

spotlight

golden YEAR

PHOTOGRAPHY JACKIE NOBLE

THE PLACE: It was a humble beginning for **Coni-marble Manufacturing** when Nick Huizenga set up shop in his east London double-car garage 50 years ago. Today, the company's slick new showroom in Thorndale tells a different story. Nick's son Derrick Huizenga, who now co-manages the company with his brother Craig, is excited about fresh and

modern changes to the space. Deep charcoal walls create a smart backdrop for material samples, a dramatic island with a chic Neolith surface provides ample work space to review products, and soon there will be beamed ceilings to continue the look of the building's renovated rustic exterior. All in all, a fitting backdrop for a celebratory year.

Derrick and Craig Huizenga.



FUN FACT:

Coni-marble is named for the first two letters in the names of Nick and his wife, Coas.



THEIR STORY: With Nick at the helm for many years and Derrick and Craig working alongside him, Coni-marble was steadily grown and nurtured into a southwestern Ontario go-to for showers and tub surrounds, as well as a variety of counter, desk and table surfaces. They are, of course, most known for their signature cultured marble. The business is now a three-generation family affair. Nick remains involved, while Derrick and Craig each have children working for them.

WHAT THEY DO: The Huizengas are seasoned authorities on the intricate formula and technique for creating cultured marble, but as Derrick likes to say in his radio ads, "We do more than just marble." Corian and several lines of quartz are available, in addition to Avian Solid Surfacing, another in-house product, which was developed in the 1990s. Derrick says Avian is having a "bit of a comeback" on the heels of the quartz craze of recent years. They are also excited by Neolith, which not only looks sleek and stylish but is totally heat resistant and virtually indestructible. Coni-marble Manufacturing Inc. supplies many contractors and plumbing outlets in the area and is also a retail store for the DIYer. Not surprisingly, this crew is a fountain of knowledge. They stay versed on styles and trends by following what's happening within the European design scene.



GET THERE:

99 Harrison St.
Thorndale
519.461.0100
conimarble.ca

MAINSTAY PRODUCT: Cultured marble. "It lasts forever," Nick says proudly, noting that contractors rarely report problems. Adds Derrick, "It's a perfect solution for the DIYer who may not mind the grunt work of ripping out a bathroom, but then is happy to have Coni-marble installed easily over rough walls."

TRENDING: Clean, simple looks, especially in grey, are always on trend. Sink bowls that seamlessly integrate with the counter are popular. Granite-look textures and 70s-style patterns in cultured marble are also in demand. **OH**

