



# HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS

WITH COLIN + JUSTIN

## YOUR GUIDE TO COTTAGE COUNTRY



Top: Danielle Meredith with her kids Naia and Rome. For a community for mothers and by mothers, follow MomsNorth on Instagram. Photo by Eleanor Dobbins.

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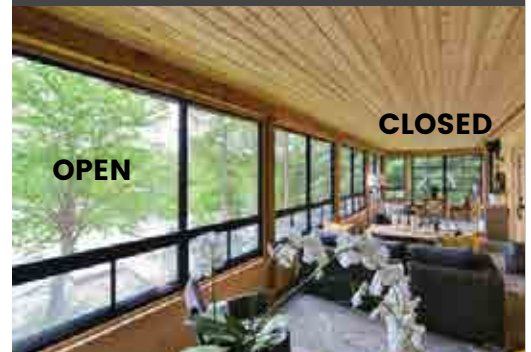


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# Welcome

Well, spring is in the air here at *Home In The Highlands with Colin + Justin*, and while we're excited at the prospect of warmer climes, we're entering the new season with a degree of trepidation. Like millions of others across the globe, we're facing a hitherto unknown enemy: COVID-19.

Without further ado, we've retreated to the lake where we feel best positioned, for now certainly, to self-isolate. So far so good – we're healthy and balanced. We hope the same applies to you: whatever you're doing, be safe, be together and be well.

To kick start the season, we're showcasing the latest and greatest trends for the cottage so you can make the best of the coming season.

Appraising the cottage rental market, we're demonstrating how to spend a little to gain a lot, with top tips to transform a two-star rental cottage into a money-making five-star marvel.

To this end, we chatted with a local cottage rental agency to get the inside scoop on renting out your cottage.

Read the expert guide to ensure you get the best return with the least stress.

More money, less hassle: isn't that what we all want?

Hey: maybe it's the typical 'Scot' in us, but we LOVE saving cash. Who doesn't? In that regard, we look at a raft of technologies that will help you save on energy costs via our 'Invest now - save money later' guide.

We hope our brand new issue will help you make more of your cottage escape. And let's face it, couldn't we all do with a little escapism right about now?

Sending our best and warmest wishes for brighter times ahead.

*Colin & Justin*

## Message from the publisher

We thought carefully about whether to publish this edition of *Home in the Highlands With Colin + Justin*. It was put together mostly well before the current situation and we wondered if it was the right publication for this moment.

We went ahead and published for two reasons. First, we need something to look forward to. This current situation will end, and when it does, we'll be at

our cottages, enjoying the lake and planning construction and renovation projects.

And second, because we want to support our advertisers. The companies you see here are the backbone of our economy. They employ people, they pay taxes, and their products and services are central to many of our lives. They stuck with us through this and we'd like to use this opportunity to ask you to stick

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By the time you read this, some of them might have temporarily shut their doors. But whether they are currently operating or not, they will be back when times are sunnier. So please consider them

now as you plan your summer projects. Call them for quotes and remember them when you make purchases. Call them for things you need while we're all waiting this out.

They will thank you - just as we thank them today for their continued support.

Simon Payn  
Publisher

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# Cottage interior design trends

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**Fact: getting out of the city and hitting the cottage is all about quality leisure time, decompression and relaxation. But if your cabin feels a wee bit dated (be honest: is it more hip replacement than hip living?) check out Colin + Justin's latest trend guide to bring your space bang up to date.**



## Jet toned perfection

From faucets to door handles, and from windows to home accessories, black continues to be the colour of choice for those looking to update the cottage. Pretty much a 'neutral', black goes with multiple styles and looks especially good with timber finishes. Check out the range of handles in iron black by Weiser (<https://ca.weiserlock.com>) and scope gorgeous inventory by Toronto-based faucet manufacturer Rubinet ([rubinet.com](http://rubinet.com)) who offer their entire range of fittings in black, or for that matter any Pantone colour. You're sure to find exactly what you're looking for.



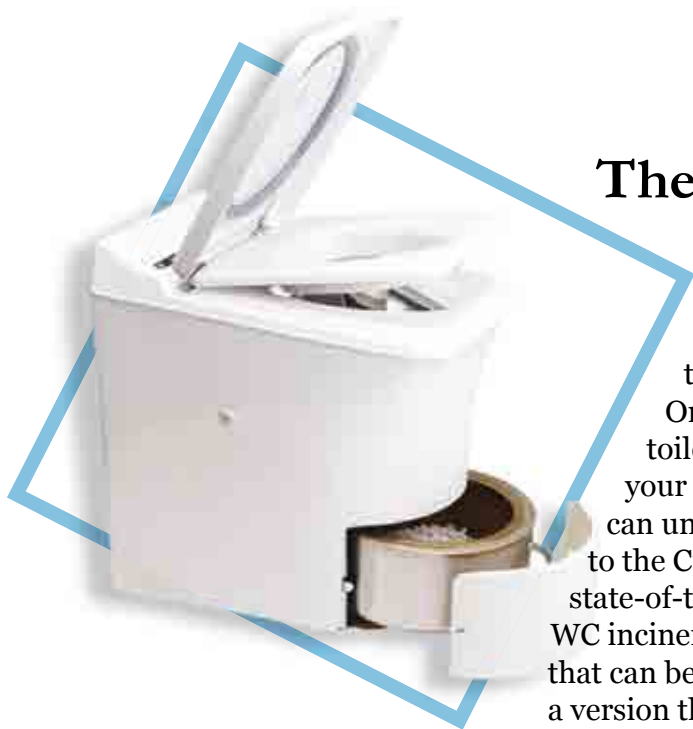
## Open storage

There's an honesty that comes from swapping out closed cupboards for open shelving, and while that's been a trend in kitchens for years, it's gaining followers as a bedroom must-have, especially in cottages where visitors come and go. The appeal, we reckon, stems from the openness of everything and the ability to see what's being stored. The 'Nordkisa' bamboo wardrobe from Ikea Canada ([ikea.com](http://ikea.com)) is a smart buy at under \$300. Add smart storage boxes and use matching wooden clothes hangers for extra chic and extra order!



## The go anywhere toilet

When you gotta go, you gotta go, huh? But that can be tricky if you have a remote off-the-grid cabin that doesn't boast a septic system. Or perhaps you'd like to add another toilet but don't have enough room in your septic? Worry not: these days you can uncross your legs and relax thanks to the Cinderella toilet from Norway! This state-of-the-art electric (or propane) powered WC incinerates waste and turns it into safe ash that can be disposed of easily. Hey, there's even a version that fits into an RV or caravan! Find out more at [cinderellaeco.com](http://cinderellaeco.com) or contact the local distributor in Haliburton, Tim Kegel at [incineratingtoilets.ca](http://incineratingtoilets.ca).







## Go large with windows

Brightening space with large-format glazing shouldn't be the exclusive preserve of large rooms. Making more of views and natural light is a permanent trend we love, so consider replacing small glazing with larger alternatives to connect the indoors to the out, while modernizing architecture into the light-filled bargain. We've specified market leaders Euro Vinyl Windows across many of our renovations – Chris, the owner, has a beautiful Haliburton cabin, so he's totally in tune with what cottagers and locals need. Find out more at [evw.ca](http://evw.ca).

## Extra season screened rooms

Canadian summers are short and sweet so anything you can do to extend yours into another month or two can only be a good thing. Sunroom and screened room manufacturer Sunspace ([sunspacesunrooms.com](http://sunspacesunrooms.com)) have an innovative porch system called Weathermaster that features bug screens and clear vinyl window panels to keep drafts at bay and repel rain and snow when winter comes. Come on: an extra season is something no cottage should be without. And hey, no more boarding up the screened room when the season is over. Result!



Courtesy of Sunspace Sunrooms

## Refined rustic

Cottage and cabin style is moving back in time (becoming eminently more rustic and decidedly less suburban) and about that we're thrilled. But what the leisure home sector is gaining in raw style, it's also gaining in comfort and sophistication. This new vibe brings a "refined rustic" edge, a look that's all about lots of timber, exposed stone and artisan style furniture and accessories. Go for chunky timber coffee tables and bed frames, hang horn chandeliers or add stone to a chimney breast or bar front to bring nature's design inspiration close.



## Smart storage

Take your spring clean to the next level by decluttering, then use smart boxes, baskets and bowls to keep small items out of sight whilst simultaneously transforming shelf space. H&M Home ([hm.com](http://hm.com)) carry a great range of well-priced rattan baskets and boxes, any of which will help keep things stylishly close to hand.



Courtesy of H&M





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## TIP: PREPARE NOW FOR A COMFORTABLE SUMMER

Hi again everyone. I'm Kieran Gillooly – the proud owner and operator of Northern HVAC. In each issue of Home in the Highlands, you can find my insider knowledge of heating, ventilation and air conditioning for your home and cottage.

In the February issue, I talked about the importance of a properly humidified home and the benefits of doing so. This month, I want to talk about important maintenance you should do in the spring to save money and keep your home comfortable.

The change of season is a good reminder to check your furnace filter. Starting with a fresh filter each season can improve air quality and the efficiency of your equipment. If you suffer from allergies, you should change your filter more often. Replacing your filter up to 4 times per year with a hepa rated filter or higher MERV rating can make for healthier home air quality.

Another thing you can do to improve your indoor air quality and help reduce the spread of pathogens and viruses is to install an ultra violet light (UVC) above your A/C coil or in the return air duct. When the air is running or the circulating fan is on, any microbes that pass by the light will have their molecular bonds deteriorated, cleaning the air. It works on organic growths such as mold, bacteria, fungus, viruses and other pathogens by breaking them down. It can even reduce some odors!

The final important thing to do in spring is to arrange servicing of

your equipment. I recommend you do it this time of year rather than summer or fall for a few reasons: 1, it will make your fuel fired equipment last longer, and 2, if you have air conditioning we can clean/inspect your A/C system and ensure you are ready for those hot summer days.

Servicing your HVAC equipment is important to prolong its life. We clean up all the products of combustion which can become very acidic in the humidity of summer, damaging your furnace. We can also service your air conditioner, making sure the coils are clean – ready for when you flip the switch on those hot summer days.

Remember, Northern HVAC offers 20% off for seniors on all equipment servicing, including water heaters, furnaces, fireplaces and air conditioners. So call today to book your annual spring service with us.

One more thing! This month we launched our customer appreciation program because we want to thank all the customers we have had so far. Refer a friend to Northern HVAC for a chance to receive a \$100 cheque from us. You can see the rules and restrictions that apply to this on our website.

Thank for reading! If you have any questions about your HVAC system, give me a call or send me an email. I'd be happy to help!

**Kieran Gillooly**  
Owner of Northern HVAC



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# ECO TECH

**Invest now, save money later. Here's some technologies that could make your home more energy efficient.**

## Bright idea

Ever wondered how to bring spring sunlight into that dark hallway? Well, with a sun tunnel or sun pipe, you can do just that. A highly reflective tube directs sunlight from the circular roof light into the room through an opaque diffuser. Set in the ceiling, the diffuser looks like a conventional fixture but the bright light is natural and completely free.

Sun tunnels are available for almost any pitch of roof. They are smaller and easier to install than conventional skylights. The reflective tubes come in rigid or flexible versions, just in case there are obstructions between the roof and the ceiling. The tubes can be up to 30-feet long, making sun tunnels perfect for spots where it would be impossible to install a roof light.

If you are handy, sun tunnels are easy to install, with the job taking only three to four hours.

## Getting fresh

Renovating that drafty old cottage often includes wrapping it in a cozy insulated layer and sealing up the cold spots where the wind



whips through on a chilly fall day. However, those drafts played a part in keeping the air moving inside the cottage and lessened the build-up of stale air, contaminants and, potentially, mold.

With the new insulation, a wise addition is a heat recovery ventilation system. This box of tricks – well, fans, actually – draws out warm, stale air from the interior and pulls in clean, fresh air. Here's the best bit though: it extracts the heat from the outgoing air and warms the cool incoming air, reducing your need to crank up the thermostat.

Heat recovery ventilators can be installed as independent systems or hooked up to your furnace and forced air ducts. In summer, they operate as an air conditioning system, taking heat from the fresh incoming air and transferring it to the stale exhaust air.



## Read all about it

Energy efficiency can be improved with gizmos and gadgets but at its heart is making sure you get the max out of the energy you consume. When this energy is used to heat your house, the best way to ensure efficiency is to insulate and ensure you reduce energy loss.

Insulation comes in many forms but if you are environmentally conscious, chemical-based foams and fibreglass products may not appeal. Enter cellulose insulation. Made predominantly from recycled newspaper, it is treated with boric acid and borate to be fire, mold and pest resistant.

Manufacturers claim that their blown-in products provide a better R-value per inch than equivalent fibreglass insulation, and, because it is denser, the cellulose insulation gives better sound insulation, too.

about the frame that this glass is encased within? Vinyl and aluminum window frames both have relatively high thermal conductivity rates – allowing cold to travel from the outside in. Wooden frames conduct less cold, as does fibreglass. Add insulation within the hollow core of the fibreglass frames and the thermal conductivity is reduced further. Then, add insulated buffers between opening lights and frames and... you get it, the more advanced, the better these products are.



the position of windows and doors to assist with heat gain in winter and shading in summer. Thermal bridge-free construction and continuous super insulation mean no cold spots inside. And an air-tight build with mechanical ventilation provides very high heat recovery, and low energy consumption.

While construction techniques can differ, Quantum's homes are based upon prefabricated structurally engineered insulated wall panels built in Minden. The firm's designers will advise on every aspect of the build, from where your house is positioned on the property to the types of appliances that will save the most energy.



## Smarter living

Just a few years ago, coming up to the cottage for a winter weekend would mean enduring more than a good hour or two freezing your butt off while the heating system did its best to take the chill out of the air.

Now, however, smart thermostats enable us to control the environment of the cottage from our cell phone. Products such as Nest, Ecobee and Mysa will operate on Apple and Android systems and can even be set with voice commands, thanks to Siri and Alexa.

Smart thermostats enable you to program the heating and cooling of your home to the minute, and then override those commands in the event of an impromptu trip or cold snap. Manufacturers claim to be able to reduce heating bills by more than 20 per cent and more importantly, the kids will think you are way cooler when you tell the cottage to warm itself up while cruising along the 401.

## Clear choice

Can windows be energy efficient? After all, they are the big holes where the insulation isn't wrapping your home. But guess what? Pick a quality window and it performs better.

Where once we were happy with single glazed, now double is our base product. Triple glazing offers more insulative value, but what

## Totally floored

Underfloor heating is one of those things that you don't know you need until you walk across a floor in bare feet and it's warm to the touch.

But underfloor heating in a reno? And upstairs? Warmboard is an aluminum coated plywood panel that can be laid directly onto joists or over an existing subfloor. It has a pattern of grooves cut into it and panels fit together in sequence, like a jigsaw, to allow a network of plastic piping to be laid into the grooves. DIYers can install the panels and tubing themselves, then hand over to the plumber to connect to manifolds and the heating system.

Now that cozy warm floor can be yours without the mess of a concrete poured floor or high installation costs.

## Passive aggressive

Ever wondered how you could increase your thermal comfort and reduce your heating and cooling costs by as much as 70-90 per cent? Companies such as Quantum Passivhaus in Minden specialize in the design and construction of such buildings; homes where the entire design, from foundation up, is geared to maximum energy efficiency, ultimate thermal comfort.

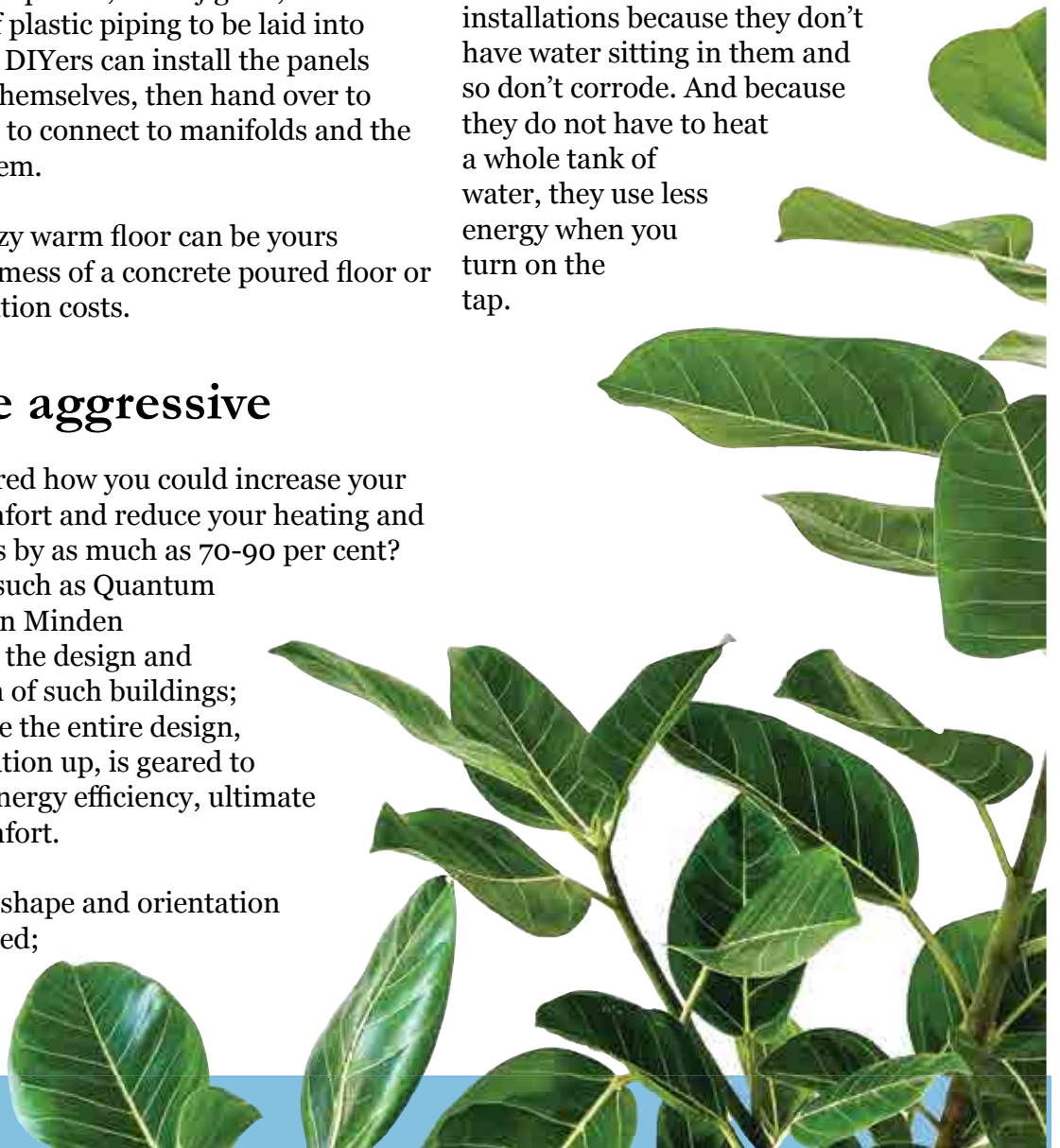
The house's shape and orientation are considered; so too are

## In hot water

A tankless, or on-demand, water heater that needs no storage tank and so saves on energy and space is mandatory in many European countries, and, as we look to conserve more and more energy here in North America, this water heater type could soon become an industry standard.

Tankless water heaters can supply a whole house with instant hot water. They come in electric or gas-powered models, and because there is no cumbersome tank they can be installed in relatively small spaces, a real boon for squeezing into the cozy family cottage.

The systems tend to last longer than conventional tank-based installations because they don't have water sitting in them and so don't corrode. And because they do not have to heat a whole tank of water, they use less energy when you turn on the tap.





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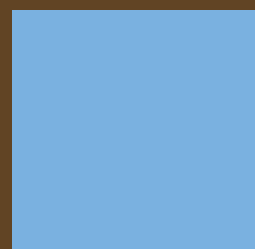
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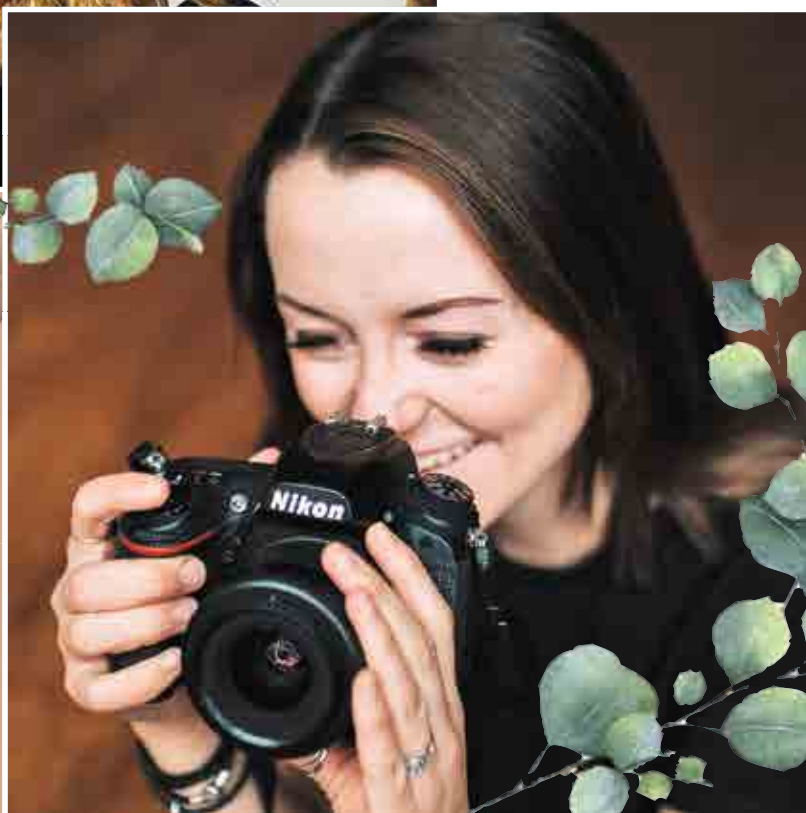
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# Danielle Meredith



## Danielle Meredith

It was perhaps her Grade 9 yearbook that opened the path to photography for Danielle Meredith. But it was her wedding that prompted her to take the first step.

Danielle grew up in Haliburton County, but like many young people, she was lured by the bright lights of Toronto. Now, she's back in the Highlands, working full-time as a wedding photographer.

As a child, Danielle always clutched a camera in her hand – and stashed boxes of prints at home. “At parties ... I was always the one taking all the photos. I had a digital camera. I was never ever without one, no matter where I was,” she said.

“But thinking back on it now ... it was the moments I was freezing. I love looking back on those memories.”

She remembers the response to the yearbook she worked on. “Everyone was so happy looking at their face and looking at the moments with their friends and being like, ‘wow, now we have this yearbook forever and it’s these photos that kind of make it.’”

Fast forward, and Danielle had married her husband, Gavin. “I loved the wedding photos and I loved that whole day and I loved the emotions of it,” she said.

“And I was thinking, I want to get back into photography and this is what I want to do. I’ve finally found it. I want to be a wedding photographer.”

After her wedding, she bought all the equipment. She continued to work at Up Rivewr Trading in Minden (“Paul and Mike have always been so supportive from day one,” she said), while doing family photography before shooting her first wedding, of a friend.

Meanwhile, she soaked up as much information and training as she could, attending workshops and learning from photographers she admired.

“It really is community over competition. If one person’s getting better and you’re going to help

## Caitlin Dunlop

# Through two lenses

**Photographers find the community and beauty of the Haliburton Highlands the perfect place to build a creative business.**

INTERVIEWS  
BY SIMON PAYN

Top: Photo by Jennifer Moher. Bottom: Photo by Danielle Meredith.





Photos by Danielle Meredith

“Nobody else, everyone’s getting better,” she said.

Business grew by word of mouth, and as she raised the bar in her work, she was able to raise her prices, making money and paying the bills.

Putting in that hard work, being a good person when you’re at the wedding, and making sure that you’re creating beautiful products for your clients,” she said.

While she lives in Haliburton County and shoots large weddings here, about half her work is in Toronto, with trips to Prince Edward County, Niagara – even Mexico – in the mix.

Like many people in the creative industry in the Highlands, she uses the internet to operate her business, but travels when necessary to where the work is. She’ll do her marketing in Haliburton County, run down to Toronto to shoot a wedding, but then come back to edit the images.

“You don’t have to just sit in Haliburton all the time, if you want to live in the beauty of Haliburton, you can travel and then travel and ... find a way to make your business work for you,” she said.

She says there are lots of opportunities in the Highlands. “Just look for what’s missing and fill that gap because there are voids and there are ways to make money in Haliburton. You just have to go for it,” she said.

“So many people were like, are you kidding me? A wedding photographer? You’re not gonna’ make any money doing that ... I took that chance and now I’m living the exact life I want to be living.”

Find out more about Danielle at [daniellemeredithphotography.com](http://daniellemeredithphotography.com).

## Caitlin Dunlop

From birth, Caitlin Dunlop was surrounded by inspiration, thanks to the natural beauty of the Haliburton Highlands. As a child, she would go out and about with her father. “I think I had an appreciation for all the wildlife,” she said. “I would travel around and would photograph the wildlife that you would find in Haliburton – moose, deer, foxes.”

She figured that if she enjoyed taking pictures of landscapes, she would probably enjoy photographing people as well.

While at college in Ottawa, she did a lot of street photography, but felt the draw to come back to the Highlands and started taking pictures of her friends.

“It was totally informal, just candid portraits of friends,” she said. “I did couple shots for some of my best friends who wanted some good photos with their significant other.”

Then one day, another photographer was closing her business and selling her gear. So, Caitlin took a leap of faith and bought it – and she’s been running a business ever since.

Her first big break came when she took some pictures for Kindness Matters that were published in the newspaper.

With her name out there, business ramped up. However, she realized studio photography wasn’t for her – she preferred to be out and about, shooting in natural light.

“I stay away from posing people ... as much as possible,” she said. “If you are posing someone, it’s not necessarily true to them; it’s not true to the scenario. If it’s more candid, you are telling more like a true story.”

Starting a business in Haliburton, she assumed every other photographer was going to be her competition. But she found the opposite true. Among others, she got help from Danielle Meredith, “She’s been amazing.”

The Highlands creative community opened its arms and welcomed her. “It’s not a competition at all – everyone keeps saying ‘community over competition’” she said.

Caitlin does most of her work in Haliburton County – weddings, engagements, plus a lot of boudoir photography. She plans to go full time next year. For her, Haliburton is the perfect place to be. “I can’t imagine trying to market yourself in a city,” she said. “You would just get lost.”

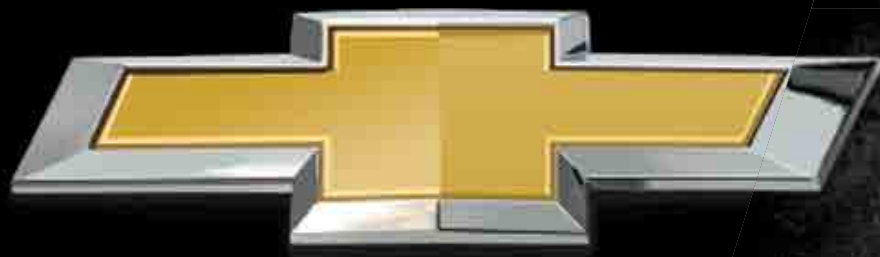
Caitlin advises anyone just starting out to reach out to people who are in similar businesses. “In the artistic community ... everyone is there watching you and just excited for you,” she said. “You wouldn’t get that in bigger towns.”

Find out more about Caitlin at [caitlin-dunlop-photography.com](http://caitlin-dunlop-photography.com).



Photos by Caitlin Dunlop





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# Spend a LITTLE gain A LOT

**Just like hotel rooms, rental cottages come in many shapes and price brackets. But what makes one person's cabin a two-star affair while somebody else's commands a veritable five star rating? All you need do, say Colin + Justin, is apply a few basic rules to bring your cabin up a star or two... and start charging a lil' more cash.**

## Create a cottage bible

Take the mystery out of your rental by pulling together a cottage bible that details issues such as heating, water and septic. Include television/satellite guides, municipal dump info and anything else you think will make guests feel at home. You'll potentially save yourself lots of phone calls from renters asking: "How do we do this...?"

## Equip your kitchen

Eating – and indeed the creation of food – accounts for a big part of the overall cottage vacation experience, so ensure your kitchen is up to the task. A set of matching saucepans is a good investment, as are matching coffee mugs, wine glasses and cutlery. Visit Homesense and Marshalls to scope the 'Colin and Justin Home' décor line for inspo! Specialist items, too, like food mixers and blenders, should be noted in the rental website. Hey: you might just catch the eye of the next Great Canadian Baker who fancies a spot of practice whilst on vacation!

## Spell it out

Ensure you provide a detailed and accurate description of all that's on offer on your rental

website. Don't leave anything uncovered – tell clients about the views and the lakeshore, and stipulate all 'toys' and equipment on offer. It makes so much sense, so go on: celebrate the positives, but be honest and make it clear exactly what you're offering, and then deliver on that promise. It's not rocket science: additions like high speed Internet, Bluetooth speakers or a smart coffee maker such as the Breville Barista Express ([breville.com](http://breville.com)) will make your rental far more attractive.

## Add the slumber factor

Don't scrimp: install the comfiest bed you can find. Doesn't everyone appreciate a good night's sleep? Seriously: just think of those re-bookings! Installing blackout blinds or drapes will encourage better sleep, and if you provide extra pillows and blankets (a combo of feather filled and synthetic) this will allow your renters to tailor the bed to their individual requirements.

## Make more

If your cottage has a great lake view, ensure windows are free from obstructions – and sparkling clean – so that guests can enjoy those gorgeous, unbroken vistas. If you don't have room inside for a large dining table, pop one outside to give renters what they need.

## Make each space count

If you've space in the bedroom, add an armchair or sofa to create a comfy nook. A desk in the living room adds useful function, while a coffee station, home bar or outdoor pizza oven will add fun and function. Similarly, a sauna or hot tub (the beautiful, easy install Cedar options by [dundalkleisurecraft.com](http://dundalkleisurecraft.com) are, without doubt, the market's best) will enhance optimal rent-ability. The trick is to give visitors a memorable experience.

## Definition costs nothing

Keep your rental cottage clean and considered, much like a hotel suite with rooms clearly defined and well dressed. Keeping decor neutral will appeal to more people, but don't forget to add personality with artwork, bedding and cushions.

## Dress to impress

Imagine you're selling your cottage and staging it to bring out the best and tempt top dollar. It follows that if you do this for your rental, you'll reap rewards. Don't clutter with furniture you don't need, add table lamps to create warm pockets of light and arrange furnishings and artworks to establish shape and interest. Get your phone out and take a few snaps of the rooms you like best, and post them proudly for all to see.

## A clean sweep

If you choose to allow pets, the Dyson Ball Animal 2 Upright vacuum will make short shrift of even the shaggiest hound. Clean ups, therefore, for guests (and for you, when changing over between rentals) will be a breeze courtesy of super-smart attachments that will easily remove pet hairs from curtains and sofas. Visit [dysoncanada.ca](http://dysoncanada.ca) for more information.

Finally: before you hit the rental market, spend a night in your own rental cottage to properly understand what works and what doesn't... If you're happy, then chances are your renters will be happy too! And a happy renter means more cash in the bank for you!







# Rent it right

**Thinking about renting your cottage this summer?**

**We get the low-down from Don Critchley, Cheryl McCombe and Stephanie Field from local agency, Cottage Care Rentals.**

## First things first

The first thing to do is discuss it with your family to make sure everyone is comfortable with the idea.

“Sometimes someone is not willing to have someone else sleep in their bed, or maybe a daughter has inherited a cottage from her parents and never really had guests there,” said McCombe.

“Take some time to be comfortable with having strangers living in your cottage for a week in the summer and ask yourself, “how is that going to make me feel?”

## Making your cottage ready

Invest money to bring your cottage to a rentable standard. For example, staining the deck and perhaps buying a new dock.

“You’re not going to rent out your cottage to pay for the renovations, you are going to do the renovations to rent out your cottage,” said McCombe

Make it so when they walk in, it’s almost like a hotel – but they know it’s not a hotel. Leave some books and games out so the cottage feels like home.

Leave some spices, sugar, flour and basic cooking things in the pantry, but take out everything else. Guests are going to have a week’s worth of food and they need somewhere to put it.

Avoid overcrowding. How many people can sit around the kitchen table and how many beds and bathrooms are there? Too many people and it will overwhelm the cottage, the septic system – and your neighbours. What’s more, your guests won’t have a good time when they’re sleeping in an area that’s not suitable.

Make sure smoke detectors are properly installed, there’s a first aid kit and fire extinguishers, and that the barbecue is safe.

## Playtime

People expect non-motorized watercraft – in good condition. Items such as stand-up paddle boards, kayaks and canoes are great options.

“If you have a three-bed cottage that sleeps six people, having a canoe and a couple of kayaks, or a canoe and a stand-up paddleboard – that’s the minimum you would want to provide,” said McCombe.

Don’t worry about lifejackets – guests should bring their own. You want to avoid poorly-fitted lifejackets.

“We don’t advise renting a motor on the boat, but that is something you should check with your insurance company,” said McCombe.

## Water, water

People love a sand beach – but many cottages do not have that. However, you can still have a lovely cottage without a sand beach; just have a safe area to enter the water and advertise it clearly. Be honest about your shoreline. If you have a muddy, natural waterfront, say that. “We have cottages with all different types of waterfront – some with rock, some with water-plants. In those cases, the best swimming is off the dock,” said McCombe.

## Keep it clean

Many cottages have excellent quality well-water. If your water is not of drinkable quality, you could provide a water dispenser.

“One of the things an owner should focus on is the quality of water to deter guests from bringing single-use plastic bottles,” said Field.

It’s also important to make sure guests know how to sort their garbage and where to take it. Get them a landfill pass. After all, we do our garbage differently here.

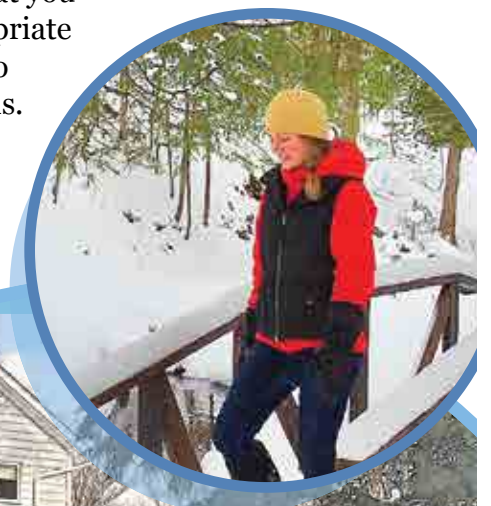
Make sure guests know if there’s a fire ban. Guests like to have a campfire to roast s’mores. You don’t have to let your guests use your firewood. Direct guests to a local vendor – never bring firewood into the county.

## Don’t forget

WiFi is no longer a nice-to-have, it’s pretty much a need-to-have. If you are going to have WiFi, it should be unlimited. Alternatively, a good cell service to make hotspots.

Check with your insurance provider that you have appropriate insurance to cover rentals.

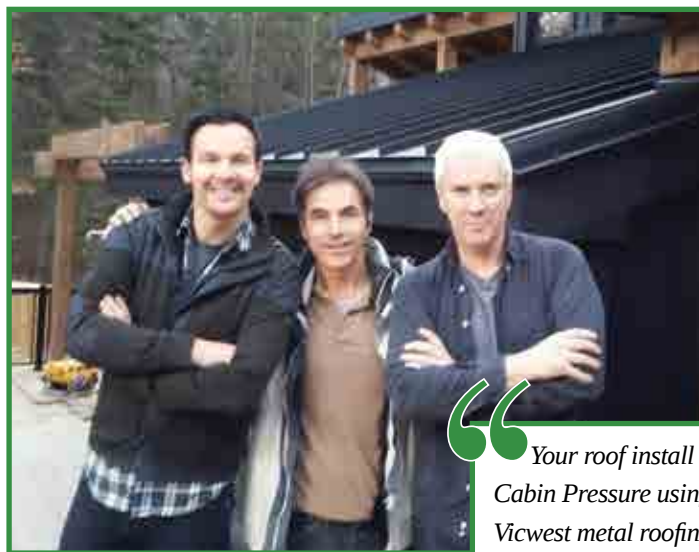
Continued on page 21





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Continued from page 19

### Extra touches

Consider a welcome gift, for example a gift basket of some Abbey Gardens Red Fife pancake mix, syrups and jams.

Provide information, such as the *Highlander Handbook* and a local newspaper, plus ideas for things to do, such as from vendors like Yours Outdoors.

### What rental agencies do

There are several good cottage rental agencies in Haliburton County that are licensed by the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO). Money received from a guest for a rental goes into a trust fund, and it can't leave that fund until they have completed their stay.

TICO-licensed agencies have a complete education. "They educate us on how to be travel agents ... and how to portray our services in a truthful way," said Critchley. Agencies also screen guests. "With 30,000 visits online to our cottage inventory, we only have 500-600 total weeks to book, so we can be really picky," said Critchley.

Agencies typically take between 18-20 per cent, depending on the cottage's rental rate. That is likely to include full rental management, as well as photographing the cottage, listing it, marketing it, screening guests, entering into guest contracts, handling money, and helping guests during their vacation.

Some agencies offer a property management service for an extra fee. This can include changing the cottage over between guests, or having someone on call for maintenance issues while guests are there – such as a pump failing at 4 a.m.

Agencies screen cottages to make sure they are high quality. "We won't take the cottage or we will let a cottage go if it is clearly neglected," said Critchley.

BY SIMON PAYN

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### Kennisis Lake



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### Kennisis Lake



Looking for a yr-rnd home or a 4-season cottage? Breathing-taking 3-bdrm, 2 bath home. Custom built kitchen w/ granite countertops, built-in appliances, lrg island & much more. 4 season sunroom. Ramps, paths & staircases suitable for all ages. 4 season bunkie & double car garage. Call LBO for all extra special details. **\$1,150,000.**

### Colbourne Lake



Enjoy being close to nature in a quiet, private and peaceful setting. 4 BR, 2 bath log home/cottage. 25 acres of mature trees. Stunning open concept living. Engineered hardwood flooring, granite countertops and walk-out to covered wraparound deck. Heated workshop with loft. **\$999,000**

### Grass Lake



Stunning 4 BR, 4 bath turn key home/cottage. Large sunny level lot. 100+ ft of private frtg and personal boat launch. Panoramic lake view. 80 ft deck. High quality finishing's. Many upgrades in fall of 2018. Double attached garage and detached single garage with carport. Shows pride of ownership. **\$1,050,000**

### Spruce Lake



Custom built 3 BR, 3 bath waterfront home/cottage. With 25 acres, 225 ft of frtg and Southern exposure. This private and peaceful property. open concept living with beautiful maple cabinetry. Cozy sunroom, gorgeous gazebo and stone patio with firepit. 2 BR guest cottage. Wheelchair accessible. **\$1,399,000**

### Kennisis Lake



Low maintenance 4 season cottage. 4 bdrm, 1 Bath. Open concept. Oversized dining area perfect for hosting. Large deck with glass railing. Lots of space for the whole family to stay. Additional living space in bunkie. Beautifully landscaped maintenance free property. Granite flower beds and stairway to water. Ample privacy and much more. **\$899,000.**

### Kashagawigamog Lake



A million dollar view! Fully furnished 3 BDRM, 2 Bath cottage. Open concept living and beautiful four season sunroom. 12X9 bunkie for additional living space. 160ft of frontage with Eastern Exposure. **\$698,000**

### Wenona Lake



Looking for a quiet, calm and peaceful four season cottage or waterfront home? Look no further. This 3 BR, 3 bath immaculate cottage sits on a private lot. Large open concept living, excellent for hosting family gatherings. 125ft of frtg with stunning western views. **\$662,000**

### Haliburton Lake



Meticulously cared for 3 BR, 2 bath year round home/cottage. Private lot perfect for children to play. 176 ft frtg. Beautiful sandy beach, dock and full sun. Bright open concept living. Fully finished lower level. Enjoy the stunning views of nature. Detached single garage. A property that can be enjoyed all year. **\$639,000**

### Kennisis Lake



It's all about the lot!! Enjoy the gorgeous sunsets from this west facing level lot. Amazing rock shoreline, deep water entry is great for the avid swimmers. 125 ft frontage and year round road. Looking for a fixer upper this one is for you! 3 bdrms 2 with balconies. 3 product pellet stove and back up solar system. \$569,000

### Twelve Mile Lake



Offering a million-dollar view and spectacular sunsets! Bright open concept custom built 3 BR, 3 bath home. Floor to ceiling windows providing stunning lake views. Finished lower level. Cozy 3 season cedar screened in porch. 56 ft of Houston docking. Waterfront enjoyment without waterfront taxes. **\$558,000**

### Long Lake



Choose to build your dream cottage on this stunning property overlooking Long Lake or renovate the existing building which includes 2 BR and 1 full bath. Extensive 650' of water frontage. Private seasonal access and beautifully wooded 54+/- acres provides ample privacy. Endless possibilities. **\$499,900**

### Miskwabi Lake



Looking for the perfect traditional cottage to call your own? This turnkey 3 bedroom, 4 season cottage is on beautiful Miskwabi Lake. Open concept living space. Finished with pine walls and ceilings, gives the true cottage feel. Recently installed laminate flooring throughout, indoor sauna. This property has it all! Walk-out to wrap around deck. Bunkie for additional living space. \$486,900

### Percy Lake



Great traditional family cottage! 4 Bdrm, 1 bath cottage has open concept living space finished with laminate flooring and wood interior boasts cottage charm. Large lakefront deck. Enjoying the Southern exposure. The list doesn't stop there, sauna building at waters edge, large sitting deck and dock provides ample space the whole family will enjoy. \$379,000

### Little Glamor Lake



It's the perfect retreat! Open concept traditional 3-bedroom cottage. Large windows and walk out to the lakefront deck. Sloping to level yard with lots of space for the kids and pets to run and play. The beautiful sand beach, southern views, outdoor shower, privacy and more. 1 bedroom bunkie provides additional living space. \$359,000

### Koshlong Lake



Charming 2-bdrm 1 bath fully furnished cottage. Perfectly situated in a quiet bay. Pine walls and flooring throughout provides a true cottage feel. Finished bunkie. With many recent upgrades this cottage is move in ready. Large wrap around deck. Enjoy the panoramic views from the lakefront stone patio with 112 feet of frontage.

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## BIG LAKE VIEW



This custom-built log home on prestigious Kennis Lake has the ultimate in privacy, thanks to its 6.90 acres and 550 ft of clean, clear shoreline. There's numerous quality upgrades in this home, which has over 4,000 sq ft of living space. You'll enjoy spending time in the large open-concept living area with cathedral ceilings and the custom solid wood kitchen with granite countertops. In total, there are five bedrooms and four bathrooms, plus a full finished basement, Haliburton room with antique pine flooring, and an insulated triple garage with finished loft. There's even a view of a small Crown Land island – an ideal wind barrier and swimming/picnic destination. More info from Linda Baumgartner, broker, at [haliburtonrealestate.on.ca](http://haliburtonrealestate.on.ca). \$2,389,000



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# Stothart CREEK

## GET *Close*

Experience the beauty of living in the country alongside convenience.  
Your new home is only 2.2 km from everything you need in Haliburton Village

## GET *Privacy*

At Stothart Creek, seclusion is an added value that comes naturally on your averaged 1.2 acre wooded lot.

## GET *Neighbourhood*

Apart from the homes we construct for families, we're seeking to build a community that prioritizes the simple privileges of life everyday

## GET *Parklands*

Find serenity in the acres of dedicated parkland and walking paths right outside your front door.

# LEARN MORE



[stothartcreek.com](https://stothartcreek.com)



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A BROWN + CO. PROJECT. BUILDING HALIBURTON SINCE 1982.



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