



RIGHT: The pathway to the lush gardens homeowner, Cathy Dodd, uncovered their first spring.
BELOW: Raised beds are overflowing with herbs and tender greens for Antony's culinary delights!
OPPOSITE: Who knew? This "country" cottage is in the heart of downtown Guelph.



CENTURY COTTAGE

STORY **MERRILYN PATTERSON** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG** | FLOWERS **SWEET VIOLETS**

Cathy Dodd and her husband Antony always wanted a century cottage. They found one a few years ago in Guelph. With children still at home they weren't quite ready to buy the small house, and for a while they forgot about it.

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Cathy, a real estate agent, noticed that it was coming on the market two years ago and they snapped it up before it was listed.

Although it is situated within walking distance of downtown, it has the feel of a country cottage and that's how the Dodds refer to it. It's on a 75-by-110-foot lot that has stately mature trees and is hidden from neighbours on all sides by a tall fence that seems to fade into the natural setting.

The Dodds moved from a 2,300 sq. ft. home to this 1,450 sq. ft. space. "Before we left our last house, we measured the amount of space that we actually used," says Cathy. "That was 1,400 sq. ft. It's one of the reasons the cottage made sense for us. It suited our living requirements."

The master bedroom originally had two doors. It was reconfigured to one, and a bookshelf and a closet were created by using the space from the other door. *Continued on page 99*



ABOVE: A cosy corner of the dining room is warmed by antique furniture collected over 40 years of treasure hunting. **LEFT:** The open concept kitchen/dining room is the scene of many gatherings. The Dodds love to entertain. **OPPOSITE:** An artful blend of old and new makes this country kitchen charming and functional.





An antique checkerboard collection adds a touch of fun and a focal point to the living room. **LEFT:** Homeowners Cathy and Antony Dodd relax in their treasured country cottage.



Treasures from world travels abound in the living room. Each accent evokes a story and a cherished memory. **BELOW:** An unexpected and charming powder room tucked under the eaves at the side entryway.

The second bedroom is now Antony's study. On the wall there's a large map of the world with dozens of push pins marking the countries the couple have visited. The cottage is filled with treasures from their travels, including the colourful carpets throughout the house from Turkey and North and South India. Antony jokes that "the pillow cases seemed to follow us home from Istanbul!"

All windows in the cottage were replaced by **Bavarian Window Works** in keeping with period style.

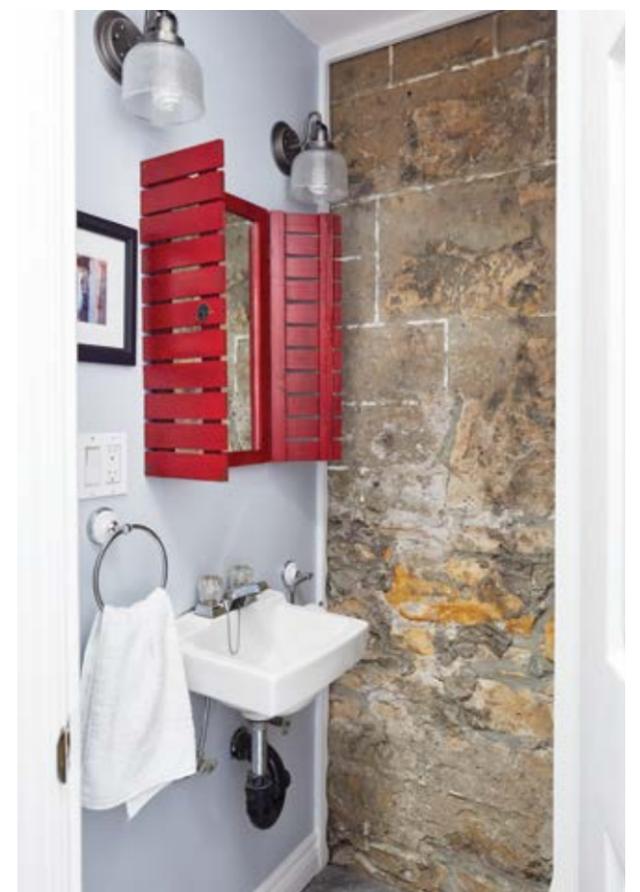
Greg Hartmann of **Hartmann Windows & Doors** removed the front-door system, after the Dodds woke up to a snow drift in their front hallway shortly after they moved in. The original door is a feature in the backyard garden now, along with its transom.

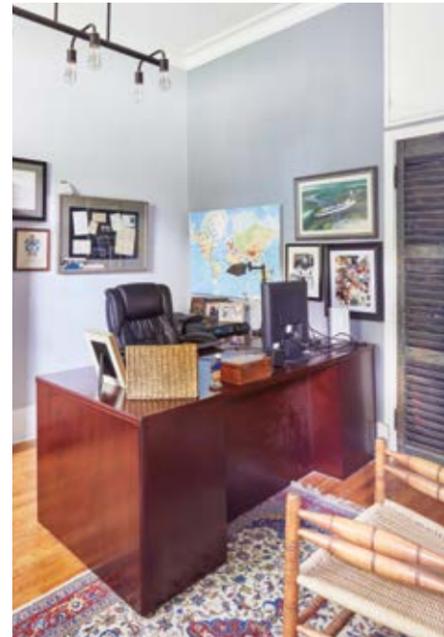
They tackled the kitchen next. The family team from **Paragon Kitchens**, including Mary, Mike and Aileen Brown, worked with the Dodds and their general contractor, **Bryon Wyse**, of **Wycon Inc.**, to design, manage and complete this award-winning kitchen. The kitchen placed third in the 2016 Kitchen and Bath Design Awards for their small kitchen category amongst a North American field of competitors.

The Paragon team spent time with the couple learning about their lifestyle – their love of antiques and impeccable sense of style, Antony's passion for cooking and Cathy's effervescent personality and panache for entertaining. Only then did they recommend a design that they felt would pay homage to the century roots of the home, offer functionality and ample storage space and provide a showcase for the Dodds' beautiful serving pieces, all while working in a long, linear space.

They removed an awkward existing half door to open up the space. Layers of drywall from the rear kitchen wall were peeled back to reveal natural stone. It was rubble stone, not high quality limestone like the rest of the kitchen, but they left it roughly finished to create a natural

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backdrop for the contrasting black, modern cabinetry. “A mixture of the old and new,” says Brown, “provides an interesting juxtaposition to the space.” The Dodds later added their antique chopping block, a favourite piece of Antony’s from the previous home, as a freestanding island.

The black-painted maple Miralis cabinets, Brown explains, “offer a neutral background, but with a decidedly bold and dramatic twist.” The live-edge bar top, custom made by the **Galt Wood Co.** sits on top of the counter to provide separation between the kitchen and the dining room and provides warmth to the space.

Cambria (Ella) quartz countertops were chosen for their stainproof and non-porous qualities. The Dodds found pendant light fixtures from **Chatelaine Lighting** for above the bar to blend with the existing ones over the dining table. Compact, built-in appliances were supplied by **AMG Studios**, including a Thermador stainless steel stove, Gaggeneau fridge and a Bosch dishwasher. “We had a wonderful sales experience with AGM,” Cathy notes. “They were very knowledgeable and professional. Antony compliments the Paragon team for thinking of everything. “They made sure there was space to open the dishwasher

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TOP LEFT: “This is our favourite room. It’s where the music and the views are,” says Cathy. **TOP RIGHT:** Antony’s study. A world map pinpoints destinations the couple has visited. **ABOVE:** Original door to the cottage repurposed as garden accent and conversation piece. **RIGHT:** A covered retreat to enjoy the gardens and continue the party.



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ABOVE LEFT: Two small rooms were opened to create one large master bedroom. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Cathy's office is tucked beneath the eaves off the side entryway. **LEFT:** Black cabinetry echoes from the kitchen design. A new glass shower from Guelph Glass adds a modern tweak to rustic roots.

without scraping the corner cabinet and they even created open storage space for my collection of wooden cutting boards," he says. "Their after-sales service has also been extraordinary."

Paragon also transformed the bathroom that had 1980s pink tiles. Now it has clean lines and is bright and airy. The design repeats black cabinetry, and is accented with black-and-white-patterned floor tile from **Bigelow Flooring Inc.** Honed black granite countertops from **Graniteworx** are topped with vessel sinks from **Crown Bath & Kitchen**. A linen closet was built into the space and an acrylic tub was removed to make way for a glass shower supplied by **Guelph Glass Limited**.

The Dodds' favourite room in the cottage is the living room. It's cosy, inviting and filled with more memories of countries visited and favourite pieces of art. The focal point of the room is a large wall that houses their whimsical collection of antique checkerboards. Antique furniture and armoires in the cottage are a result of over 40 years of collecting in Quebec, where they have a summer retreat.

The living room affords pretty views of the gardens that Cathy uncovered the first spring after the move. The previous owners were not gardeners, but Cathy's green thumb and impeccable sense of style also shines outside. Every corner and space has been carefully curated with either memorable or functionally-beautiful accents – the charming country cottage the Dodds have always wanted. **OH**

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