

OUT OF EDEN

STORY CAELI MAZARA | PHOTOGRAPHY KELLY HORKOFF



Brad and Tracey Paton's country home has more than 150 years of history in the Flamborough area. It sits on two-and-a-half acres and was originally built around 1850 for the local Methodist minister. It's finished in stone from the Flamborough quarry, the same stone used to construct Dundurn Castle, and built by the same mason who oversaw Dundurn's completion.



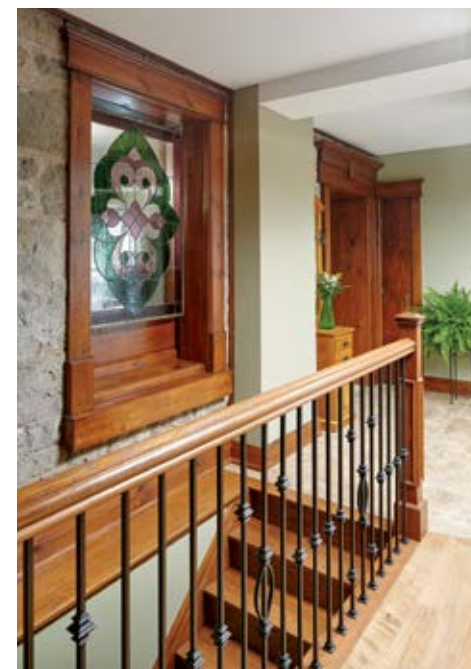
TOP LEFT: Brad and Tracey Paton with Sam in the gardens they designed and landscaped. **ABOVE:** Where old meets new. A significant addition was added to the original 150-year-old home to increase living space. Balcony railing by Turkstra Lumber. **LEFT:** The home sits on more than two acres of lush, manicured grounds that showcase the Patons' landscaping talents. **OPPOSITE:** The outdoor gardens and living space are like a sanctuary set in nature and help the Patons' customers decide on their own landscaping wants and needs.

"We weren't necessarily looking for something historical," Brad says. "It was more about the layout of the land," Tracey adds. Brad and Tracey own **Shades of Summer Landscaping and Maintenance Inc.**, which Brad established in 2009. "We needed land for the business and location-wise, we wanted to be where all the nurseries, soil and stone yards are situated," Brad explains. Still, it was important for the Patons to feel a connection with their new home. After seeing a few other properties, they came here. "We knew it had to speak to us," Tracey says. "With this one, as soon as we got out of the car, we felt something." The house had everything the Patons were looking for: acreage, location and charm.

"**Millgrove Garden Supplies** is right behind us, **Ontario Stone Supply & Garden Centre**, **Paterno Nurseries Inc.** and other nurseries are all in the vicinity," Brad says. "This is the hub of where we were looking, and we found it." The home was built as a small country cottage, but the Patons knew upon moving in that renovations were in the cards. They took ownership in the fall of 2011 and shortly thereafter, their work was underway. As with many older homes, what lay behind the walls was often a surprise. They discovered there were no heating ducts on the upper level. The Patons fixed that by opting for geothermal heating and air conditioning by **Northern Clean Energy**, which leaves the home feeling comfortable year-round. *Continued on page 51*



Custom cabinetry turned the original kitchen into a modern functional space with traditional charm. **BELOW:** Decorative touches upstairs, such as Nature Lover's green paint, maple hardwood and stained glass combine to create a bright and airy space. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** A neutral palette from Benjamin Moore didn't detract from the natural wood trim or other heritage features in the home. **BOTTOM:** The fireplace in the addition is made from stone from the original quarry where the exterior stone came from 150 years ago.



Titan granite from Stonex Granite & Quartz Inc. is an eye-catching countertop.



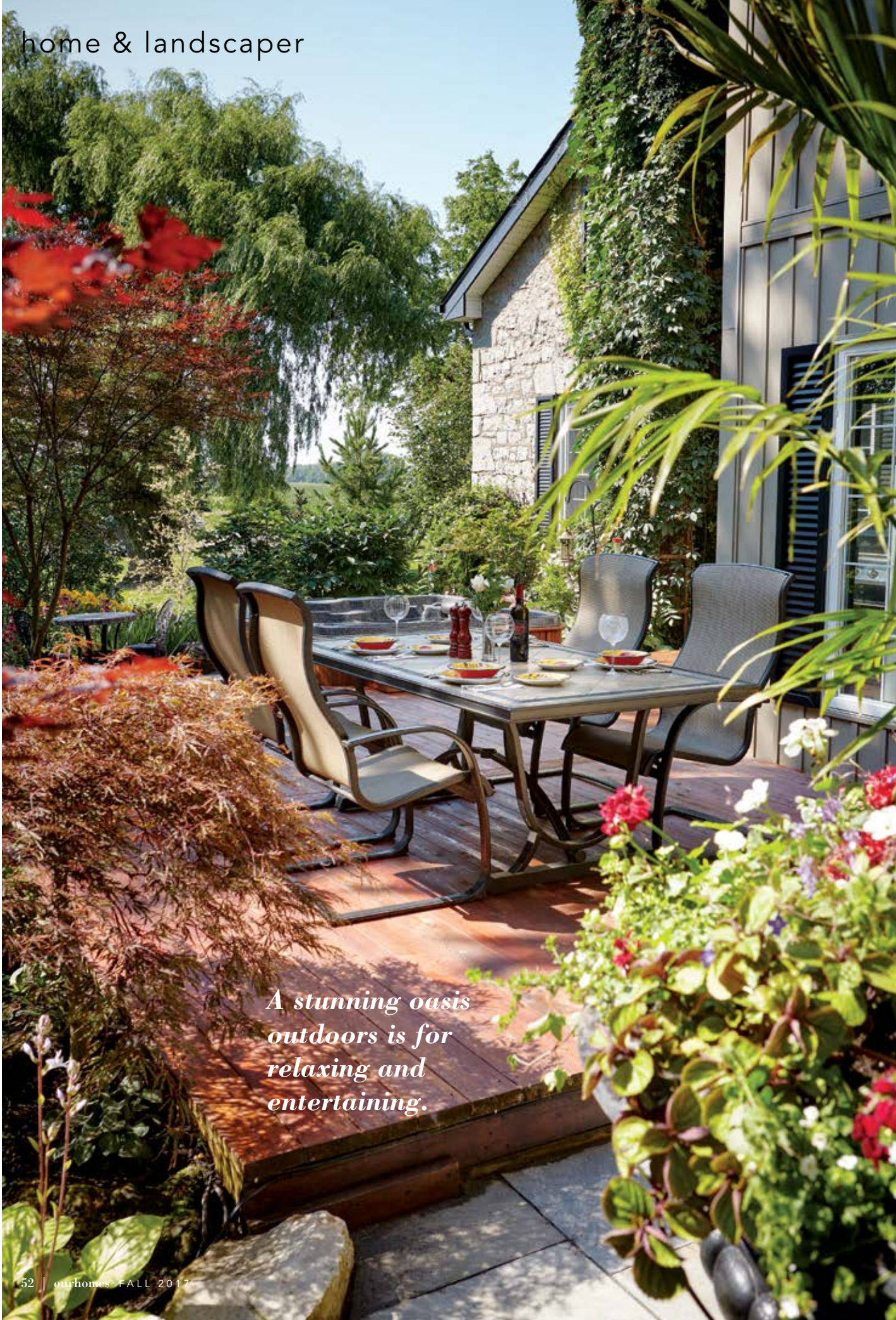
In the original part of the home, the Patons modernized the existing country kitchen with custom cabinetry by **CR Technical Woodworking**, porcelain tile and backsplash from **Sarana Tile**, and striking Titan granite from **Stonex Granite & Quartz Inc.**, which also provided the marble countertops in the bathrooms. The Patons opted for a natural palette from **Benjamin Moore** throughout the home.

"The idea for our home was earth tones. We are out in the country and we wanted that farm house charm," Brad says.

Tracey and Brad did the interior design, researching first to figure out what they liked before seeking it out from suppliers. "Everything kind of clicked from there," Tracey says.

Upstairs, the hallway is refinished in Regatta Sail Venetian plaster. Original pine flooring extends between two guest bedrooms, and a small third bedroom has been converted into a library. Maple hardwood flows through the laundry room and into the master bedroom, which is painted Nature Lover green. Furniture from **Stoney Creek Furniture** completes the space.

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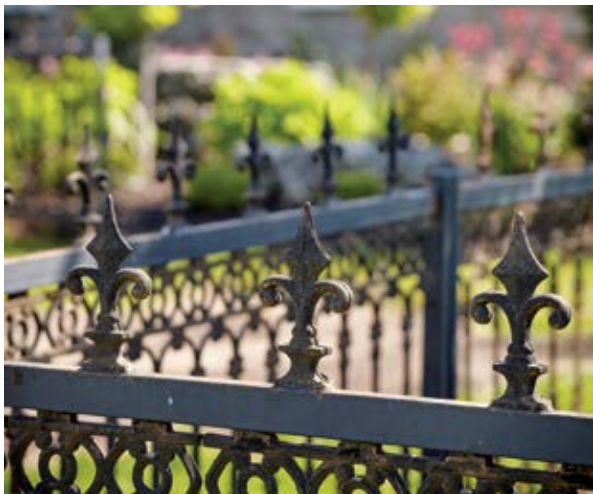
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On one wall, there’s a wood-burning fireplace with a surround made of stone that comes from lower levels of the same quarry that the original stone for the house came from, Tracey notes.

The home’s original rear wall is visible as one wall of the family room. “A lot of homes in this area built around the 1850s would have a nice stone facing but the back would be rubble stone or brick or something like that,” Brad says. “They did stone all the way around this house because it was for the minister. A Methodist minister must present a respectable back as well as front to his congregation.”

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Water features with a traditional air, iron fencing, natural stone and low maintenance perennials add to and respect the heritage feel and history of the home, while paying homage to the natural environment surrounding it.



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Hand-scraped maple floors and a stone wood-burning fireplace fit with the country home feel the homeowners wanted to achieve. Sam and Oscar relax on the master bed. **BELOW:** Earth tones carry through to the master bath where Stanley Park, a grey-green shade, dominates.

Flooring in the addition is hand-scraped maple, paired with Stanley Park, the grey-green shade in the living room. Here, leather sofas frame the pièce-de-résistance: a wood-burning stone fireplace that complements the exterior stone of the house. In the centre of the room is a gleaming granite coffee table that measures four-by-seven feet.

Outside, part of the exterior is finished in vinyl siding in a board-and-batten style. Beyond the walls is a spacious deck and lush garden that wraps around the property. “We wanted it to be a sanctuary,” Tracey says.

Not only is the landscaping a slice of paradise for the Patons, the

garden is a showcase of 11 different species of Japanese maples, eight different types of hydrangeas, six different types of cypresses, four different dogwoods and 20 different hostas. A winding stone path leads visitors past tranquil water features and highlights the Patons’ talents.

The garden is full of birdsong and the sounds of water and wind. The house wears this little Eden like a fall mantle as it prepares to watch the autumn colours arrive.

“Sometimes it’s difficult for clients to visualize what they want, but then they come here and see what could be possible,” Tracey says. **OH**



SOURCE GUIDE

- Benjamin Moore • CR Technical Woodworking • Millgrove Garden Supplies • Northern Clean Energy Ltd. • Ontario Stone Supply & Garden Centre • Paterno Nurseries • Sarana Tile • Shades of Summer Landscaping and Maintenance Inc. • Stonex Granite & Quartz Inc. • Stoney Creek Furniture • Turkstra Lumber



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