

All Dressed For Christmas



By Gloria Hildebrandt
Photos by Mike Davis

"Christmas at the Manor" was the name of the United Way of Halton Hills' 2008 tour. The O'Malley home near Limehouse was built in traditional manorial splendour, and although it has centuries-old appeal, it was actually completed in 2002. The Grand Room with its curving staircase is the centre of the house, capable of comfortably holding many holiday revellers.

One of the joys of Christmas is decorating our homes. Cherished family ornaments and mementoes are taken out of storage, fresh flowers and greens are bought or gathered from our properties, new pieces are introduced.



Welcoming winter warmth! This generous porch at the Garrard home is dressed to welcome guests to linger. The warmth of the plaid blanket invites a snuggle.

We love to see how other people transform their spaces for the holidays. We also love to get ideas that we can use in our own homes. Tours of houses decorated for Christmas are popular fundraisers for the United Way in many communities. These tours involve a tremendous amount of work from organizers, homeowners and families, decorators, florists and many other volunteers, all striving to provide a wonderful experience for visitors.



Milton and Halton Hills held tours last year, and *Escarpment Views* was invited to take a look. Here are some of the highlights.

The O'Malley's outdoor covered porch is inviting even on the coldest day, with a wood fire burning in the massive stone fireplace. Decorating outdoor spaces as beautifully as indoors provides lovely views that lure guests outside.



Whether a town house or a country house like the Speck home shown here, every home can be beautifully dressed for Christmas. Big or small, every house and property has its own charm which can be enhanced by thoughtful decorating. A light touch can sometimes produce the most beautiful effect. A lovely house surrounded by a blanket of snow and framed by a forest needs only some winter greens to welcome the festive season.



LEFT: Adult elegance is created by a black, white and gold theme that perfectly blends masculinity and femininity. This room in the McCaig home could host parties from Christmas Eve to New Year's Eve.

Dare to be different. Non-traditional colours still evoke the warm richness of the festive season in this beautiful room in the Magnotich home.

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- 1 Even the smallest space, like this passage beside the Jenson home, can give big pleasure when carefully decorated to delight.
- 2 Simple traditions still provide great beauty when the house has good proportions, as does the McConnell house. Green cedars and red poinsettias play up dark leather and red cushions.
- 3 Ah, perfect luxury. What better way to relax after a hectic day of holiday preparations than to soak in this generous tub in the O'Malley home, surrounded by both Christmas charm and views of Escarpment countryside?

Inspirational Ideas



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We love these clever ideas from our talented and creative local decorators. Borrow some of them or let them inspire you for your holiday parties.

- 1 Evoke the magic of the natural world by letting a toy fawn bed down on real aromatic cedar boughs.
- 2 This inviting bar tray works from Christmas (have you been naughty or nice?) through New Year's Eve.
- 3 The Candy Bar: delight the child in everyone by offering a self-serve buffet of sweets in oversized martini glasses.
- 4 Huge red bows make any chair look flirty, feminine, festive and fun!
- 5 Silent night. A small pillow bearing the word "Peace" brings Christmas quiet to this restful bedroom in the O'Malley home.



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Santa's workshop can be set up anywhere with the addition of toys and important lists.



Personalize wrapping paper by putting your hands on it.

Milton Tour Decorators	Interiors	Twist Decor Revival (Jenson)
		...I Do Flowers & Decor (McCaig)
		Bergsma's Home Decor (Mangotich)
		Kerklaan Interiors (McConnell)
		A Country Mile (Garrard)
		Muir Interiors (Speck)
	Florists	Milton Greenhouses Flower and Gift Shop (Jenson)
		...I Do Flowers & Decor (McCaig)
		Lux Living (Mangotich)
		Grower Direct Fresh Cut Flowers Milton (McConnell)
		A Country Mile (Garrard)
		Maranatha Log House (Speck)
		Exteriors
Canadian Tire (McCaig)		
Terra Greenhouses (Mangotich)		
Crawfords Garden Centre (McConnell)		
Home Depot (Garrard)		
SCM Contracting Group Ltd. (Speck)		
Halton Hills Tour Decorators	Interiors	
		Diane Granander Design
		Emerald Isle
		Interiors by Decorating Den
		Maureen Craighead & Lynda Moffat
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		Fendley Florists
		Vanderburgh Flowers
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