



the
 STORY AND PHOTOS **WALTER FRANCYK**
PROFESSIONALS

When planning a new home, renovation, landscaping project or special occasion, expert advice and skillful assistance will ensure your success.

NANCY NICKLE
 Owner, Birchview Design

What's key to great design? For my clients, the key is finding the right style that will make them feel comfortable in their own space and be excited to show it off. It's important to consider the entire space when redoing any one room so that each room flows into the next. Scale of furnishings is very important; mixing in different textures and repeating certain elements makes for interesting and unique design. Including at least one piece that is a little edgy will make the design memorable.

How do you consistently meet your clients' expectations? I take the time, when I first meet with new clients, to listen to their needs, their challenges, and discuss every aspect of how they want to live in their space. If a client feels that I have truly listened to them, the finished product reflects it and they are happy.

ANN GRIFFIN
 Owner, Griffin's Greenhouses

What's your specialty? We supply excellent quality plants, 80 per cent of which are grown at our greenhouses here on Lakefield Road in Peterborough. We offer unique hanging baskets, patio planters and window boxes, large perennials, helpful and well-informed advice.

How do you keep local thumbs green? We have a willingness to learn and to keep up-to-date on gardening and landscaping trends. We pass on this information to our customers through workshops, seminars, special events and newsletters. It's a way to have fun together. Our shop and greenhouses offer a great selection of annuals and perennials for yards at home and the cottage.

Why has this business kept you engaged for 40 years? Our customers are great. The staff at Griffin's is super. The constant changes in horticulture are always interesting. What we grow now is different from even 10 years ago. For example, we create and supply more planters and colour combinations.

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**SARAH CRANLEY
& JENNIFER
CHAMBERLAIN**

Owners, The Wine Shoppe on Park

What makes you special? We are a second generation, family-owned and operated craft winemaking shop, in operation since 1997. With our help, our patrons have crafted over a million bottles of top-quality wine. We offer the most extensive wine list in the region, with more than 200 wines from famous vineyards around the world. We proudly offer our patrons a unique, high-quality winemaking experience, complete with dozens of customization options to truly craft a wine all their own.

Why make your own wine? It's fun, easy and inexpensive! Being able to proudly offer friends and family a glass of wine you've crafted yourself is a truly fulfilling experience. At less than \$5 per bottle, craft wines are a popular hostess gift and are a great idea for wedding favours, too.

What are your keys to success? Great customer service is key! Over the decades, we have learned so much about how to best craft quality wines. We believe that it is our knowledge of our wines, our attention to the wine trends around the world and our focus on best practices that set us apart. We enjoy being able to confidently recommend a wine to our patrons based on their taste and preferences. Our motto: "Craft with confidence, sip with pride!"



ANGELA JONES

Owner, Lakeshore Designs

What makes good design? It just feels good when you walk into a room and you feel at home, it has great energy and a sense of calm no matter what the style.

What's your signature style? I enjoy working with all styles, but coastal lake houses, with a relaxed and cosy neutral palette and a mix of textures and pops of colour, are surely my favourite.

What do you like best about your work? I like the amazing feeling when my clients walk in and are overjoyed with the transformation! When they walk around and keep saying, "Wow! Wow!" I just love it! That is the most gratifying feeling ever. *Continued on page 50*



HEATHER & STEPHEN TOBEY
 Owners, Gordon Tobey Developments Ltd.

What makes your company unique? Gordon Tobey Developments offers a fully customizable product. With in-house design capabilities and a highly-skilled building team, we are able to offer our clients a home that meets their expectations and lifestyle needs. Further, we have demonstrated our commitment to quality and comfort by making Energy Star certification a standard feature.

How do you keep customers happy? We take the time to get to know each of our customers and find out what is important to them. From start to finish, we listen closely

to ensure that we hear AND understand their requests. We have found that this customer-focused approach fosters confidence and peace of mind.

What do you enjoy most about your work? Someone once said “variety is the spice of life.” At Gordon Tobey Developments, no two homes are alike. We are constantly researching new products and trying new techniques to meet our customers’ needs. This provides opportunity for learning, which drives continuous improvement. That keeps the entire crew engaged and excited! **OH**

» SOURCE IT

THE NEW, NEAT, UNIQUE, AND FABULOUS IN PETERBOROUGH AND THE SURROUNDING AREA



MY FAVOURITE THINGS

Cottage Life has collaborated with Abbott giftware to create the Cottage Life Weekend Collection: “Where Every Day is the Weekend” and **My Favourite Things** in Bobcaygeon has the entire collection.

Cottage Life evokes a feeling like no other. Relaxed, refreshed and refined sets the tone for those who seek contemporary comfort in the products they choose for their home and their family. Cottage Life is as much a state of mind as it is an iconic Canadian brand.

The partnership of Cottage Life with Abbott means well-designed, high quality products that will be welcome in every space and every home, whether it’s for a cosy apartment, or a spectacular chalet.

There are a variety of products for the home in this collection, from wood and copper birdhouses, to stoneware table top and copper plated stainless steel serve ware, all Cottage inspired. These lovely mouth blown stemless glasses, seen above, are etched with the Classic Cottage icons. The 74 ounce pitcher is etched with the iconic Cottage Chair. There are also etched Goblet and Highball glasses to complete the set.

The entire Abbott Cottage Life Weekend Collection is at **My Favourite Things**, 10 King Street East Bobcaygeon 705.738.9090 info@myfav-things.ca (Please see ad on pg 41)



LAIRDS INTERIORS

For over ten years, **Lairds Interiors** have been helping clients across Peterborough and the Kawartha Lakes to achieve fabulous new looks for their homes. Specializing in Levolor blinds, we provide a truly mobile solution for our clients. We are ‘The Interior Store that Comes to your Door!’

Not being tied to any one location allows us to be flexible. It also lowers our overhead, allowing us to provide excellent prices. We let you choose blinds in the comfort of your own home or workplace, at a time that suits you. We take the hassle out of finding the look that is perfect for your home.

Practicing what we preach in our design business, we also buy tired or neglected homes and breathe new life into them. If you have such a property which you need to sell, we often offer a quick purchase, releasing you from the burden of a problem home. This allows you to move on with your life, whilst we upgrade and modernize it for someone else who can enjoy it for years to come.

So, if you want to beautify your existing home or move out of a tired one, make us your first point of call! 705.341.0453 lairdsinteriors.com (Please see ad on pg 33)



LOG FURNITURE AND MORE

If you’re looking for superbly crafted Canadian rustic log country furniture and décor for your cottage, home or chalet then you’ve come to the right place!

Log Furniture and More offers fabulous rustic country furniture that not only looks beautiful, but is incredibly functional and, above all, built to last. We source only the finest Canadian timber and almost every piece is hand crafted at the factory in Southern Ontario where dovetail joints and solid, robust fixings come as standard. We offer a variety of products from log beds to dressers, from dining tables to futons and from Muskoka chairs to outdoor rockers; every piece of log furniture is crafted with all the love and attention that it deserves.

As well as our wonderful range of indoor and outdoor log furniture, you’ll also find a vast array of accessories to add that all important finishing touch to your indoor or outdoor cottage space. Things such as Gazebos, Barrel Saunas, Tiki Bars, Hammocks, Antler Lamps, Pool Tables, Lighting, Bedding and much more besides.

There is something quintessentially charming about our solid, handmade rustic-wood furniture and décor made in Ontario for Canadians.

A proud Canadian Company. logfurnitureandmore.ca 800.557.0985 x2 info@logfurnitureandmore.ca (Please see ad on pg 33)



NEWTON ELECTRIC

At **Newton Electric** we have taken great pride in servicing all facets of the electrical industry since 1999. Our customers are industrial, commercial and residential which entails everything from small renovations, wiring additions, to entire new homes and cottages including the newest smart home wiring. We also maintain and repair solar trackers and rooftop units. Our fully licensed staff can look after alarm installations and backup generator installations as well.

We offer 24-hour emergency service allowing us to respond to calls day or night, 24/7.

“With summer storm season fast approaching we often get calls for power outages usually caused by downed limbs,” says company owner Jim Newton. “We can get to the site and make repairs to whatever may have been damaged on the homeowner’s property so that lights will come back on once Hydro One has made their repairs. In cases where the utility repairs may take a few days we can provide an emergency backup generator, or look at installing a permanent backup unit for future power outages.”

At **Newton Electric** our slogan is “Doing Whatever It Takes”, and we pride ourselves on doing just that.

Located in Lindsay, serving the Kawarthas and all of cottage country. 705.878.5846 NewtonElectric.ca (Please see ad on pg 9)