

WELCOME HOME *for* Christmas Holidays

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT ✨ PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS. It's a time to display all your best pieces and cherished mementoes, or to go all out and create a fantasy to make your house sparkle from roof to old-fashioned rec room.

The months of November and December are when Niagara Escarpment communities share decorative beauty through holiday house tours that usually benefit local charities. Decorators, florists, stylists and homeowners collaborate to scheme up gorgeous tableaux to display. Here are some favourite scenes from past Christmas tours of houses in Escarpment towns.



▲ Touches of red in the décor play up the warmth at the front entrance to this Georgetown house.

▶ A blue Christmas can lift the spirit when the colour is used as enchantingly as it is here for this Georgetown heritage cottage. Open the door and come on in!



HERITAGE
1872
James W. Kennedy
Farmer
HALTON HILLS

Inside, the magic really begins. With traditional colour schemes or eye-opening creativity, decorating for Christmas can be lavish, reserved, fun, fancy... but always festive.



◀ (Top right) Traditional colours and elements emphasize the manorial elegance of this fine staircase in a Georgetown home.

◀ (Top left) All that glitters is not gold. Silver is the metallic colour of choice for this sleek Fonthill room, from the heavily-laden Christmas tree to the corner décor and repeated on sofa and hassock.



◀ A restrained use of colour makes a big impact in this sleek, masculine bedroom in a Fonthill home. Subtle Santas bring smiles.

◀ (Bottom) Festive bows on the backs of chairs are popular touches, but adding sprigs of evergreens punches up the festive flair. Seen in a Fonthill house.

▼ This living room on the Fonthill tour fearlessly celebrates the red of the season.



Owls Everywhere

Last year was the year of owls. White, red, a mix of colours, in ceramic, metal or feathers, owls were peeping back with big eyes. Different decorators of different houses caught the vibe and saw the wise old bird as a new sign of cheer.



▲ Hoo's ready for a snack on the night before Christmas? Owl mugs, owls in bowls show the popularity of this way to mark the holidays. From a house on the Georgetown tour.



▲ A parliament of owls with sleds brings cuteness to this dining area on the Georgetown tour.



▲ Fire burning in the fireplace, a gently-decorated under-mantel, monochromatic candles, stars and owls bring eternal cheer to this Georgetown house.



▲ Tableau with a table. A perfectly styled small area in this Georgetown home catches the eye. Note the red owl.

Noteworthy Details



▲ Tradition in a Mason jar: cranberries, Spruce needles and a ribbon bring Christmas country cheer to this Georgetown house.



▲ No tub left undecorated! A tiny tree with unusual colours enlivens a Georgetown bathroom.



◀ Don't forget the outdoors! Welcome visitors with bright colours and a cozy place to stop a moment.

Houses were photographed on the Homes for the Holidays Christmas House Tour for Fonthill United Church and United Way of Halton Hills Holiday House Tour. **NEV**

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