

The merging of old and new is most evident in the kitchen and dining rooms, separated by a soaring stone wall.

TOP RIGHT: The living room is a warm space, central to the home, but located intimately hidden from the kitchen and dining rooms by the stairwell.

BOTTOM LEFT: The grand foyer gives off an air of new, custom-built home, but also of entering into the 1850s.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The enormity of the thick stone walls is evident in the pillars, adding texture and depth.



BY SHELBY HILSON // PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDY MACKAY

A SOLID FOUNDATION

It's not often you find a home in a new development that has an extensive history and a captivating story, but Nicki and Chad Hayden did and turned it into their very own. *Continued on page 20*



The kitchen boasts two eat-in options – at the island or in the warm morning sunlight of the breakfast nook.

LEFT: Brushed a stone grey, the kitchen blends into the old world while featuring modern appliances and red accents.

BOTTOM LEFT: A stylish laundry room, located on the main floor, is a saviour for Nicki and Chad with walls upon walls of storage space.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The home office, part of the new addition, looks out onto the yard, taking in the new spring growth.

The story of this home began 160 years ago when the Cassin family moved from Ireland and bought the 100-acre farm that the **Aberfoyle Creek Estates** development sits on today. The farmhouse was first erected in 1850, and according to the County of Wellington Heritage Inventory, “was inventoried on the 1851 Puslinch census as one of the 15 stone houses in the township at that time.”

The Cassins raised many children and grandchildren on the land and didn't sell until the Daymond family came along in 1937. George Daymond, a child at the time, eventually took ownership of the farm with his wife, Donna, where they lived together in the old stone house until 2005, at which time they built a home on the back 23 acres of the land.

So sat the historical home to be sold as part of the only lot in the subdivision with a house on it. The developers, who named the streets after the Cassins and Daymonds, were hoping a buyer would come along and make an effort to preserve the building. They got lucky when Nicki and Chad, a young married couple, took an interest in doing just that.

“We always talked about redoing an old stone house, so when we saw this one, we started brainstorming and bought it,” says Nicki.

With deep family roots in Puslinch himself, Chad was quite familiar with the venerable structure long before they purchased it. As a child, he was babysat by one of the Daymond daughters here and had come to know the family and the land.

Over the past two years, Chad and Nicki have worked hard to transform their new home while preserving many of the original features and making it fit with the look of the Aberfoyle development.

After the couple came up with a design for the home and worked with architect **Bill Spira** of **William Spira Design** to draw up blueprints, they hired local builder **Rolf Deter** of **Deterco Builders Inc.** to bring it all to life.

Chad's family has worked with Deter on a number of projects and the couple felt confident that he was the right builder for the job.

They added a large addition to the front of the house that includes an office, three-car garage, lovely front entranceway and huge dining room with an 18-foot ceiling and gas fireplace on the main floor. The most prominent feature, and one of Nicki's favourite pieces, is the more than 10-foot-long dining table and bench, which was handcrafted by friend Dennis Bower from some of the home's old floorboards. *Continued on page 22*



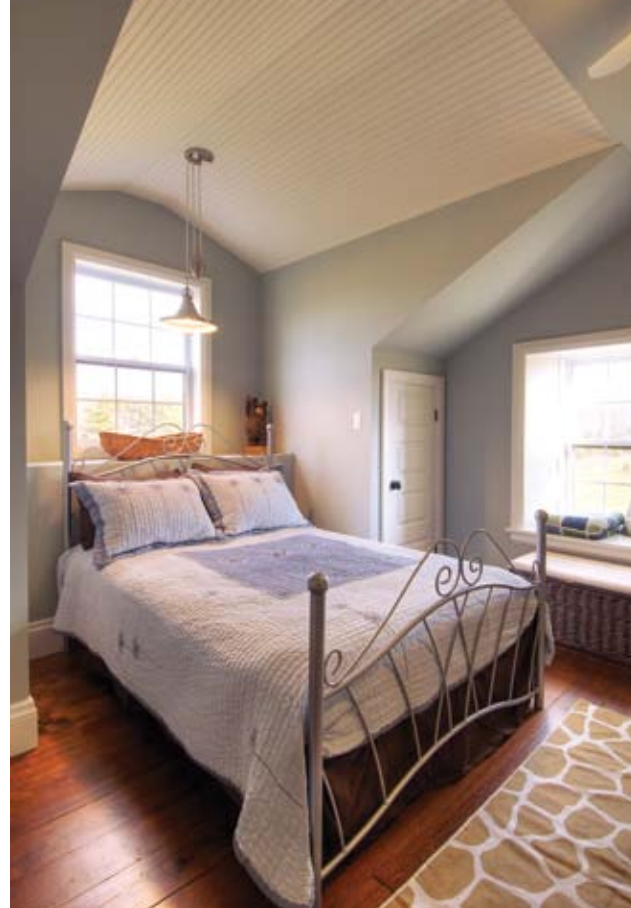
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RIGHT: A guest bedroom nestles into the front dormer of the old home.

RIGHT BELOW: The master en suite features a claw-foot tub and luxurious shower.

BELOW LEFT: The romance of stone and a natural, calming palette suits the couple and their master bedroom.

BELOW RIGHT: Stone peaks out in each room of the historical home.



"We love to entertain large groups of friends and family," says Nicki. "The last time was actually to celebrate the completion of the table."

To accommodate the addition, the Haydens had the roofline raised to make the upstairs a more liveable space. They added a beautiful master bedroom with 12-foot ceilings and en suite that stretches into the original home.

Where the slanted roof used to sit has now been opened up as a loft that overlooks the dining room. The second floor maintains the original wood flooring, which fills the air with a deep-seated country scent as you climb the stairs. On the back of the house, the builder added three dormers to give back some of the space that the slanted ceilings took away from the guest rooms and to add an extra bathroom within the upper level.

The old stone walls stand a surprising two feet wide, which make for some uniquely deep-set windows and door frames that clearly differentiate the old from the new.

With the stone being the initial attraction, both Nicki and Chad rolled up their sleeves to modernize it to suit the style of the home. "We chipped away all the plaster ourselves," says Nicki. "Then we had it all re-pointed by Bruce, our stone guy."

The stone remains most prominent in the living room and helps to keep with the contemporary country feel throughout. The coffee table is a foundry cart from the early 1800s (made in Fergus) that ties the room together perfectly. *Continued on page 24*



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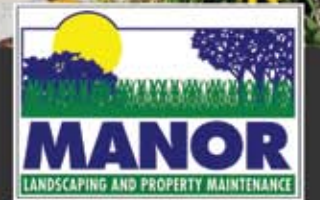
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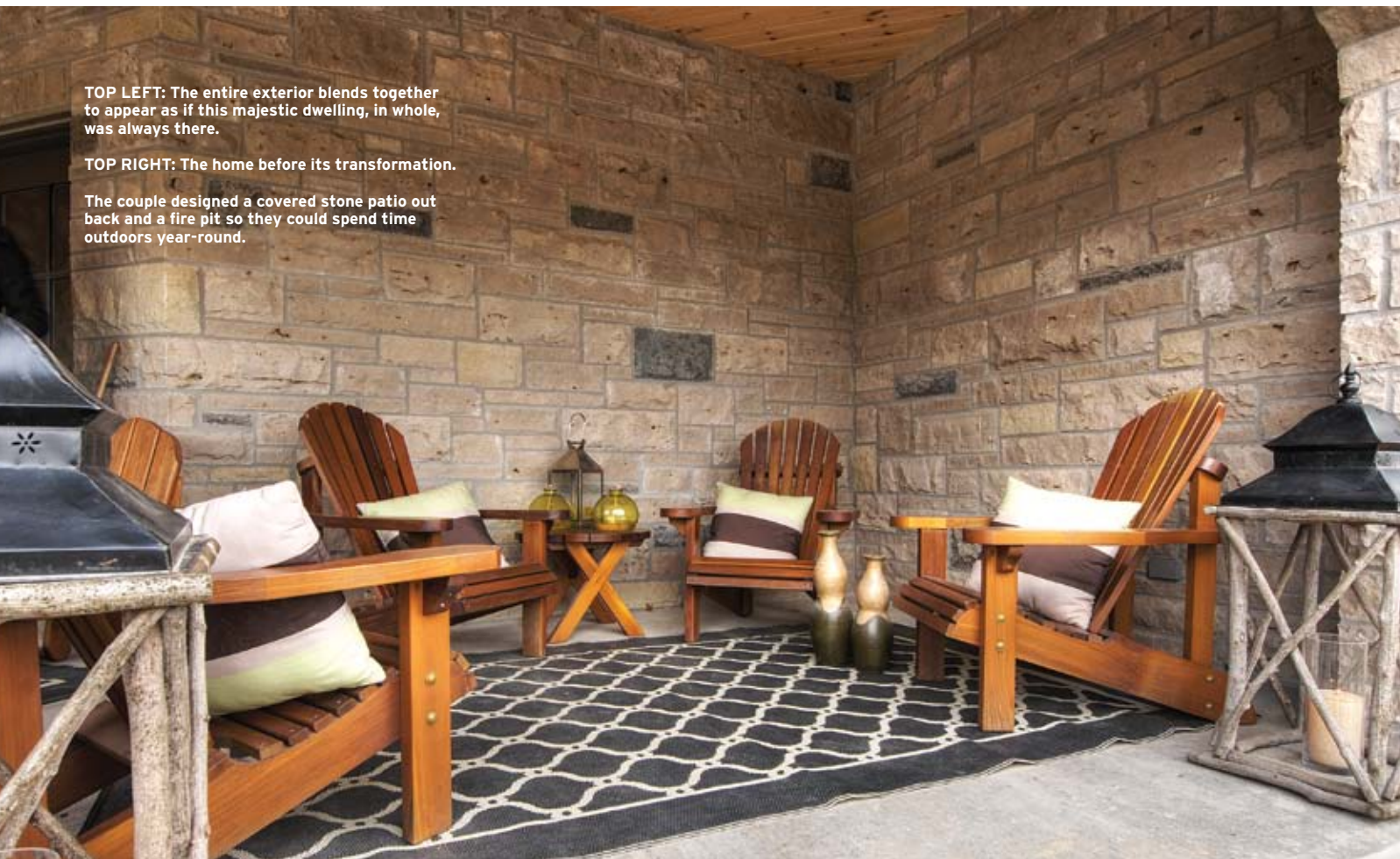
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TOP LEFT: The entire exterior blends together to appear as if this majestic dwelling, in whole, was always there.

TOP RIGHT: The home before its transformation.

The couple designed a covered stone patio out back and a fire pit so they could spend time outdoors year-round.

On the other side of the living room is a kitchen that any and every chef would love. Custom designed, the painted maple cabinetry and island are displays of great craftsmanship, and along with the Crema Marfil marble countertops and backsplash, warm up the space a great deal.

The kitchen table is positioned in the corner of the room with a built-in, wrap-around storage bench that adds even more cosiness to the space. "It was a challenge working around the existing windows and this seemed like the best option," says Nicki. Her mother, Kathy Islic, made the bench cushions along with all the drapes throughout the home.

As the warm weather approaches, Nicki and Chad are looking forward to using their outdoor space more. "We really enjoy being outside in the summertime," says Nicki, and it's easy to see why. They've had a covered outdoor patio built, featuring a gorgeous pine ceiling and fans for extra hot days. The two of them laid the cobblestone interlock patio themselves and built a fire pit that Nicki's father, John Islic, made seats for out of old trees.

Although the story of this home began a long, long time ago, it is far from finished. The Haydens have preserved a piece of this community's history and brought out its true beauty. OH

Deterco Builders Inc., William Spira Design: Architect, **Geomans Appliances, TA Appliances:** appliances, **Sarmazians:** flooring/ceramics, **Aberfoyle Antique Market:** chandelier/coffee table, **Wood-Tek Cabinetree:** cabinetry, **J.L. Vivash Custom Wood Floors Ltd.:** floor restoration, **Barber Glass:** mirrors/glass, **Hayden's Property Maintenance:** landscaping, **Williamson Masonry:** stone, **Loughran Plastering Ltd.:** stucco, **Accents For Living:** accessories, **ACE Carpentry:** doors/trim/panelling, **Golden Windows:** windows, **Shield Security:** security system, **A Touch of Muskoka:** coat rack, **Stair Rite, Steve Ireland Electric, Guelph Plumbing, Jack's Aluminum Ltd.:** Eaves/Fascia, **Heer's Decorating:** Paint.

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