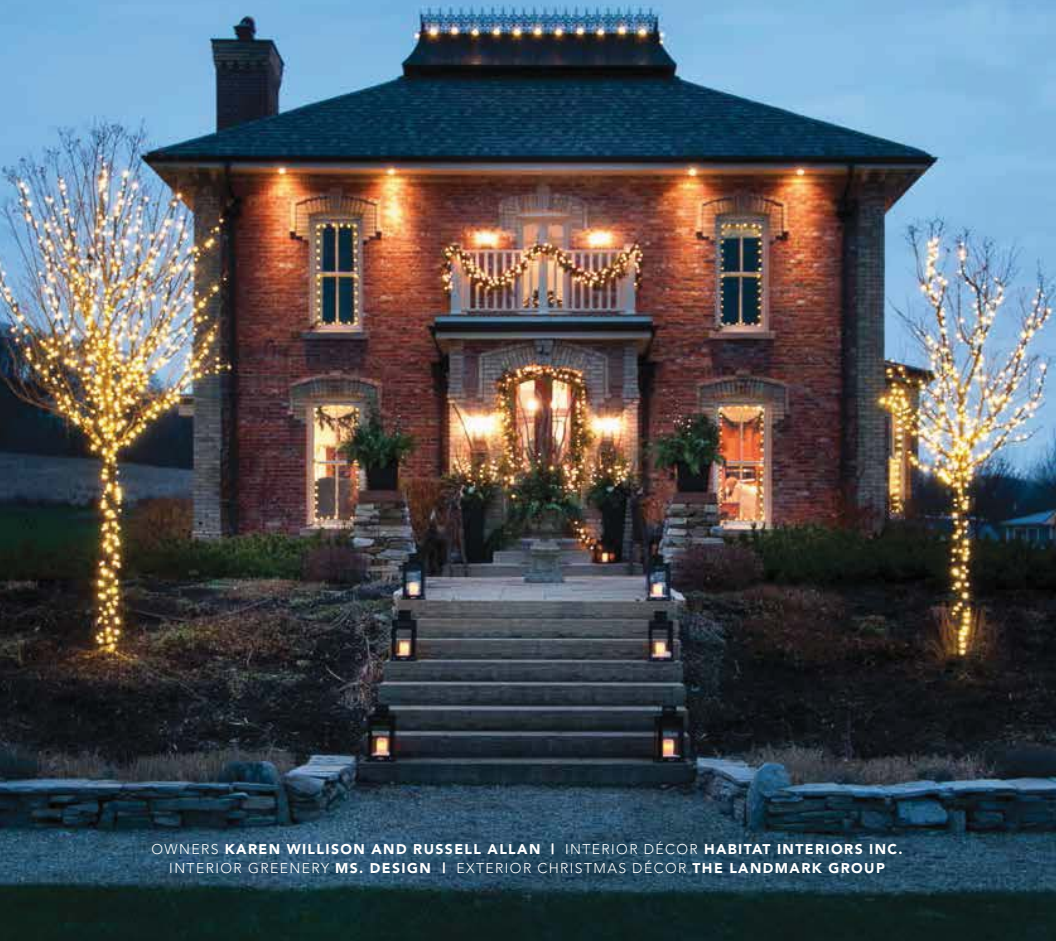


holiday house tour

STORY LAUREL FORTIN
PHOTOGRAPHY SANDY MACKAY

HARK! THE HERALD *Homes*



OWNERS KAREN WILLISON AND RUSSELL ALLAN | INTERIOR DÉCOR HABITAT INTERIORS INC.
INTERIOR GREENERY MS. DESIGN | EXTERIOR CHRISTMAS DÉCOR THE LANDMARK GROUP



TWELVE DAYS OF DECORATIONS

On the twelfth day of Christmas, with decorations being hung at Karen Willison's house at the top of Camperdown Road in Thornbury, her true love agreed they could keep some of local painter **Sue Tupy's** stunning artwork for themselves after the **2013 Collingwood Holiday House Tour** was over. Karen's husband, Russell Allan, enjoyed their home's transformation into a winter wonderland for the tour as much as she did.

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OPPOSITE: The exterior of the Georgian-style Culham House, built in 1873, shines for the holiday season thanks to The Landmark Group. **TOP LEFT:** Homeowners Karen Willison and Russell Allan with their two dogs, Orkney and Stormy. **LEFT:** Ms. Design dressed up the living room with natural live greens. Six hours and 4,000 lights later, the space was spectacularly transformed. **ABOVE:** Marcy couldn't have done what she did without her amazing helpers: Jen Eccles, Lori Judzinski and Andrea Gernack.

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"I've always wanted to do Christmas to the nines," says Willison. "It was incredible the work that **The Landmark Group, Habitat Interiors Inc.** and **Ms. Design** did decorating our home – their crews worked for three weeks straight getting everything ready."

The couple's home was an extraordinary site for the tour. The Georgian-style brick home was originally built in 1873 in downtown Collingwood. Slated for demolition, Allan and his partners bought the structure and had it rebuilt with great care in 2007 as the model home, currently for sale, in The Ridge Estates development.

Working closely with Willison, **Christine Pritchard** of Habitat Interiors Inc. in Thornbury and **Marcy Stewart** of Ms. Design in Creemore highlighted the architectural features of the home's interior with décor and greenery. "We had great synergy," says Willison. "We shared ideas on a Pinterest board for concepts and colours and styles."

Stewart opens the pop-up **One-Stop Holiday Shop** in Creemore every winter to sell the work of local artisans and crafters, as well as her own designs and greenery. *Continued on page 48*

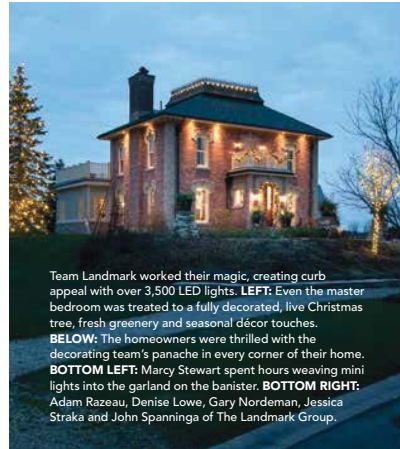
ABOVE: All three décor specialists pooled their talents to decorate the carriage house. **TOP LEFT:** Meet the Habitat Interiors Inc. team, from left to right: Christine Pritchard, Adrian Anderson, Monika Lorimer and Tara Dawe. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Inside the carriage house, Marcy used fragrant live greens and Christine hung grapevine stars in the window for an enchanting twilight effect. **BELOW:** Stormy intently watches all the action.



ABOVE: Christine set an elegant table and Marcy added tiny strands of cedar and red berries for festive flavour. **LEFT:** Marcy selected a combination of fresh huckleberry, salal, B.C. cedar, pinecones, red magnolia and little red berries to create the smell of Christmas. **BELOW:** Faux fur throws and pillows, live greens, and a vase on the ottoman filled with glass balls, cedar, snow-tipped pinecones and mini lights set the scene.



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Team Landmark worked their magic, creating curb appeal with over 3,500 LED lights. **LEFT:** Even the master bedroom was treated to a fully decorated, live Christmas tree, fresh greenery and seasonal décor touches. **BELOW:** The homeowners were thrilled with the decorating team's panache in every corner of their home. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Marcy Stewart spent hours weaving mini lights into the garland on the banister. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Adam Razeau, Denise Lowe, Gary Nordeman, Jessica Straka and John Spanninga of The Landmark Group.

"I hand selected and twined all the cedar boughs used as garlands inside and outside the house and carriage house," she says. A staggering amount of gorgeous cedar sprays filled urns and accented the mantels, banisters, windows and doorways. Stewart gave the garland dramatic volume by encouraging sprigs to point out. Lights intertwined in the garland on the stairwell and windows beautifully lit the space night and day.

Some 10 paintings loaned from **Matilda Swanson Gallery** graced the walls to fill out the space, including a four-foot turkey in the living room that the owner was sad to send back after the tour.

Pritchard's décor accents were delightful, from small porcelain animal

figurines tucked into the garland on the mantel, to an eclectic collection of wooden newel posts painted like snowmen and nutcrackers that the owners opted to purchase. Faux fur pillows and throws in neutral colours softened the living room space. In the carriage house out back, Pritchard displayed a collection of wooden skis, as well as reindeer, stars and hearts formed out of grapevine.

The exterior décor was equally dramatic. The Landmark Group, led by president **Gary Nordeman**, installed over 3,500 white LED lights. Strung around tree trunks and branches, around windows and doorways, the home and its owners absolutely glowed for the tour and throughout the season. **OH**



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