



LIFE AT HOME

DECOR • DOMESTIC ARTS • RENOVATIONS • RENTALS • RESALE

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AROUND THE HOUSE

Calling all 'do-something' guys

CONTEST: Are you married to a man with unlimited household initiative? Does your dad debunk the pop culture myth that father only knows best about beer and TSN come Saturday afternoon?

The Herald is looking for three Calgary men who more than pull their weight around the house. They spend their weekends mowing, mending fences, weeding, cooking, grocery shopping, helping with household chores or otherwise being amazing behind closed doors or latched gates — without being nagged to put down the remote already!

If your boyfriend/hubby/dad qualifies, please e-mail a paragraph about him and why he deserves applause. Be sure and include your contact information. Send your entries to lifethomerecomment@theherald.canwest.com by Aug. 15. Contest winners will be included in an upcoming Life At Home story and will win a \$75 gift card to Rona.

—Calgary Herald

Hands-free flushing

PRODUCT • A Connecticut inventor has come up with another solution for those who fear touching toilet handles.

Apparently 80 million Americans step on toilet handles rather than risk germs from touching, according to the Foot Flush promotional material.

Foot Flush is billed as the only hands-free, germ-free toilet flushing device that easily attaches to any standard toilet. It is designed to last one million flushes, roughly the number required by a family of five over 10 years, the company says.

The device sells for about \$30 US.

The Foot Flush appeals to people with limited use of their hands, such as arthritis sufferers, the store manager said.

Shoppers Home Health Care has a Foot Flush hooked up in its bathroom and it works well, reports the store manager.

Travellers may have come across step-on flushers in airport washrooms in Europe.

For more information, check the company's website at footflush.com.

—CanWest News Service



Courtesy, Foot Flush

Foot Flush is billed as the only hands-free, germ-free toilet flushing device that easily attaches to any standard toilet.



Loretta displays the pillow that triggered the remodelling she and her husband, Dave, did in their McKenzie Lake home, including changing the look and layout of the kitchen, above.

Photos, Jenelle Schneider, Calgary Herald

Dream renovation

A \$25 pillow was the springboard for a massive year-long renovation — inside and out

LISA KADANE
CALGARY HERALD

Blame it on Winners. A \$25 pillow from the discount clothing and home accessories store is responsible for a McKenzie Lake home renovation that cost tens of thousands more.

"All of the design (stemmed) from a pillow at Winners," confirms Loretta, 45, who did not want her family's last name used, for privacy reasons.

"I said, 'This is what I want my house to look like.'"

The vibrant throw features a hat-clad monkey seated among flowers and vines, on a ruby-red and golden-yellow background. But don't expect the 3,000-square-foot home or its ample walk-out basement to feature mosquito netting, Victorian antiques or floral area rugs around

every corner.

With its British India overtones, the cheery cushion merely inspired the 18-year-old home's transformation from 1980s stereotype (complete with sunshine ceiling and honey-stained oak floors, cabinets and trim) to an exemplar of contemporary eclectic design.

"It's a contemporary take on traditional," sums up interior designer Laura Fenniak, who didn't think it at all unusual when Loretta presented her with the aforementioned pillow of design dreams. Fenniak appreciated that Loretta and her husband Dave, 47, had a vision for their home.

"It's good because it gives (a designer) a place to start," she says.

After moving in three years ago, it became apparent the couple would need professional help to achieve their home's new look.

Dave kept saying, "We can change that, we can change that, we can change that," says Loretta.

They realized the scope of the looming renovation was far beyond their DIY abilities (even though Dave, an engineer, is a proficient tile layer), and called in the architecture and interior design team of Smith and Co., owned by designer Fenniak and her husband, architect Chuck Smith.

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63 Strathridge Gardens SW \$1,995,000

Clean lines, sleek decor and urban style fuse together in this executive family home in desirable Strathcona: backing onto a ravine and boasting a fully developed walkout basement. This magnificent home showcases almost 5400 s.f. of sophisticated living space with 4 bedrooms, nook, den, soaring windows, custom

millwork through-out and furniture quality built-ins. The custom kitchen is a chef's dream with a large centre island, top of the line stainless steel appliances and true walk thru pantry. The walkout has been masterfully developed with exercise room, wine cellar, built-in entertainment centre and more.

