

# Inspired

by Pioneer Craftsmen

Inside you'll find:

## To Move or Not to Move

In today's housing market, many homeowners are asking this question.

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## Spa Sanctuary

Relax, recharge and rejuvenate. A Cambridge couple gets away from it all in style!

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## Here We Grow Again

PC News: lots of new faces, and celebrating some of our team's milestones.



*Creating Inspired Renovations in Kitchener, Waterloo,  
Cambridge, Guelph & Area for over 65 Years.*

View our complete online portfolio  
at: [www.pioneer craftsmen.com](http://www.pioneer craftsmen.com)

I find myself wondering what happened to Summer as our team pulls out warm sweaters, we see the leaves change to vibrant orange and red, and we look ahead to the 2018 holiday season.

This year has been a whirlwind of excitement at Pioneer Craftsmen!

From celebrating 65 years in business, and recognizing the amazing talent and dedication of team members who have helped shape our company into what it is today, to growing our business and welcoming some new faces with fresh ideas and a willingness to carry on the traditions of the craft.

Our quality craftsmanship has gained us recognition as a leader in the industry, and our designs continue to win awards. One thing has remained constant during the tides of change: our dedication to you, our clients. We humbly thank you for the opportunity you have allowed us to create the inspired spaces that you love. We thank our team, whose skill, teamwork and dedication is evident in every renovation we complete.

As always, we sincerely appreciate your referrals to family and friends. Our commitment to you is that we will treat each referral and each renovation with the same care that we would our own families and our own homes.

We wish you all the very best for this last part of 2018, and in the new year!

Enjoy!

**Jamie**

Jamie Adam, President

## Feature Renovation



# Spa Sanctuary

These homeowners value being able to get away from the hectic pace of life. They were looking for a space where they could soothe the mind, relax, recharge and rejuvenate themselves within their master suite. This stunning bathroom accomplishes that and more, and these homeowners couldn't be more thrilled!

Our designer, Jennifer Dainard, worked closely with the Cambridge couple to find the right mix of function, form and fancy to bring their dreams into reality and this luxurious bathroom to life. Using design and 3D simulations allowed the planning and selection of materials to run smoothly.

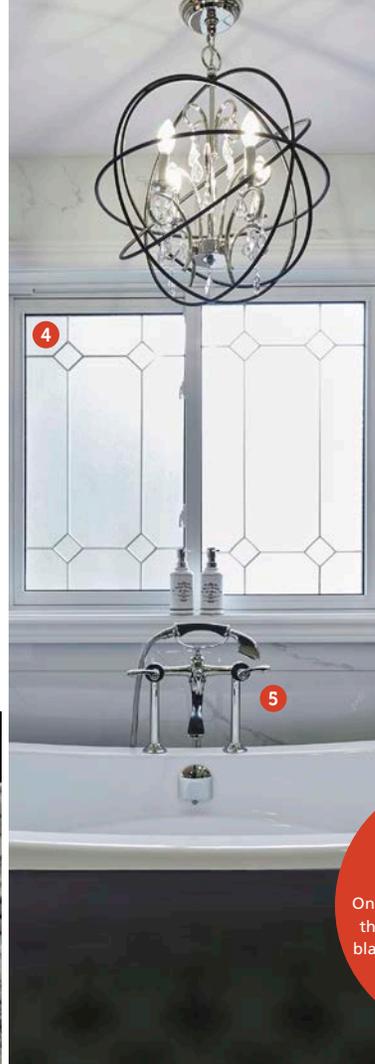
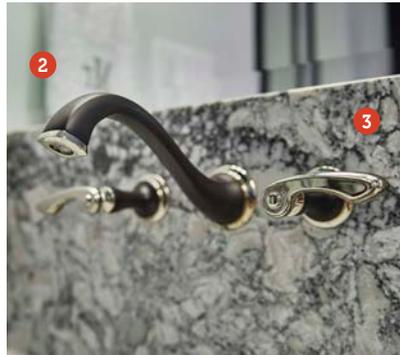
- 1 Reflection from the full-length mirror gives the illusion of even more space allowing for better flow in the room.
- 2 Fixtures of polished nickel and black-bronze provide a warmer option than the chrome of the previous years' trends. This creates a viable middle-ground for anyone who wants to add a warmer feel to the space, without fully immersing into deep golden hues that will be popular in the coming year.

3 The classic Cambria® quartz backsplash provides visual interest and matches the countertop for a unified look.

4 Natural light and reflective surfaces were important to the homeowners. In this bathroom, natural light from the window—muted by the finish—floods the space, creating an open, airy feeling without a harsh brightness.

- 5 Space-saving measures of wall-mounted taps for the sinks and the surface mounted tub-filler enabled our designer to provide necessary function, without sacrificing design or making it difficult for the homeowner to maintain in the future.

Thoughtful design elements bring it all together for an inspired spa-like retreat!



## Designer notes

One of our favourite things in this bathroom is the custom black door on the linen closet reflecting the design of the chandelier.



# To Move or Not to Move?

## That is the question...

Sometimes owning a home can feel like you're in the middle of a bad movie, or even a Shakespearean tragedy. Between the never-ending to-do lists, battling the elements, and paying rising utility costs, just the thought of moving can feel exhausting. Add in the grass-cutting, snow-shoveling, and yes, even at times dramatically yelling at that mystery stain on the carpet "out darn spot!", a move may just be too much to handle.

Let's face it, we all need a place to live and we all try to make our home into our very own sanctuary. That one place we can go to at the end of a hard day's work and kick up our feet and relax. The place we raise our families and entertain our friends and loved ones.

But, what do you do when the home you once loved so dearly no longer works for you the way it used to?

Perhaps the kitchen feels too cramped, or maybe having to wait your turn to use the one bathroom in the house is requiring more patience than you have. Maybe you're expecting the birth of a child or are welcoming a loved one to join your household. Regardless of the reason for your dilemma, the question remains:

**Do you sell your home and try to find a new place to love, or do you to stay and renovate your existing home to better serve your needs?**

### Home is where the heart is

While the decision to move or to renovate is very much a financial one, it is important not to discount the emotional aspect of the choice. If you really feel strongly about your current location, and have strong ties to the neighbourhood and community, then perhaps a home renovation is for you. A home renovation can certainly offer you the opportunity to stay in the place you love, while helping you 'tweak' things a little (or a lot) to help you love your home again. Alternatively, if you feel like you're living next to the noisiest neighbour on the street, or you just don't have enough space to expand your existing home and need more space, then perhaps you're considering a move instead.

### A mountain or a mole hill

Are the things that trouble you about your existing home easily fixable or are they seemingly irreconcilable and insurmountable in your current home? Are you being realistic about your expectations? Have you considered how the process of either moving or the process of renovating will affect you and your family?

Making a list that includes some reflection on these aspects of the process will certainly help you in making your decision regarding whether or not you move or stay and improve.

### What's in it for you?

What will your quality of life be like if you don't make a decision now? What will the quality of life be like if you make a decision in 3-5 months? If you choose to sell your home, will you get the value that you are looking for? If you choose to renovate, what will you gain from that decision?

So many questions to have answered. Only you can decide what is best.

### Dollars and sense

At the end of the day, there are costs involved with either option.

Careful consideration should be made to things like new mortgage costs, lawyer's fees, land transfer taxes and other costs of purchasing a new home. These are non-recoverable costs, or at least non-recoverable right away. Experts say that it can take up to seven years to recoup the upfront costs of moving.

A renovation can include a sizeable investment as well. You'll want to carefully consider whether you'll use the equity in your home to finance your renovation, or if you'll finance it in some other way.

You'll want to ensure that your plans do not over-capitalise on your home, given current market values. Your real estate agent and lawyer can help provide

A home renovation can certainly offer you the opportunity to stay in place while helping you 'tweak' things a little (or a lot) to help you love your home again.

assistance in determining what value is reasonable for your home. Factors such as, home size, type

of renovation and the neighbourhood you reside in, all have an impact on your home's value. A designer can assist you with the layout of your floor plan and help you visually determine what makes sense from a design and space perspective.

There are handy renovation calculators online that can help you figure out the details, and the Canadian Home Builder's Association has some helpful information as well on their website: [www.chba.ca](http://www.chba.ca)

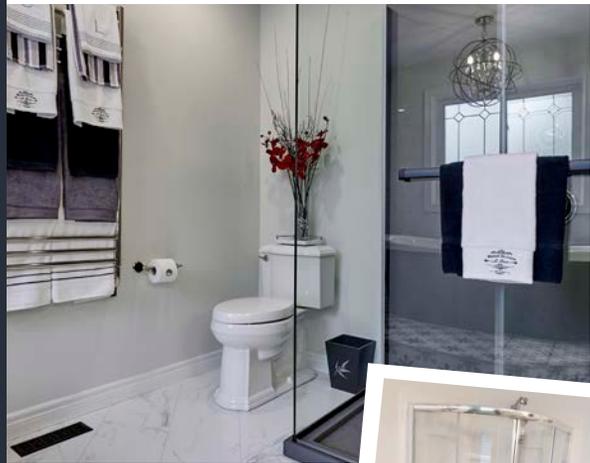
Pioneer Craftsmen can certainly help you investigate your options or discuss what is possible along the way. Our designer, Jennifer Dainard, is excellent at reorganizing the layout of a space to make it flow or work better for your needs. We take the time to get to know you and to learn exactly what will fit you best. Add that to our award-winning project team, dedicated lead carpenter, and above-average aftercare program and you have a winning combination that is truly inspiring!

**We really are a full service renovator. Just give us a call, we're happy to have a chat!**



# Our Renovation Story

by: Lana & Carlos



**"We absolutely LOVE our new bathroom and newly added walk-in closet. We cannot thank you all enough."**



bathroom - before

**"Don't you love it when a plan comes together in spectacular fashion? We found that it was a real pleasure undertaking this project of renovating our master bathroom with Pioneer Craftsmen. From start to finish, the work was very competently and professionally handled."**

Zack's original suggestions and flexibility in being able to quickly change layouts and plans according to the last minute ideas we kept coming up with, while still keeping an eye on the budget were very much appreciated.

Jen's amazing talent of really listening to a client verbalize their dreams and then methodically bringing it to life—first on paper, and then in 3D in front of our eyes—just made my work so much easier and stress-free.

**"Overall everything has been beautifully orchestrated and completed, and any challenges we encountered were communicated and solved quickly."**

Visiting the different outlets with Jen and quickly walking out with a sense of lightness and accomplishment at knowing that together we had chosen the very best of everything to complete the project was a marvellous feeling. We all know how frustrating and overwhelming it can be trying to choose specific materials or colours!

We couldn't have asked for a better person to oversee everything on-site than our Lead Carpenter, Nathan... he truly is a "keeper"! We never had to worry about the construction because he was right on top of it and kept us informed daily about procedures and progresses. His suggestions were very timely, thoughtful and strategic towards making the project even better than originally expected. All of the tradespeople were very respectful of our space and did amazing jobs! Overall everything has been beautifully orchestrated and completed, and any challenges we encountered were communicated and solved quickly.

We have already begun telling the neighbours about our incredible experience working with you all.

We absolutely LOVE our new bathroom and newly added walk-in closet. We cannot thank you all enough. Pioneer Craftsmen definitely gets a 'two thumbs up' from us!

If you'd like to share your renovation story in an upcoming newsletter, please email us at: [info@pioneer craftsmen.com](mailto:info@pioneer craftsmen.com). We would love to hear from you!

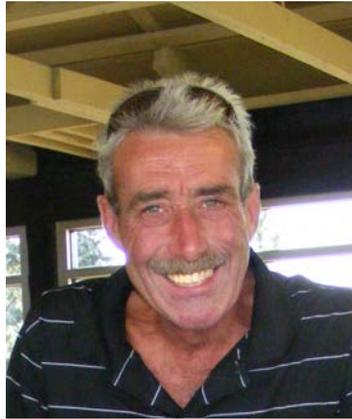
## It Takes Time and Dedication

As we wrap up our 65th year, we reflect on who we are as a business, as a team and as individuals. We believe it is important to always be learning and growing, improving our knowledge, helping others and taking the time to build and maintain lasting relationships.

At Pioneer Craftsmen, you can rest assured that your remodeling project will be completed by a team of professionals. We're passionate about what we do, and dedicated to your home renovation.

Join us in celebrating the talent and dedication of two of our Lead Carpenters, Mark and Ben, who both are celebrating some pretty big milestones with the company this year.

Hats off to you both, Mark and Ben. We thank you for all that you do!



What our Clients are Saying about Mark

## Mark Armbruster, Lead Carpenter

Celebrating 20 years with Pioneer Craftsmen

Creating something unique and special is what drew Mark to Pioneer Craftsmen more than 20 years ago. Coming from the restaurant business, Mark enjoyed creating unique dishes that people enjoyed after a hard day's work, but he didn't enjoy the irregular hours and challenges the restaurant industry offered, meaning he didn't get to spend as much time with his new family.

The definition of a 'go-getter', Mark is

definitely a person who can't sit still; someone who wants to be creating things and making spaces better. So, even though construction is a very different industry than the restaurant business, it was a natural fit for Mark.

Today, Mark maintains a quick pace on the job site, but also enjoys the slow relaxing pace of his sailboat, where you can find him and his family most weekends during the summer.

"Can't say enough about the hard work and dedication shown by Mark and his sense of humour helped as well." D & J, in Kitchener, ON



What our Clients are Saying about Ben

## Ben Mayberry, Lead Carpenter

Celebrating 10 years with Pioneer Craftsmen

As a young camper at West Montrose Family Campground, Ben Mayberry would often be recruited to help out with odd jobs by the late Glen Adam, because he had endless energy and was as "Strong as an Ox". Glen said to us here at Pioneer, "You have to interview this guy, he'll work hard all day and never get tired".

That still holds true today, as Ben has worked his way from our 'go to' guy for tear-out and

digging holes, to a Premier Lead Carpenter. Now, he expertly leads renovations and demands the same hard work ethic of all who work on the job site.

Ben still enjoys spending many weekends out at the campground in the summer, having learned the fine art of relaxing in a camp chair with a cold beer. Lately, he can also be found working on his new favourite 'toy'—his pickup truck!

"Ben Mayberry was great at managing the on-site work and execution. Always kept me in the loop on what was going on. Very professional." B, in Cambridge, ON

# HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

## Welcome to the PC family

While we said 'see you again soon' to a couple of our long-time friends and co-workers, we also welcomed many fresh faces to the Pioneer Craftsmen team! This has been an exciting year of growth and we are pleased to welcome **Braeden Harris, Josh Pesant, Rob Borsi, and Tyrus Nebeska** to our job sites, assisting our Lead Carpenters to make sure that your inspired renovations are everything you dream of and more!

We welcomed a familiar face back to Pioneer Craftsmen team—**Tyler Weishar** joins us again, and we're thrilled that he has joined us as an Apprentice Carpenter.

We also welcomed Lead Carpenters, **Jay Vogt, Mark Meriam** and **Adam Glinski** to the team. All three have calm, competent demeanors, a great sense of humor and a passion for their craft.

Our Pioneer Craftsmen family continues to grow as our Service Manager, **Joel Vissers** and his wife **Amber** are expecting their second child in the new year. We're thrilled for Joel and Amber, and their daughter Lydia, who we know will be a great big sister! Stay tuned for a picture of new baby Vissers in our Spring/Summer Newsletter.



## Rest, Relax and RETIRE...

At the end of the summer, we celebrated the retirement of two of our valued team members, Barry and Mike, and what a shindig it was!

We couldn't have asked for a better day, weather-wise, and the fine folks at the Lyndon Fish Pond made sure we were all set up to catch the best fish to take home. If you haven't been to the fish pond, it is certainly a worthwhile place to go on a summer day with the family or just by yourself for some relaxing solitude in a peaceful, park-like setting, moments from the city—a place to drop your line in the water and RELAX.

Our bellies are full by the end of the night as well, thanks to our friends at the Lancaster Smokehouse who graced our event with their stocked food truck—definitely a great way to have a BBQ; stress-free and delicious.

We're so happy we could take a few hours to mix and mingle and thank both Mike and Barry for their dedication to Pioneer Craftsmen, and we wish them the very best in this next chapter of their lives.

If you have a minimum of five years of experience as a Lead Carpenter in residential renovations (including full additions), and are committed to providing excellent customer service, we'd love to hear from you! Please email your resume with references to: [hr@pioneercraftsmen.com](mailto:hr@pioneercraftsmen.com) or fax 519-743-6991



*There's more to see!*

Get inspired by our award winning projects at: [www.pioneercraftsmen.com](http://www.pioneercraftsmen.com)

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