

Inspired

by Pioneer Craftsmen

Inside you'll find:

Feature Renovation

A homeowner's dream kitchen sees the light after years of planning.

Regrouping After a Tough Winter

Extra vigilance is required around the house this spring, after a winter season of record snowfalls and storms.

More Renovation Awards, Including Best in Canada

We're thrilled to have received two regional and one national "Award of Excellence" in 2013



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

View our complete online portfolio at:
www.pioneer craftsmen.com

Welcome to Spring 2014... *finally!*

This winter took its toll on all of us, damaging many homes and properties. Inside you'll find some great tips to help combat winter's wrath.

We're excited about this season at Pioneer Craftsmen. The renovation industry is booming in the area, and inquiries continue to pour in. Our valued clients receive priority scheduling, but please call us early so we can make sure your project is completed in the time-frame you'd like.

I want to extend a special thank you to our Feature Renovation homeowners for allowing us to showcase their beautiful kitchen renovation in this issue. It was a rewarding project for the entire team at Pioneer Craftsmen and the result is simply stunning. Thank you Paul, Katie and the boys!



Sincerely,

Jamie

Jamie Adam
President

Jamie Adam is Chair of the Ontario Renovation Council this year. The council works on professional standards, technical services, public awareness, government liaison and the long-term development of the renovation market. There are many issues the council will be advocating for this year under Jamie's leadership. It's another way we remain committed to professionalizing the industry for the benefit of home owners.



Renovations perfectly *expressing you!*

The age-old expression "a picture is worth a thousand words" is especially appropriate for our feature homeowners. It was literally years of picture collecting from home and decorating magazines that spawned their dream kitchen. With three active growing boys, they needed more space, storage and natural light.

What a difference a few months makes. The once cramped kitchen has undergone an amazing transformation with a 6' x 18' addition along the back of the house with large windows on all sides. In the dining room, French doors replace what was once a small window.

Designer notes
French doors replacing what was once a small window make the backyard space accessible.



A picture can *inspire your dream!*

Sunlight now streams in, glistening off the **Caesarstone Quartz*** countertops and white custom cabinets. The countertop material was also used as the backsplash behind the stove, giving a seamless transition. The maple kitchen island provides extra prep space and a seating area for family and friends to gather.



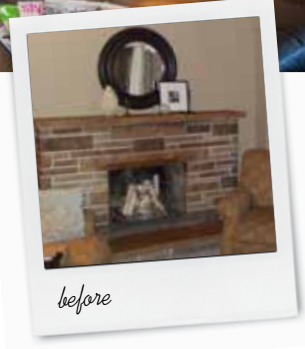
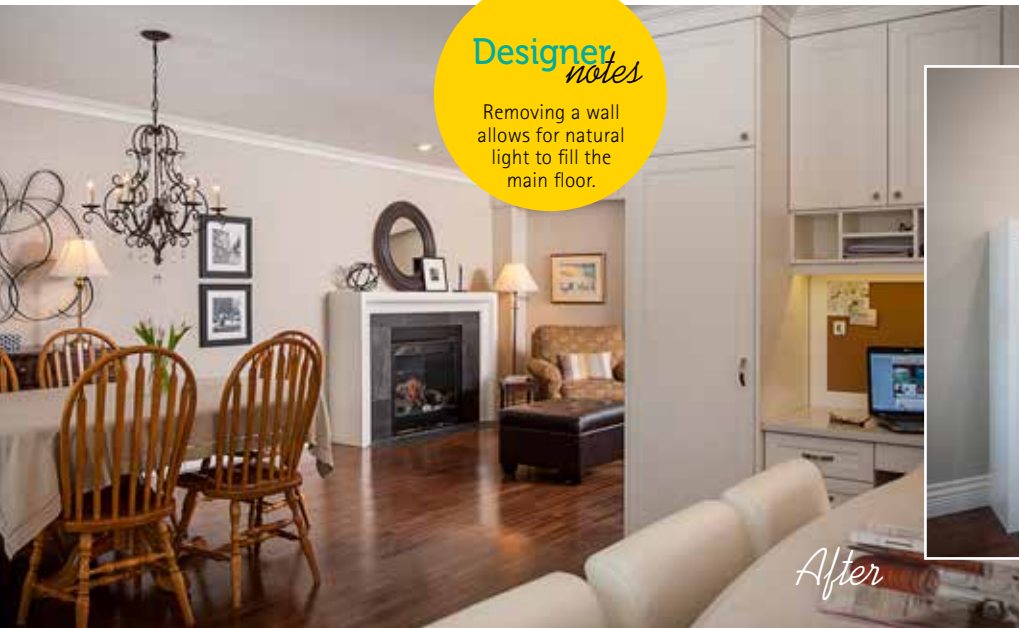
A built-in "communications centre" is the hub of the family's scheduled activities, while also providing storage and pantry space.

*Caesarstone surfaces are highly heat-resistant, non porous and resistant to most common household chemicals. It can be cut to various widths for increased flexibility and to save weight.

After

**Designer
notes**

Removing a wall allows for natural light to fill the main floor.



By removing a wall between the kitchen and dining room, the homeowners now enjoy the open concept they were searching for. The old fireplace was given a facelift with dark slate tile, which matches the flooring in the expanded front entranceway. New hardwood flooring runs throughout the rest of the main floor.

It started with a picture and a dream. The Pioneer Craftsmen team helped bring this dream to reality. Our architectural design program allowed our clients to visualize a number of different options – and eventually select the perfect layout. They are thrilled with the end result and say there is nothing they would change. “We love to hear that” says Jamie Adam, Project Manager on this renovation. “This is exactly what we strive for in all our projects”.

Thoughtful Details for a *finished* Touch.



Flooring:

The new flooring in the updated entranceway matches the dark slate tile of the fireplace, tying the spaces together.



Inspired functionality:

Floor space is maximized and waste is kept clean in a unique 4 bin solution that sorts recycling, waste and food scraps.



Practical and modern:

No grout lines here. This seamless backsplash is easier to clean and helps reflect light throughout the entire area.

A new *twist* on spring clean-up

The winter of 2013-14 was our worst on record in almost four decades. We faced wind and ice storms that knocked out power and downed trees, record snowfalls that caused traffic pile-ups and left homeowners shoveling for weeks on end, and extreme cold temperatures that caused broken water pipes and ice damming on homes.

We also faced a phenomenon many of us had never heard of before... "frost quakes". Frost quakes, or ice quakes as they're also known, are caused by a sudden cracking action in frozen soil or rock that is saturated with water or ice. The stress underground builds up over time, and when it's relieved it literally sounds like an explosion, and feels like one.

All of this can cause damage to your home, which means you'll need to be extra vigilant during your spring clean-up this year.

One of the worst problem areas could be your roof. Look for broken shingles and damage to plumbing stacks, roof vents and eaves troughs. Check the flashing around your chimney and along areas where the roofline meets a wall of your home (i.e. dormers, porches). These can be deceiving – flashings may have lifted during storms, but then settled with warmer weather. Make sure they are secure and that any nails or screws holding them in place are sealed or caulked. Inspect your chimney cap to make sure it doesn't have cracks.

Also check the lay of the land around your house to make sure it's sloping away from the structure. All that snow melt may have altered the landscape.



It wasn't all bad this winter. Children enjoyed many "snow days" off school, and took to the outdoors in true Canadian spirit!

Spring Inspection Checklist

When the snow has melted, it's time to check for damage on and around your home. Here are the common areas damage can occur:

- Shingles
- Eaves troughs
- Plumbing stacks
- Chimney flashing
- Roof vents
- Rooflines

Also check for:

- Blocked downspouts – most blockage occurs in the downpipes and is invisible to the eye
- Leaks around windows and doors
- Stress fractures or leaking in the foundation
- Cracks in walls and ceilings
- Cracks and potential sinkholes in driveways and sidewalks

Most of all, don't hesitate to call a professional if you're unsure of any aspect and want expert advice and help. A little preventative maintenance now can save you thousands of dollars down the road.

Did you know?
A great online resource for home repairs/maintenance is www.cmhc.ca

PC News



We are excited to have Mark on the Pioneer Team!

Mark Cann-Dorey recently joined our team as Sales and Design Consultant. A long-time member of the Cambridge community, Mark gained over 26 years experience in decorative finishes, renovation and interior design with his former company, "Total Home Design". Since 2004, Mark's primary focus has been in residential projects. Mark is constantly staying in tune with his clients' needs and desires, and we are very excited to have him on board.

Many of you already know Mike Metzloff on our team. Mike is a graduate of Conestoga College's Architecture - Construction Engineering Technology program and he has worked closely assisting our clients, site staff and design specialists for the past four years. We are pleased to announce that Mike recently transitioned into the role of Project Manager - coordinating and overseeing many of our renovation projects along with Brian Carson.

Zack Anstett was hired in 2012, and over the past several months he has taken on a new role as Service Manager. Zack is now responsible for all service work and warranty calls for our clients, and he is also in charge of keeping our shop safe and fully stocked for our crews. On a personal note, Zack and his wife Allison are expecting their second child on June 9th, a much anticipated little brother for Colby.



Helping Hands... a Ray of Hope

Each year, the Waterloo Region Home Builders Association (WRHBA) selects a Charity of Choice to assist. This

year, the benefactor is "Ray of Hope", and Pioneer is thrilled to be helping out! The program also involves Conestoga College students in the Reno Tech and Women in Skilled Trades programs. The students gain much needed hands-on experience while helping this remarkable local charity. The goal is to repurpose space at their location on King Street East in Kitchener into new offices, reception area and a common gathering place. It truly is a win/win project!

Since 1967, Ray of Hope has provided assistance to youth at risk and adults struggling to overcome poverty and homelessness in our Region. It provides over 200 meals a day and offers a range of programs.

To follow the progress at Ray of Hope, visit: www.wrhiba.com/news/wrhiba-ray-of-hope-renovation

Thank You



60TH ANNIVERSARY

Thank You Celebration!

Oh what fun! The Legends of Harmony performance was amazing. St Jacobs Schoolhouse Theatre was a perfect venue and Gusto Catering Company provided delicious food! It was wonderful seeing so many of our clients at this sold out private performance.

Thanks to everyone who came out and celebrated with us. We're sorry we couldn't accommodate everyone – but because it was so much fun...we just may have another to celebrate 65 years!

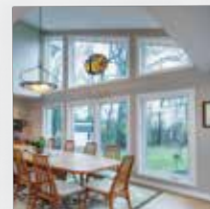
Canada-Wide Award of Excellence

Pioneer Craftsmen is thrilled to have been recognized for another award-winning project! You may remember the Feature Home in our 2013 Fall Newsletter. On April 4th, at a ceremony in Whistler, B.C., the Canadian Home Builders' Association presented President Jamie Adam with an Award of Excellence for that **Whole Home under \$250,000 Renovation**. The National SAM Awards are the industry's premier competition, involving new home builders, renovators and developers from across the country.

Regional Winners: Each year the Waterloo Region Home Builders Association recognizes local renovation firms for outstanding projects. We are pleased to announce that the Pioneer team won two 1st place awards in 2013:

- **Most Outstanding Home Renovation under \$100,000**
- **Most Outstanding Home Renovation over \$100,000**

Congratulations to the entire team at Pioneer Craftsmen and, to all the clients involved... thank you for allowing us to submit your renovations and for your ongoing support!



Canadian award winning...



...whole home renovation!

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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