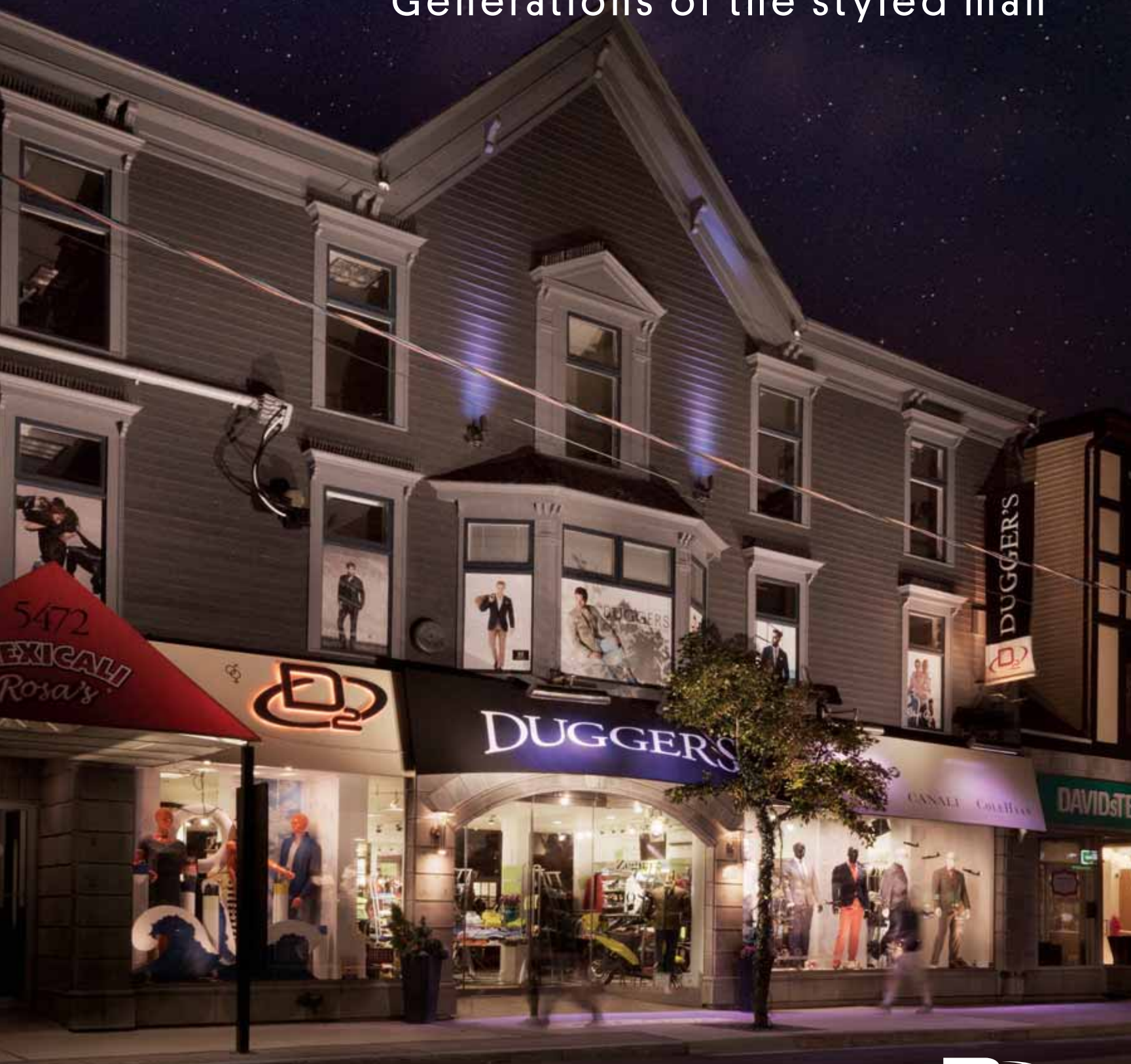


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DUGGERS

Generations of the styled man



AUTUMN 2014/WINTER 2015 ISSUE 10



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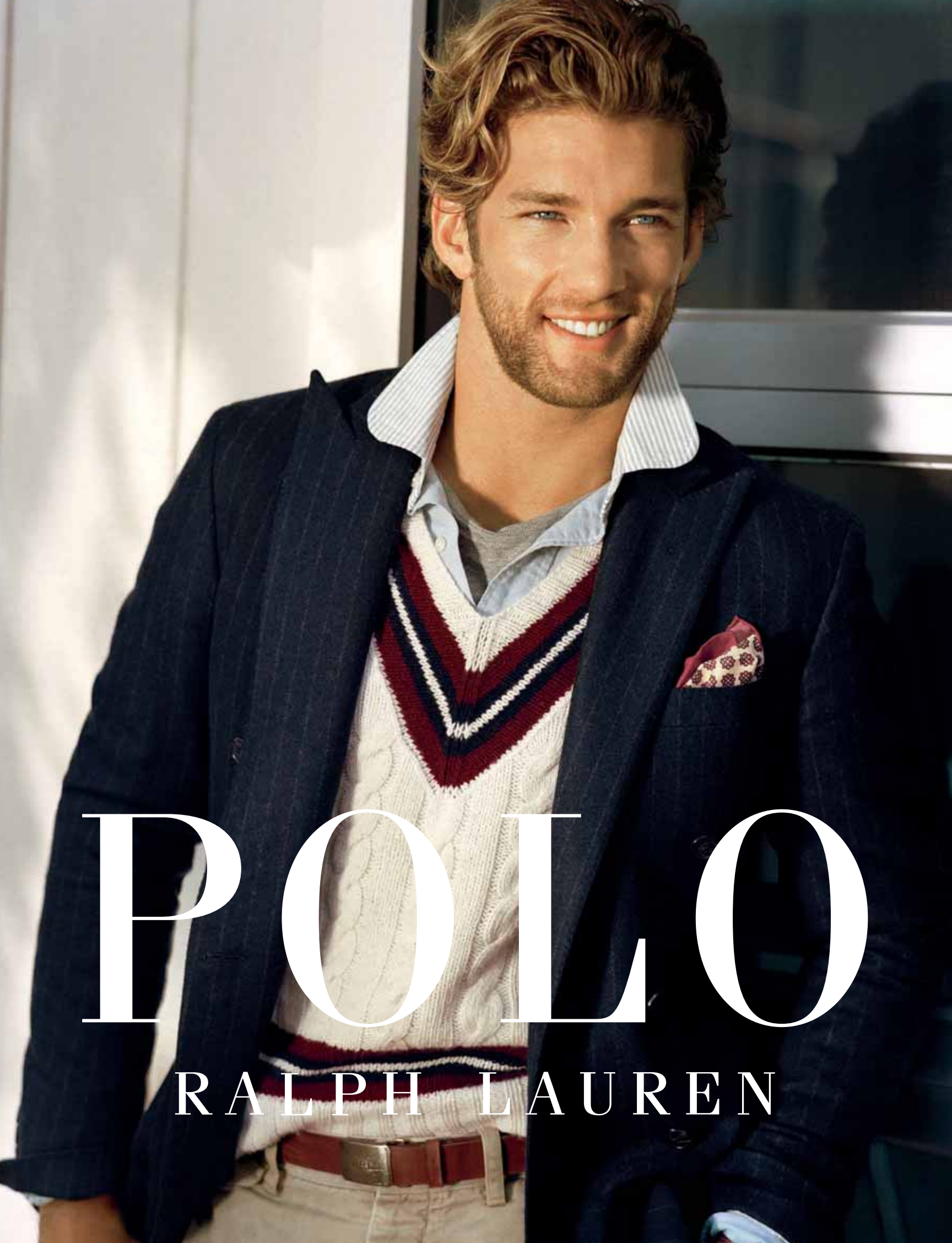
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POLO

RALPH LAUREN

ROSS'S NOTEBOOK

DUGGERS

Generations of the styled man

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At Duggers, we are proud of our history and we are honoured to boast that we've been dressing many generations of the same families in the world's top fashions. Those families have become part of 'our' family and I value the friendships developed over the years with all who have entered our store.

As we now step forward into the splendid colours of fall, which will too soon be blown away by the white of winter, we want to express our sincere thanks to all of our customers by offering the 2014-15 edition of *Duggers* magazine.

In this issue, we once again showcase the top fall and winter fashions available in our store, created by the foremost clothiers from here in Canada and around the world.

As always, our magazine highlights the latest trends in men's fashions while we also have a look at what's hot for casual wear for all ages in our store's D2 division.

Along with plenty of clothing-advice pieces, we also offer palate-pleasing stories on wine, whisky and food from expert sommelier and chef, Mark DeWolf, and we drive the hot, futuristic BMW i8 with one of the country's top automotive writers, Kelly Taylor.

Travel over to page 58 for a look into the French overseas collectivity of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and read on page 56 how the private-jet experience is like no other when it comes to flying.

It's also fitting that we feature Cleve's Sporting Goods on page 10, as the father and son team of Eric and Kevin Bezanson also have a long history with us here on Spring Garden Road. Cleve's remains a sporting goods institution with 17 stores employing 250 people in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. My dad operated a clothing store in the Bayers Road mall back in the day and Cleve's was a great neighbour there, too!

Duggers has been a part of Halifax's premier shopping district for more than 40 years and, while we may not have witnessed as much change as the majestic Lord Nelson Hotel down the road, we've seen enough to say that we are intensely proud of our location and that we look forward to the bright future of this area and the city as a whole.

So, with that said, I sincerely hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Duggers* magazine. As always, I would like to thank you for your continued patronage and support. See you soon!



Ross McNeil
Owner, Duggers

MAN AS A MASTERPIECE
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Corneliani



EVENTS >>

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Ladies' Day November 14, 2014

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SERVICES

On-site tailor

Your purchase will be custom tailored to suit you. In a bind for time? We'll make it happen when you need it.

Appointments

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Not from the area? We can ship gifts or altered items across Canada, on our dime.

Wardrobe consultation

Need a new wardrobe and don't know where to start? Don't know how to coordinate what you have in your closet? One of our knowledgeable sales associates can help, starting in your own closet. We will arrange for an associate to come to your home, take inventory of your current wardrobe, and suggest ways to work with what you have, as well as suggest items you may want to consider to prepare for the upcoming seasons. And, our tailor can readjust older items so that they can be worn and enjoyed anew.

Kids room

It can be difficult to enjoy your shopping experience when you have children to occupy. Duggers will entertain them for you in our fantastic kids room. With beanbag chairs, colouring books, cartoons and colourful surroundings, your kids will want you to keep on shopping. We've even got the snack covered with free popcorn and a drink.

SPOTLIGHT

Nathan MacKinnon

Congratulations on a great rookie year in the NHL



Photo: Adrien Veczan

Hockey fans across North America may be just discovering Nathan MacKinnon, but people in his home town have known about his talents for quite a while now.

As a standout player with the Halifax Mooseheads, MacKinnon's goal-scoring prowess lead the team to its best season ever and its historic Memorial Cup Championship in 2013. He scored a tournament-leading seven goals, including two hat-tricks and was named

the Memorial Cup's most valuable player in the tournament.

MacKinnon isn't the first NHL hockey sensation to herald from Cole Harbour, but he has certainly made a huge mark in a very short time. He was drafted first overall by the Colorado Avalanche in the 2013 NHL draft.

On October 2, 2013 he became the youngest player ever to play in a regular season game for the Avalanche, posting two assists in his first game. By the end of the season, he had scored 24 goals and 39 assists and had become the youngest player ever to win the Calder Memorial Trophy for NHL Rookie of the Year.

At Duggers, we're proud of Nathan MacKinnon and his many accomplishments, including his successes with the Halifax Mooseheads' organization. We would like to take the time to congratulate him on a great first season with the Colorado Avalanche.

We look forward to many more exciting years of watching Nathan play.

STORE POLICIES

Return policy

If you're not completely satisfied with your purchase, feel free to return it. We're happy to offer you a repair, replacement or refund. Duggers will do what it takes to keep you satisfied.

Gift cards

The perfect gift is the one that always fits. Duggers gift cards can be for as little or as much as you would like, and they will never expire.

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PROFILE



Photos: Adrien Veczan

Cleve's

Moving us for more than 40 years

By Jon Tattrie

“Canadians got moving straight to Cleve’s to buy running shoes.”

Cleve’s started out as a hunting and fishing store. Its transformation into an Atlantic Canadian athletics equipment powerhouse owes a lot to a bearded 60-year-old Swede running stride for stride with a sweaty 30-year-old Canadian.

The vision started with Eric Bezanson in the 1960s. He worked at a sports store in Kentville and then moved to Halifax in 1968 to work at Cleve’s, an outdoorsman’s store on Argyle and Blowers streets. He bought the store two years later.

“Dad was interested in running his own business,” says Kevin Bezanson, Eric’s son. Kevin is also president of Cleve’s Sporting Goods.

Back in 1970, Cleve’s focused on hunters and fishermen, plus varsity sports. Student athletes at

Dalhousie and Saint Mary’s universities were the main urban customers. “Fitness wasn’t a big thing then, except as it pertained to basketball, hockey and football,” Kevin Bezanson says.

Eric Bezanson caught a wave of interest in personal fitness that took off in the 1970s and rode it to open Cleve’s satellites in Lower Sackville, Bridgewater, Cole Harbour and a second Halifax location in the Bayers Road Shopping Centre. He also bought up the Kentville sports store.

The wave was driven by the first ParticipACTION commercials. The most famous one showed two men running side by side. The catch was that one was a young Canadian, the other an old Swede. The tagline: “Run, walk, cycle: let’s get Canada moving again.”

Canadians got moving straight to Cleve's to buy running shoes.

"The biggest thing that helped the business expand was the ParticipACTION campaign in the 1970s. It did really highlight the fact that Canadians weren't as fit as the Swedes and they needed to get more active. I think that really helped the fitness boom," Kevin Bezanson says.

At the time, fitness equaled running. Cleve's started stocking running shoes and running gear. Skiing boomed in the 1980s, so Cleve's started selling that equipment. "The motto was, we wanted to be a general sporting goods store, but we wanted to make sure that we would be an authority on all the sports we sold."

Kevin worked at his father's store in the late 1970s as he completed high school. He left to go to university and then worked for a ski company in France. He came back to Cleve's for good in 1989. The company was growing and his father needed help.

The Bayers Road branch had a classy neighbour. Douglas "Dugger" McNeil operated a men's clothing store in the same mall. "I remember very well that we were on the lower level and he was on the upper level," Bezanson says.

A big moment in company history came in the early 1990s, when Cleve's joined the Source for Sports buying group. It's a Canadian consortium of independently-owned sports stores that come together to buy products collectively at cheaper rates than they could get individually. It evolved into a group that markets together and shares an online presence. Bezanson compares it to the Home Hardware model, where individual owners across the country join together to create a common brand.

Cleve's ventured into selling road and mountain bikes, but found the increasingly technical nature of the bikes meant customers would be better served at a specialty shop. Cleve's hires people who are passionate about a particular sport and they become the branch expert on it. They also learn about the other sports throughout their time at Cleve's so they are up to date.

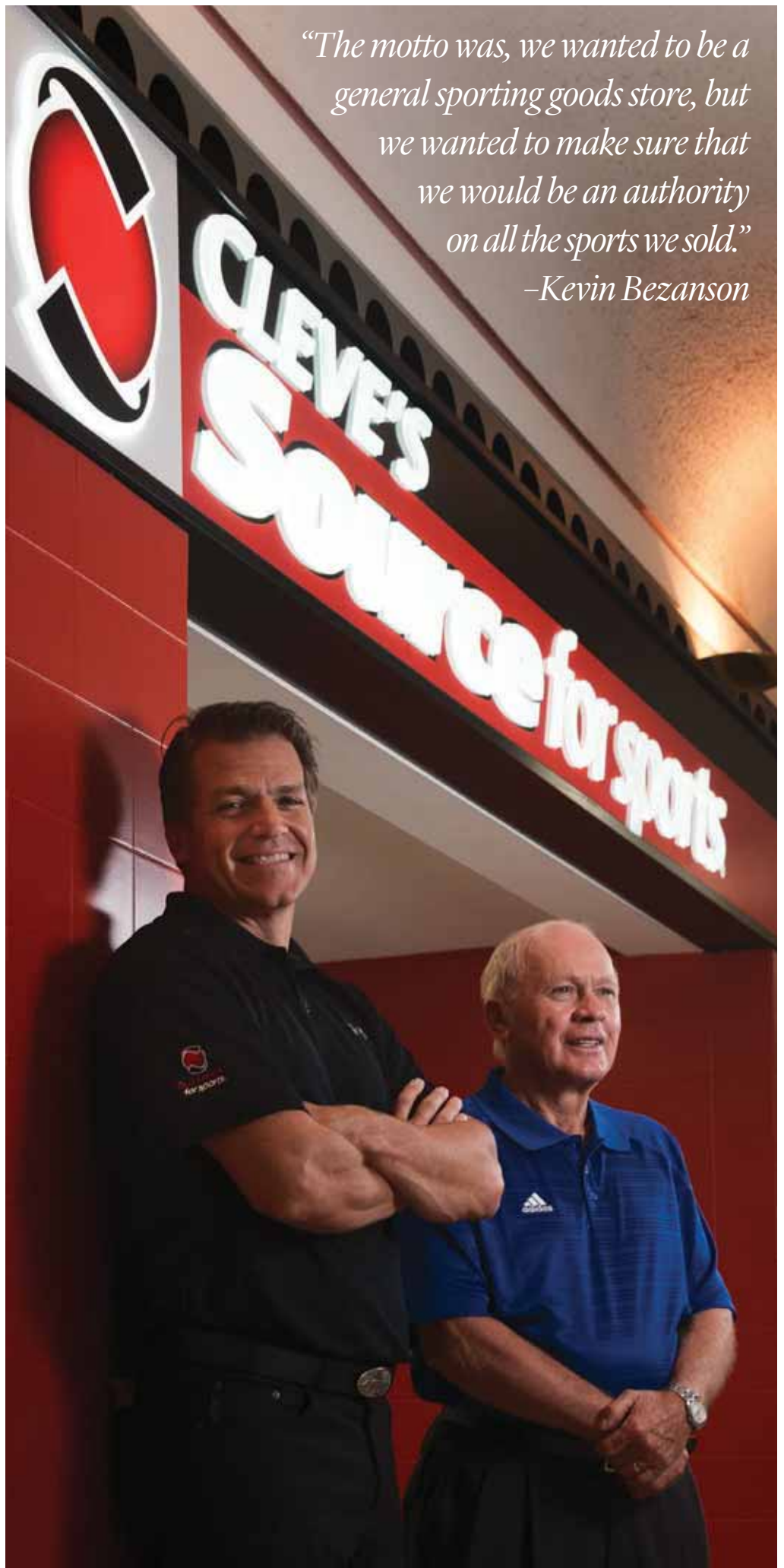
Eric is still the CEO of the company he transformed. "You won't find dad on the floor that often, but he likes to stay involved and keep an eye on things," his son says.

Today, Cleve's has 17 stores employing 250 people in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Running has undergone a new boom in the last 10 years. "I credit the Blue Nose Marathon with having raised the participation level there," Bezanson says.

Two years ago, it replaced the Moncton branch with a brand new store. It's also a new brand store, with a bigger Cleve's: Source for Sports joined by something of a return to its roots — Ocean Trail: Source for Adventure. It doesn't sell hunting and fishing equipment, but it does cater to modern outdoorsmen and women with kayaks, hiking and camping gear.

Bezanson wants to bring the refreshed store model and Ocean Trail shop to Metro Halifax in the coming years. Cleve's is also boosting its online presence.

Maybe with all that athletic gear available, we Canadians will finally catch up to the Swedes. ■



"The motto was, we wanted to be a general sporting goods store, but we wanted to make sure that we would be an authority on all the sports we sold."

—Kevin Bezanson

PROFILE



Photo: Adrien Veczani

Let D2 inspire you

Stretch jeans, dark denim, Canada Goose top fashion lists this fall/winter

By Heather Laura Clarke

Forget everything you think you know about the colour of the denim or the style of the pockets and take a deep breath. If you want to look your best in a pair of jeans, it's all about the fit.

"We're seeing a lot more stretch in jeans — at least two per cent spandex — which is great for the athletic guy that struggles with getting the right fit," says Nicole Winsor, director of fashion at D2. "Guys are starting to like a more tailored look in their casual clothes, so they're choosing slimmer jeans and pants that give them a look that's refined but still comfortable."

Just down stairs from Duggers, D2 carries jeans by Diesel, Citizens of Humanity, Levis, G-Star, Boss, True Religion and 7 For All Mankind. Winsor says they're all easy to dress up with a John Varvatos blazer or wear casually with a G-Star T-shirt. Rock Revival jeans make a statement with their signature Fleur-de-lis on the back pockets.

"Dark denim is always great for fall and winter," says Winsor. "We carry a big selection

of denim for all shapes and sizes, in different washes like distressed, classic and raw."

Laughing that guys are "brand loyal," Winsor says Diesel, 7 For All Mankind and Levis seem to be the favourites for many of her customers. But no matter what the label, the way you put the pieces together is just as important.

"Layers are always an effortless look for a guy," says Winsor. "You can throw on a light hoodie under a blazer, leather jacket, or jean jacket, or go from the office to the pub just by removing your blazer."

"Just remember that an outfit is not complete unless you're wearing a belt! It tops off the whole look."

From Fred Perry's lightweight sneakers to classic chukka boots by Ben Sherman, there's no shortage of footwear options down at D2. Winsor says one of the most versatile pairs of shoes a man can buy for fall is a set of Australia's famous Blundstones. The laceless, elastic-sided ankle boots can be worn with rolled-up jeans or pants for a look that's simple

and comfortable.

Living in the true north strong and free, Winsor recommends investing in good wool sweaters and snug Henleys to wear underneath, as well as a well-fitting beanie hat. But the key to battling those icy months is to choose a high-quality jacket.

"For maximum warmth and style, a Canada Goose is the best investment you can make," says Winsor. "They don't just make heavy winter parkas. They have lighter-weight shells and vests, too, as well as hats and gloves."

D2 is getting ready to unveil several new brands that Winsor predicts will be top sellers, like Zanerobe, a progressive streetwear label from Australia that's heavily influenced by the festival circuit.

"Modern Amusement is a brand for someone who's effortlessly iconic, eclectic and timeless chic," says Winsor. "And Billionaire Boys Club — rapper Pharrell Williams' line — is an exclusive streetwear line. Pharrell is someone you can really look to for fashion inspiration." ■

A man with dark hair and a light beard is sitting on a white sofa. He is wearing a grey plaid suit jacket and matching trousers. Underneath, he has a white dress shirt, a dark patterned vest, and a red tie with a small pattern. A pocket square is visible in his jacket pocket. He is looking off to the side with a serious expression. The background is a dark, textured wall.

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STYLE

Looks pay off

Business attire can help you get ahead at work



Photo: Nyul/123RF



Photo: Wavebreak Media Ltd./123RF

By Gary Wollenhaupt

Climbing the corporate ladder takes the right tools.

Not only do you have to excel at your job, you have to look good doing it. Despite the lingering specter of business casual dress, savvy business people know that a traditional suit is still key for getting ahead. A recent survey confirms that instinct.

Dress for success

Ninety-three per cent of managers polled said a person's style of dress at work influences his or her chances of earning a promotion; one-third said on-the-job attire "significantly" affects an employee's advancement prospects. Only seven per cent said dress had no influence at all.

The survey was developed by Office Team, a leading staffing service specializing in the placement of highly-skilled administrative professionals. It was conducted by an independent research firm and includes responses from 150 senior executives at 1,000 large North American companies.

“The old adage about dressing for the position to which you aspire still holds true,” said Diane Do Meyer, executive director of Office Team. “A polished appearance lends credibility and may help employers envision the staff member in a role with greater responsibility.

“Attire is not the only thing workers are judged on, but it is part of the equation. While a proper wardrobe alone won’t earn you a promotion, dressing inappropriately could cost you one.”

Clothes questions

Office Team advises professionals seeking advancement to ask themselves the following questions when selecting work attire:

- Would managers at my company wear this? If the answer is “no,” it’s probably not a wise choice for you, either.
- Is it a distraction? Unless you’re in the fashion, entertainment or another creative industry, flamboyant or overly trendy attire can detract from your credibility.
- Does it give me confidence? When you’re dressed sharply, you’ll be more self-assured. Look for attire that is flattering and makes you feel good about yourself.
- Is it clean and in good condition? Even in casual work environments, avoid clothes that are torn, wrinkled or messy. Sloppy attire may prompt your manager to question your attention to detail.
- Is it comfortable? Clothing that fits well and allows you to move freely is especially important when you’re interviewing for a job. Avoid wearing a new suit when meeting with potential employers. You want to look good, but you don’t want to be distracted by clothes you’re not used to.



Photo: Patrick Chai/123RF

The Men’s Apparel Alliance, a group of clothing manufacturers and retailers, says male executives should almost always wear a dress shirt, necktie, sport jacket or blazer and dress-casual business trousers to work.

A classic suit is always appropriate, no matter how the rest of the office occupants dress. Even the most casually attired employees should don business trousers, business shirts and leather shoes when necessary.

Wearing a suit to the office, even if the dress code at your workplace is casual, may boost your professional image, according to a recent survey from TheLadders.com, a job site that lists executive-level openings.

Respondents included about 2,000 of the site’s members, with incomes of \$75,000 or more. Around 70 per cent of the respondents said employees dressed in suits are perceived to be more senior level, while 60 per cent said these folks are taken more seriously.

Casual backlash

In today’s economy, it’s clearly out of style to be cavalier about being employed. Even if you try to atone for your crimes of fashion by wearing a herringbone jacket, you may be seen as arrogant if you wear jeans and tennis shoes in a “white collar” environment.

“The trend of casualization has gone too far,” said James Amen, president of the Men’s Apparel Alliance, in a released statement. “CEOs who were originally pressured by their management to institute a casual dress policy to attract new employees and retain existing ones are now trying to figure out how to repeal this so-called ‘perk’ in order to increase professionalism and productivity.”

Even with years of business casual under our collective belts, it’s disconcerting to walk into a meeting not knowing what the dress code is. It’s no problem when you’re the only one in a suit. No one would question that you dressed professionally for a meeting. But the reverse can be nerve-racking if you’re the only

one in a golf shirt and khakis. You doubt others’ perceptions of you: Do they know how good I am at what I do? Will they take my recommendations seriously? A suit pre-empts all those questions and puts you in the position of authority.

Traditional business dress is becoming more and more common, especially in the extrovert professions that deal with the public. Clients and customers who to do business with someone who presents a smart, polished appearance that inspires confidence. They want to be able to tell the attorney from the intern, the CFO from the junior accountant.

If you’ve been wearing the casual uniform for the last few years, this year’s classic styles represent an opportune time to update your business wardrobe. It’s an investment in your performance and your future that will pay dividends for years. The best counsel for staying ahead in the corporate world: ask your clothier for advice. You want to make sure the statement you make is the right one to put your career on the right path. ■



Photo: Adrien Veczan

The once and future suit

Suits that will outlast most fashion trends

By Kelly Taylor

“What will the suit of tomorrow look like?”

If you ever needed to test the phrase “What goes around comes around,” you need look no further than men’s suits.

To answer the question “What will the suit of tomorrow look like?” requires a look at the suits of yesterday.

“There’s not really a future to suits,” begins Zac Barkhouse, wardrobe consultant at Duggers. “It goes on a curve. The future is the continuation of the same. It always repeats itself.”

Barkhouse said you can expect to see the current form of the suit remain for years to come. While lapels may change and technology may introduce

new twists to how the fabrics work and buttons might go from two to three and back to two, the classic military-based style will never go out of fashion.

“This year, we’re seeing ’80s influences. Last year, it was the ’70s. We’re seeing shinier fabrics and the double-breasted is back. We really haven’t seen that for a while.”

Pop culture can be a short-term predictor of fashion, as well. When *Men in Black* came out, blunt-toed black shoes were all the rage (that trend is so over). In the era of 1960s-based *Mad Men*, thin ties and thin lapels remain hot.

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“There’s not really a future to suits. It goes on a curve. The future is the continuation of the same. It always repeats itself.”

Barkhouse says a change you can expect to see is the availability of a greater range of technology in the fabrics and in twists to expand the use of the suit. In Europe, for instance, suits made of water-repellent fabrics are hot. Some suit makers incorporate reflective material — tastefully — to allow suit-wearers to ride bicycles to work.

Suits that travel well, with wrinkle-free fabric, are also popular among those who do plenty of business trips.

And there will always be trends towards bling, such as zippers to add a flash of brightness, or the broken suit, where the vest doesn’t match the jacket or, in the case of a two-piece suit, maybe the sleeves don’t match.

A well-made suit is a significant investment, and tailoring the suit so it fits the wearer is only part of the added costs. To make a suit that will still look good years down the road requires attention to costlier details such as sewn-in — not glued-in — structural felt panels between the inner and outer layers. Like many parts of a suit, there’s a right way and a cheap way to attach sleeves. All these details contribute to a suit that lasts instead of a suit made to fit the \$200-300 price point at shopping-mall clothiers.

For these reasons, Barkhouse says typical customers want suits that will outlast most fashion trends. And that means sticking with a classic style.

It’s in the details where you can stand out: a ticket pocket, for instance, or contrasting pick stitching or choosing pocket openings cut on an angle instead of straight. They add character without dating the suit.

“I call it tomorrow’s vintage,” Barkhouse says. “Something that you’ll look at in 20 years and say ‘I want that now.’” ■



“I call it tomorrow’s vintage. Something that you’ll look at in 20 years and say ‘I want that now.’”

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The classic, timeless pinstripe

It looks good even if you aren't carrying a Tommy gun

By Kelly Taylor

*“Try to find colours
in the shirt to
complement the
pinstripe.”*

The pinstripe suit remains a hot seller 81 years after the end of Prohibition, when it was made famous by alcohol-smuggling mobsters bringing booze to the thirsty masses and packing heat in case Eliot Ness was laying in wait.

Whether you want to be the Wolf of Wall Street turning heads in bankers' boardrooms or make a statement at your next formal engagement, the pinstripe remains as a classic, timeless look.

From gangster-approved heavy chalk stripes on blue to subtler, thinner stripes on black or grey, pinstripes come in all kinds. Some pinstripes are

subtle enough that from a distance, the suit reads solid.

The best part is all the rules you thought you knew don't apply anymore. Want to mix checks and stripes? Want to pair stripes with stripes? You can. It isn't just for solid white shirts any more.

Want to step completely outside the box? Zac Barkhouse, wardrobe consultant at Duggers, said today, even paisleys, florals and prints are good to go as the shirt underneath.

The trick is to vary scale. Wide-spaced, thick stripes on the suit pair nicely with thin, narrowly-spaced stripes on the shirt, or vice-versa. Same with checks:



Photos: Adrien Veczan



“Whether you want to be the Wolf of Wall Street turning heads in bankers’ boardrooms or make a statement at your next formal engagement, the pinstripe remains as a classic, timeless look.”

a Gingham check under a lot of thin pinstripes might look too busy but work fine with fewer, wider stripes.

Try to find colours in the shirt to complement the pinstripe. If you have pale blue stripes over a blue suit, pairing it with a check or striped shirt with a similar blue hue would help both the stripes and the shirt come to life.

With a multi-coloured tie, picking one with one of the less-used colours matching the pinstripes or a colour in the shirt helps make all the colours pop.

But like any rules, even these are made to be broken. If the resulting combination looks good, it works. Some very busy components may not seem to work when apart but come together to create a quite satisfying look when whole. You just might want a professional eye to confirm it for you.

And while it may be conventional wisdom to tone down a busy shirt and jacket combo with an understated tie — a solid red tie over red Gingham under a dark blue pinstripe would look killer — even that rule can be skirted if you

keep scale and colour in mind.

If you want to really embrace the classic look, order yourself a custom shirt with French cuffs and buy some killer cufflinks. While French cuffs work with any suit, they really sing under chalk-stripe sleeves.

One thing you don’t see a lot of, fortunately, are dark chalk stripes on a light background. I mean, who wants to be thought of as a Yankees fan? ■



Photo Compliments: Eton

The shirt formally known as prints

Print shirts are in for men and they can be worn with anything, including a suit from Duggers

By Gary Wollenhaupt

“Before you go big, start with a simple pin dot print to build your confidence in your own sense of style.”

Mixing and matching patterns might seem like advanced calculus. After all, we all learned the rules as youngsters: don’t mix stripes and checks, don’t wear a patterned shirt and patterned pants, and don’t forget to carry the one.

But those old rules are made to be broken. From micro polka dots to, well, pretty much anything you can imagine, print shirts are in for men and they can be worn with anything, including a suit from Duggers.

Thankfully, a sense of personal style is more welcomed than it used to be, even in the stuffiest of offices. There’s recognition of individuality and creativity that’s reflected in bold, confident choices.

To give yourself a little comfort, look for style icons that embody what you want to present. Of course, you won’t dress for the office like Robert Downey Jr. dresses for the red carpet. But he has a knack for blending a printed shirt with a formal suit that’s both daring and safe for work.

A print shirt can work in a casual setting or a business setting, moving up and down the spectrum depending on the situation you need. A gingham or plaid dress shirt adds oomph to your wardrobe while creating a new classic look.

Get creative and play with some patterns. The old rules wouldn’t have accepted a plaid dress shirt. Now

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few would pay it any attention, except in admiration.

When you're ready to take the plunge into prints, try these combinations and come up with your own. Before you go big, start with a simple pin dot print to build your confidence in your own sense of style.

- Pair a gingham shirt with a pinstripe suit to add some levity.
- Make a stodgy gray suit come to life with colourful shirt, pinstripes, checks, florals, you name it. A colourful accent will enliven the dull corporate palette.
- Make a traditional navy suit a little less so with micro-stripes in a complementary shade of blue, accented with a patterned tie.
- With a navy or gray suit, look for prints in combinations of blue, white and maroon. The colours are safe and the prints will set you apart from the crowd. Then complement that combo with a tie that either coordinates with

the suit or brings out the tone of the shirt.

- During fall and winter, reflect the season with richer, muted tones. When the sun returns and the temperature rises, turn up the heat on your shirt selection, too. Live a little and pull out the lime green, pink, or lavender gingham to brighten your days.
- When mixing stripes with stripes or checks with checks, create a difference in amplitude. A pinstriped shirt works better with a chalk-striped suit than with a pinstriped suit. Big checks work better with small checks.

Of course, some traditions are worth keeping, or at least updating. For instance, when mixing patterns among a suit, shirt and tie, one of the elements should be solid or plain. But that's more of a guideline than a rule. You may be able to pull off a striped suit, a polka dot tie and a striped shirt. The key is to wear it with confidence. Let your spirit be at least as bold as your shirt. ■

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Photo: Vojtech Vlk / 123RF

Tuck this, not that

By Kelly Taylor

There was a time when “casual Friday” actually meant something. These days, it seems in many workplaces, dress rules have been relaxed to the point casual Friday means slippers and PJs.

Along with this relaxed attitude has come greater experimentation in issues such as whether to tuck or not to tuck. In some ways, the rules of fashion have never been easier to understand. If it looks good, if it looks appropriate to the situation, it is good. If it looks sloppy, it is sloppy.

The same goes for tucking in of shirts. Dress shirts are often tailored so their lower hems are long enough that when tucked in they won't come untucked. Other shirts, such as polo shirts and short- or long-sleeved sport shirts come with straight hems and, with a notable exception, should be OK to leave untucked in casual situations.

“I don't like it when the shirt hangs below the pockets,” says Zac Barkhouse, wardrobe consultant at Duggers.

“Generally, shirts are made to go one way or the other. It's rare a shirt does both.”

It almost comes down to a binary choice, Barkhouse suggests. “Business, tucked. Casual, untucked.” ■



Photo: Cathy Yeulet / 123RF

The replaceables

The unseen core of your wardrobe that you should replace regularly

By Jon Tattrie









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If clothes make the man, then there are some dirty, worn out men in Canada. While basic pride prevents most of us from wearing stained shirts or ragged pants in public, what happens beneath is a secret worn close to the skin. We're talking about old underwear, tattered white Ts and stinking socks.

These are the “replaceables” — the unseen core of your wardrobe that you should replace regularly. Karl van Allen, a Duggers sales associate, says bodywear needs frequent freshening up. “You can wear them down a little faster,” he explains. “They're exposed to the most friction and acidity when it comes to sweat.”

High-quality socks, shirts and underwear will give you a better fit, he says.

“Essentially, the better quality you buy, the greater longevity

you'll get out of an item,” van Allen adds. Investing in quality undergarments means you'll still have to do an annual cull, but not necessarily a full garbage toss.

Popular brands at Duggers for soft, cotton, comfortable under-shirts are Hugo Boss and Calvin Klein. For socks, Calvin Klein, McGregor and Marcoliani are popular brands.

For underwear, Calvin Klein and Hugo Boss are big sellers at the main Duggers shop on Spring Garden Road, while downstairs at D2, Calvin Klein sports socks and Diesel are popular casual options.

van Allen says regular clients take time to figure out which replaceables are best for them.

“It becomes that go-to line where they don't have to think about it. They just come in and grab it,” he says. ■

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STYLE



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The timeless watch

For centuries, watches have been making the man

By Carol Dobson

Not so long ago, a good watch was a symbol of major rites of passage in a person's life. When you were six or seven, that first watch was a sign that you were growing up. In certain professions, such as nursing, a good, reliable watch with a second hand was a requirement for daily work. Then, later, as a person's working life came to an end, a gold watch was a reward for a job well done.

Now, with the advent of smart phones, watches are more prized as a fashion statement than as an indicator of minutes and hours. With today's technology, having different watches to suit different outfits is economically possible. A visit to any store that sells watches will give you options, from a classic, everyday watch that can be worn with a business suit or a pair of jeans and will never go out of style, to a high-tech chronometer, or to a more formal watch

that can easily be described as a 'tuxedo for the wrist.'

Plus, watches can be found in so many different materials, from gold and silver, to gun metal, to ceramic, to plastic, and can be as traditional or whimsical (think cult watches from Hollywood classics) as your personality will allow.

A quality name-brand watch from the stars of the watch world is jewellery's equivalent of owning a Porsche, Jaguar or Ferrari. They have a timelessness to their style, reliability that can be enjoyed in the present, and can turn into an heirloom that can be passed along to future generations.

And for style, there's just something about an old-fashioned pocket watch on a chain, tucked into a vest pocket to add sophistication to your wardrobe. If it's old enough that it has to be wound, then that's just an extra little bit of added cachet. ■



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Photo: Kzenon/123RF

For your eyes only

Eyewear is your personality, cut in glass, steel and wood

By Jon Tattrie

The prescription for your glasses is for your eyes only, so why buy a frame made for 1,000 faces?

Just as some men don't want the same suit as everyone else in the room, some men don't want the same glasses. Enter bespoke spectacles — eyewear customized exactly to your specifications and distinct tastes.

"The right frame can express instantly the personality of the individual wearing them," says Doug Gaudet of Halifax's Gaudet Optical.

Gaudet began making glasses almost 40 years ago when he answered an ad for a lens grinder. He started with a big glasses company, learning from a German mentor. "He pressed upon me the fact that glasses don't have to be something that just roll off an assembly line," Gaudet says. "They can be very personal."

He started Gaudet Optical and branded it "makers of fine eyewear, from functional to outrageous" in 1986.

Walk into his bright, beautiful, funky shop at 6465 Quinpool Road and meet the man in a dapper suit and one of his 50 pairs of spectacular spectacles and your mind will open. Gaudet

rocks his rims with style.

He describes how art, fashion and trends constantly reincarnate into something we call new, and how that plays into his glasses designs. "We think the best accessories you can have are great eyeglasses. What else can you get that will make you look younger? Or wiser? Or artistic?"



Photo: Kzenon/123RF

The right frame can create any impression you want it to," he says in a fun video on gaudetoptical.com.

The first step to bespoke eyewear is visiting the shop and talking to an optician. "Usually when [a client] comes in they have something

in mind, a look in mind, and we can work it around that," Gaudet explains. "You get an idea about how to translate what they're thinking about into the real world."

Some ideas don't survive contact with reality. In that case, you're in the right place. Gaudet attends international trade shows three times a year and has a collection of more than 1,000 frames from independent designers. He buys only one frame of each design, so it's very unlikely you'll see them on another man.

You might find your perfect pair in store, or discover new optical ideas. Gaudet and his team can help you create exactly the glasses you want. Some of his favourite bespoke creations are a frame with one round lens and one circle lens, a heart-shaped pair for a little girl, and rimless glasses with fire-shaped lenses.

It's your personality, cut in glass, steel and wood.

The cost of your customized glasses depends on the material you pick, with plastics at the low end, wood in the middle, and precious metals at the top of the range. Most people pay between \$500 and \$900. It usually takes two to three months. ■

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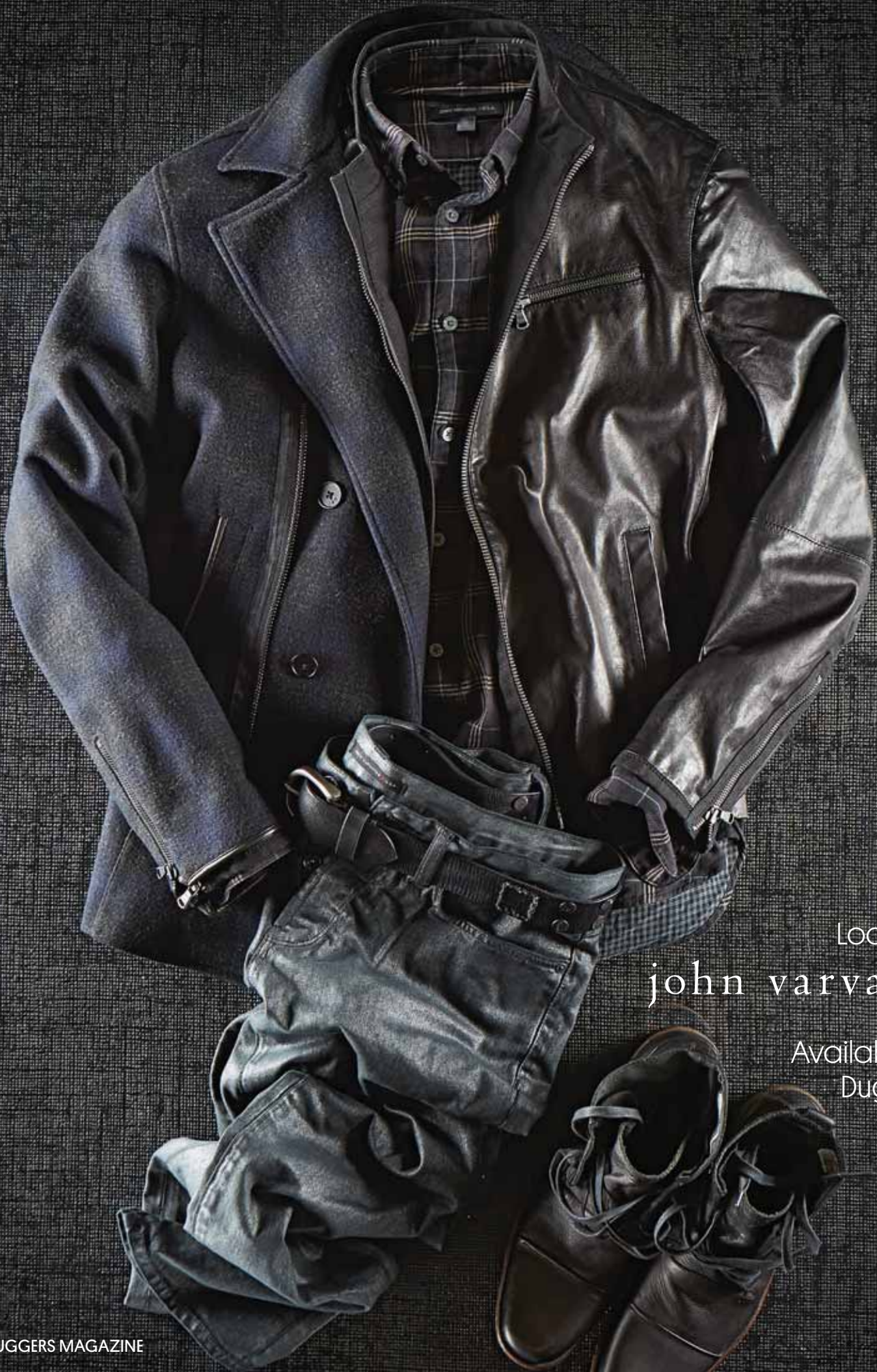


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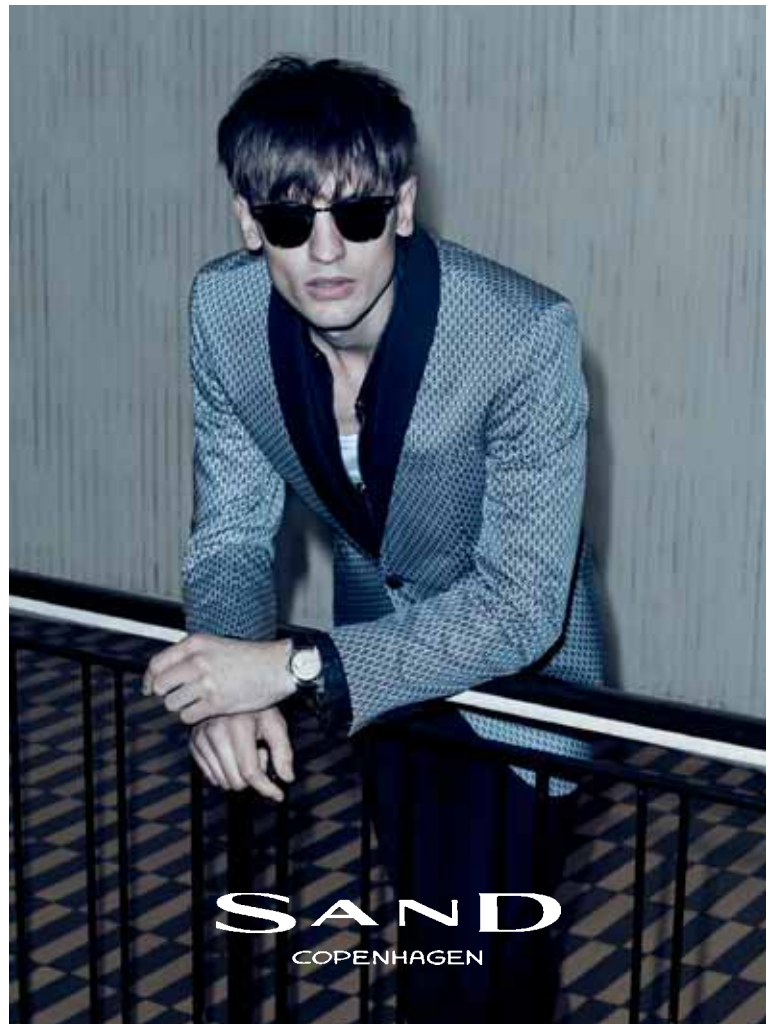




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Spring Garden

Halifax's premier shopping district boasts long, storied history



Photo: Spring Garden Road 1964/Herald File

Story by Tom Mason Photo Archive Research by Debbie Reid/The Chronicle Herald Library



Photos:

Top: The Lord Nelson Hotel 1961/
Herald File/Terry Waterfield

Middle: Mills Brothers 1857/
Herald File/Wetmore

Bottom: Halifax Court House 1960/
Herald File/Harry A. Cochrane

It has transformed from a neighbourhood for the wealthy and affluent of Halifax, to a centre of entertainment, commerce and, most recently, the city's premier shopping district through its long history.

But Spring Garden Road has always been the centre of downtown. It was a hardscrabble street at first, tracing the length of the wooden palisade wall that protected the new city.

In the early nineteenth century, the Halifax Poorhouse and its burying ground stood on the site where the outgoing Public Library is today. When poorhouses went out of fashion later in the century, the land became Grafton Park, a popular city park for many years.

As Halifax grew and prospered, the Spring Garden Road area, known simply as Spring Gardens, was considered the finer end of town. Prominent and wealthy citizens of Halifax made their homes in the area, including Joseph Howe, who lived across from the Public Gardens in the 1850s.

The city's finest homes lined Spring Garden Road in the nineteenth century — stately homes like Bellevue on the corner of Queen Street where the Central Library stands today, and Brookside, a large mansion that occupied the site of the Lord Nelson Hotel.

After it was sold by its original owners, Brookside was used as the temporary Convent of the Sacred Heart in 1849 and then became known as the Haliburton Inn until it was replaced by the Lord Nelson Hotel in 1939.

Brookside got its name from the river that once ran past the property. Known as the Freshwater River, it flowed from a marsh on the North Common, through what is now the Public Gardens, down South Park Street and then down what is now Fenwick Street.

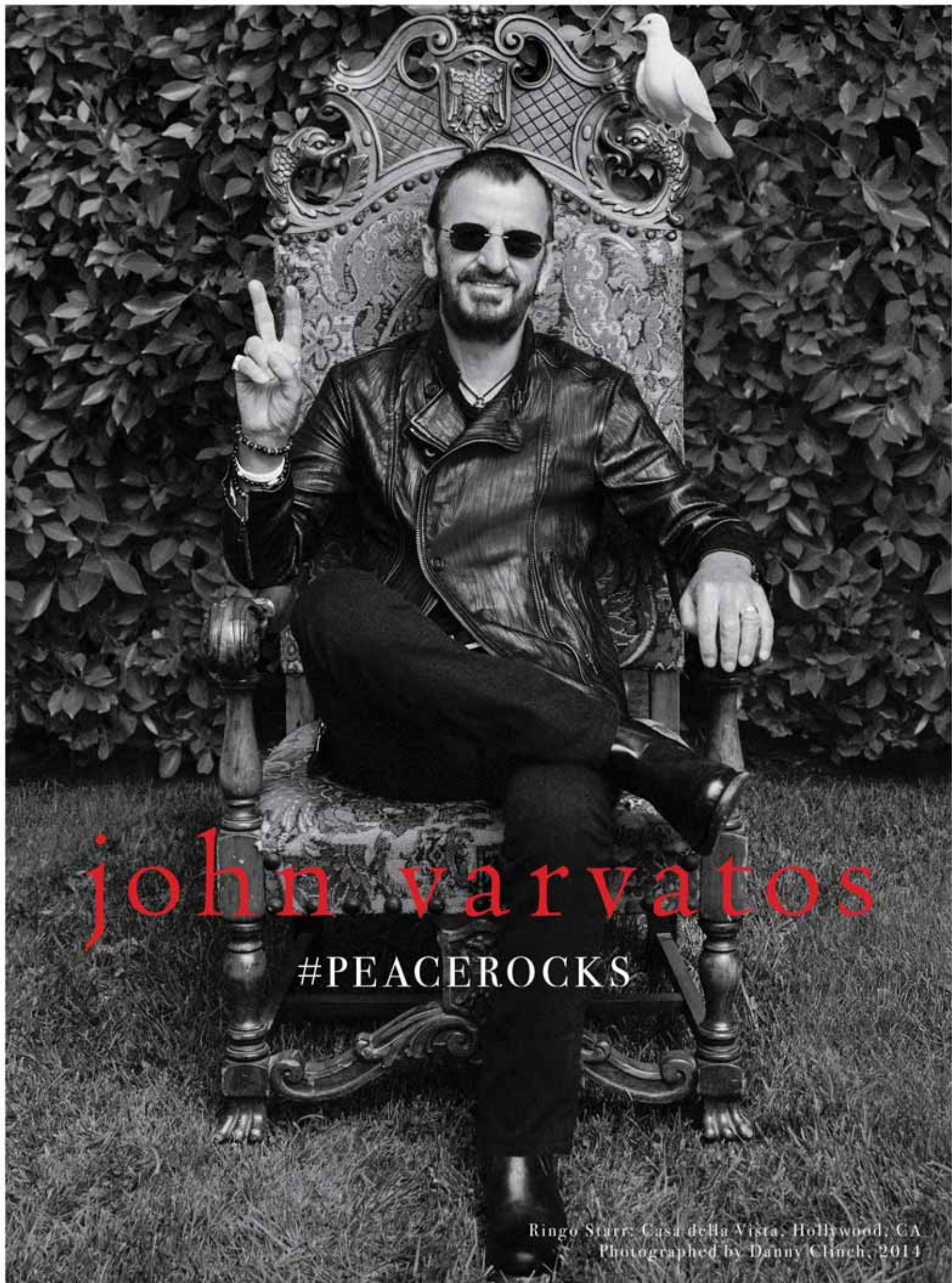
It poured through a deep ravine at what is now the corner of Queen and Green Streets and then into the Harbour. A bridge popularly known as The Kissing Bridge crossed the Freshwater River at the corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

The ponds in the Public Gardens are all that's left of the Freshwater River, but in the 1820s its banks made Spring Gardens the most beautiful and desirable real estate in Halifax.

By the 1860s, the Public Gardens had become the social centre of Halifax. Tennis courts, archery, croquet and a public skating rink were some of its attractions. At the time of Confederation, the Gardens boasted the only indoor skating rink in Canada. A large pavilion hosted Christmas parties and balls, and in the summer, outdoor concerts and fireworks displays were a regular event.

Spring Garden Road was still primarily a residential street in the mid-1800s. The Halifax Directory of 1863 writes: "The southern portion of the city, with its extension to the westward, known as Spring Gardens, is a most delightful district, devoted principally to private residences, all of which denote the comfortable circumstances of the occupiers; while those of the more wealthy surrounded by delightful grounds and shrubberies exhibit an elegance seldom met within the Lower Provinces."

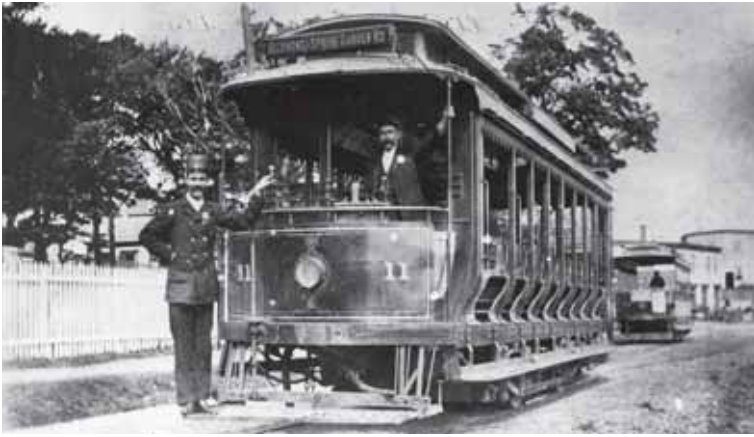
Spring Garden Road started the modern era with its first brick sewer in 1862. As Canada became a nation in 1867, the street received its first public transit system, a railway tram pulled by horses. In spite of these changes, Spring Garden remained a residential street until the last decade of the nineteenth century. In 1879, there was still only one store on the street, the R. Urquhart and Son grocery store.



john varvatos

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Ringo Starr, Casa della Vista, Hollywood, CA
Photographed by Danny Clinch, 2014



Top Left: #11 Richmond - Spring Garden Road tram car/Date unknown/Herald File



Top Right: Trolley coach at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street and the #13 trolley of Windsor - Inglis/Date unknown/Herald File/Maurice Crosby

By 1890, that had changed. The Halifax Herald of January 5, 1892 reported that the blocks between Queen and Birmingham Streets on both sides are now entirely devoted to business. The article goes on to say that soon “this section of Spring Garden Road will be one of the best business blocks outside the purely business portion of the city.”

Urquhart and Son installed the largest plate glass window in town around 1890, sparking a tradition of Christmas window decorating

that continued into the 1960s and '70s — spectacular displays led by Nova Scotia Light and Power’s famous scenes with moving figures and elaborate winter scenes.

In 1894, the residents of Spring Garden Road organized a petition to the mayor for repairs to the street. The petition obviously worked, for in October of that year Spring Garden Road got its first pavement and its first modern sidewalk. About the same time, tracks were laid down the center of the street. On May 9, 1896, the

Spring Garden/Coburg Road Tram Line was opened, one of the first lines of an electric tramway system that would serve the city for the next 50 years.

Today, Spring Garden Road offers many coffee shops and restaurants popular with college students, a tradition that goes back to the beginning of the century. W.A. Shanks’ modern soda fountain was once a prominent fixture on the corner of Spring Garden and Dresden. The establishment featured a glass

globe with a figure inside that poured out a cascade of coloured water. Later, the Tarry Inn Tea Room occupied the same building — a popular meeting and social spot for Dalhousie students.

By the 1950s, Spring Garden Road had become the premier shopping district in Halifax. A first class hotel, a furniture store and many prominent clothing and retail stores turned the street into the centre of town — a role it continues to fill. ■



Photo Above & Below: Spring Garden Road 1962/Herald File



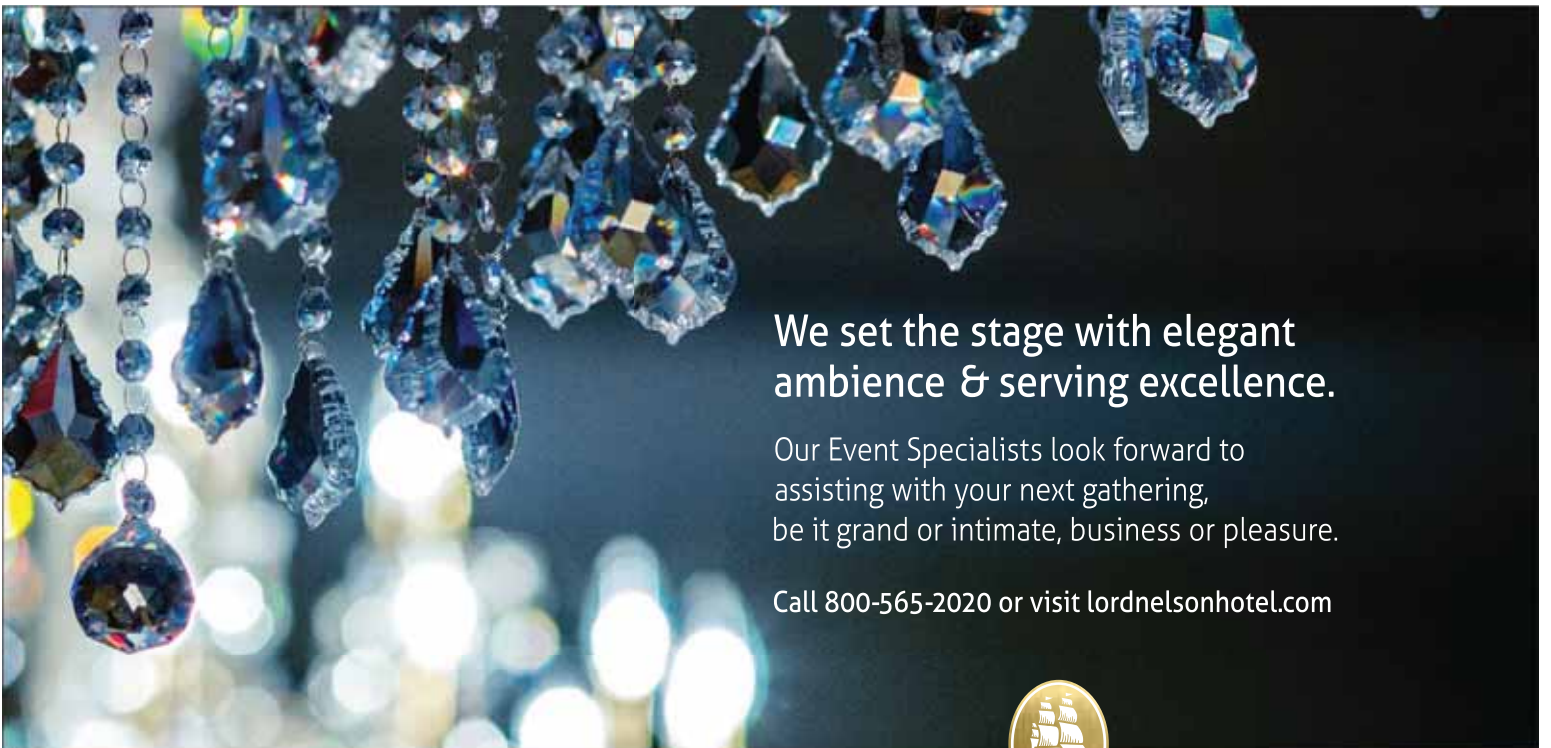
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PAST & PRESENT



Photo: Halifax Central Library / Contributed

A new icon around the corner

Spring Garden Road's bold future

By Tom Mason

It's been a long time since Halifax has built an icon. Think back to the days of Fleming Tower, or even farther back to the Old Town Clock. Now, thanks to a show-stopping new development on Spring Garden Road, a new icon may be just around the corner.

When it opens later this year, Halifax's Central Library will be nearly three times as big as the building it is replacing, with more than 300,000 books, 300 computers and enough meeting space to accommodate nearly 1,000 people. But it's the building's exterior that is really getting the attention — a futuristic mishmash of stacked geometric shapes, vibrant colours and textures created by the architectural firm, Fowler Bauld & Mitchell Ltd.

Among its spectacular interior spaces will be an observation area that bridges the view between Citadel Hill to the north and the entrance to Halifax Harbour to the south. It's like no other building on the planet. Recently named one of the world's most "eye-popping buildings in 2014" by CNN, it's not hard to imagine the Central Library becoming an instantly recognizable logo for the city, on par with the Sydney Opera House or London's Tower Bridge.

As impressive as it is, the Central Library is just one of a cluster of new developments

popping up along the length of Spring Garden Road — innovative projects that are changing the heart of Halifax and redefining the city's visible dimensions in a way that hasn't been seen for a very long time. Some of Halifax's most prominent developers, including Wadih Fares and Danny Chedrawe, have chosen the Spring Garden area as the canvas for their greatest masterpieces.

"It's rare to see a cluster of developments of this quality all happening in one downtown area in any city," said Ross McNeil, owner of Duggers on Spring Garden Road.

The Trillium on South Park kicked off the trend when it broke ground six years ago. The 19-storey condominium complex with its distinctive circular penthouse features retail shopping on the first floor and commercial office space on the second. W.M. Fares Group is responsible for developing the project — the same developer that's behind one of the Spring Garden area's newest developments, the Mary Ann complex on Clyde Street.

When it is completed in the next couple of years, the Mary Ann will be the flagship of a growing new campaign in the city — the push to encourage Halifax residents to embrace downtown as a place to live, play and work. The Mary Ann will feature an innovative new retail

and commercial space along with a trendy living space for downtown residents.

Despite being one of the most valuable pieces of land in the downtown core, the site where the Mary Ann is under construction languished as a city-owned parking lot for half a century. The new development is having a huge ripple effect on the area around Spring Garden Road, according to Andy Fillmore, vice president of Planning and Development with Waterfront Development Corporation.

"The money that the city has made from selling the land has helped pay for landscaping and public spaces around the new Central Library," Fillmore says. "The Mary Ann is going to be really beautiful, with fine stonework and granite curbs. We haven't had granite curbs in Halifax in over a century. It's a development that will really complement the new library and bring a lot of beauty to the area."

With just 5,000 people currently living in the downtown core, new developments like the Mary Ann, the Trillium and other projects now breaking ground along Spring Garden Road could make the area even more vibrant. Downtown Halifax has the potential to become one of North America's great downtowns and Spring Garden Road could lead the way. ■

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Art of Halifax

A glimpse of six very different, but very talented Halifax artists



Art is a word that can have many definitions. It can describe any creative work that is made by an artist or artisan and can include anything from paintings to art installations to sculptures. Halifax has a varied art scene that reflects the diversity of the practice.



Article and photos by Katie Ingram

With this in mind, the following series is a brief look at six different works from six different Halifax-based artists.

Vase by Mindy Moore

- In 1976, Moore received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ceramics from New York's Syracuse University, College of Visual and Performing Arts.
- She has been a student of Chado, a Japanese Tea Ceremony, since 1984 and would like to eventually craft ceramics that can be used in the ceremony.
- Her work has been displayed in both Canada and the United States.

Part of a recent collection, the green vase that Moore has chosen to highlight is one that emphasizes the unpredictable nature of pottery. Moore and other members of the Nova Scotia Potters Guild were recently invited to use fellow potter David Eastwood's wood kiln. With a wood kiln, there isn't much control over the effect the fire and ash will have, so it isn't known how the clay piece will look until it's finished. While Moore took a number of pieces with her to the firing, she especially liked this green vase because it shows "the spontaneity of decoration that the fire brings to the pot."

A Car for All Seasons by Tom Forrestall

- Forrestall took art classes from NSCAD and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Mount Allison University in 1958.
- He prefers to work with egg tempera, a paint made by using ground dry pigments, egg yolk and water.
- His work has been shown in many countries, including Canada, the United States, Hungary, Taiwan and England.

A seasonal transition is the theme of *A Car for All Seasons* that uses Forrestall's 1980 Mercedes-Benz 300-SD as the canvas. The idea to paint the car, which is now owned by Mercedes-Benz Canada, came from a conversation that Forrestall had with friend Mary O'Regan when he was deciding to sell the vehicle. Inspired by this conversation and using automotive paint, Forrestall has made the car look as if it is driving through the four seasons. Starting at the hood, a collection of leaves integrate with, among other things, wildflowers, ferns, ants and even an apple core to symbolize spring and summer. Moving toward the backseat, the car shifts into autumn with colourful leaves, acorns and bare branches. Upon reaching the trunk, this theme comes full circle with a winter storm.

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The Myra River by Emily Falencki

- Emily received a Bachelor of Arts from Sarah Lawrence College in 1994, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) in 2001 and a Master of Fine Arts from the National College of Art in Dublin in 2005.
- Falencki makes her own gesso, a base that is put on before painting begins and often uses plywood as a canvas.
- Her work has been shown in Canada, Ireland and the United States.

Part of Falencki's *The Missing* collection, *The Myra River* is an oil painting on plywood that juxtaposes the face of a woman who went missing and was later found dead in Nova Scotia's Mira River, with an image of a screaming father in Syria. Falencki finds that sometimes the image used by the media in a missing person's case rarely addresses the nature of the situation. The person often shown is smiling and happy and she felt *The Myra River* needed to counteract this. She says that "the screaming father from Syria serves to represent his war and his face shouts out to find the missing, murdered girl in the Mira River."



First Flowers by Sarah Maloney

- Maloney received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from NSCAD in 1988 and a Master of Fine Arts from The University of Windsor in 1994.
- Maloney likes using materials that can be molded and shaped. Along with bronze, other materials she's used include knitted and embroidered cotton, plaster and glass beads.
- Her work has been showcased across Canada, as well as in the United States and Germany.

Maloney's inspiration for *First Flowers* comes from a long-time fascination with the lifespan of magnolias, which have been around for millions of years and bloom early in spring. She also wanted to take a different approach to the traditional landscape painting by using sculptures in place of canvases. After studying the magnolias during a residency in the Annapolis Valley, Maloney created wax molds of the flowers. The molds are cast in bronze and painted with oxidized chemicals that colour the petals and stems. After the finishing process is complete, each magnolia is attached to a steel rod and can be mounted onto a wall to create a garden or landscape of flowers.



Synapse by Mark Bovey

- Bovey received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Queen's University in 1989, a Master in Visual Arts from the University of Alberta in 1992 and a Bachelor of Education from Queen's in 1997.
- Bovey became interested in printmaking as a teenager when one of his high school teachers let him use a press he had in the classroom.
- His work has been shown in a number of countries, including China, Canada, Russia and the United States.

Synapse, which is part of Bovey's *World Machine* collection, was inspired by questions about the "nature of contemporary experience and how sensory overload affects the mental and physical landscape of the mind." A lithograph print, *Synapse* is collection of images on a blackboard that attempt to offer observation and commentary on the aforementioned topics. For example, the erased section, on the print's left side, represents something that isn't known or information that has been corrected. On the other hand, the collection of white lines throughout the piece symbolize electromagnet-ic impulses of the brain and the signature at the bottom represents identity, ownership and completion.



Donkey Holds the Line by Mitchell Wiebe

- Wiebe received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in 1991 and a Master in Fine Arts from NSCAD in 1996.
- Some figures from his paintings tend to appear in other work, allowing his art to become what he referred to as an "abstract story."
- His work has been shown across Canada and in the United States.

An oil and acrylic painting, *Donkey Holds the Line* was inspired by The Unicorn Tapestries, a series of seven tapestries that focus on a unicorn that's being hunted. Based on this work, Wiebe wanted to paint a scene that had a "lyrical narrative quality" and featured a number of different characters. These characters include the central figure, a donkey-human creature playing a mean fiddle, along with bears in a tree, a collection of skulls, snakes and owls. Although as an abstract painting *Donkey Holds the Line* doesn't have a set story or meaning; Wiebe wants his audience to come to their own conclusions about what is happening. ■



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Photo: Nyul/123RF

Manly must-read books

Don't pass up these one-sitting reads

By David Pitt

A couple of summers ago, the Big Thing in fiction was Daniel H. Wilson's *Robocalypse*, a novel about an artificial intelligence's plot to wipe out mankind. Now here's the sequel, *Robogenesis* (Doubleday), which is in every way a superior book. It's better written (the first chapter alone is more frightening than the entirety of the previous book), with an even scarier story and nastier violence. The first book took a while to get moving, because Wilson had to spend some time convincing us that his idea (robots taking over the world!) wasn't mind-bogglingly ridiculous; here he just jumps right in, which means the book is faster paced and more streamlined. And here's a warning to take seriously: don't even start reading the book unless you're prepared to finish it in one sitting.

Any John Wayne fans out there? Scott Eyman's new biography, *John Wayne: The Life and Legend* (Simon & Schuster), might change the way you think about the man who was pretty much the iconic big-screen tough guy. This is a book about two men: Marion "Duke" Morrison, the kid who parlayed a job on a movie lot into an acting job, and John Wayne, the movie star. In one way they were the same guy (Wayne was Morrison's professional name) but in a lot of ways they were different people (the tough guy the world saw on the screen was a made-up persona, right down to his physical mannerisms). Read the book, then watch one of Wayne's classic movies — *The Searchers*, say, or *Sands of Iwo Jima* — and see if Wayne doesn't suddenly seem like an entirely different man.

True story: in the years immediately after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the CIA put together an elaborate covert operation to nab people who were selling American-made explosives technologies to enemy foreign nations. John Shiffman's *Operation Shakespeare* (Simon & Schuster) has got everything you want in a story like this: despicable, slightly larger-than-life villains; an ingenious sting operation; heroes who assume false identities and put their lives on the line to protect their country. The book has already been optioned by Hollywood — the similarly-themed *Argo* and *American Hustle* did pretty well at the box office — but don't wait for the movie.

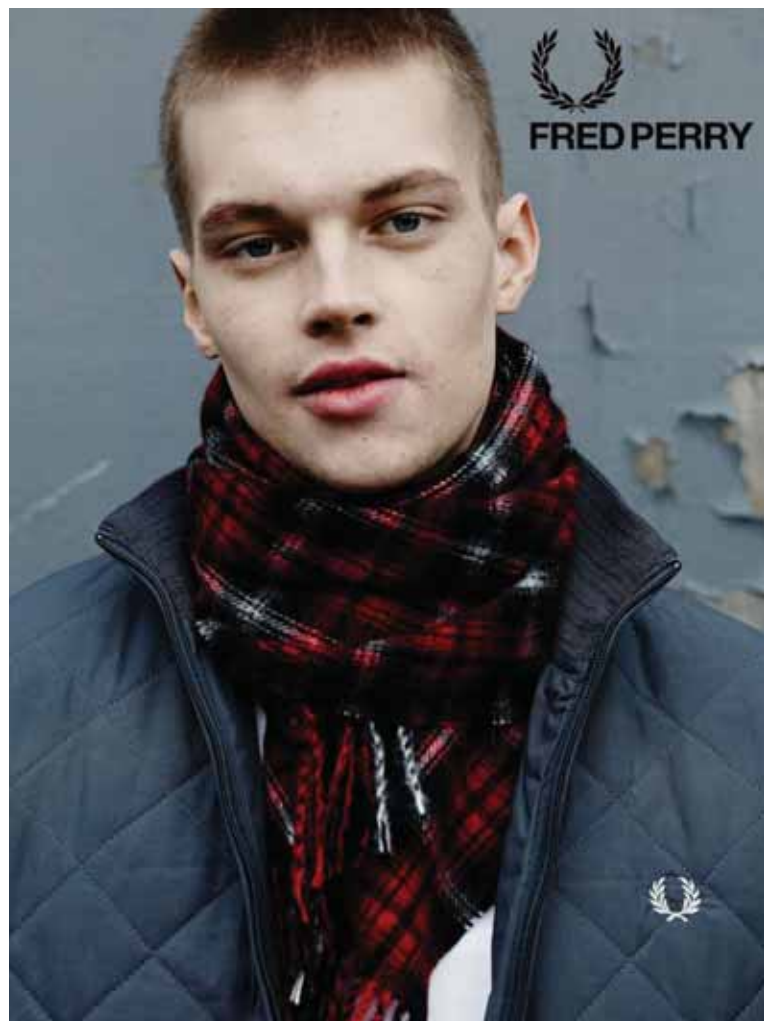
If you're a golfer — not a casual weekender, but a guy who'll wade through a zombie apocalypse to get in a quick 18 holes — you probably know the name Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Considering Jones designed or rebuilt about 500 courses around the world, including several in Canada, if you've been golfing long enough, and if you've done a fair amount of traveling, you might have played on one of his. *A Difficult Par* (Gotham Books), by James R. Hansen, is a big, meaty biography of Jones, focusing mostly, of course, on his hugely influential — and occasionally controversial — contribution to the modern evolution of golf. This is the kind of book that, if you call yourself a golfer, you're pretty much obligated to read.



Here's another one-sitting book: *The Skin Collector* (Grand Central), by Jeffrey Deaver. A nutjob tattoo artist is murdering people by injecting poison into them while he creates beautifully complex artwork on their bodies. Quadriplegic criminalist Lincoln Rhyme has to find the killer before the bodies pile up any higher. But when Rhyme figures out the wacko is covering his tracks by using tricks he learned from studying Rhyme's old cases, he wonders: how do you catch a killer who's learned how not to get caught from the best criminalist in the business? Deaver's trademark is right-angle, neck-wrenching plot twists, and this book is full of 'em.

Pop quiz: what do the novels about James Bond and his Austrian counterpart, superspy Malko Linge, have in common? Oh, wait, you probably don't know who Linge is. Gerard de Villiers, a French novelist, wrote a couple hundred books about him, but *The Madmen of Benghazi* (Black Lizard), with a nimble translation by William Rodarmor, is Linge's first English-language appearance. His assignment: seduce the girlfriend of a man who wants to be the next King of Libya and find out who's trying to kill the man. The seduction goes exceedingly well (the sex scenes are so explicit you almost want to read the book with the lights out) and Linge winds up risking his own life to protect a stranger's. The book's got all the same stuff as your typical Bond novel — sex, violence, villainy — but it's also got a gritty realism that the Bond novels often lacked. Seriously, don't miss this one.

Welcome to Coldbrook: top-secret scientific research facility, miniature self-contained community...oh, and ground zero of the zombie apocalypse. Tim Lebbon's *Coldbrook* (Titan Books) is a brilliant mixture of horror and SF in which a bunch of researchers, trying to do one thing (create a bridge between this universe and another), wind up doing something entirely different (unleash the walking dead upon the planet Earth). Zombie novels are a dime a dozen these days and, let's face it, most of them aren't too good. But if you ignore this book, if you think "Aw hell, here's another one" and leave it sitting on the shelf, you'll be making a huge mistake. ■



Sky's the limit

Welcome to the world of private-jet rental



By Jon Tattrie

“You can call us at 2 a.m.. We’re like a cab. We wait.”

– Janet Cranford of PAL Charters

We live in a time when travelling by air requires a journey into a semi-fascist state where everyone is under suspicion. Passengers are herded like cattle along corridors, patted down, X-rayed, told to remove shoes and belts, and then crammed onto a packed plane that’s going to take off whenever it’s ready.

Imagine, instead, simply making a phone call and telling the pilot when you want to fly and where you’d like to land. Just drive to the airport and walk onto the plane. No pat down. No waiting. Welcome to the world of private-jet rental.

Are you a businessperson who needs to visit branches in Yarmouth, Fredericton, Saint John, Moncton, Summerside, Charlottetown and Sydney on the same day? This is a situation where throwing money at your problem makes your problem disappear. Charter your own flight.

Need to get to Houston today? One call and you’ll

be in Texas. Need to get 21 workers and their gear to a remote mining camp? Done.

“You can call us at 2 a.m.,” says Janet Cranford of PAL Charters. “We’re like a cab. We wait.”

Private planes are based at FBOs (fixed base operations) which are near main terminals, but free of that hassle. PAL’s fleet takes off from an FBO near Halifax Stanfield International Airport and can land on water, small gravel strips or airports. The Twin Otter planes often take people to remote fishing lodges in Labrador. They deliver sports teams on their bigger planes, or fly an entire office to company headquarters.

Cranford raves about their new Citation X, the fastest civilian aircraft in the world. It can fly you from Newfoundland to Ireland in under four hours. It’s already flown people to Las Vegas, the Bahamas, Prague, Edinburgh and West Palm Beach.



Photos courtesy: Provincial Airlines

Steven Christiansen, president of Maritime Air, says many of his clients are businesspeople for whom time is money, and flying private is the cheaper option. If you're taking your staff from Halifax to Sydney, a private nine-seater will cost about the same (or less) as a commercial flight.

A flight to Saint John, N.B., would cost about \$2,500. If you put nine passengers onboard, that's \$277 each, comparable to commercial flying. Christiansen says the most popular requests are for flights inside the Montreal, Goose Bay, Sheppardville and Halifax circle.

The Prefect of Saint-Pierre and

Miquelon once needed to be in Greenland quickly. Maritime Air flew him there in a few hours.

"We go when you want to go. We come back when you want to. If your schedule changes, our schedule changes," Christiansen says.

Oh, and he'll fly you to Sable Island, too. "We land on a beach," he explains. "It's the place everybody wants to go to. It's completely unique — there are horses, thousands of seals everywhere, birdlife. It's a totally unique part of the world."

Flying private, you still might find yourself taking off your shoes — but it'll be to put your feet up and relax. ■

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“It’s France in North America”

Experience “joie de vivre” in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

By Heather Laura Clarke

Photos: © Jean-Christophe L’Espagnol - MaxImages



Twenty-five kilometres off the coast of Newfoundland, the locals speak French. The baguettes and pastries are divine, the French flag ripples proudly in the breeze, and you’ll get a great deal on a bottle of Chanel No. 5.

You get to experience France ... without ever leaving North America.

The French overseas collectivity of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is an archipelago (a cluster of islands) that operates as a year-round destination for couples, families and history buffs.

The wine, cheese, baguette, foie gras, chocolates and pastries of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon are authentically French and delicious.

Just 622 km from Halifax — and 4,300 km east of Paris — the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon have a population of less than 7,000 people. Tourists describe the feeling of “finally realizing what it means to be on an island,” and locals lovingly call their home “the most remote place on Earth.”

“This place is very unique, because it’s France in North America,” says Beatrice Lescoubet, executive assistant for Directrice Générale, Malika Halili. “There really is something for everyone. You can rent bicycles, go hiking, go shopping, or enjoy a romantic getaway.”

“The islands are an ideal setting to focus on just enjoying the moment.”

There are flights from Halifax three times a week and from Sydney twice a week during the high season. The flight from Halifax to Saint-Pierre is just



PAUL & SHARK



The French overseas collectivity of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is located just 622km from Halifax, and 4,300km east of Paris.

TRAVEL TIPS



Experience France without leaving North America.

The official currency in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is the Euro (€). Banking establishments will provide currency exchange services; however, Canadian [CDN] and American dollars [USD] are accepted by most merchants involved in the tourism trade. Major credit cards and traveller's cheques are commonly accepted.

Canadian Citizens [and foreign nationals holding Canadian identification documents and entering directly from Canada] are exempted from passport and visa requirements for stays of maximum duration of three months within a period of six months.

Adults should bring a driver's license, passport, citizenship card, or permanent resident card for ID purposes. Minors should bring a passport, social insurance card with a photo, student card with a photo, citizenship card, or permanent resident card.

an hour and a half and it's a 45-minute flight from Sydney to Saint-Pierre.

Visitors can also access the islands by flying out of Montreal or St. John's, or from boating out of Newfoundland during the summer and early fall. Cruise ships dock in Saint-Pierre in June, September and October.

During their stay, many Canadians are interested in eating as much authentic French food as they can hold. The wine, cheese, baguette, foie gras, chocolates and pastries are all just as delectable as they would be at a sidewalk cafe in Paris.

"Our restaurants offer French cuisine enhanced by local products like scallops, snow crab, duck, foie gras and bakeapples — and the wine selection is fabulous, of course," says Lescoublet.

Feu de Braise and Café du Chat Luthier are famous for pizzas and French meals, and Lescoublet says the Crêperie du Vieux Port, Cyber Poly Gone Home, Atelier Gourmand and la Revolution also offer outstanding French cuisine. Le Mandarin has Chinese fare, and Les Délices de Joséphine makes heavenly French pastries.

For those who love to shop on vacation, the islands have nearly a dozen fashion and accessories boutiques, and they sell mostly European brands.

"Visitors will wander the streets and poke around in our shops to find just the right souvenir to remember their stay," says Lescoublet. "There is something for everyone: typical French products like jewelry, perfumes and tableware, as well as fine food and artisanal products."

Located just off the coast of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, Lescoublet says L'Île-aux-Marins

(The Island of the Sailors) is a popular half-day trip. The 1,500-metre-long island was once home to about 700 people, but it's now a unique portal into the past with a church, cemetery and historic homes you can tour. It's so authentic that it still does not have electricity. There's even part of a shipwrecked ship, *The Transpacific*, that is accessible for photography.

The area has a rich and varied history. English explorers visited the islands in 1497, Portuguese explorers came in 1500 and 1501, and French settlers arrived between 1534 and 1536.

"In the late 17th and early 18th century, France and England fought over the islands," says Lescoublet. "Then on June 22 in 1816, the islands came back permanently under the French flag and are now a Territorial Collectivity."

Today, the houses are painted in vibrant shades of yellow, pink, red and aqua, and many historic buildings have been turned into museums to share the history of the area. She says visitors are always amazed by the islands' natural beauty and the warmth and positive energy of the locals.

"Our locals love to talk with visitors, and they're proud to share our French art of living and our Maritime heritage and culture," says Lescoublet. "Whether you're alone or with a guide, you can explore the incredible biodiversity of our natural environment."

"Share our joie de vivre (joy of living)."

For more information on visiting Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, please visit www.st-pierre-et-miquelon.com. To call the Place du Général de Gaulle from Canada, dial: 011 (country code) and then dial 508-410-200. ■



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RAISE A GLASS

Anatomy of a great whisky glass



Photo courtesy: NovaScotian Crystal

By Mark DeWolf

All whisky aficionados are looking for the great dram that draws the nose in with its complex aromas and beguiles the palate with its balance of malt sweetness, textural richness and lingering, but not overpowering, warming finish. But you need the right vessel to properly showcase a great whisky's character.

When the master craftsmen at NovaScotian Crystal designed a unique crystal whisky tasting glass a few years ago, their motivation was also to ensure they preserved and enhanced the aroma of a great single-malt whisky.

As a company with Scottish and Irish heritage, NovaScotian Crystal is no stranger to the appreciation of good whisky. Just as the creation of beautiful crystal ware is a craft based on passion, detail and timing, so is the creation of a fine Single Malt Scotch. It was therefore instinctual for their craftsmen to create a vessel that complements and heightens the enjoyment of whisky.

In the summer of 2000, NovaScotian Crystal began researching the perfect single malt glass. The aroma of a good Scotch when experienced in a proper glass is what motivated their research. The company sought the consultation of master distillers, nationally and abroad, and Canadian whisky aficionados and invited them to join them as they tested various glass prototypes.

"We did a lot of detailed research," says NovaScotian Crystal master craftsmen, Brian Tebay. "We became very technical about it, trying to create the best shape. We knew we wanted a short stem and a deep, round bowl. But we also had to create the perfect size neck for the right release of aroma, and the right curve to the rim of the lip to allow for correct placement of the liquid on your palate. It was all very detailed."

Through the research gathered, NovaScotian Crystal craftsmen went through ten different shapes in three months, finally coming to rest on what is now the NovaScotian Crystal Single Malt Scotch glass.

"I was sceptical at first," says Tebay, "and I really wasn't sure about the shape because it's not what I thought it would be." However, the glass was a huge hit and continues to be one of NovaScotian Crystal's best sellers.

"After speaking to Single Malt Scotch drinkers and hearing what they had to say about their experiences, I gained a whole new appreciation for the glass, its shape, and Single Malt Scotch."

All in all, the right Single Malt Scotch glass creates an extraordinary experience.

"You know, for a drink that's so special," comments Tebay, "I'm proud we could, and can, create a glass that's equally as special and that our customers enjoy so much."

While NovaScotian Crystal has crafted a premium Single Malt Scotch tasting glass, a number of other whisky tasting glasses exist and are worth exploring.



Robert Graham®



Photo: Evgeny Kazandacev/123RF

Glencairn:

Local whisky aficionado, Wallace Fraser, who regularly speaks on the subject of whisky, recommends a Glencairn glass. The glass was developed by Glencairn Crystal, a Scottish glassware company, based on research made in consultation with the industry's five largest companies. Since its public release in 2001, it has become the standard for many whisky experts and aficionados. The small glass — it only holds approximately six ounces and is intended only for a 1 ½- to two-ounce portion — has a relatively wide bowl for its size and curves inward towards the top. The inward curve, much like a wine glass, helps to retain the aromas of the spirit. The angle of the glass also helps direct the liquid to the middle of the tongue where the whisky should rest for a few seconds focusing attention before swallowing. About the glass, Fraser

says, “This is a glass all about the appreciation of the whisky, about the conversation, by concentrating the aromas it allows the drinker to savour all aspects of the whisky. The drinking of whisky is another matter if you enjoy it on the rocks or with Coke, then the tumbler or a rocks glass is great, but if you enjoy it neat or with a little water, then the Glencairn glass is ideal.”

Copita:

Go to the back room of your favourite distillery and the master distiller is likely to have a copita (a small Sherry glass) for tasting. The glass, which looks like a smaller version of a wine tasting glass, has a slight taper to it. The shape, like a Glencairn glass, will hold and amplify the aroma of the spirit but doesn't hold as much liquid. Its shape is great for preserving aromas but consider adding a drop of spring water to diffuse some of the alcoholic warmth of the spirit and let the aromas of a whisky's natural oils

rise from the glass. It's a great glass for Single Malt Scotch enthusiasts or even for enjoying the fragrant aromas of Nova Scotia's own Glen Breton Rare single malt whisky.

Whisky Tumbler:

There's something to be said for an old-fashioned whisky tumbler. Cut glass versions distort the colour of a whisky and the glass' straight edges do little to hold the lighter, subtler aromas of an elegant dram; its wide base will open up the richer flavours of a dense, heavy spirit such as a woody Bourbon or heavily-oaked premium Canadian Whisky like LOT No. 40. Its large opening will also help to evaporate the alcohol, thus reducing the warming sensation of the whisky. Of course, for practicality reasons, it does make the right vessel for those that enjoy their whisky served on the rocks or served with mix.

Riedel:

Of course, Riedel, who first championed individual designer glasses to match grape varietals and wine styles, also have a single

malt glass (Riedel Vinum Single Malt glass). Unlike the Glencairn or Copita glass, the Riedel glass doesn't have an inward taper. Consequently, the glass is less focused on enhancing and preserving delicate aromas, but the glass' curved, out-turned lip directs the liquid to the front of the tongue, thereby enhancing malt sweetness and the texture of the spirit. The glass was originally designed in 1992 in consultation with Campbell Distillers, owners of Aberlour and Edradour. A range of Aberlour are available in Nova Scotia.

The others

Snifter:

Once more commonly used, brandy snifters lay somewhere in between a Glencairn, copita and a tumbler. While their inward taper will accentuate aromas, overall, the glass provides less finesse than a copita or Glencairn.

Single:

Malt Whisky Society Glass: Somewhere between a Glencairn and a copita. The short stem allows the taster to control whether or not they warm the glass with their hand and the shape and size of the glass helps preserve and enhance aromas. ■



Meet Dr. Louis Bourget



With more than 20 years of experience in facial cosmetic and reconstructive surgery, Dr. Louis Bourget possesses superior skill and artisanship as a cosmetic /oral surgeon. Dr. Bourget strives to provide patients with satisfying results and a great experience. His staff is dedicated to providing a comfortable and enjoyable visit. Together, Dr. Bourget and his patients develop a plan based on their needs and desires.

As founder and medical director of Renu Cosmetic + Reconstructive Surgery, Dr. Bourget oversees all surgical and non-surgical treatments. His extensive experience enables him to perform procedures with expert precision and quality.

After receiving his bachelor of Science in Physiology in 1983, Dr. Bourget went to earn his PhD from McGill University, writing his doctoral thesis on his research on enzyme treatment for PKU, a genetic metabolic disorder. In 1990, Dr. Bourget completed his undergraduate studies at McGill's Dental program.

Upon completing his medical/dental internship, he joined the maxillofacial program at Dalhousie

University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dr. Bourget has reinforced his education with advanced courses in facial reconstruction at the Mayo Clinic, in Sweden, Michigan, St. Louis, San Francisco, Florida and Vienna.

In addition to his exhaustive experience, Dr. Bourget has authored many scientific papers.

Outside renu, much of Dr. Bourget's time is occupied by the Bourget Foundation. This charitable organization—which Dr. Bourget and his family co-founded—sends Brazilian and Canadian medical personnel to Benin to deliver medical aid, surgical skills, equipment and training.

Quick Facts: Dr. Louis Bourget

- ✓ Member of the American Association of Cosmetic Surgery
- ✓ Fellow of the International Association of Oral + Maxillofacial Surgeons
- ✓ Fellow of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada
- ✓ Board of Directors Lifeguard Society of Nova Scotia
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Cool-weather cooking's cool

There's no better time of the year than autumn to let your creative cooking juices flow

By Mark DeWolf



Photo: Giordano Aita/123RF



Photo: Paul Grecaud/123RF

Seasonal Soups: As warm summer nights become cool fall evenings, our cooking routine also changes from light and fresh to rich and robust. You don't need to be fussy to make a great fall soup. Roast seasonal vegetables such as squash, parsnips and carrots with a little olive oil and seasoning. Combine the roasted vegetables with some chicken (or vegetable) stock and purée until smooth. Soups on! It's that easy. If you want to ramp up the flavour, add some roasted garlic or bacon.

Braise It: When it is too cool to barbeque, braise. Braising is a wonderful way to bring a lot of flavour into a meal and there is nothing more comforting on a cool evening than the richness of braised meats or stews. When you are choosing the perfect cut of meat to braise, look for tougher cuts that have a lot of inherent flavour and that will also become tenderer via a slow cooking process. Typically, these cuts are from the most worked parts of the animal, such as the shoulders and legs (shank) or, in the case of brisket, the chest of the cow. Brown off some diced onion, carrots and celery, add your choice cut of meat, brown it on all sides and, finally, add a can or two of diced tomatoes, a woody herb such as rosemary or thyme and enough stock (and red wine) to cover the meat. Bring to a boil and then reduce the heat to simmer and let the flavours infuse for hours.

Late-Season Barbeque Tips: Don't forget the vegetables. As we enter the end of the traditional barbeque season, you can keep your barbeque routine seasonal by

market-fresh vegetables. Just about everything can be grilled. Fall vegetables such as sweet potatoes and squash are great grilled. Slice them into 1/4-inch pieces and toss them with extra-virgin olive oil, chopped rosemary, salt and pepper. Grill them for three to four minutes per side.

Apples: Apples are quite possibly Nova Scotia's iconic fall ingredient. However, not all apples are alike. For baking, be sure to choose an apple with some sufficient crunch and the wherewithal to hold some texture during the baking process. Gravensteins and Cortlands are two varieties that are good for pies. Other varieties such as Honeycrisp and McIntosh are simply excellent for eating on their own. Of course, thanks to Nova Scotia's growing cider industry, you can now also drink the bounty of our harvest.

Make-ahead Meals: September ushers in the fall season, but it is also when kids return to school and afterschool programs turn parents into unpaid chauffeurs. A good tip for fall cooking is to make items that can be used later in the week or put in the freezer for those days when there simply isn't time to cook. Chili, stews and lasagna all make great staple make-ahead meals, but consider also making big batches of tomato sauce. Leave a couple of jars in the fridge for the week and freeze the rest. A plate of pasta with some homemade sauce and a simple salad is a nutritious meal that can be minutes in the making and just the right thing when time is tight. ■

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FOOD & DRINK



Photo: Scott Munn

Benjamin Bridge vineyard.



Photo: Scott Munn

Nova Scotia's signature wine styles

Future rests in sparkling and aromatic white wines

By Mark DeWolf



Photo: Contributed

Gerry McConnell,
Co-owner, Benjamin Bridge.



Photo: Contributed

Peter Gamble and Ann Sperling,
Consultants, Benjamin Bridge.

Sometimes it takes an outsider to see how good you are or can be. In the case of Nova Scotia's wine industry, it took a Swiss businessman and a couple of high-profile, Ontario-based consultants to help Nova Scotia's wine industry begin to realize its potential to rival more established wine regions in this county and abroad.

Hanspeter Stutz, a Swiss businessman, was the first outsider (at least in the years since the Jost family of Germany established their winery in Malagash in the early 1980s) to recognize and make a significant investment into developing the potential of the Annapolis Valley as a wine region when he bought Nova Scotia's first winery, Grand Pré, in 1993.

Stutz revitalized the then rundown property, renaming it as *Domaine de Grand Pré*. The next big step came when well-known winemaking consultant Peter Gamble and his wife Ann Sperling — a winemaking star in her own right — were hired by Benjamin Bridge owners Gerry MacConnell and Dara Gordon in 2000. The newly formed team recognized early that the climate in Nova Scotia — particularly in the Gaspereau Valley — was similar to Champagne, a region in France legendary for producing the best sparkling wine in the world.

This, combined with early evidence the grapes they were growing were erupting with striking flavours, convinced the team to create 'méthode champenoise' (also known as traditional method) style wines made with a combination of local and classic Champagne grapes such as Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier.

The 'méthode champenoise' wines they produce, originally under the guidance of Champagne guru

Raphael Brisbois (now deceased) have become revered by critics in Nova Scotia and across the country. Canadian wine-writing legend Tony Aspler even went so far as to say, "They are without question, the best sparkling wines I've ever tasted in Canada."

Consultant Peter Gamble says of their sparkling wines, "the weight of the wine becomes more evident (and very impressive) with age...and what makes them really magic is they reliably have the levels of natural acidity required to balance the additional weight. Together they provide a perfect structure for the autolytic components, so it's a killer combination."

However, Benjamin Bridge hasn't just had success with classic sparkling wines. Their Nova 7 — originally tagged as "7" as a reflection of its inaugural vintage (2007) — has become nothing short of a popularity home run. Nova 7 is an aromatic semi-sweet wine made in a frizzante (slightly sparkling) style. Long before Benjamin Bridge, local vintners such as Jost had proven themselves capable of producing excellent aromatic white wines.

Jost's Eagle Tree Muscat, with its distinctive rosewater, fresh herb, lychee and grapefruit-like bouquet has long held a place on some of the province's finest wine lists.

But it has taken Nova 7 to bring widespread consumer attention to the potential to create a popular and exciting new style that can rival the best of this category internationally, namely Italy's Moscato D'Asti.

The success of Nova 7 and the potential for the province to produce premium sparkling wines, aromatic dry and frizzante styles and crisp, clean

Continued on page 70



BRAX
FEEL GOOD



Expert opinions:

Traditional Method Sparkling Wines

Carman Mills, Sommelier Instructor, Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers

“Benjamin Bridge has implemented a level of investment and attention to detail that has not only solidified their well-deserved spot as Canada’s leader of this style, but have also paved the way for other N.S. wineries to produce top-quality, traditional-method sparkling wines.”

Carman’s Pick: Benjamin Bridge 2009 Brut

“Benjamin Bridge’s 2009 Brut achieves a harmonious balance of honeyed textural richness with a cleansing spine of citrus driven acidity”

Aromatic, Frizzante Style Wines

Rayell Swan, Retail Product Specialist, NSLC Larry Uteck

“Nova Scotians have wholeheartedly embraced this style of wine and for good reason. They provide lively excitement in the glass with aromatic and exotic character, but there is also a casual elegance to them. It’s this combination of pure pleasure, versatility and the fact they are distinctively our own that makes them so special.”

Rayell’s Pick: Avondale Sky Bliss

“Avondale Sky Bliss displays generous pear and lime fruit flavours, subtle effervescence, and an unmistakable expression of minerality which is synonymous with Nova Scotia terroir.”

Heather Rankin, co-owner of Halifax’s Obladee Wine Bar

“Nova Scotia is a cool-climate growing region. We’re not hot like Australia. We don’t get the sunshine Argentina does. We’re more akin to Germany, or Northern France with a long, gradual growing season, cool nights and just enough sunshine to fully ripen our grapes. What emerges is a bright, aromatic style of wine, which has become Nova Scotia’s signature style and the essence of Tidal Bay. These are fresh, floral and fruity wines with a crisp acidity that makes them easy-drinking and great alongside our local fare.”

Heather’s Pick: 2013 Planters Ridge Tidal Bay

“This wine offers lovely, peachy, lemony fruit and a heady perfume, along with ample weight and balancing acid.”

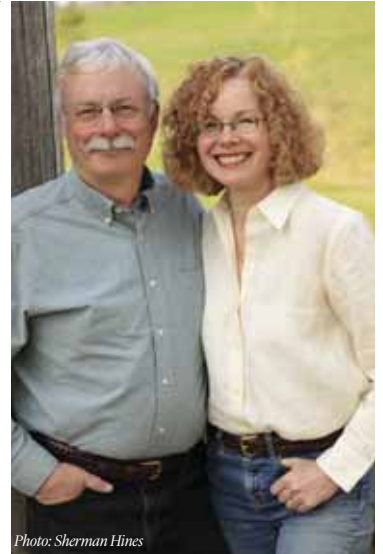


Photo: Sherman Hines

Stewart Creaser & Lorraine Vassalo, Owners, Avondale Sky Winery

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white wines hasn’t been lost on the winemaking community. A new breed of young winemakers, with international training and experience, are expressing a willingness to try new styles and help the industry evolve into one that focuses on its strengths rather than its weaknesses.

Nova Scotia has a unique climate. Our cool, prolonged growing season favours white wine and sparkling wine production as our climate can produce white grapes rich in phenolic complexity, but also rich in acids which contribute vibrancy and vitality to our wines.

In 2012, the industry even went so far as to unveil a new signature wine style called Tidal Bay. The Tidal Bay appellation was created to recognize Nova Scotia’s fresh, crisp and lively white wines. Wineries choosing to label with the Tidal Bay tag must adhere to a number of production regulations, not least of which is making the wines from a select list of grapes and passing a judging panel before getting an official stamp of approval.

While sparkling wines and white wines have become the province’s signature styles, red grapes struggle to reach maturity on a consistent basis. Although warmer vintages can produce excellent wines from our local hybrid grapes and increasingly from Cabernet Franc and Pinot Noir (although in very small numbers) in terms of signature styles, the future rests in sparkling and aromatic white wines. ■

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Zero compromise

BMW i8 boasts beautiful design, eye-popping power, superb fuel economy



Photos courtesy: BMW North America 2014

By Kelly Taylor



On the surface, the BMW i8 might look like just another sports car. It might look like the most beautiful coupe you've ever seen, but the stunning design only hints at the innovation within.

You can't see how the lightweight design and powerful eDrive powertrain allows a zero-100 time of less than 4.5 seconds. Or how it can be that quick yet have a fuel consumption rating (European cycle) of 2.5 litres per 100 km.

Hidden behind the paint is the carbon-fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP) passenger cell, aluminum safety frame and lightweight aluminum-CFRP door panels.

You have to look especially close to see the optional carbon-fibre wheels or the recycled content in the floor mats. You won't be able to tell that the textile fabric in accent strips and trim pieces on seats and door panels are made using a unique process combining recyclable polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with virgin wool. Or how the case for the key is a glass fibre composite made from a biopolymer based on castor bean oil.

Invisible is how the carbon-fibre components are produced in an entirely CO₂-free facility in Washington state using 100 per cent locally-generated hydroelectric

power. Or how the assembly plant in Leipzig, Germany is powered entirely by wind.

"BMW long ago committed to being a leader in sustainable mobility," said BMW Canada spokesman, Rob Dexter. "This commitment has been reflected across our lineup with increasingly fuel-efficient powertrains, emission-reduction technologies and ground-breaking lightweight construction."

BMW calls it LifeDrive, which means the i8 is a plug-in hybrid, employing a tiny 1.5-litre, three-cylinder, turbocharged gas engine that itself generates a respectable 231 horsepower and 236 pound-feet of torque. It sends that to the rear wheels through a six-speed automatic transmission.

The hybrid synchronous electric motor channels its 131 horsepower and 184 lb-ft of torque exclusively to the front wheels through a two-stage automatic transmission.

A sleek charging station mounts in your garage. Combined, the two powertrains produce 362 horsepower and 420 pound-feet of torque.

As sports cars go, that sounds a little ordinary. Perhaps even on the low side of ordinary. Until you factor in the i8's featherweight 1,490 kg. That is almost

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300 kg (661 pounds) lighter than a comparably powered V-8 Ford Mustang. With torque that is 30 pound-feet more than the Mustang, you can imagine why the i8 is so fast.

“The objective of the i8 is to demonstrate that sustainability solutions need not be restricted to compact city-oriented vehicles,” Dexter said. Along with the BMW i3 “you could call it book-ending the two extremes of mobility options.”

The lithium-ion battery pack and electric motor give the i8 up to 35 kilometres of electric-only range, with a top electric-only speed of 120 km/h. In hybrid mode, the electric motor not only shares the duty of propulsion with the gas engine, it also allows the car to share power between the wheels to enhance traction during spirited driving.

BMW calls its move toward sustainability “Efficient Dynamics,” to convey the notion that lower fuel consumption doesn’t have to come at the expense of driving pleasure — the kick provided by a torquey, fast engine or the joy of tossing a well-handling car through twisty roads.

Key to that is a lightweight vehicle.

BMW says the i8 gets its lightness from the CFRP, which BMW says has similar rigidity to steel but at half the weight of steel and 70 per cent of the weight of aluminum. The wheels, normally aluminum, shed even more weight when outfitted as carbon-fibre units. The aluminum chassis, as a distinct component from the passenger cell, encompasses both the suspension and powertrain components as well as crash protection and structural support.

It’s called LifeDrive because the car is actually two separate components merged as one. The Drive section might sound like something out of Star Trek, but it is the aluminum chassis and houses the motors, transmissions, power-



control modules and serves as the structural and crash safety cage.

The Life module is the 2+2 (automotive shorthand for a two-seater with almost two extra seating positions (2+2 is not to be confused with a true four-seater)) passenger cell. That design allows for a considerable degree of design

freedom, BMW says. Which we can take to mean we shouldn’t be surprised to see the same chassis underneath other styles of LifeDrive vehicles.

The i8 speaks to a niche market, with a price tag of \$145,000. But it does answer the question “What do I have to give up in beauty and driving fun to save on gas?” with a resounding “Nothing.” ■

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