

KITCHEN PROFILE | 4

## WALLS DOWN, NEW CEILING UP

*Radical makeover muscles up  
a hard-working kitchen*

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*Family members coming into the kitchen from the outdoor hot tub step on to a floor with textured porcelain tiles that are heated – ideal for gripping and coddling those wet feet. Earth tones blend harmoniously with the kitchen island's granite countertop.*



**FOR ITS FIRST RENO IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS,** the Tummers' kitchen in Campbellville was treated to an extreme makeover. Under the direction of designer Lorna Brown of Cranberry Hill Kitchens the walls came down, a new ceiling went up, and super-modern metal cabinetry was replaced with cream-painted maple. It has added just the right dose of rustic charm to work with the forested surroundings of the Niagara Escarpment.

Dianne Tummers, mother of four, works her kitchen hard. "It's a really good place to spend time with the kids while I'm baking and cooking," she said. Tearing down a wall that split the dining and cooking areas created an airy, open space of about 645 square feet where everyone could comfortably come and go, and a custom-made two-tiered island running down the centre of the new room has become the hub of action. The impressive cherrywood piece (designed and manufactured, like all the cabinetry, by Cranberry Hill Kitchens), with its Earth Glitter granite worktop (from Ciot Marble in Toronto) is a place where dough is rolled, veggies are chopped, and catch-up chats are had.

To offer unfettered views of the twelve-acre forest just outside – not to mention the deer, porcupines and rabbits that call it home – translucent, jewel-blue Italian pendants by WAC Lighting have been placed discreetly at either side of the six-foot natural-wood-framed window above the Franke apron double sink. They tie in with the subdued watery tones running through the Stone Mix Mosaic backsplash tile (from Ceramic Decor in Guelph) and the Slaty Almond porcelain floor tiles (from Covering Concepts in Burlington). LED fixtures with motion sensors unobtrusively complete the lighting system. ☞

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*(Below) Custom-selected door and drawer handles all have an old-silver finish, a subtle way to create visual harmony between the natural wood kitchen island and surrounding painted cabinetry. (Right) Hideaway touches: washer and dryer remain concealed but accessible behind armoire doors, and well-stocked shelves roll out of view.*



The appliances got an upgrade too. “I had a Miele dishwasher before that won my heart,” said Dianne, who’s also a fan of the company’s top-notch customer service. She opted for their fridge, freezer, induction cooktop and warming drawer, as well as their dishwasher, this time around. Brown brought in a slim-line Lumen vent from Falmec for the cooking station. “We wanted something overhead, but low-profile, so it wouldn’t obstruct the views,” said the designer.

Dianne had hoped to move the washer and dryer elsewhere in the house, but no spot quite fit the bill. The fix: a laundry closet in the kitchen with armoire-style doors that can be closed to keep the Whirlpool appliances hidden while at work. Brown created nook

shelving above the door, with room for plants or small art pieces, to add visual interest to an otherwise practical area. It’s also functional: a mesh insert in the shelf allows air to circulate around the appliances.

Smart storage is a defining feature in this project: roll-out shelves in the pantry let Dianne easily take inventory; extensive drawer space and pull-outs in the island and wall cabinets keep pots, pans, gadgets, utensils, oils and spices logically organised; and a dramatically back-lit display case in the dining space ensures that tableware and linens are close to hand. A sense of serenity prevails—even after a scratch-cooking blitz—when it’s time for the family to sit down together and share a meal in their captivating new kitchen. ☛