

# SUMMER PROJECTS

PHOTOGRAPHY JAY ROBINSON

Summertime in Canada is a coveted season for homeowners to get outside and pack in as much fun as possible. We have collected some valuable information to help enhance your outdoor lifestyle.



**TIMOTHY BADGLEY & DEAN HOWLETT, Owners**  
*Acanthus Interiors Inc., Port Hope*

**What are some key elements when designing an outdoor room?** The summer is a great time to entertain outdoors with all the fanfare of entertaining indoors. Treat your outdoor rooms like you would your interior, and consider everything from seating, lighting, accessories and even outdoor draperies to extend your interior style outdoors. Consider adding artwork and even a mirror or two to reflect parts of your garden.

**Are designer fabrics available for an outdoor room?** Today, outdoors fabrics have come a long way from when your grandparents had their vinyl chair pads on their patio sets. They are tested for sunlight exposure, durability and are mold and mildew resistance. Outdoor fabrics are much more subtle and colourful with a wide variety of patterns and finishes from traditional to contemporary designs.

**NATHANIEL KRAAK, Manager**  
*Legacy Vintage Building Materials & Antiques, Cobourg*

**What are some trends in garden architecture?** Many of our clients visit us to renovate a garden's appearance. Families outgrow swing sets and wading pools and want to build a more mature garden setting. We like to suggest considering a theme to build their very own Garden Folly using vintage architectural fragments and historical pieces.

**How does a homeowner start a "Garden Folly?"** Start small, perhaps with one or two artifacts, and develop your theme over time. Best of all, most garden décor features, like fountains, columns, arches and urns are fully portable as you move to and through your future garden and redevelop your outdoor space. *Continued on page 48*

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**GINA BROUWER, Owner**  
New Leaf Landscape Architecture, Cobourg

**How do you improve a landscape for shade and drainage?**

Take time to analyze conditions such as sun, shade, soil, moisture and circulation. Use patterns and views from inside and outside of your home. Make note of how your family, pets and guests make use of the space. Note what grows successfully in your yard and on neighbouring properties.

**What's the best process to design a landscape?** Design is a collaborative process between the property owner, consultants and contractors. A landscape installation is a dynamic and challenging process, which can take a few seasons to complete. Tailor the design to your maintenance expectations for your property. Plant a large shade tree to increase property value, save energy, improve air quality and help cool homes.

**HAYLEY DOYLE, Sales Associate**  
**DUANE BARKER, Sales Associate**  
Friendly Fires, Cobourg

**What are some new trends in outdoor grills?** New-style charcoal grills are hot, hot, hot! They offer more flavour and are more versatile than your parents' traditional hibachi. Charcoal grills such as our popular Primo Oval are available in different colours and sizes. Outdoor grills let you cook a wide variety of foods with an unbeatable taste.

**Do you want your outdoor fireplace to be powered by wood or gas?** Wood will give you that cosy campfire feeling while gas flames can be super modern yet realistic looking. Consider your seating area or living space around the fireplace itself. Do you prefer a intimate or an area for large groups?



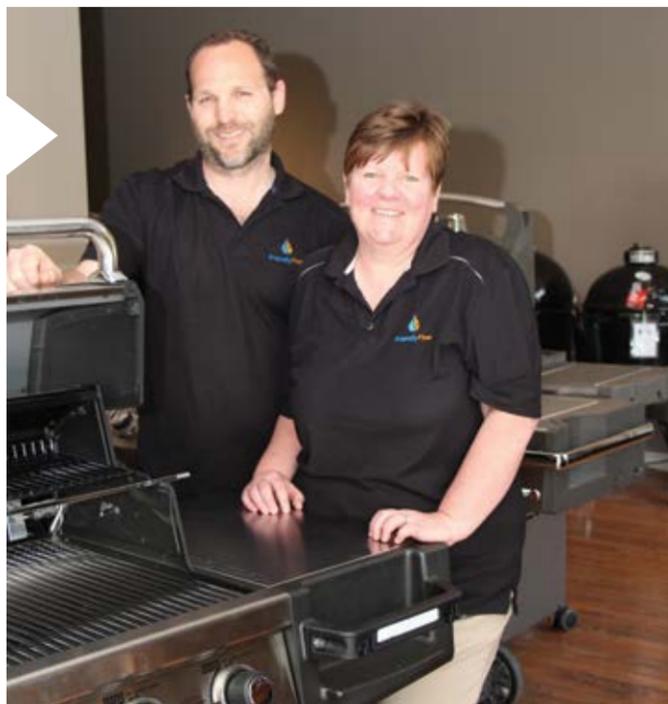
**JOE HASHEM, Owner**  
Clear Choice Pool & Spa Centre, Cobourg & Brighton

**What should homeowners consider when purchasing a pool?**

We advise our clients to consider the location of their septic system, the property drainage patterns, selecting energy-efficient pumps and heaters and also weighing the options of above-ground versus in-ground pool options. It is also very important to know the local by-laws and regulations pool owners will need to comply with, including railings and fencing. Lastly, research your selected pool company before installing, and request an outline of what kinds of after-sales support and service you can expect.

**How does a homeowner decide what size pool to purchase?**

Selecting the size of a pool has a lot more to do with your lifestyle than what you can squeeze into your backyard. It's important to be realistic about your yard space. But think about how and who will be using your pool. Mature families might want a modest efficient pool to cool off in for light recreation. A large family with young children might expect lots of pool parties and a larger pool will help keep up with all the fun in the sun during the summer. **OH**



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