

# Inspired

by Pioneer Craftsmen

Inside you'll find:

## She's Baaaack!

Our feature story profiles the work, and the return, of a familiar face.

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## Clients' Corner

A couple shares advice after undergoing many renovations.

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## Nose Worthy

Some tips to fill your home with fresh scents this winter.



*Creating Inspired Renovations in Kitchener, Waterloo,  
Cambridge, Guelph & Area for over 60 Years.*

View our complete online portfolio  
at: [www.pioneer craftsmen.com](http://www.pioneer craftsmen.com)

## From the Corner Office

I say it year after year but... where did the summer go? The months have flown by again. Now another winter (and another year) is just around the corner!

We have had an unprecedented season for home renovations, scheduling projects months ahead. We appreciate your patience as we work to accommodate you, our clients, and your many referrals. Thank you!

There is a growing trend in the local renovation industry. Home additions have been much of our focus this year. For empty nesters, it's a lifestyle change as they expand their entertaining space. For young families, it's to accommodate growing (or more!) children. So many of you have told us that you considered moving to a newer, larger home, but you don't want to give up your yard space or the neighbourhood you love. Staying put, and expanding your home, is the answer for more and more of you. Our team has been thrilled to work on these Inspired renovations!

Speaking of our team, we have several new members that we are introducing in this Newsletter. Our family of craftsmen continues to grow! We are also pleased to welcome back designer Jennifer Dainard, a familiar face for many of you. Read about some of Jennifer's award-winning design projects in our feature article.

Also in this issue, "Winter Scents" that will help to warm up the inside of your home during the cold season ahead. I hope you have a wonderful winter, a Christmas surrounded by those you love, and a New Year that brings you happiness and comfort in your home. See you in the Spring!



Sincerely,

**Jamie**

Jamie Adam  
President



# Jennifer Returns!

Usually in this section of our Newsletter we feature one of our recently renovated homes, but this time we're changing it up a bit!

Jennifer Dainard is back after a 2-year hiatus, and we thought it appropriate that we profile her and some of the Pioneer Craftsmen projects she worked on over the years.

Jennifer was hired back in 2007 as the first female Project Manager/Designer on our team. Her duties included everything from initial client meetings to site evaluations, estimates, design, and material selection. She followed her projects closely from the start of construction through to completion.

"I was wearing a lot of hats—and some did not fit as well as others!" she jokes.

In 2013, Jennifer decided to focus solely on interior design, working on model homes with her mentor, Carolyn Gardy. Carolyn had inspired Jennifer to pursue her design career and as Jennifer says, "It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. With some reservations, I made the decision to leave Pioneer."

She admits however, that she "missed the connection with clients, along with the challenges and rewards that come from transforming spaces."

In August, Jennifer returned to our team in the more refined role of Renovation Designer. "I will continue to be involved from the beginning to the end of the process, but will have other team members stepping in with their strengths so that I can focus more fully on mine. It's a win-win for everyone."

Transformation is something that Jennifer excels at. As a designer of several award-winning renovations at national, provincial and local levels, she is eager to continue that trend.

"I look forward to reconnecting with clients I know well and helping to transform the homes of new clients that I meet." - Jennifer Dainard

The following pages feature a few of Jennifer's past renovations. Visit our online Gallery for more images from each of these projects.

"There's something about finding a workplace that feels like home," Jennifer says. "It's good to be back!"

2009



## Seeing Double

It's uncommon to have enough room for two kitchen islands, but these homeowners sure did! Their addition and kitchen renovation was designed to provide more entertaining space for a growing family. **A** The kitchen was their priority and the double islands serve individual functions—one for prep space, the other for serving or sitting. There are granite countertops, maple cabinets and custom built-ins. What was once a window is now a doorway with direct access to the deck and barbecue. Hand-scraped wide-board wood flooring sweeps from the kitchen into the new Great Room, which is the actual addition to the home. **B** The new space features a wood-burning fireplace with a mantle made from reclaimed wood. Custom built-ins on either side are used to store and hide firewood.

2011



## Perfectly Functional

Creating space and function to accommodate a wheelchair, without making it look that way, was what these homeowners wanted. That was accomplished with some unique design features in this gorgeous kitchen and main floor renovation. There are now wider traffic areas and better sight lines throughout.

Hardwood flooring from the family room into the kitchen unifies the space and makes it easy to manoeuvre.

**C** A former window in the family room is now a wider second doorway with wheelchair sill access to the deck.

Custom granite countertops throughout the kitchen feature multiple levels and are perfect for food preparation and family meals together.

**D** The stove top features a tempered glass overhead mirror for convenient cooking and safety. The rich wood cabinetry has pocket doors that conceal knee space, as well as pull-down shelving and a swivelling pantry.

## Maximizing Space

These next homeowners wanted more usable space—and contemporary living—in their home in an historical neighbourhood. The solution was to “raise the roof” and totally revamp the upper level, which included turning unusable attic space into several larger bedrooms and a bathroom.







On the main floor, the kitchen was relocated from the middle of the home to the larger family room space at the back of the house. **E** A modern blue lounge now sits in the small area where the kitchen used to be.

The quartz countertop in the kitchen compliments the ultra-modern feel, which is an interesting contrast to the hot water radiator that was incorporated into the island. **F** The stunning green backsplash is made from sheets of glass, chosen specifically, and back-painted with colour, by the homeowners.



2012

## A Girl's Dream

These homeowners wanted the perfect bathroom for their pre-teen daughter, so she was given free reign to help with the design!

The long countertop was installed lower than usual, to accommodate the vessel sink she loved. **G** The lower height provides ideal seating space for hair styling and make-up application.

The large window optimizes the natural light and custom cabinets provide more than enough storage. A classic glass mosaic backsplash provides a pop of colour, and is duplicated in a decorative tile border around a modern bathtub.



Welcome to the second edition of Clients' Corner—where you have the opportunity to tell us about your Pioneer Craftsmen home renovation experience. In this feature, we hear from Gary and Marion who have a wealth of knowledge to share after numerous renovations in their Kitchener home!

# Our Renovation Story

By: *Gary & Marion*



Our relationship with Pioneer Craftsmen began back in 1991 when we decided to put a two-storey addition on our home. That first project included major kitchen, dining room and basement renovations. In 2001 we overhauled our main floor bathroom, and last year we revamped our laundry room and underwent a major transformation in our master bedroom.

Unlike stories we had heard from friends of missed timelines, budget overruns and staff that were difficult to deal with, our initial experience was positive. That's why we continue to work with the Pioneer team.

For us, there are two stressful parts to a home renovation. One is the initial calculations of what the final costs will be. That first renovation was an eye opener—not knowing what to expect dollar-wise caught us by surprise. However, once we came to grips with the numbers, we were able to focus on what we wanted at a price we could afford.

The second is having your daily routine interrupted—drastically! Our addition was the most stressful because at the time we had three young children and a dog. We lost the use of our kitchen for ten weeks and every day had to adapt to changes





in our surroundings. We learned then that having a plan to accommodate those changes is critical.

The most intriguing part of renovating for us is the planning phase. Every detail and construction timeline was laid out on paper before construction began, so we knew when each contractor would start and finish.

The most exciting aspect is when that plan evolves before your eyes. We still love to take guests through our finished house to show off the real thing!

Through each project, the results have far exceeded our expectations. We love our house and our neighborhood, and we take great pride in the changes we have made in our home.

**If you'd like to share your renovation story in our Spring Newsletter, please email us at [info@pioneer craftsmen.com](mailto:info@pioneer craftsmen.com). We would love to hear from you!**



Willem Vorsteveld joined us in May 2015 as a Lead Carpenter, bringing with him over 30 years' experience in the home renovation industry. Willem was self-employed for many years and gained a solid reputation in Waterloo Region for quality work and dedication. Willem and his wife Debbie have a blended family that includes five children and two grandchildren. They love camping, the outdoors, and travelling. We are thrilled to have Willem on our team.




Brendan Cheeseman is a graduate of Conestoga College's Renovation Technician Program who joined us in May as an Apprentice Carpenter. Brendan loves the variety of his job and tackles every project with bold enthusiasm. He says he has enjoyed "building" since he was introduced to LEGO blocks as a child. Brendan's hobbies include hockey and softball, and his passion for travel was ignited two years ago with an exotic trip to Asia. We welcome Brendan.



Joel Vissers also joined us as an Apprentice Carpenter in May after attending Conestoga College's Renovation Technician Program. Joel enjoys camping and fishing, and everything outdoors. He has a quiet, calm demeanor and we are pleased to welcome him to the Pioneer family. This summer was especially memorable for Joel—on July 25 he married his fiancé Amber in Simcoe. The newlyweds spent some time in Muskoka, but will officially honeymoon in Costa Rica in February.

# Winter Scents



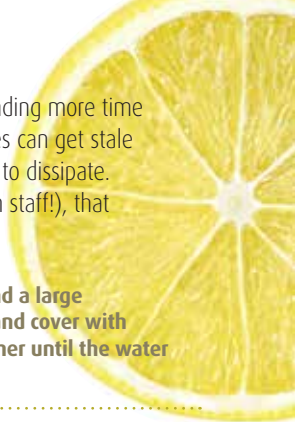
Put coffee beans (instead of rocks or glass beads) into the bottom of glass candle holders.

To freshen up furniture fabrics, mix two cups of warm water, a quarter cup of liquid fabric softener and 1 teaspoon of baking soda—then spray away!

Place one cup of water and a few drops of vanilla extract into a spray bottle for a natural air freshener.

It's hibernation time... or almost! It won't be long and we'll all be spending more time indoors with windows closed and furnaces on. The air inside our homes can get stale quickly through the winter, and annoying odours seem to take forever to dissipate. Here are a few tips we found on the internet (and some from our own staff!), that will help fill the air with some pleasing—and common—scents:

Make a stovetop potpourri by cutting an orange into quarters and adding cranberries, cloves and cinnamon sticks. Place them all in a pot of water and simmer on low.



Throw some ginger, lemon juice and a large handful of apple peels into a pan and cover with water. Bring it to a boil, then simmer until the water has evaporated.

Put some baking soda and about 8 drops of essential oil into a mason jar, then cover with a piece of cheesecloth before putting on the lid.

Pour a couple of tablespoons of vanilla into a coffee mug, place it in the oven and set to about 300 degrees for an hour.






If you've enjoyed reading this Newsletter, please pass it on to family or friends who may enjoy it as well, or give us a call and we'll be happy to send you additional copies. The Newsletter can also be viewed on our website.



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