-place to which at close of day the weary retire to gather new strength for the battle and toils of tomorrow. It is the place where love learns its lessons, where life is schooled into discipline and strength, where character is molded. Few things we can do in this world are so well worth doing as the making of a beautiful and happy home."

– J.R. Miller, Home-Making

## HOME. IT'S SUCH A SIMPLE, FOUR-LETTER WORD.

Yet it's jam-packed with meaning. It's what some of us spend our entire lives searching for... and where most of us find ourselves at the end of the day.

Home can evoke the most vivid of memories. It can transport us to a different place and time. And it can be a sensual reminder of how ephemeral life really is.

For me, home was once my parent's house, my cabin on the lake, my high-rise castle in the city, my mountain abode. Today, my small-town Victorian home is where I find balance and inspiration, where I relax in comfort, putter in my garden, entertain dear friends and spend time with those I love.

And that includes my precious and faithful companion of 11 years, my chocolate lab, Mickey. Last spring, Momma bird nested her babies in a tree in my backyard. Fascinated with her comings and goings, Mickey listened inquisitively to the chorus of chirping babies, wondering what the heck was going on in that hole. We built Momma a stoop to feed her nestlings, but Mickey just couldn't resist getting a closer look inside their home.

I've been writing feature articles for OUR HOMES magazines for several years. With this spring issue, I'm assuming the position of Managing Editor for Southern Georgian Bay. I look forward to working with such a talented and creative team... and to featuring your special nests in our upcoming issues.

Cheers!

Jake Wayland

Jude Wayland, Managing Editor jude@ourhomesmagazine.com

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#### REGIONAL PUBLISHER/FRANCHISE OWNER Our Homes SGB Inc

David Loopstra

REGIONAL ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Simone Sterio-Risk

REGIONAL MANAGING EDITOR Jude Wayland

iude@ourhomesmagazine.com

REGIONAL PRODUCTION MANAGER Kelly Donaldson

MARKETING & ADVERTISING Simone Sterio-Risk, 705.888.1959 simone@ourhomesmagazine.com

Suzanne Strong, 519.538.4528

MARKETING & ADVERTISING GREY/BRUCE COUNTIES Betty Ann Fawcett, 519.986.2599

bettyann@ourhomesmagazine.com

**DISTRIBUTION** Don Ormsby, 705.444.0045 distribution@ourhomesmagazine.com

Sheila Britton, Adrienne Brown, Maria DaSilva, Laurel Fortin, Bonnie Fox, Jason Hartog, Mary Hatt, Shelby Hilson, Scott Hunter, Sandy MacKay, Stephanie Redmond, Melanie Rekola, William Shelley, Yanic Simard, Julie Simmonds, Jude Wayland, Ted Yarwood

#### **OUR HOMES MEDIA GROUP INC:**

#### EDITORIAL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Georgette McCulloch

editor@ourhomesmagazine.com

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** Julie Simmonds

MANAGING EDITORS Nancy Belgue. Anna Lee Boschetto, Adrienne Brown, Melissa Campeau, Pauline Clark, Andrea Cox, Walter Franczyk, Mary Hatt, Sarah Hoy, Gina Makkar, Sarah McGoldrick, Christina Millington, Denise O'Connell, Jennifer Schleich

ART DIRECTOR Tara Chattell tara@ourhomesmagazine.com

## ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTORS

Sheila Britton, Georgie Donais

#### **PRODUCTION**

**PRODUCTION DIRECTOR** Lynn Derrick lynn@ourhomesmagazine.com

#### PRODUCTION MANAGERS

Laura Crossett, Julia Dempsey Loo McNulty, Abby Reynolds, Tracy Shuttleworth, Andrea Wray

#### **OPERATIONS**

PRESIDENT & CEO David Loopstra david@ourhomesmagazine.com

#### VP OF FRANCHISING & FRANCHISE OPERATIONS

Suzanne Strong suzanne@ourhomesmagazine.com

ACCOUNTING Donna Duggan donna@ourhomesmagazine.com

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OUR HOMES™ is published four times a year (January, April, July and October) by OUR HOMES SGB INC. For subscription inquiries please call 705.445.5065, OUR HOMES is distributed via Canada Post to the majority of homes in southern Georgian Bay and via addressed mail to the GTA addresses of everyone who owns recreational property in southern Georgian Bay, yet lives primarily in the GTA, OUR HOMES is also available for free pickup throughout Collingwood. Blue Mountain Nasaga Beach, Clearview Township, Thornbury and Meaford, OUR HOMES is also distributed at Sobey's, throughout Intrawest Village at Blue Mountain and at the area's private ski & golf clubs. Canada Post agreement number: 41692020

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The Epitome of Casual Comfort Story, page 78. Photography by Sandy MacKay.





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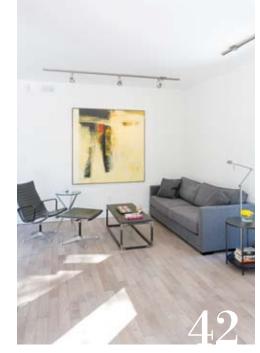
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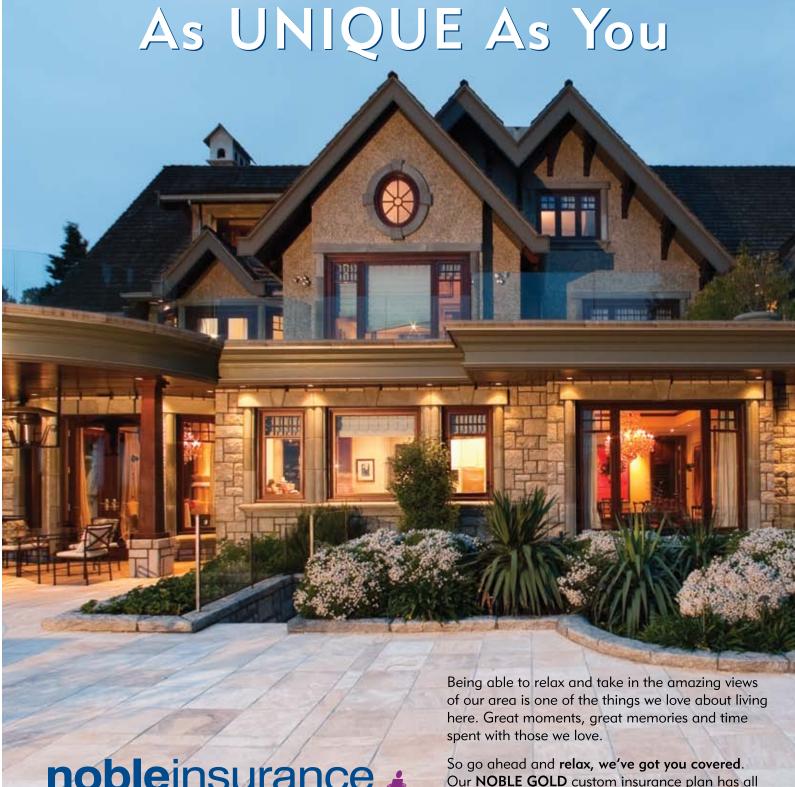
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## publisher's note



## HOPEFULLY IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

I've hung up my skiis and snowshoes and hauled out my paddleboard and collection of bicycles. I love my bikes and pedalling all over Thornbury.

Part of my newly expanded role here at OUR HOMES Southern Georgian Bay includes finding out what our readers love about our magazine. Last issue, I asked readers to let me know which cover they preferred. If you recall, the choices came from two completely different styles of homes.

I received all kinds of responses. Some readers loved the kitchen and dining area from the spectacular mountain home while others preferred the contemporary look of the cover we ultimately selected.

I put all the responses into a hat and pulled out Vanessa Burgess-Mason's name. Vanessa liked the dining room of the mountain home.

Vanessa wins an outdoor table-top fireburner from At Home Interiors (watch for their new downtown Collingwood location soon).

At OUR HOMES, we're a busy, passionate group and your feedback makes producing this all-about homes magazine even more gratifying.

See you soon in our great outdoors!



Simone Sterio-Risk, Associate Publisher simone@ourhomesmagazine.com

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advice

## MODERN kitchens

I'm building a new home and giving a lot of thought to my kitchen. Can you help me with some current ideas for new appliances and generally modernizing my space? – Donna



#### THE MODERN KITCHEN

A kitchen has a lot of moving parts and when discussing technology we tend to focus on appliances. However, there are a few other ways to make your kitchen look modern and benefit from progress or changes in design.

Here is my Top 10 List of Kitchen Advances (including appliances) that will help you cook and entertain with ease:

- 1. Refrigeration. One new development is to make our fridges "smart" so to speak. LCD screens on the outside are compatible with apps for note taking, scheduling and viewing recipes. Say goodbye to sticky notes and magnets, and hello to a built-in information station. Some of the more mainstream brands are also including higher end options like LED lights, which really jazz up the interior.
- 2. In oven technology, one of the biggest changes is the rise in popularity of steam ovens. Injecting moisture into cooking will certainly keep meats moist, but these ovens also claim to reduce cooking time significantly. One drawback is the lack of browning you get with a traditional oven. However with that added time you can pop your chicken into your traditional oven for a quick broil.
- 3. With virtually no waiting time and absolute control, induction technology has changed the world of electric cooktops. The energy savings alone make up for the minor inconvenience of a glass surface (which is not resistant to scratching) and the need for magnetic pots.



Designer Stephanie Redmond answers your questions.

This is a small price to pay. Imagine, when your pasta starts to boil over you don't have to pick up that heavy pot to avoid a nasty mess, you simply turn the heat down and it instantly reacts.

- 4. A popular item that has become more affordable is the microwave drawer. With an open kitchen design, you tend to sacrifice upper cabinets. Instead, items are placed lower down, like in an island. With a microwave, this always posed a challenge. Using a drawer makes it easier as you access your food from above. This idea is brilliant.
- 5. Using a sensor (like in a public washroom), a touchless faucet is just that you don't have to touch it. They are sanitary and convenient for little ones. This is ideal for hand washing (because they mix hot and cold water) but as your main kitchen faucet, you still have to adjust the temperature the old fashioned way.
- 6. A really luxe cabinetry option is the electronic drawer slide. You lightly touch the face of your drawer and it will electronically push itself out. To close, simply touch the face again and in it will go. No more slamming and no more half closed drawers, but beware of the cost!
- 7. LED lighting technology has developed in leaps and bounds. If you were hesitant due to the inability to dim your lights and the cold stark tone, those problems have been solved. Warm light and dimmable bulbs make LED lighting the next generation in all things lit. The bulbs are pricey, but you will save big in the long run they last for years and are energy efficient... and fully recyclable too!
- 8. Stainless steel and glass are not exactly new to the world, but their use in a modern setting can be remarkable. A glass or stainless backsplash is sleek and seamless (depending on size) making it a clean option compared to porous grout lines. Stainless toe kicks (the base of the cabinet) create a nice modern detail and glass walls make an otherwise dull space reflective and bright.
- 9. One of my favourite uses for an iPad is as a never-ending recipe book, however to use it properly you need a great stand. Try the P2 by Elago for a simple and affordable solution. Next time you have a question about cooking a roast, the answer will be right in front of you.
- 10. Whether cooking for yourself or a group, music is definitely important. So for the kitchen, try the Sonos wireless music system. This can be loaded onto your tablet (or maybe your fridge!) and connect you with any music, radio show or station you can access online. Limitless listening. I consider this a must-have (it's easy to use too).

The key to modernizing your space is to make it work for you. Think about how you live in your kitchen and what tools are important to you. For myself, it had to be sparse, clean, quick and easy. Translation: My appliances have glass fronts for easy cleaning; I installed big, long stainless pulls on my drawers for easy access; and my tablet became a permanent kitchen fixture. The only trouble is keeping it on the counter, and not in the hands of the kids! OH

Thanks to Tom Macdonald of BrandSource Canada for his help in writing this column.



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## style picks

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

# BLUES & GREENS

Spring is all about blue skies and green grass. Add a pop of green and blue to refresh any room in your home.







Vintage Rattan Sofa
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added new, custom cushions to add
a fresh, new look to an old favourite.

796466 Blue Mountain Rd., Craigleith 705.444.0838 | www.jonnas.com

## 2 NIFTY'S GROOVY GOODNESS

#### Wall Clock

An Ergo Quartz fine timepiece for your wall keeps you on time and in fashion. This clock goes by the name of Betty. It has a silent, sweep movement and a retro, modern look.

263 Main St., Stayner 705.428.2790 | www.niftys.ca

## **3** KAON FURNITURE

## Lingerie Chest

This six-drawer chest is handcrafted in Stayner from solid pine. We love white, but it comes in a range of custom finishes. Kaon also makes incredible bunk beds and other well-priced furniture.

7446 County Rd. 91, Stayner 705.428.0866 | www.kaonfurniture.ca



## 4 GEORGIAN CUSTOM DÉCOR

## Fabric

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194418 Grey Rd. 13, Eugenia 519.924.1907 | www.georgiancustomdecor.com

## 5 DRAGONFLY DÉCOR

#### Cushions

Add some pizzazz to your sofa or chairs with these lively toss cushions. Mr. Owl looks smart alongside chevrons in bright hues. Dragonfly has lots more to choose from too.

137 Hurontario St., Collingwood 705.444.1712 | www.dragonflydecor.ca

## 6 KNIGHTS' HOME BUILDING CENTRE

## Bath Rugs

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206532 Hwy. 26, East of Meaford 519.538.2000 | www.homehardware.ca

Continued on page 30

 $oldsymbol{28}$  ourhomes spring 2013  $oldsymbol{29}$ 

## style picks





## 7 ROBINSON'S PAINT AND WALLPAPER

## Wall Paper And Paint

Everyone has a room in need of a new look. Peacock Blue and Jalapeno Pepper by Benjamin Moore look marvelous with Field Poppies – Amy Butler's colourful wallpaper. Your decorating experts are waiting to help at Robinson's.

129 Hurontario St., Collingwood 705.445.0601 | www.robinsonspaint.ca

## **8** RED CANOE GALLERY

#### Folk Carving

This little guy is a perfect off-season conversation piece for any Toronto Maple Leafs fan. It's the work of David Trant, a painter/carver whose work is often described as East Coast Folk Art meets Bugs Bunny.

183 Marsh St., Clarksburg 519.599.3575 | www.redcanoegallery.com

## 9 HOME FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

#### **Accent Chair**

There's room for two in this inviting chair-and-a-half. The blue-grey custom fabric is super-hard wearing and covers a Canadian-made hardwood frame. The matching sofa fits the rest of the family.

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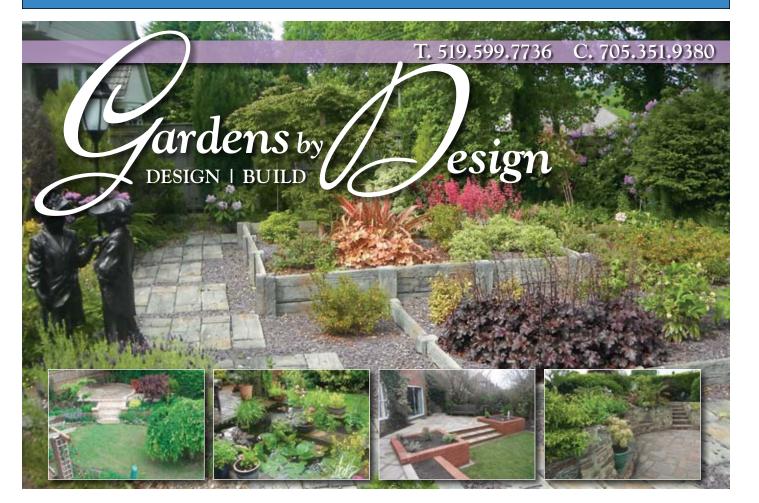
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# GREAT Sarden design FOR SMALL SPACES

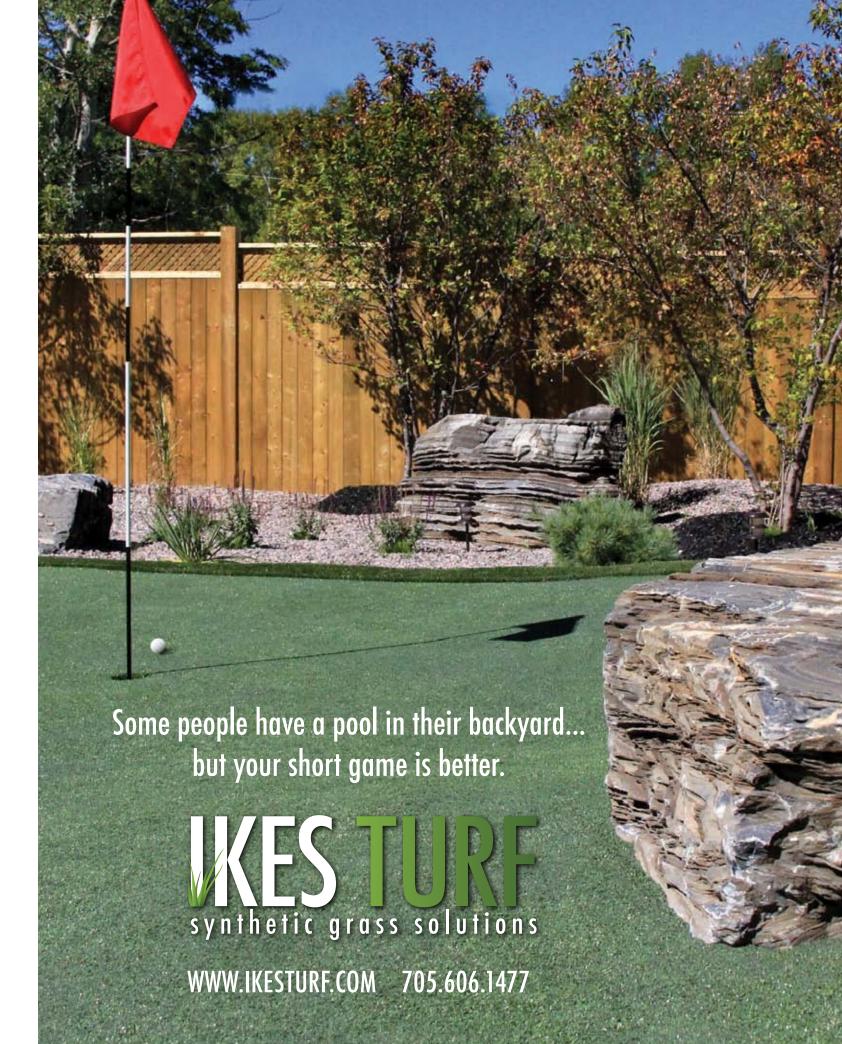
PHOTOS AND STORY BY MELANIE REKOLA

In this day and age where countless people live in cramped residential subdivisions, many underestimate their potential for a beautiful backyard. Most would look at these postage-stamp yards as a downfall, but on the contrary, there are some wonderful advantages to having a small outdoor space. The first being that your results will be almost instantaneous! Plus, your maintenance will be undemanding, and the cost less significant. Read on to ensure maximum use and impact from your small garden space.

#### THE DESIGN:

**The Patio:** Straight lines make the best use of patio space, plus feel clean and modern. Hard, straight lines are easily softened by plant materials. However, if curvature is a must, choosing gentle arching lines will maximize your usable space. While it seems contrary, large pavers can make a patio feel more spacious, especially in tight areas. To further this illusion, place pavers on the diagonal. All stone fades over time so the colour that matches today may not in years to come. Neutrals are always the best colour option as they won't overwhelm a small patio area.

Continued on page 36





Narrow-growth trees such as Emerald Cedar can fit in a tight space, soften your hard-scape and add winter interest.

Trees, Trees: All good year-round garden planning begins with evergreens and deciduous trees as it is these elements that will carry your garden through those desolate winter months. Think slender evergreen trees such as Emerald Cedar. Cedar has the wonderful benefit of being extremely malleable in pruning so it easily fits in tight spaces where privacy or a vertical element is needed. Single trunk, open habit, or small statured deciduous trees are the best choice in tight spaces. They can be easily pruned beneath to create living space and also generate a lovely ceiling effect. I adore Eastern Redbud, Pin Oak, and Sunburst Honey Locust.

High Impact Shrubs and Perennials: The grouping of shrubs and perennials is always a good approach as it gives the eye a rest before moving on to the next texture or colour. Long blooming Little Lamb hydrangea and repeat blooming Bloomerang dwarf lilac are good shrub options. For perennials, repeat blooming daylilies and the incredible long/ repeat blooming Orion Cranesbill are fine selections. Consider choosing a strategically placed larger specimen shrub/small tree such as Betty Magnolia or Summer Gold Corna Kousa Dogwood in a part of the garden that can be hidden. Gardens are meant to be explored, therefore a bit of mystery lends to a space feeling larger.

**Don't Forget The Vines:** Another way to maximize vertical elements without sacrificing precious living space is by planting vines. Consider the large-leafed Dutchman's Pipe to mask an unsightly wall or fine textured Trumpet Vine to train up your latticework. I always say, "when you need a quick fix, plant a vine." Sadly, they are much underused and are often forgotten in a garden altogether.

**Focal Point:** A focal point such as a garden sculpture or water feature can be just the thing to punch up the wow factor and make a little yard seem more spacious. Perhaps some ornamental boulders placed randomly throughout the garden would be appropriate, which can double as a casual seating spot or make-shift table.

## TIPS AND BEYOND

Play With Perspectives: Perspectives can do much to make a petite space feel bigger. Give the illusion of depth by placing large-leafed/brightly coloured plants towards the entry and cool tones/fine textures towards



the back. Try a specimen or grouping of the trendy and mysterious black plants in a far corner, such as Black Lace Elder or Purple Emperor Sedum.

Use All Land: Consider making use of your front or side yard. Installing a seating area/garden in these places is an efficient utilization of space. The trick to making these open areas feel comfortable is to provide the proper privacy needed. Plant materials, a screen or a combination of both are the tools needed to achieve this. Maximize useable space and forgo lawn altogether, if possible. Lawn only looks good "en masse" plus it's useless and high maintenance to have chopped up bits of lawn scattered here and there.

**Keep It Simple, Stupid:** Continuity will be achieved by composing a small plant list and using repetition. Be stringent with plant choices and sow only what has at least two of these attributes listed: interesting bark, attractive leaves, berries, flowers, seed pods, fall colour, appealing texture and form. A common mistake many make is to choose upon flower alone. Choosing the multiple attributes listed will ensure your garden's beauty throughout the seasons.

On a less serious note, spring is here! In Canada, our season is short and time precious. Do your due diligence and plan now. You can get to the fun parts faster. Then off to the nursery with you! **oH** 







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## vacation HOUSE SVVAPS

BY MARY HATT // ILLUSTRATION BY SHEILA BRITTON

The biggest investment you will ever make is your home, and if you like to travel you can use your property as a kind of vacation currency. In fact, you can eliminate a chunk of your travel costs simply by exchanging your home with someone who can offer theirs to you for the same period of time in a place you want to go, say, France, Australia or San Francisco. In short, you're house swapping. It's not really a new idea, given one of the oldest vacation home exchange organizations, Home Link International, has been around since 1953. But when the Internet transformed our lives not so long ago, and the economy tightened up, home exchange programs blossomed. Now, potential exchangers can communicate directly with each other in seconds, posting and previewing thousands of alluring vacation property pictures with a simple click. In fact, Google Maps will take you right to the front door of pretty much any property you want to check out.

If the house swap idea appeals to you, first ask yourself: Am I a trusting and trustworthy individual who is relaxed and easy-going? We all know from experience that beautiful pictures don't necessarily tell the whole story. John Mesinger, of the website **www.homeexchangeguru.com**, says, "There will be problems and glitches, and you must accept these gracefully." Although he and his family are veterans, having participated in 12 vacation exchanges worldwide, he adds, "When you arrive in a strange home in a strange place, it takes you a while to get used to the home, its quirks, and the region."

Still thinking of those dollars you'll save? The chance to live like a local in another culture? Spacious quarters, rather than cramped hotel rooms? If the answer is yes, follow these steps... and start packing!

## ARRANGE THE EXCHANGE

- JOIN A REPUTABLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. You
  will likely have to pay a fee to list your home. For
  example, www.homelink.org/canada charges \$150
  for a basic one-year membership.
- PUT TIME ON YOUR SIDE. You're not just booking a hotel, so start planning well ahead of when you actually want to travel.
- BE FLEXIBLE. The more date ranges you put out there for example two or three weeks between July 1 and August 31 and two weeks between February 15 and March 31 the more likely you'll find an appealing exchange. Don't limit your destinations. Even though you've always wanted to see Tuscany, that dreamy California cottage might be available exactly when you are able to travel. Consider traveling to spots where house exchanges are popular, such as Australia, New Zealand, Western Europe, New York, and North America's West Coast.
- SING YOUR OWN PRAISES, especially if you do not live in a popular tourist destination. Maybe you're not in downtown Toronto, but you are offering a spacious property with a backyard pool. Stress the big city is within easy driving distance of your place and describe the many other fun day trips nearby.
- EMAIL POTENTIAL EXCHANGE PARTNERS. Get to know individuals, as well as you can online, to

see if you click. Some sites provide client reviews of exchange homes and families.

 GET IT IN WRITING. Most programs provide an exchange agreement signed by both parties covering issues such as utility expenses and any domestic responsibilities such as pet care and grass cutting.

## PREPARE YOUR HOME

- CLEAN UP. Make sure your place is spic and span, and the beds are made with freshly laundered linens. Leave a change of sheets. Provide two sets of towels per person.
- REMOVE CLUTTER. Pack away precious belongings and free up some dresser drawers and closet space.
- PROVIDE A MANUAL of how things work in your home. Leave the name of a neighbour or handyman who can be called in an emergency.
- MAKE SURE YOUR INSURANCE IS UP TO DATE
   and that your policy covers any damage done in your
   absence. This is especially important if your exchange
   partner will be driving your vehicle. Insurers will like
   the fact that your home is occupied in your absence.
- PROVIDE A TOURIST INFORMATION FILE and maps for your guests.
- LEAVE A SMALL WELCOME GIFT such as a nice bottle of wine or a few gourmet treats.

Your chances of arranging a great exchange are better if you own a vacation property, especially one in a popular tourist destination. And because it's not your primary residence, you won't have to worry as much about finding exact dates that work for both partners in the exchange.

If your best surprise is no surprise, house swapping may not be your ticket. If, however, you're the type who prefers new experiences to predictable ones, you'll likely find the exchange exciting and a great way to enjoy the comforts of another home... almost as much as your own. oh



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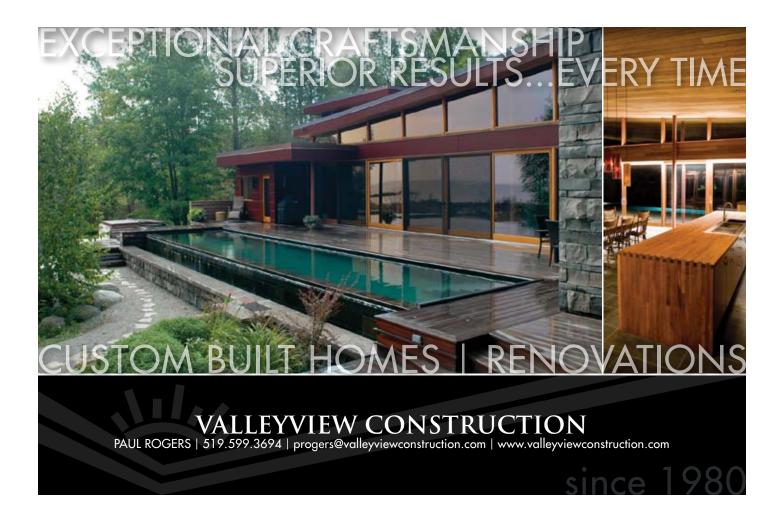




















"We always knew exactly what we wanted to do with this place," says Gabrielle. "It was a really, really positive space. It was basic, with a modern vibe and beautiful views to the forest."

Ten years later, the transformation began. The Bushes worked closely with local builder, **Mark Brown** of **A.M Contracting**, who previously renovated the home. Singhampton design consultant **Jo Redman** (**Redman Watson**) sketched the couple's open-concept ideas into reality.

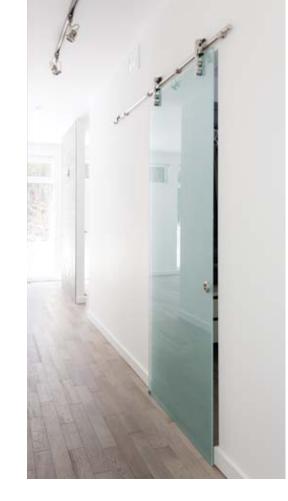
"We started renovating in September 2011," says Brown, "and we built a funky bedroom addition. Both Gabrielle and Matthew knew exactly what they wanted, and were 100 per cent involved in the whole process."

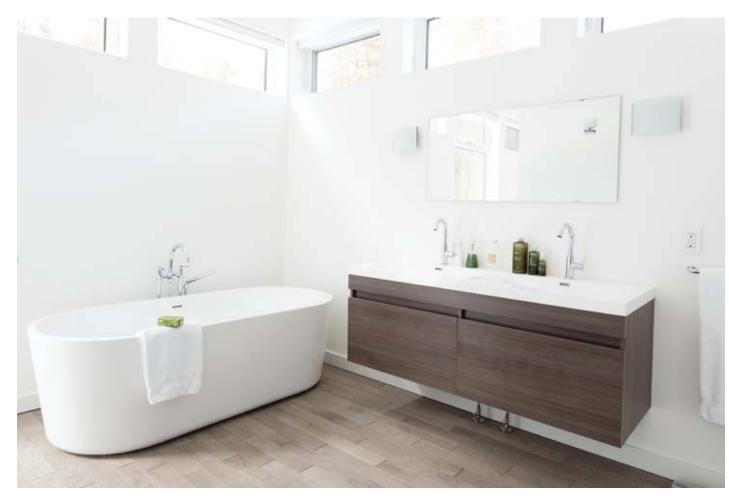
what they wanted, and were 100 per cent involved in the whole process."

The Bushes re-did the floors in the original cottage (brushed-stained oak from Floorcrafters), replaced all the windows and walkouts (Strassburger 4000 series from Cedarport Window & Door Centre Inc.), as well as the exterior siding, moved the front door and replaced old fixtures with more industrial, LED track lighting.

"It's a very different layout," explains Matthew. "When we renovated, we wanted to maximize the shape of the lot, keep the feel of the inside, preserve the octagon and just add on to it."

Today's new 1,400 sq. ft. pod adds a modern, industrial feel to the home. The wing features a spectacular master bedroom with open en suite, two bedrooms, joined by a funky little music room, and a shared bathroom for the couple's teenagers, Ali and Max. Continued on page 48





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## home & builder

RIGHT: Says Matthew, "We sleep and work in Toronto. We live and play in Thornbury." Both Matthew and Gabrielle spend as much time as possible in their newly renovated home. BOTTOM RIGHT: Everything in the Bush home is simple and functional. The space is well thought out, and a minimalist décor lends a spacious feel to the design. BELOW: Aside from re-doing the floors, everything inside the octagon was preserved, and because of the home's unique shape, Gabrielle says it's super easy to spot on Google Earth.

A unique, 12-foot wide bridge joins the old pod with the new in spectacular style. It's all about the windows and the view. "The bridge was totally dictated by putting the bedroom wing as close to the opposite property line, because it's a pie-shaped lot," explains Matthew. He opted to forego all window trim, giving the drywall returns a clean, commercial look.

"We wanted the house to have a sense of light and space, but we didn't want it to be cold because it's all about family," says Gabrielle. "We wanted our kids to have a forever home to come home to, but there's definitely an industrial aspect to the design."

Floor-to-ceiling windows bathe the master bedroom in natural light. Says Gabrielle, "we wanted our bedroom to feel like we were sleeping in the forest." A sizable walk-in closet showcases a sliding, frosted glass door with exposed futuristic-like industrial hardware. Continued on page 50

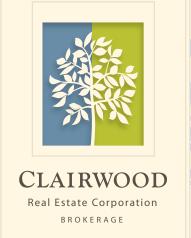






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## home & builder

The home is simply and tastefully decorated by Gabrielle. All the walls are white, and the interior space beautifully reflects the outside environment. "The best thing about this house is the spectacular view down the long hallway to the master bedroom."

"There's something very feng shui about this octagon," says Gabrielle. "It's something about the energy flow."

So what's with octagons? For thousands of years, this unique, eightsided architectural shape symbolized regeneration, rebirth, and renewal. To Buddhists, it meant completion. To the Chinese, it symbolized good luck and completeness.

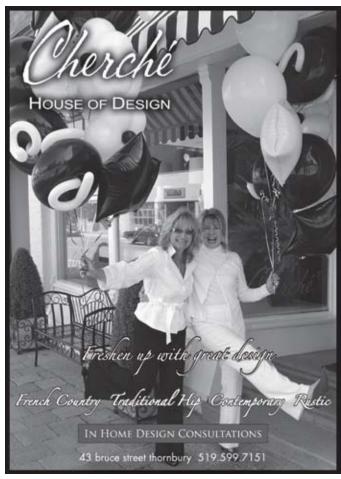
Octagons offer several advantages: they enclose space more efficiently than a standard square, on average, offering 20 per cent more space than a square with the same perimeter, and they maximize external wall surface, decreasing heat loss and gain. Octagonal designs offer panoramic views and easier orientation on the building site. "Acoustically, audio quality is best in an octagonal-shaped room," adds Matthew. Continued on page 52

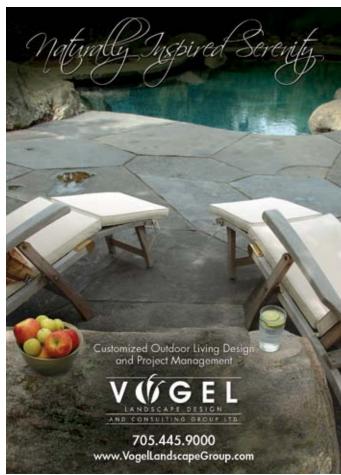




ABOVE: A fresh bouquet and colourful accessories from Paperwhite Flowers, and a decadent lemon meringue pie from the Thornbury Bakery brighten up the dining room. TOP RIGHT: Artist Drew Harris, an occasional guest at the Bush cottage, gifted the family a humorous sketch of cottage life, which hangs in a prominent place in the kitchen beside a whimsical wrought-iron sculpture purchased in a local Thornbury shop. **RIGHT:** A view from the bridge to the octagon. The Bushes have plans to renovate the original kitchen and bathroom, which the family of four shared for 10 years.









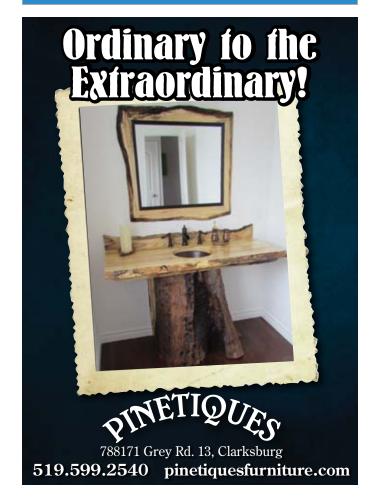
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ABOVE: Privacy at last! The couple's son Max finally has his own spacious bedroom, which is flooded with natural light.
RIGHT: Daughter Ali relaxes on her bed, delighted to have neighbours her age living just across the street.

"We didn't want this modern space to be cold, because it's a family home, but we don't treat it like a formal place," says Gabrielle. "We live here. Kids have friends over. They play music. The yappy dog runs around and we want that family warmth to come through."

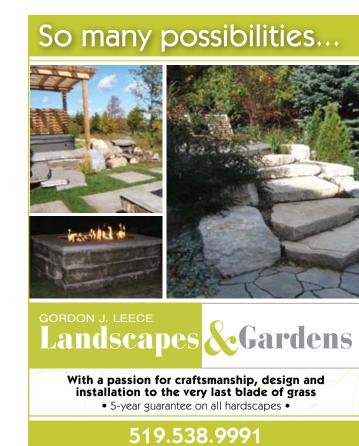
Which it does. Loud and clear. Today, for some strange reason, everyone on the street seems to gravitate to the Bush home.

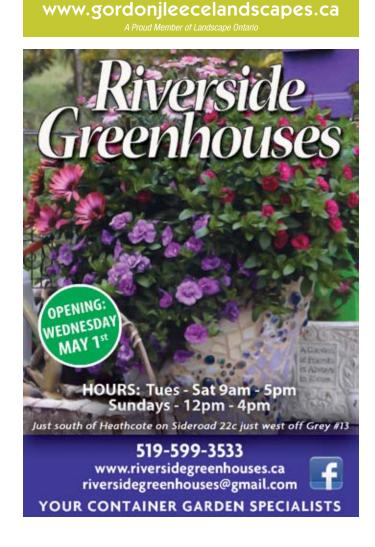
Could it be the magic of the octagon? **OH** 











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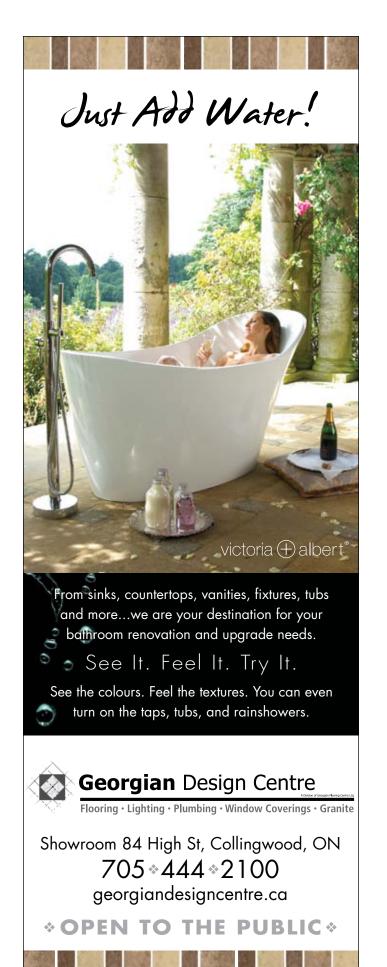


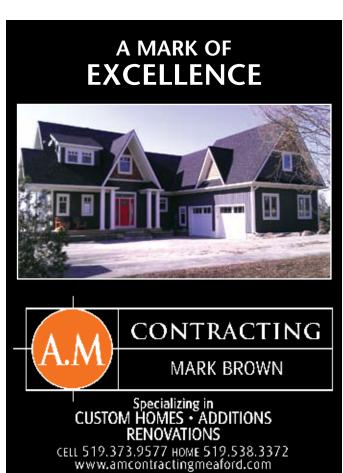


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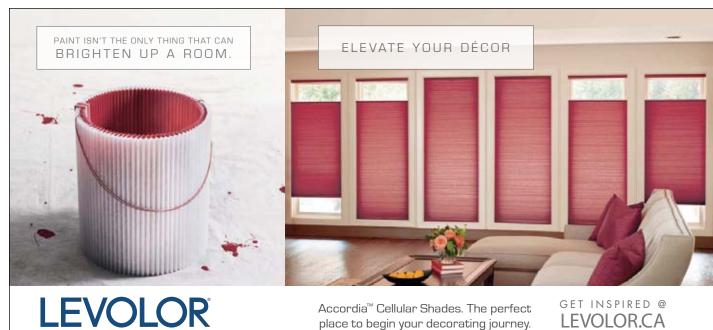
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## comfort zone





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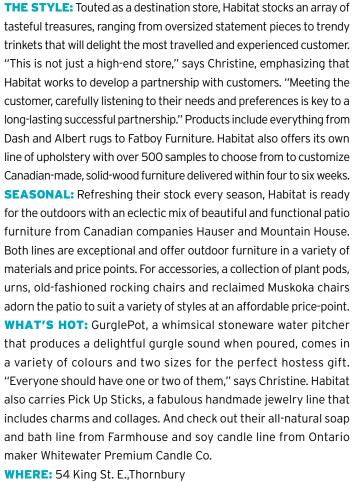
BY JULIE SIMMONDS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

THE PLACE: Stemming from her world travels and passion for design, Christine Pritchard has opened Thornbury's Habitat Interiors Inc. The stunning store boasts over 5,500 sq. ft. of unique indoor and outdoor home décor. "All areas of interior design are tackled with exquisite style, from the smallest detail to the entire home," says Christine. "We also provide space planning, colour consultation, window coverings, lighting, flooring as well as interior decorations and staging." With a wonderful variety of furniture and home décor products, Christine and her design team, which includes the talented Monika Lorimer, will personalize your vision to create a personal, unique environment for every home.









WHERE: 54 King St. E., Inornbury 226.665.5550, www.habitatinteriors.ca он



56 our homes spring 2013



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Surveys tell us that 65% of Buyers want a home that is either move-in ready or they want one with only minor cosmetic repairs." To read the rest of this blog, visit www.locationsnorth.com







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## Jennifer Bramwell & Missy Sharp

Bramwell Sharp Design WHAT IS YOUR DESIGN PHILOSOPHY? Our philosophy is to reflect the personality and tastes of the homeowner - timeless, classic design that won't date itself. HOW IS HOME DESIGN CHANGING? Homes have to be adaptable as the family grows up, kids leave and come back to visit. More consideration is being given to using materials that don't off-gas, have a longer life, and are more environmentally friendly. WHAT ARE YOUR FUN, WARM WEATHER PLANS? Missy: After years of providing

wilderness experiences for my kids, my adult son Matt is taking me on a 14-day canoe trip in the Northern Ontario Temagami region. I'm looking forward to the role reversal and time alone with him.

Jennifer: My father-in-law turns 80 this summer, so we are having an extended family gathering at the cottage in the Eastern Townships of Quebec.



## Kristine Loft Loft Planning Inc.

#### WHAT IS A LAND USE PLANNER'S ROLE IN NEW

**CONSTRUCTION?** Our role is often diverse and takes a client from due diligence, through design and public consultation followed by the approval process. We provide collaborative project management through a complex process involving several disciplines.

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU BRING TO THE JOB? Working for both the private and public sector provides an understanding of the planning and political cultures and a solid understanding of the process. I take a logical approach to resolving issues and relate the client's goals alongside the provincial and municipal policies.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SEASON? Boating on Georgian Bay with my family, gardening and enjoying the sunshine with friends. Continued on page 64

## people



## Jim Funston

Director of
Marketing and Sales
Dwell @ Creekside by
Devonleigh Homes Inc.

WHAT MAKES DWELL

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a solid investment for

## WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF CONDO LIVING IN COLLINGWOOD?

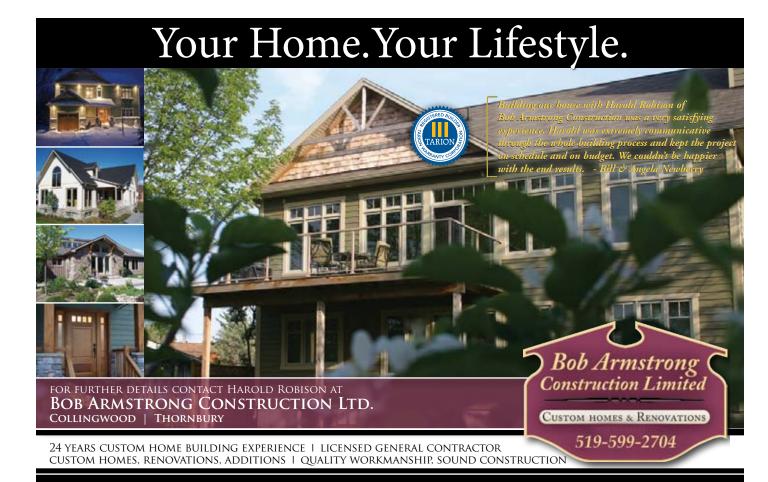
your future.

Condo living in
Collingwood gives
you the ultimate in
four-season carefree
living. You have access
to skiing, golfing,
boating and extensive
trails at your doorstep.
With quaint shops and
restaurants downtown,
this locale is ideal.

## WHAT IS YOUR SPRING RITUAL?

Getting all summer gear ready to go!!
Getting the barbeque, golf clubs, bikes and patio set out. Stocking up on steaks before the price goes up. Getting all the planters ready for spring flowers. Last on the list is window cleaning.

Continued on page 66





## people



## Doug Johnston & Carla Nicolson Red Brick Group Inc.

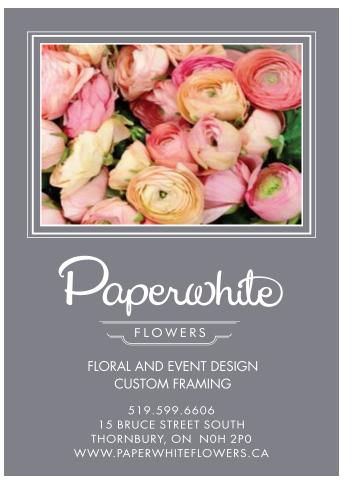
WHAT IS WHOLE-HOME AUTOMATION? An automated home coordinates your

security, lighting, whole-home music, video/home theatre and other home systems. Everything works together the way you want it to - adding control, convenience and increased functionality - making your life easier and saving energy.

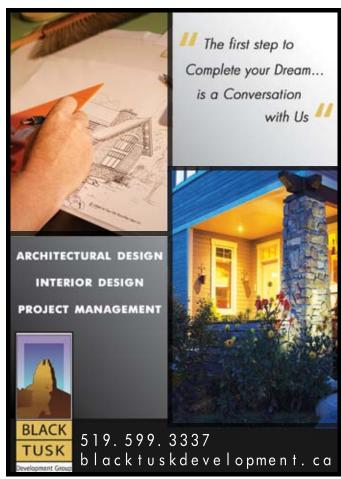
HOW DOES TECHNOLOGY CHANGE THE WAY WE LIVE AT HOME? Systems are now much more convenient, functional and easy to use thanks to technology. You can access your home and manage your systems with keypads, tablets, smart phones or remotely through the Internet. Home-system control is no longer complicated or requires regular service calls.

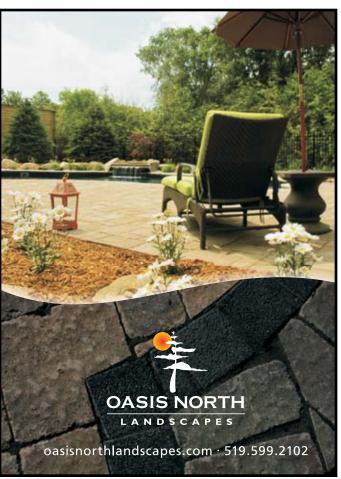
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS SPRING?

**Doug:** Working on the boat and getting back out onto Georgian Bay. Carla: Long walks in the evening enjoying the lingering daylight. Continued on page 68











## Jaime Young Shades and Shutters

WHAT CAN PEOPLE
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SHOWROOM? Come to
discover everything current
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also design custom drapery
and bedding, as well as
re-upholstery.

TRENDS IN WINDOW COVERINGS: Shutters and sunscreens - but it's a personal preference, as it always has been.

## SUMMER STAYCATION OR ROAD TRIP?

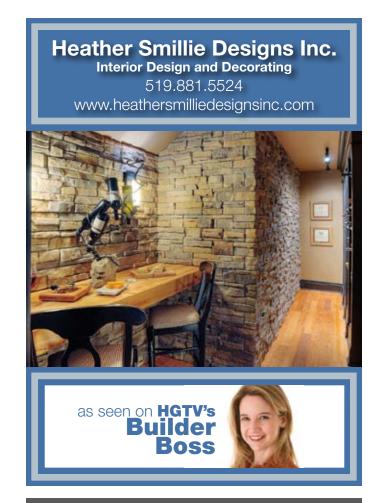
Absolutely roadtrip! There are so many beautiful places to see that are so close. I can think of a few girlfriends who would join me!

Continued on page 70





Land Use Planning | Project Management



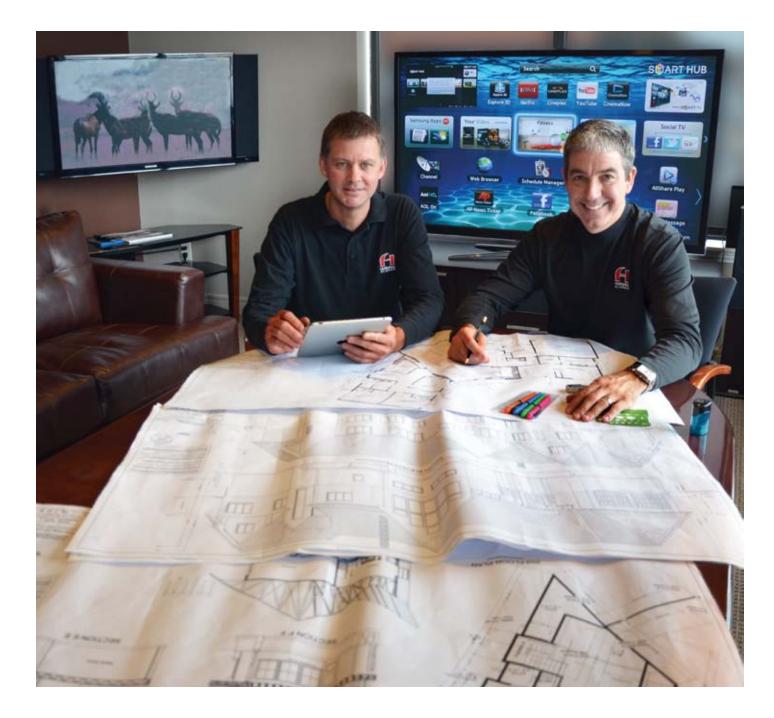




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## people



## Glenn Porter, Custom Audio-Video Sales Manager Cam Posch, Designer/Sales

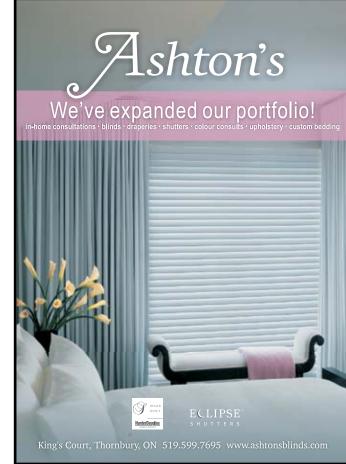
Huronia Alarms - Audio Video Division

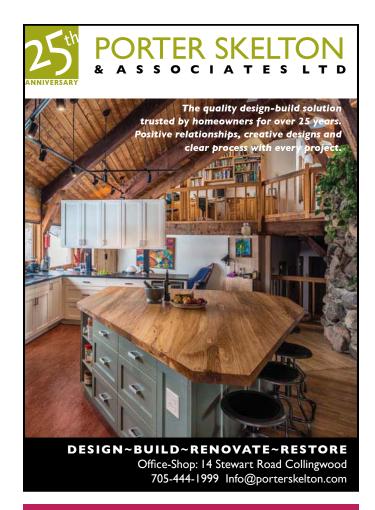
**TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES:** We provide design, sales, project management, wiring, installation and programming services for residential and commercial projects that require audio, video, home theatre, media rooms, AV furniture, networks, communications, lighting control, manual and motorized window treatments, camera surveillance, pool and spa control and HVAC control. We do it all, from simple TV installation to elaborate high-tech integrated systems. Huronia has been proudly serving Southern Georgian Bay for over 40 years.

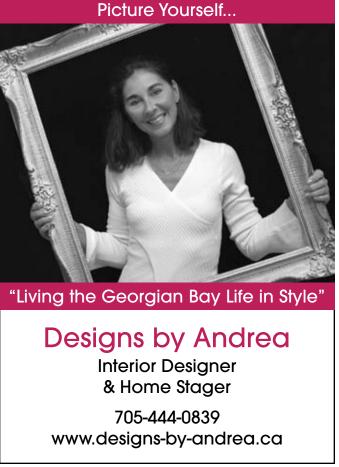
HOW CAN A VISIT TO YOUR COLLINGWOOD SHOWROOM HELP? Our home theatre and automation showrooms allow home and business owners, builders, designers and architects to experience our products and better plan projects with our technical, knowledgeable design sales team.

WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST AS THE SUMMER APPROACHES? Glenn: To golf more than 18 holes! Cam: Lots of swimming with the kids! Continued on page 72









#### Jeff Gardhouse. **Contractor Sales** Jason Nichol, Estimating, Contractor Sales **Thornbury Home Hardware Building Centre**

TELL US ABOUT THE RENOVATION AT THORNBURY HOME

**HARDWARE:** Jeff: What reno? Jason: Customers are excited, and with the number of blueprints for projects coming in, it shows.

HOW WILL THE NEW LOOK ENHANCE THE SHOPPING **EXPERIENCE? Jeff:** It's new and refreshed. It will be like having a brand new store in town. **Jason:** You will now be able to stay in town for everything you

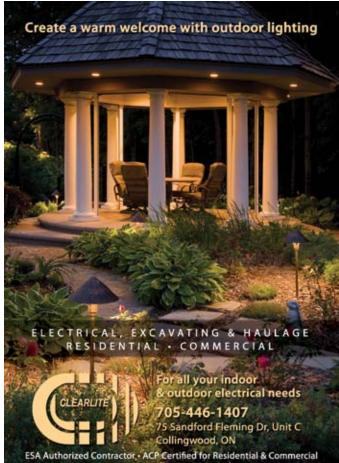
need. Buy local! WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS **SPRING? Jeff:** Nice weather and for the "action at work to start," plus relaxation and scuba diving off-shore in Georgian Bay.

**Jason:** For construction to start and spending time with my family outdoors.

Continued on page 74





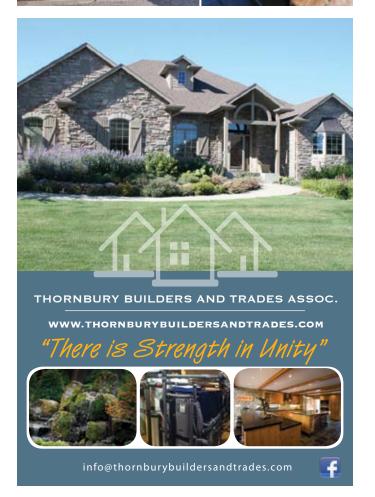














# Dave Patterson, Diane Scott & John Mealey Owners, Cedarport Window and Door Centre Inc.

# WHAT'S NEW AT CEDARPORT WINDOW AND DOOR

centre? We are excited to announce that effective Jan. 1, 2013 the ownership of Cedarport changed. The new owners are John Mealey, Diane Scott and Dave Patterson. Diane and Dave have been with Cedarport for more than 15 years and are well known experts in the window industry. John is new to the business, but not new to the area and provides a high level of management and marketing expertise to the business.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR HOMEOWNERS WHO NEED NEW WINDOWS? With

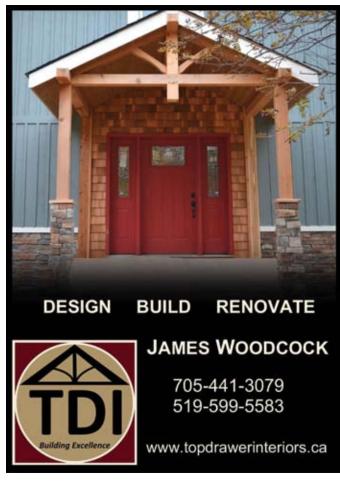
so many choices out there and with windows becoming a large consideration in terms of longevity, efficiency and appearance, it's important to understand the difference quality can make. Dealing locally makes all the difference in value and customer service. Given the high investment proposition, it makes sense to trust local experts.

# DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE WARM-WEATHER ACTIVITY:

Diane: Camping, hiking, and relaxing in the sunshine
John: Fishing, golf, and skeet/
trap and motocross
Dave: Motorbiking, boating
and swimming Continued on page 76











# people

#### Leila Eden Designer, Village Builders Inc.

HOW DO YOU PULL IT ALL TOGETHER FOR A CUSTOM BUILD/RENOVATION BY VILLAGE BUILDERS? By listening. Understanding how a client is going to live in the space is key. We start with their "must haves" and we build a solid design plan.

WHAT ARE HOMEOWNERS DEMANDING IN THEIR NEW HOMES? Perfection. High quality products, installed by our finest craftsman. We work closely with our team of highly skilled trades to bring your project to life. We know that the details are monumental and we expect perfection as well. WHICH DO YOU PREFER, SUNSET OR SUNRISE? Both. Our spring and summers are so short that I make sure I enjoy every moment of the season. OH





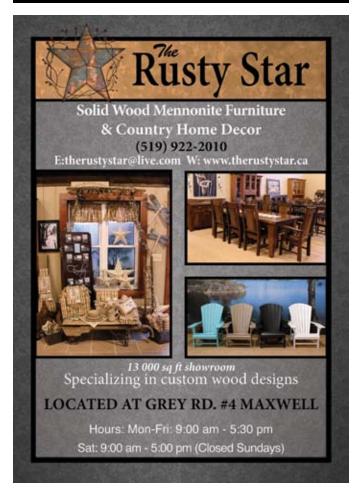


"With an outdoor wedding as an unforgiving deadline, Mark translated a vision into reality, **creating** unique areas that offer magnificent vistas of the Beaver Valley and

**Scott Stewart** 

Georgian Bay."

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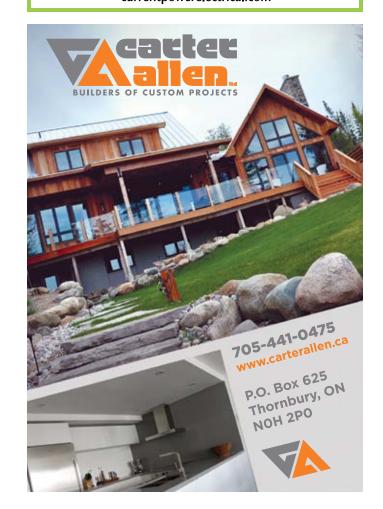
Travis Ayton-Lee brings full Masters credentials, 15 years experience here in the Georgian Triangle and his dedication to professional excellence to your electrical project. A big job or a little fix, call on CurrentPower to get the job done right.

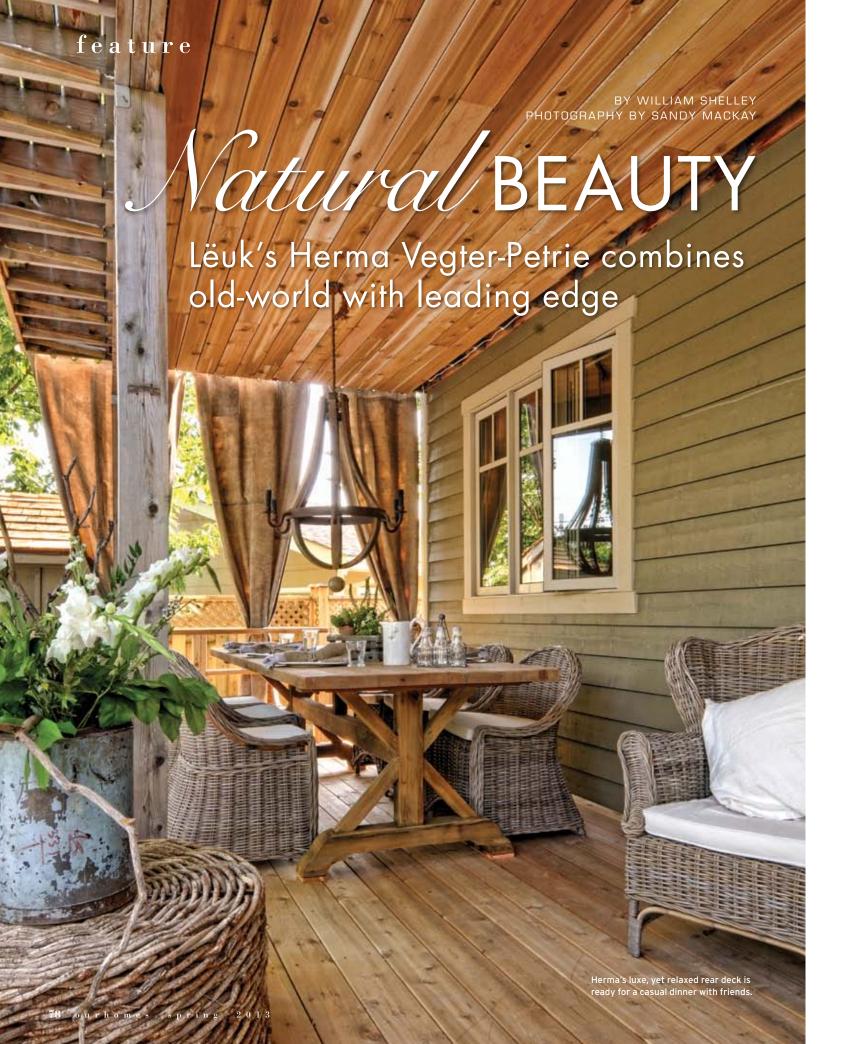
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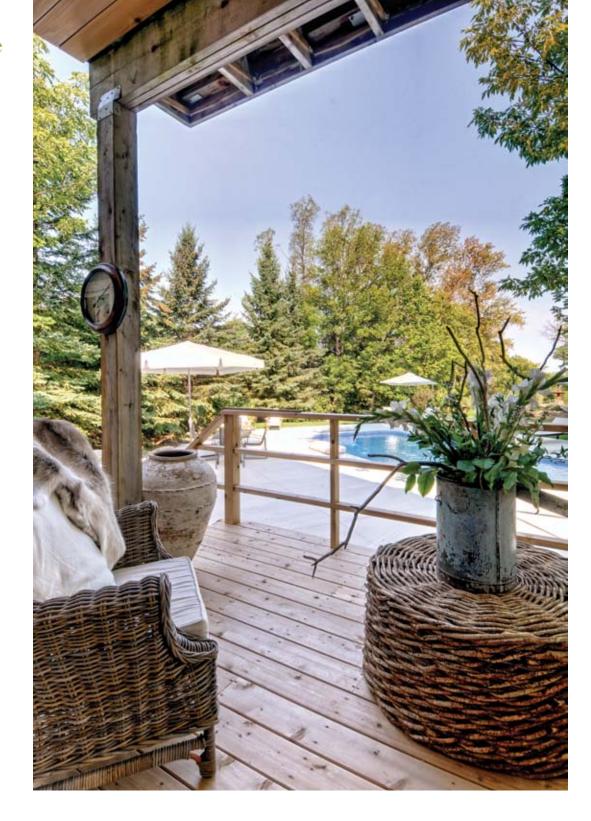








Calm and natural: these words recur several times when talking to Herma Vegter-Petrie, owner of Collingwood's **Lëuk Bij Hermas Interiors**. A boutique furniture, linen, bridal registry, gift and floral design store, its name – which translates roughly as "cute" in Dutch – references Herma's European background. Her unique style is inspired by this heritage.



Natural elements take centre stage in Herma's backyard. The pool is new and the décor reflects a simple desire to enjoy the sunshine in natural comfort with family and friends.

"It's where old-world meets leading edge," she elaborates. "Natural and warm tones and products. It's more of a feeling than a style." Whatever it is, people feel calmed and comforted by her confluence of tones, textures and art objects, both in Lëuk and in the home she shares with her husband Bob, and visiting children. When people walk inside they say, "I want to live here!," Herma reports. "This is because it's calm, and not distracting." She chooses clean lines and natural materials over splashy colours or gimmickry.

Herma redecorated the home, and together with Bob, remodeled the basement, which matches the rest of the house with its emphasis on cream

tones and linen. "My palette is usually cream," she says. "Tone on tone." The curtains are all linen from Leuk, as are the bedspreads, furniture coverings and slipcovers throughout the house. A sliding barnboard door - designed by Herma and built by **Carl Pardy** of **Norex Construction Inc.** – adds a rustic accent to the basement's smooth palette. Barnboard and reclaimed wood are clear favourites, showing up both in the Lëuk store sign and interior, and throughout her home. "This is an element I wanted to bring into both my home and the store," she says. She prefers natural wood without gloss or tinted finishes. Several ingenious driftwood sculptures

and wall hangings by a Canadian artist adorn various rooms.

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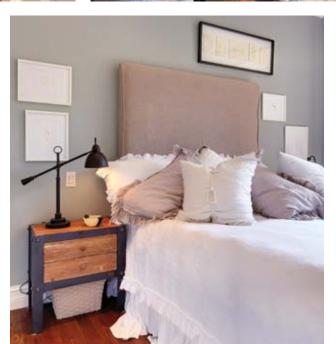
LEFT: Expect the unexpected in Herma's home. This large mirror sparkles in the hallway as you enter the master bedroom. BELOW: Slate walls and a river-rock floor cover the shower in the en suite.



The house is laid out in a reverse plan, with the media room and bedrooms in the basement, den and more bedrooms on the ground floor, and the great room, open concept kitchen/dining room and master bedroom on the second floor, which boasts 12-foot ceilings and nine-foot doorways.

Wood is again the dominant motif here, from the distressed oak floors to the handmade Kenyan mask mounted above the fireplace mantel. The great room cabinet and coffee table are made of reclaimed wood, as is the dining room table and several other pieces. The impressive dining room chandelier is made from a reclaimed wine barrel.

Not only is most of the wood reclaimed, much of the décor is too – in particular the several large whitewashed olive jugs from Turkey, which, in their past lives actually held olives. Numerous copper and resin bowls by British Columbia's Martha Sturdy - an internationally acclaimed artist and designer known for her focus on elemental materials – provide another notable design motif. Additionally, Italian pewter plates on the wall lend an impeccable accent to offset the earth tones. Continued on page 88





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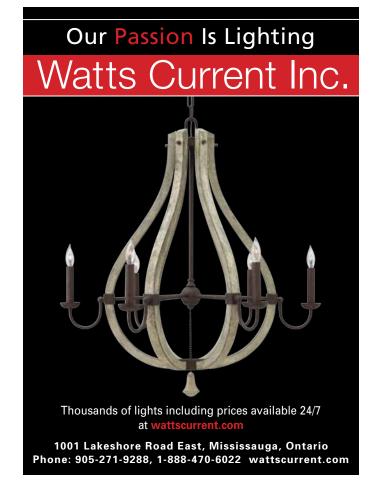
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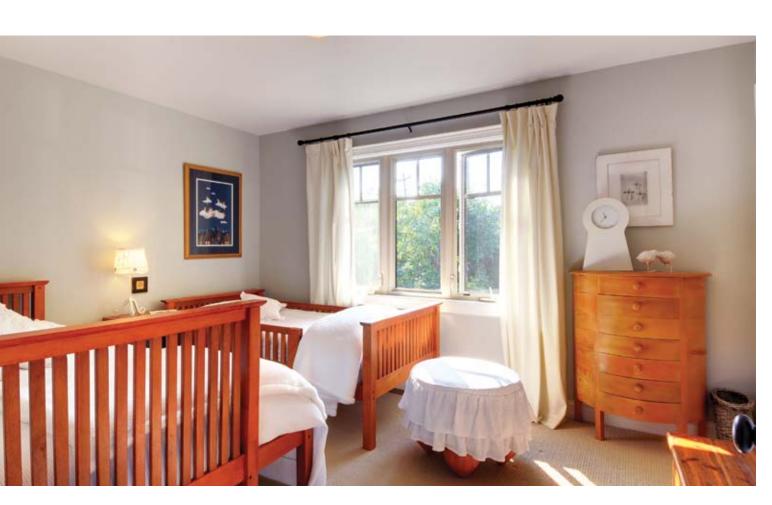
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There is plenty of room for overnight guests in Herma and Bob's serene home.















The den is a delight. Herma's casual, natural style comes together in this room, where reindeer pelts and driftwood sculptures find a home.
Sliding doors lead to the deck and the pool area for warmweather fun.

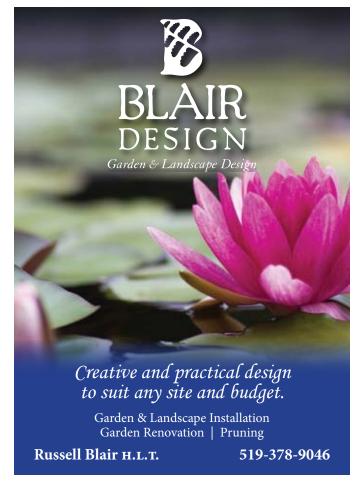


Herma designed one of the great room's linen-covered sofas, and all the chair slipcovers, which keep their shape with the aid of wood inserts. She has draped several Canadian reindeer pelts over the chairs and sofas. The Aboriginal Peoples in the Canadian north who hunt these animals, Herma points out, use every part of the animal. The reindeer motif is echoed in the striking wooden art object that can't fail to catch your attention on the wall as you enter the great room from the stairs: a reindeer head with long antlers, carved in meticulous detail from unfinished softwood by a California sculptor.

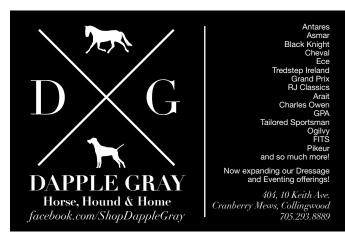
The master bedroom faces Blue Mountain, and you can see the waters of Georgian Bay through the great room porch doors. A covered two-storey porch (by Carl Pardy) overlooks the large saltwater pool in the backyard, a recent addition by Clear Choice Pools & Spas and David Grexton, Grexton Concrete Solutions Inc. Perched in between the region's top natural features, this home is a complement to its surroundings. On the subject of her attraction to natural and reclaimed materials, Herma adds: "It appeals to everyone, from young to old. People love 'natural' and always have." OH







































# TREASURE HUNTING

BY YANIC SIMARD // PHOTOGRAPHY BY TED YARWOOD

Nothing quite compares to the adrenaline rush you get while shopping for antiques – imagining where a piece came from, who it belonged to, and what it was used for is exciting.

The best part is that feeling you get when you have to have it, and you better grab it right away or someone else will. Remember: you snooze you lose!

Going through museum-like shops is an adventure and if you're a serious shopper looking for authentic antiques, then it's very important that you go well equipped. Here are some tips and guidelines to encourage a smart purchase and to avoid disappointment.

#### 1. Do Your Homework

Taking a few hours and getting online or digging into a couple of books is well worth it so that you're well educated when it comes to buying the right item for you. You will want to learn about how to tell if an item is authentic or a reproduction, and what traits and characteristics to look for in determining the value. Just because something has a high price tag doesn't mean that it's real. The main goal is to make a confident buy and feel good about what you are taking home at the end of the day.

There is a vast array of books on this subject – my top picks include:

- Miller's Antiques Handbook and Price Guide 2012-2013
- Unitt's Book of Marks on Antiques & Collectibles
- Antiques 101: A Crash Course in Everything Antique

#### 2. Restoration

Just because a piece looks "old" doesn't mean it's the perfect antique. It may actually be in very poor condition and in need of some TLC. Always fully inspect the item before deciding to buy it:

- Open its drawers or doors
- Examine the bottom of it
- Check that its legs or arms are steady
- Pick up the piece to see if anything falls off
- Smell the item odd odours could mean rot or decay
- Look for any cracked glass
- Run your hand against the surface (if an antique is chipped, torn or damaged in any way, it may decrease its value drastically). If the piece is in need of some work, then it's a good idea to ask the seller if they know how and if it can be reconditioned. It's always wise to know what to expect ahead of time, so that way you know what you're in for once it's yours.



Incorporating antique accessories into your workspace can be simple: colourful spools of thread, a wroughtiron judy, and framed prints of vintage sewing patterns speak of a homeowner's love of fashion.

If you're a good "do-it-yourselfer," then you may be able to tackle some of the restoration on your own. However, if you're not 100 per cent confident in your DIY abilities then you may want to have a professional take care of it. There are many small shops that specialize in the refurbishment business.

#### 3. Look Outside The Antique Shop

Antiques and unique collectibles are around us everywhere. Check out flea markets or garage sales; sometimes even local malls hold antique bazaars. I actually found an amazing elaborate gilt side table for my place curb-side! Browse often and compare – the more you search the more you'll know, which will help in finding the perfect items for you and your home.

#### 4. Shopping in the UK

The United Kingdom is very well known for its authentic antiques, so if you're really interested in this field, I would highly suggest taking the trip. The UK has a prominent history in trade and invention, and many of the pieces from these times still remain in the region.

You might want to consider planning your trip around an antique fair. England's biggest is held at Newark in Nottinghamshire, which has 4,000 stalls of vendors! Following close behind with 3,000 stalls is the Arthur Swallow fair at the Lincolnshire Showground, which takes place six times a year. London's Portobello Market is also a wonderful place to browse for the perfect treasure.

There are also many antique centres that take place all year round. Two renowned dealers you may want to check out would be Woburn Abbey Antiques Centre in Bedfordshire and Edenbridge Galleries in Kent House where there are many individual shops selling furniture, clocks and ceramics.

My favourite antique market of all time is Le Marché aux Puces de Saint-Ouen in Paris.  ${\it oh}$ 

# >> SOURCE IT

# SPRING COLOURS ARE HERE ROBINSON'S PAINT AND WALLPAPER

The snow melts, the clouds clear and the sun peeps through our windows. What does it see? It sees tired woodwork and



chipping paint. Winter can be hard on a home. Let's look around and see if we can copy nature indoors create a vision of everything that's fresh and new.

A good place to start is with new paint on walls or trim. Be bold - try a fresh new colour on the ceiling. Make the entranceway more welcoming with a feature wall of vibrantly-

patterned wallpaper. Wallpaper can be so many things - metallic, black and white, soft pastel colours, powder blue, pear green.

Bring your exterior light fixtures indoors and repaint them to look brand new. Applying a fresh coat of urethane can liven up your wood and help it last longer; a coat of paint may transform it. Kitchen cabinets and banisters, too, can look better with a touch of paint; there are new durable products just right for the job.

Then there's the windows. Summer will soon be here, and you'll need shades or shutters to stay cool inside. Please visit Robinson's Paint & Wallpaper and let us show you how to welcome spring in your home.

129 Hurontario Street, Collingwood 705.445.0601 • www.robinsonspaint.ca

(Please see ad on page 8)

#### **NOBLE INSURANCE**

Spring is here. As Canadians, we love nothing more than our time at the cottage. This is always an exciting time of year. Completing an inspection of how your property managed through the winter is important. Here are some reminders for your checklist.

- Check power/telephone lines for fraying or downed lines.
- Check the foundation for signs of cracks or water damage
- Check the deck and exterior walls of the cottage for signs of rot or deterioration
- Inspect the roof for any holes or missing shingles; clear eaves of any debris
- Gather up loose brush around the yard and under the deckClean out the barbeque and check the propane tank
- and lines
   Check all windows for cracks, and ensure they are well
- sealed and adequately caulked At Noble Insurance we can provide a competitive quote for your cottage and seasonal residence.

Please give us a call, email, or check out our website at www.nobleins.on.ca (*Please see ad on page 21*)

# A MISCELLANY OF THE NEW, NEAT, UNIQUE, AND FABULOUS IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY

#### **VILLAGE BUILDERS INC. - INSPIRING INTERIOR DESIGNS**

We completed a modern "Miami Beach" style home this Christmas, the kitchen is featured on page 39. Most people are surprised when they are told that it was built by Village Builders Inc. This was a very exciting home for us to erect because

it's evidence that we are open to different design styles. We only had one wall to work



with in this streamline kitchen, so we maxed out the storage by adding full height cabinets, painted them the wall colour and added a pop of purple for warmth. Our client's favourite colour. In collaboration with the home owner, our interior designer, master craftsman and skilled trades, we welcomed the unfamiliar and embraced the freedom of pushing the boundaries.

Find other inspiring ideas: www.villagebuilders.ca Drop into our office showroom: 3 Caroline St E, Creemore Call us to talk about your plans: 705.466.3202

(Please see ad on page 39)

#### WINDFALL AT BLUE MOUNTAIN - The True Nature of Blue

In a region burgeoning with real estate development, it took a prominent Barrie company to spot the gem at Blue Mountain. Georgian International is developing Windfall at Blue Mountain, an inspired 148-acre master-planned community of detached mountain homes.

The distinctive architecture of the homes at Windfall represents an artful, modern and eco-considerate interpretation of Georgian Bay cabins, cottages and mountain chalets in

timeless bungalow, bungalow-with-loft and two-storey designs with sprawling porches and detached garages.

One-third of the land will be dedicated to forested parks, trails and wetland preservation areas. A



striking barn-inspired structure, simply called 'The Shed', will be Windfall's exclusive four-season gathering place.

A landscaped greenbelt links Windfall to its enviable next door neighbours - Blue Mountain Village and the award-winning Scandinave Spa. A \$10,000,000 expansion at Blue Mountain will bring the ski slopes literally to Windfall's doorstep.

Just over an hour from the GTA, the Blue Mountain-Collingwood area offers magnificent natural surroundings and a myriad of recreational activities such as skiing, swimming, hiking, biking, boating and golfing.

Windfall will be sold using a Priority Selection Process so interested buyers should confirm their interest to attend Selection Day happening in May. For a limited time the first enclave of mountain-style homes will be offered from \$399,900. For more information, please call Blue Mountain's Village

Realty at 705.445.0440 or register at windfallatblue.com (Please see ad on page 115)

Continual contract

Continued on page 94

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#### **HURONIA ALARMS**

Huronia's Audio Video division is now carrying the latest in world class audio streaming technology, from UK-based manufacturer, Arcam.

Streaming high quality music from your favourite mobile device is now easy with the rBlink Bluetooth audio converter. Engineered by Arcam, and using the aptX® transmission system,

the rBlink allows any Bluetooth equipped music device to quickly and easily send music straight to a HiFi system with stunning quality.

The rBlink converts music to an Audio output ready for

connection to a whole host of audio systems, and installation is a breeze with a simple pairing system for new devices.

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The rBlink comes in a stylish yet rugged cast aluminium case and is small enough to discreetly sit next to your HiFi system. It just gets on with the job of delivering great sound.

Visit our Collingwood showroom to demo this and other Arcam products and AV gear. Or call us today to talk about your audio, video and home entertainment needs.

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(Please see ad on page 13)

#### **NORTHLAND CUSTOM FLOORING**

**Is your hardwood floor looking dull and worn?** Let the professionals at Northland Custom Flooring give it a fresh new look. At Northland our advanced refinishing system uses



high-powered vacuums, resulting in a much cleaner, healthier refinishing process. We use the most durable, environmentally friendly hardwood floor finishes available. Your floors will look good for

years to come. Dust-free floor sanding is the safest, cleanest and most environmentally friendly choice you can make for your home and family.

Are you looking to install a new floor? We can help you with that too. We supply and install unfinished, pre-finished and reclaimed flooring in both solid and engineered wood. We also have a large variety of laminate flooring.

"We highly recommend Northland. The quality of their work is excellent and their team is professional, courteous and efficient" Porter Skelton & Associates, Collingwood.

705.429.7543

info@northlandcustomflooring.ca www.northlandcustomflooring.ca

(Please see ad on page 103)

### A MISCELLANY OF THE NEW, NEAT, UNIQUE, AND FABULOUS IN SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY

#### **FAR HILLS THORNBURY**

Far Hills Thornbury consists of condominium townhomes and condo suites that offer a variety of gracious living features including 9' ceilings, potlights and under cabinet lighting in kitchen, 5 appliances, double sinks in master and jetted

tubs. Choose from 1-2 bedroom condos with underground parking and storage or 3 bedroom townhomes with single or double garages.

Our 48 luxury condo suites were built using state-of-the-art building



materials - Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF). The goal was to provide comfort by using construction materials and methods that maximized energy efficiency, sound and fire resistance. Currently we're selling our Phase 2 building, all suites priced at \$157.00 per sq.ft. regardless of floor or location. They range in size from 981-1,548 sq.ft. and are priced from \$153,900-\$242,210.

Swimming pool, tennis court and club house complete the lifestyle. Walking distance to downtown Thornbury, the Marina, Georgian Trail and the waterfront! Look for our ad for further details.

themoviegals.com

(Please see ad on page 6)

#### **PINETIQUES**

Pinetiques has been building custom furniture, cabinets, country kitchens and vanities for over 30 years. We primarily

work with pine (hence the name!) but also build with other woods as well. Cherry for kitchen counter tops and spalted maple are just two examples. Take a look at our ad in this issue to see one of the most unusual pieces we've ever created!



We are unique because we still build with 100% wood product. This means no plywood or MDF. All of our kitchens including drawers and shelving are solid pine. Our finishes, be it painted or natural, are hand brushed.

Our workshop and showroom are in a classic converted barn circa 1850. It is located in the beautiful Beaver Valley just minutes south of Thornbury on the southwest corner of Grey Rd. 13 and Grey Rd. 40.

At Pinetiques your ideas are our next creation! Hours are 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

9am-3:30pm Saturday. Closed on Sunday. 519.599.2540

(Please see ad on page 51)

# >> SOURCE IT

#### **DAPPLE GRAY EQUESTRIAN BOUTIQUE**

Dapple Gray Equestrian Boutique celebrated their One-Year Anniversary at the Cranberry Mews Location in Collingwood in



March. The Celebration lasted 8 days and was full of Sales, Contests and Happy Customers. DG has never felt more appreciated by the Equestrian Community! Thanks for making the first year of DG a smashing success!

The DG Mobile Sales Trailer has already attended a few Horse Shows and we are really looking forward to the busy season ahead. The DG Trailer is booked every weekend!! We hope to see you while we are on the road again. A Complete Mobile Schedule will be available on www.dapplegray.ca

And lastly - DG has Expansion Plans!! Look for a Satellite DG

Location in Waubaushene at Highview Farms just off Hwy 400! It will be open the end of Aprill - Hours TBD.

Please stop into either location to get the latest in Equestrian Fashion from Tailored Sportsman, Cheval Fashions, Ece, Joules, Horseware Ireland, Rebecca Ray, RJ Classics, Grand Prix, Tara Kiwi, Dappled Bay, Horsefeathers and so much more...

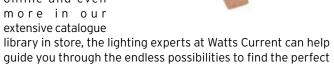
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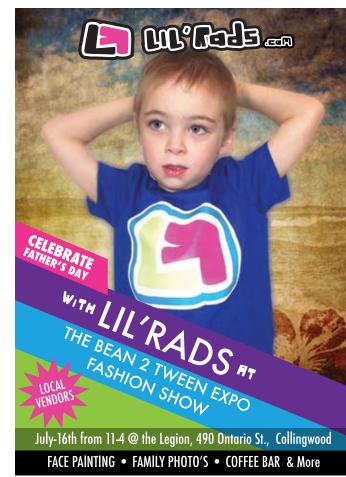
guide you through the endless possibilities to find the perfect light for your home, chalet or cottage. Shop from the comfort of your home day or night on our

website (which includes pricing), call and talk to one of our lighting professionals, or make an appointment to come see us in store. We will make your shopping experience a breeze.

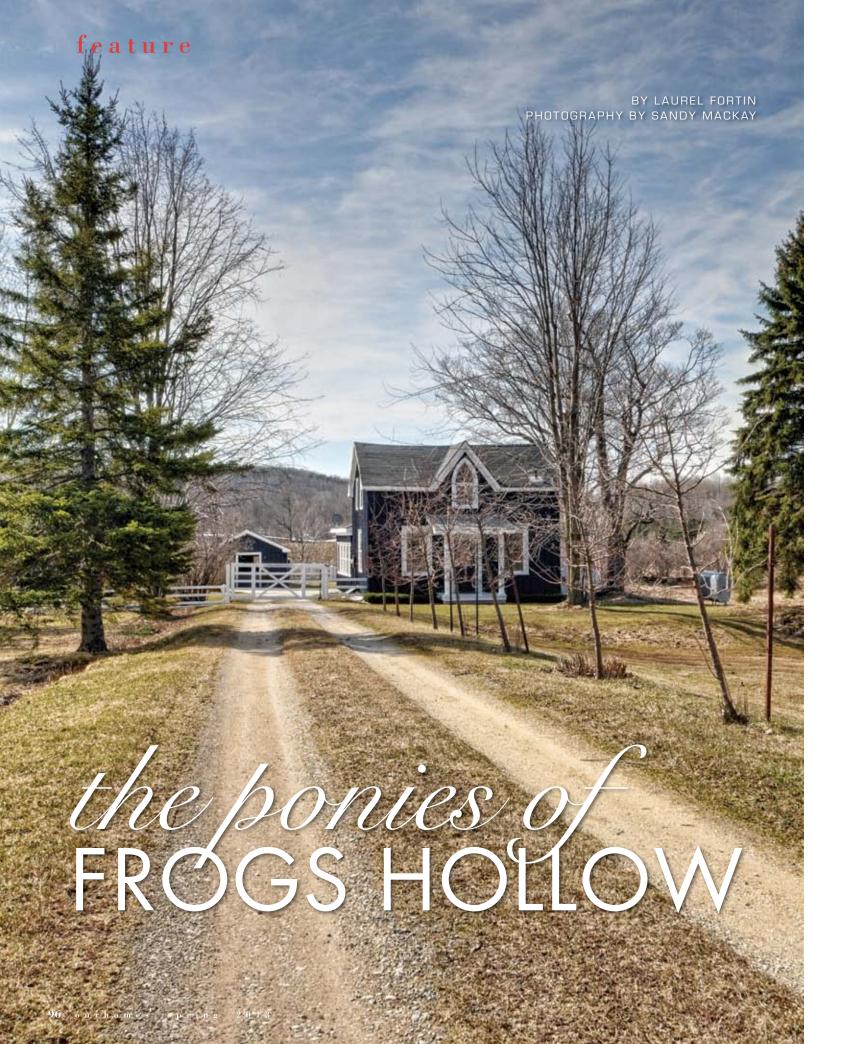
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(Please see ad on page 85)











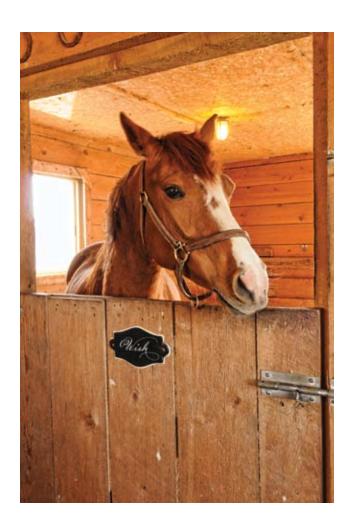




Behind a white post and rail fence, Danny the Shetland pony tosses his mane. Rosa, also a Shetland, though an even smaller mini, gives a friendly nuzzle to Margay the tall, thoroughbred Welsh

cross mare who saunters into their navy blue barn in search of hay. The three paddock mates get on well but they are most animated when visitors come to see them, children in particular, and those bearing apples.

Their owners have lived in the adjacent navy blue, 1890-built saltbox farmhouse for the last nine years. Like the ponies, the home is compact and charming. It features original pine woodwork and flooring throughout the interior, while the exterior and grounds are tidy and enchanting. Set on 50 acres south of Meaford, the views from the many windows of the home are of the same rolling pastures and fields that have been farmed for over a century. Continued on page 101





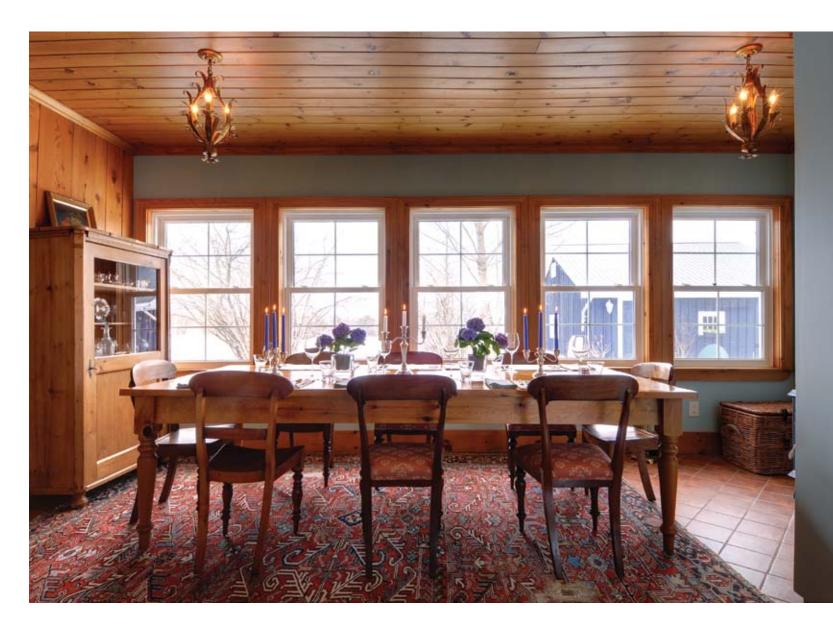
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BELOW: The homeowners transformed their summer kitchen into a cosy dining room with a breathtaking view. Terra cotta tile, reclaimed barn board ceilings and walls, and a textured area rug add warmth to the room. OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: It's teatime! Many thanks to the Thornbury Bakery for the irresistible scones and to Paperwhite Flowers in Thornbury for supplying a lovely seasonal flower arrangement.

TOP RIGHT: This modern farmhouse kitchen is compact, functional and flooded with natural light. Family members frequently gather at the convenient breakfast bar to enjoy informal meals. Horse head platter compliments of Dapple Gray - Horse, Hound and Home. BOTTOM LEFT: What a lovely spot to relax, read a good book, or bird watch. This versatile sitting area off the kitchen, leading to the rear deck, is a room with exceptional views of Frog's Hollow Farm. BOTTOM RIGHT: A clean white hutch houses a beautiful set of china, separating the kitchen area from the sitting room at the back of the home.



A rear addition in the early 1900s increased the square footage of the saltbox home. A summer kitchen, at some point, was added to the side and later insulated so it could be used year-round. Careful not to compromise the charm of the original structure, the current owners added their own touches by incorporating a front porch and rear deck (built by contractor **Doug Gordon**). They also added a Chinese Chippendale-style railing with diagonal balustrades on the deck. On the second storey, the owners punched out a single dormer at the front of the house, allowing views to the lane and road through a gothic-peaked window. To select just the right shade of navy for the board and batten exterior, they worked with **Birch** 

& Benjamin Inc. - not too black, not too blue.

Wanting to add a drive shed to the property, the owners brought in Amish builder **Jo Yoder** to erect a three-bay garage. The owners found several old windows at **Mary Sarah Antiques** to install on the building to help it look as though it had always been there. It now stores bales of hay as well as tools and vehicles. Yoder also helped them convert the existing garage that was behind the house into a small barn for the horses. He used hemlock wood to build the stalls and doors – horses won't chew on hemlock. A sliding door at the back of the barn provides access to the paddock. The owners work with local green thumb **Christina Evans** for landscaping on the property.

Continued on page 102

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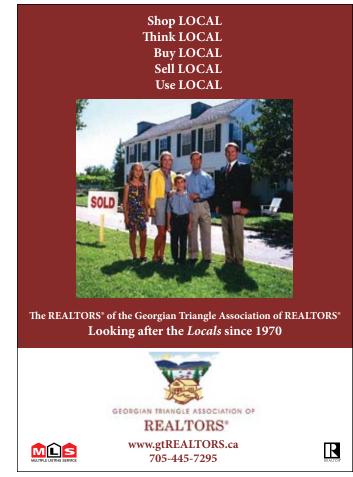


A large bank barn at the rear of the property was taken down by the previous owners because it was derelict and became dangerous. At the time, they reclaimed and re-planed the pine barn-board and brought them inside the house to panel the walls and ceiling of the summer kitchen. The room has a warm and rich feeling, a bank of windows and tiled floor. The owners added a custom pine harvest table, surrounded by chairs from <code>Mary Sarah Antiques</code>, which turned the summer kitchen into their dining room.

A beautifully reconditioned ceramic wood stove provides most of the heat for the home, with a forced air furnace (**Earls Heating & Air Conditioning**) kicking in periodically through the winter. The previous owners reinsulated the entire house, leaving it warm in winter and cool in the summer; enough of a breeze runs through in the hot months that the owners haven't needed to install an air conditioner. Continued on page 104

ABOVE: What a glorious and vibrant living room! The homeowners certainly weren't shy to make a bold colour statement. A beautiful Japanese footstool and matching throw cushions complement the orange-red walls. LEFT: An electric fireplace adds additional heat and features a gorgeous, antique wood mantel that the homeowners imported from England.









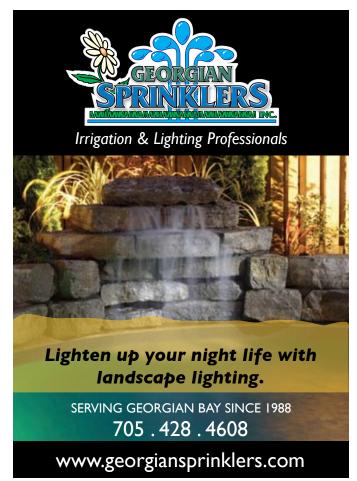


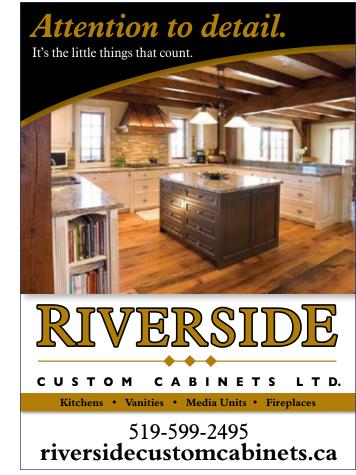
The modern kitchen features a white marble countertop with a breakfast bar (City Stone). The owners installed a dishwasher and new appliances to complement the existing baby blue-stained engineered wood flooring. Cabinets were built by **Grant Holmes** of **Holmes** Woodworking. Not afraid of colour, the living room is a vibrant orangered. The home is furnished with country antiques and artwork collected over a lifetime. The sofa was found at Cherché House Of Design, and cheery covers for other seating was done by  ${\bf Bouj\,Custom\,Design\,Studio}.$ Much of the art is equine-inspired, such as the coat rack shelf painted with a British hunting scene by a friend, or the striking large horse portrait purchased at Cherché. The owners imported a hand-carved mantel from England for the electric fireplace in the corner. A well-used writing desk sits beside the front door. Continued on page 106

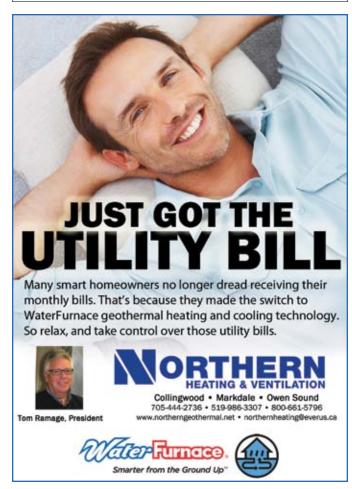
ABOVE: People come and people go. A compact second-floor guest room is where the grandkids stay and play when they're in town. **RIGHT:** The homeowners tastefully decorated the farmhouse with equine accessories and artwork, as well as beautiful antiques.



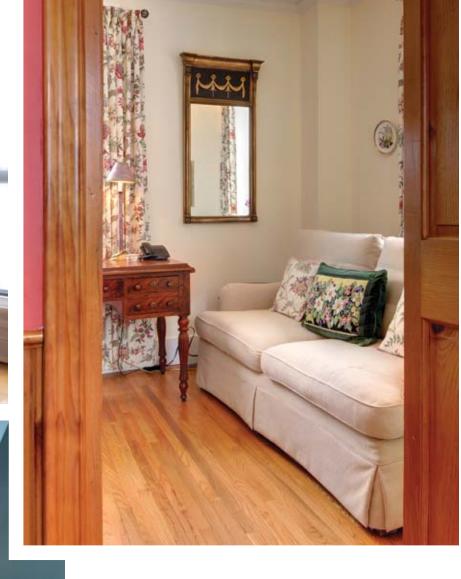












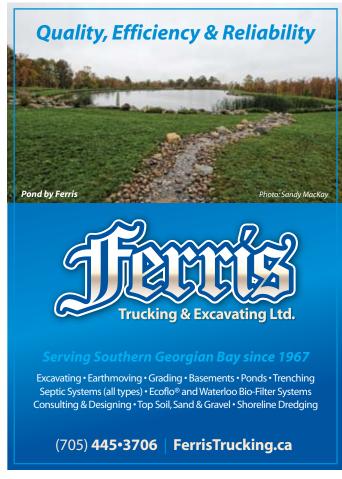
In the home office, the ceiling features original board and batten woodwork. The same orange-red colour from the living room adorns the railing up to the second storey where three bedrooms and a large bathroom complete the house.

A small bedroom with two twin beds welcomes the owners' visiting grandchildren. A guest bedroom with a second home-office area tucked into the new dormer window is at the front of the house. The main bathroom features a large tub, custom storage (by Doug Gordon) and laundry area (plumbing by **Doug's Plumbing and Heating**). But with its gorgeous south-facing views, the master bedroom has the prime spot in the home. In it, the owners wake up to the sun rising over their fields, watch their ponies and horse graze through the day, and listen to the songs of the frogs rising from the hollow. **OH** 

ABOVE: A small office on the main floor featuring original board and batten ceilings is tastefully decorated with antiques. TOP LEFT: One of many interesting antiques throughout the Home. This unique spool of twine with scissors must have come in handy over the years. LEFT: Frog's Hollow guests enjoy spectacular views of the rolling countryside and surrounding farmland from this dramatic gothic window in the guest room.











# directory

OUR HOMES attracts the area's finest businesses to advertise in our pages. Since our first issue, more than 400 companies have utilized our unparalleled distribution and coffee-table appeal to market their products and services. Now we're making it easier than ever for you, our readers, to become educated as you plan your home- and real estate-related purchasing decisions. The listings below are organized alphabetically by industry.

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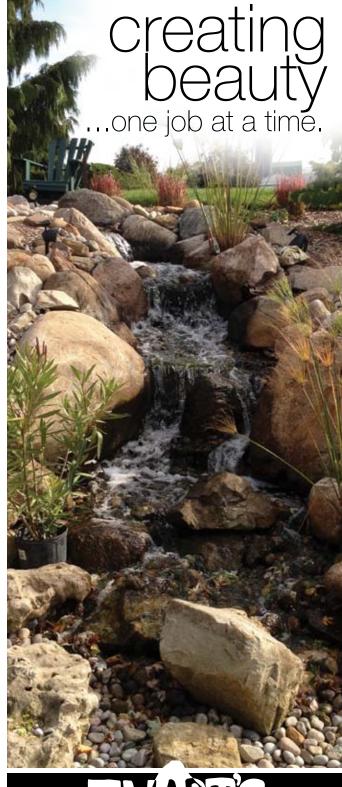
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# **SPRINGTIME** EGGS EN

BY MARIA DASILVA // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT HUNTER

I love eggs. Eggs always have my back. I count on them at least once a week for a quick and easy dinner. Breakfast never seems quite complete without them. And when I feel the need to impress there's baked eggs – oeufs en cocotte if I'm really out to make an impression!

I consider eggs en cocotte to be the "little black dress" of egg dishes. You can dress them up for any occasion. They are so lovely in their individual ramekins and have a perfect balance of delicacy and richness. Like little pots of heaven!

And they're dead easy. Just take care to not overcook them or the egg will become rubbery and certainly lose its appeal. Remember that the ramekin retains heat and the egg will continue cooking once out of the oven.

For this recipe, the eggs are enhanced with asparagus and mushrooms to celebrate spring. But you can play with other ingredients in the dish. Consider sautéed spinach and crumbled feta cheese, or chopped tomatoes and shredded cheddar cheese, or crispy bacon bits and parsley. The options are endless! And if you're cooking for a crowd the recipe easily doubles, or even triples.

#### **EGGS EN COCOTTE**

Serves 2

2 tsp olive oil

4 mushrooms, thinly sliced

4 spears asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces

2 tbsp whipping cream

2 eggs

1 tbsp finely grated Parmesan cheese

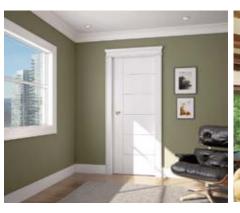
Pinch each salt and cracked pepper

1 tbsp chopped fresh chives

- In small skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat, fry mushrooms until golden brown, about 6 minutes. Transfer to plate. In same skillet, fry asparagus until bright green and tender, about 3 minutes. Transfer to plate with mushrooms.
- · Divide mushrooms and asparagus between two buttered 1-cup ovenproof ramekins. Into each add half of the cream, one of the eggs and sprinkle with half of the Parmesan.
- Place ramekins in baking dish. Pour boiling water into the dish until it reaches halfway up the sides of the ramekins.
- Bake in 375°F oven until egg whites are set on the edge, but the centre is still slightly jiggly and the yolks remain soft, about 8 minutes. Sprinkle each with salt and pepper and half of the chives. Let stand for 2 to 3 minutes before serving with toast points. OH

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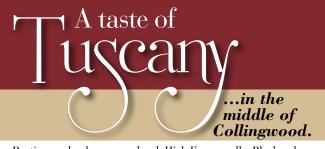






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# finishing touch



# HOW TO MAKE MASON JAR Canterns

BY ADRIENNE BROWN

Dig those old Mason jars out from the back of your basement and put them to good use this season. You can quickly and easily transform unused jars into a charming string of lanterns.

#### **YOU WILL NEED:**

5 or more mason jars, any size

A roll of pliable stainless steel wire (we used 20 gauge)

Wire cutters

STEPS:

Needle-nose pliers

Tea light or votives candles

Optional: Metal screw-on tops

#### otional: Metal Screw-on to

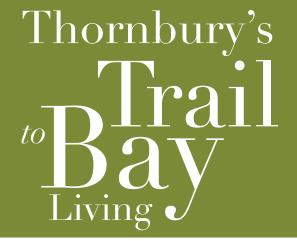


- 2. Bend the piece of wire around the bare rim of the jar, under the glass lip, until you have a U-shape.
- 3. On each side of the "U" on opposite sides of the jar, pinch the wire and twist into a small loop. This is where your hooks will go. Try to make these parallel so your jars hang straight.
- 4. Once you have loops on either side, pull the remaining wire tight around the jar, twist the rest of the remaining wire together at the ends and tuck the sharp edges towards the jar so they don't stick out.
- 5. Cut a second piece of wire, about 30-cm long.
- 6. Create a small hook on either end (using about 2-3 cm of wire on each side), then bend into a U-shape.
- 7. Hook each end into the loops on either side of your jar, then pinch closed.
- 8. Hang your lanterns from hooks, a chain or even a string of twinkle lights, or set them on a table for al fresco flair.

#### **VARIATIONS:**

- Decorative base: Fill the bottom of each jar with stones or sand to raise your candles. This is also helpful for keeping candles level if your jars have bevelled bottoms.
- Floating candles: Fill your jars partway with water and float candles on top.
- Oil lamp: These should sit flat on a table. Drill a small hole in the lid of a Mason jar and string a cotton wick through it. Fill the jar halfway with lamp oil, secure the lid with the wick in the oil and let sit before lighting.
- String lights: Hang empty lanterns as normal, but tuck sections of a string of twinkle lights in each one instead of candles. **OH**

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