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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

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The Active Adult Lifestyle Community of Pine Meadows



Nestled on 65 acres of majestic green landscape in Belwood, Ontario, only ten minutes away from Ferris and Elora, Pine Meadows is a caring community resting alongside the Highland Pines Campgrounds, established 1992 by owners and developers Don and Janet Vallery. Originally referred to as a retirement community, this masterpiece of ingenuity is now properly referred to as an Active Adult Lifestyle Community and with good reason.

Pine Meadows offers a lifestyle for homeowners that invites freedom of travel, community activities, fitness, gardening, wood working, hiking, hobbies and most of all, tranquility as it empowers its residents to live the life they chose amongst accepting neighbors who become friends in the truest sense, combined with the convenience of never lifting a shovel, mowing a lawn, completely alleviating the worry over exterior household responsibility. Those who love to escape winters in their RV's can store their RV on site! Security and

comfort is all that awaits cottagers who know they will return to their homes in perfect condition.

Proof of this confidence and satisfaction rests soundly in a factual account citing 11 of the original 22 residents love their community so much they have stayed over the course of twenty one years. Residents for the most part choose to stay unless they feel the need to move closer to family, experience a loss, or perhaps health issues require a different living arrangement. Even CCAC can get involved in care that allows residents to remain in the community and in the house they love. A quick visit to the Pine Meadows Homeowners Association's website at <http://pmahome.ca>, completely and wonderfully run by volunteers, clearly reveals the community's intellectually diverse mixture of talent, personality, skill, while expressing a genuine love and appreciation for the community's lifestyle of choice.

Continued on page 4

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Decorating with cork



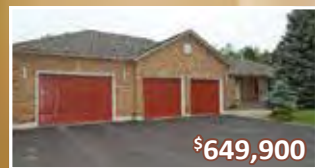
is an environmentally friendly material to use. The material is impervious to pressure, so it doesn't dent and the air trapped within the cork cell structure makes it strong, yet soft underfoot. Cork also is a good insulator and an effective heat/cold conductor. It also absorbs vibrations, making it an effective sound buffer.

In addition to using cork on a floor, individuals can use it for an accent wall. In a teenager's room, a cork wall can be used as a large bulletin board for photos and memorabilia. Some wine connoisseurs like to make serving trays or backsplashes out of cork wine stoppers, particularly from favorite vintages. Cork resists water and stains, which makes it a good material to use in kitchens and bathrooms as well.

Cork is a versatile and relatively inexpensive material that lends itself well to different decorating and home-use applications. Cork grows as the bark of the Cork Oak tree, which is grown and harvested mostly in Portugal. Cork is harvested about every 9 or 10 years and is allowed to dry for 1 to 2 years. It is then boiled to remove any toxins and is cut and dried for use.

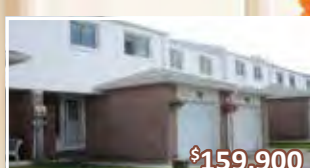
People use cork in various ways. Cork wine stoppers are some of the first things that come to mind when envisioning cork. Cork bulletin boards are another common use.

However, cork is also used around the house, especially for flooring. Because the cork bark will regenerate on a tree naturally without damage to the rest of the tree, cork



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It's not just your house, it's your **HOME**



After years of experience functioning as an interior and commercial designer, Barb Shaughnessy believes each project is as different as the people who live there, and personalities need to be considered.

It has been said that a house can provide shelter, but a home reflects your family, loves and lifestyle. A home is where and who we want to be and is our constant place of love and comfort. Whether it is to sell down the road or build, live and grow with your current home, Tamerlane is the company that will be there to work with you all the way through.



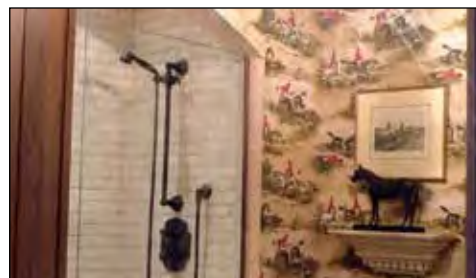
Barb Shaughnessy created Tamerlane after years of experience functioning as an interior and commercial designer. In the early nineties she took her strengths and grew them into the hugely successful Tamerlane Interiors. Barb and Tamerlane have certain philosophies and outlooks when it comes to work in and around your home. It is a big picture plan and experience. Interior design and decor must implement the elements of good design, while maintaining the personality and lifestyle of the individuals who live or work there. Each project is as different as the people who live there.

Tamerlane is there from the outset to work for you and with you, supporting your interests and investment. Building a relationship with the client is step one in an amazing journey that can be had from start to finish. Any questions and concerns can be discussed alongside Barb and her group of tradespeople. Clients will not only benefit from her amazing design talents but also have access to her extensive and skillful network of contractors

and suppliers. They will team up to make that beloved wish list a reality.

Specialties range from invigorating tired interiors like kitchens, bathrooms and living spaces to create complete finishings in these rooms such as lighting, window treatment and furnishing. The construction and redesign is focused on the client's vision, functionality and usability. It is about creating that "wow" factor everyone wants when they walk into a wholly designed living space.

Tamerlane offers their client's a customized result while along the way providing competitive pricing with skilled tradespeople. Barb creates a successful team with the client and offers client advocacy all the way through. Tamerlane is an experience and relationship first company that will help make your dream vision a reality.



Stay tuned every month for a new exciting article from Tamerlane's Barb Shaughnessy. She will provide expert advice from various renovation aspects such as *The Do's and Don'ts - and How Not to Replicate Mistakes, Kitchen and Bathroom Reno's, Urban vs. Rural Properties, and Designing Inside and Out - The Complete Package.*

Need a little advice with some work happening around the house or on and upcoming project? Barb will also be fielding questions you may have and will produce a *Tip of the Month* with each article to help you learn some of the 'tricks of the trade.'



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Continued from the cover

Only 13 re-sales occurred in the last year as satisfied residents realize the purchase of a home in Pine Meadows is an investment into their financial future. Many empty nesters and downsizers enjoy the freedom to make home improvements inside the home, completely personalising their homes to suit their requirements, needs and preferences including the now popular sit down showers.

Pioneers in their field, Don and Janet Vallery are quick to point out the many advantages of living in a community such as Pine Meadows where these energy efficient houses are built with very high standards of construction including special attention to



the detail of door space being 36 inches.

Janet Valley had this to say, "Pine Meadows is a caring and accepting community. We have a lot of green space and when we were developing, we situated parkland behind as many houses as possible so there are a lot of trees and walkways and views of Lake Belwood are beautiful. New residents are always astounded how quickly they make new friends. The Community Hall is the hub of the community and a person can bicycle and walk most places if they choose not to drive. There's a wonderful restaurant nearby, the Belwood Super Snax, and the Belwood Country Market has everything you might need."

Pioneer Meadows Resale Representative, Paul Lingen had this to say, "I recommend people take a close look at Pine Meadows and when looking at places with similar services, use this community as a standard. You may find places that seem similar, but not at this great price." Contact Lingen at 226-821-1688 or pnmdwshomesales@gmail.com

For more information into this vibrant, vital and vivacious community visit the Pine Meadows website at <http://www.pinemeadows.ca> or email info@pinemeadows.ca.

– Written by Alex Sher



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11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Home

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According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.



Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these

11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether.



In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue be-

fore their home is listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.HomeInspectionInfoB4USell.info or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-866-500-3429 and enter 503. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



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Converting a kid's room into an adult space

Parents often renovate a child's room when that child moves out, but be careful you're not hurting anyone's feelings before you start your renovation.

When a young adult leaves the comforts of home to set out on his or her own, homeowners are left with a bedroom that just calls out to be made over. However, the experience of a child leaving the nest can be bittersweet, and some parents struggle with the decision to renovate or leave the room intact. Converting a room can be an emotional process, but there are several different ways to put a newly

vacated room to good use.

What to do with a room may hinge on who still lives in the house. Another child, for instance, may be interested in "upgrading" to the room if it is larger or has amenities that the previous bedroom does not offer, like a better view or a bigger closet. Some have plans for a craft space or a library. Perhaps the room would be perfect for a "man cave" or a quiet sitting area.

Keep in mind that the room may hold sentimental value for the child, so converting the space is not something that should happen abruptly or without prior notice given to the former occupant. Communication is key before the room can be permanently changed into a new room. To get started, follow these guidelines.



to incorporate something from the bedroom into the new design to pay homage to the person who lived and grew up in the room. Keep a square of removed wallpaper and frame it. Put some well-read childhood books on a shelf. Have a place of honor for the first soccer trophy. This way when your child returns home there will still be a piece of the room's former identity.

► Work through your new design plan. Before removing furniture and any items, draw up a detailed renovation plan and establish a budget. If the room will become a guest room, the basics may already be there and you simply need to introduce new linens and a new paint color to transform the space. Consider keeping the room functional as a sleeping space in some way -- whether moving in a sleeper sofa or making a regular bed into a daybed -- so when your son or daughter comes to visit, he or she will have a comfortable space.



Converting a child's former bedroom into a new and exciting living space for adults takes some planning and sensitivity. A collaborative effort between parent and child can make the process can go much more smoothly.



► Start slowly. Broach the subject with the former occupant of the room to gauge his or her reaction to the idea. If your child is supportive, then the process may move along more quickly. If not, you may need to wait a little longer before starting the renovation.

► Go through the room's contents together. Your child may feel his or her private sanctum was violated if you simply box up belongings and ready them to be taken away. Instead, go through the room together and allow your son or daughter to pack away items of sentimental value. Other items can be donated. Consider which pieces of furniture might be kept and repurposed.

► Keep some items of value. Remember, you don't want your child to feel like his or her identity has been erased from the house. Find a way

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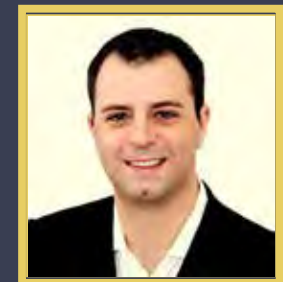
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It's all about texture for today's hardwood floors

Experts in the hardwood flooring industry are seeing a major shift in the way consumers are now choosing their floors, as colour is no longer king. Texture has emerged as the new “colour” when it comes to the driving force behind wood flooring selections.

“For years, colour was always the top consideration for people looking for a hardwood floor. But over the last few years, texture has overtaken colour as the new driver. The reason behind this movement is that texture stimulates our senses with both tactile and visual elements,” explained Michel Collin, Marketing Director of Mercier Wood Flooring.



The latest hand-scraped and distressed hardwood floors are good examples of how popular textures have become with discerning wood flooring consumers. According to Collin, there's

is a big demand for textured wood floors across North America, where homeowners are looking to feature the distressed look of barn wood, prominent knots or the natural sculptural and undulating lines of boards planed the old fashioned way.



“The texture trend is very hot with homeowners today and we have a feeling it's here to stay,” added designer Marie Francois of Dolce Interieur in Montreal.

To keep up with the demand for this growing texture trend in hardwood floors, manufacturers such as Mercier have developed new hardwood series featuring these sought-after tactile and visual elements.

This year Mercier's Nature collection is offering even more textures than in years past, as its new “Pub Series” features hardwood floors that perfectly capture the essence of a well-worn floor.

With names like Courvoisier, Spirits, Stout and Malt, the series replicates the unique charm of an Irish pub where its floors have seen it all and lived to tell the tale.

Mercier's “Handscraped” series features a hand-sanded feel that gives the floor deep character. A traditional effect shines though in the beautiful knots, a deeply distinctive touch that ties any room together effortlessly.



“When it comes to flooring texture treatments, such as handscraping, they should be considered as art forms, timeless, unique works of art tailored to your home,” added Collin.

Design tip: A rustic scrape will result in a more “distressed” look and is an ideal choice for an active family. A more sculpted floor with minor surface interruption is considered “classic” and fits perfectly in a contemporary decor.

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FEATURE HOME



New Construction, Porterfield Rd. Caledon

Situated on almost 17 acres with long views in all directions, including conservation lands. This custom home has spared no expense from the 20ft stone fireplace & cathedral Ceilings, to the gourmet custom kitchen with stainless appliances. The balcony's off the master and breakfast area are a wow.



Wood Finishes throughout and the walkout from the lower level is perfect access for the pool you have always wanted. 2nd floor bath has a sauna and the bedrooms are large. Extras; 1000 trees have been planted. Watch them grow as you develop the almost 17 acres around you. In addition, you have a 3 car garage, stone patio at the front and walkout from the basement. 1 of the 2 2nd floor bedrooms could be a home theatre.

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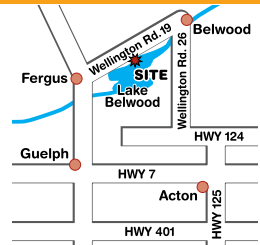
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Beyond Your Expectations

HOW TO: Repair bald spots on your lawn

Even the cutest pet can contribute to bald spots on your lawn... Or it might be something else.

Lawn care aficionados know how a single bald spot can make an otherwise luscious lawn look worn down and poorly maintained. A bald spot can stick out like a sore thumb, while several bald spots can compromise a home's curb appeal.

Treating bald spots typically depends on what is causing the bald spot. Bugs, dryness, pet waste and damage from mowers are some of the more common causes of bald spots. The following is a breakdown of these different causes and how best to address each situation so you can restore your lawn to its natural beauty.

Dryness

A lawn can go dry because of drought in the summertime or during the winter months when there is not much rain or snowfall. Homeowners cannot change the weather, but they can help their lawn avoid becoming the burned or yellowed turf that often results after extended periods of dryness. Fertilizing the lawn during the spring and summer is a good first step. This

helps the lawn grow in healthy and thick. Once you have fertilized, don't cut the grass too short. When grass is cut too short, the soil struggles to retain moisture, which can eventually lead to bald spots if weather conditions are dry. During especially dry periods in the summer, watering might be necessary. You won't have to water frequently, but be sure to water deeply so the water can reach the roots of the grass.

Pet Waste



Waste from pets can cause bald spots on a yard. This might surprise some homeowners, but pet waste contains a high level of concen-



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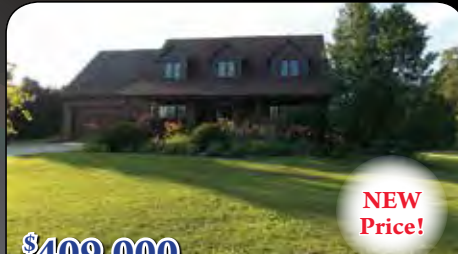
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trated nitrogen that, when applied to a lawn, can burn the grass and cause bald spots. Urine is most likely to cause bald spots, but fecal matter can as well.

When addressing the problem of pet waste on your lawn, make sure no one else's pets are the cause of the problem. Neighbors out walking their dogs should be discouraged from allowing their dogs to use your lawn as a restroom. If this does not work, then erect a fence or some type of structure that makes it difficult for other people's pets to access your lawn.

When it's your own pet causing the damage, address the spots where your pet relieves itself as quickly as possible. Watering the area within eight hours can significantly reduce the risk of lawn damage by diluting the nitrogen levels. Another way to address the issue is to encourage the animal to use various spots in the yard, rather than continually using the same spot. Flush each area with water immediately after the pet is finished. If the damage is already considerable, remove the damaged grass and reseed the spot.

Mower Damage



Sometimes Mother Nature and man's best friend are not the culprit with regard to bald spots on your lawn. Human error can cause bald spots, too. Dull mower blades or grass that is cut too low can cause bald spots. Fortunately, this is easily remedied.

To avoid bald spots, make sure mower blades are sharpened at the beginning of each mowing season, as dull blades damage the grass, which is then forced to use valuable nutrients to treat torn grass, weakening the lawn over time. When mowing, make sure you're not cutting too low so the soil can retain as much moisture as possible. This will necessitate more frequent mowing, but this, too, can prevent bald spots, as it ensures those parts of the grass that contain chlorophyll will not be removed.

Bald spots can turn a pristine lawn into an eyesore. But treating bald spots can be easy and, when done effectively, the lawn can be restored quickly.



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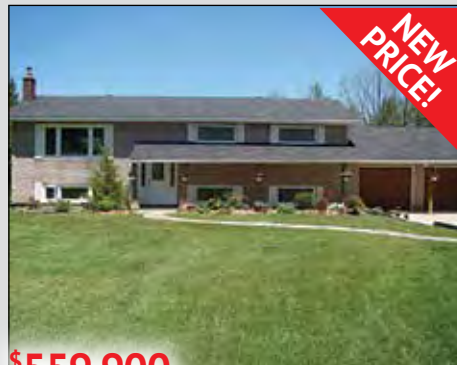
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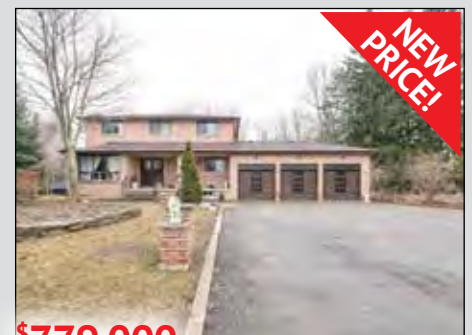
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