



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

The Waterloo home of the Judges is ready for Christmas and the HopeSpring's annual Ho Ho Ho Home Tour.



Dear Ellie

## When hubby and brother are fighting, stay clear

**Q:** My husband's not speaking to his only brother over something said last year. His brother has no idea what this was; my husband hasn't addressed the issue with him. He shuts people out of his life who wrong him in any way. He also does this with me sometimes.

I don't think this pattern of silencing people you love is healthy, or a good thing to teach our children (they've not seen their uncle or cousins for nearly a year). My husband's very stubborn and won't make the first move.

Should I intervene? Their parents have allowed this behaviour since childhood.

**A:** Hubby's been retreating behind silent "temper tantrums" because he's never learned to express or be comfortable with his emotions when angry.

Do not intervene; it will make you the enemy in his war against letting feelings out. Reach out to him in his role as a father, about both of you wanting to raise kids who can handle situations at school and with friends.

His example only teaches them to cut and run from problems and people. Someday, it could be an important education path that they reject... or their Dad whom they turn off.

Suggest counselling as a teaching tool to learn other strategies that'll help within your own family. Eventually, he may also want to re-connect with his brother.

### Legal aid can help

**Q:** How can I proceed with my divorce without the intervention of a lawyer? We're avoiding a lawyer as we don't want him/her to make money from us. However, I'll still require a legal person or body to mediate, at a nominal fee, an amicable settlement with my wife.

**A:** The family court system in your jurisdiction can advise you where and how to obtain mediation services. Also, your area's professional law association or a legal aid clinic will be able to direct you to mediators.

Staying "amicable" throughout divorce proceedings requires both of you to agree, if there are children of the union, on putting their interests first, to recognize and accept a fair distribution of joint assets, plus reasonable support for the children's physical and educational needs.

You'd be wise to start discussing this division of responsibilities for children, property and support, in order to expedite the mediation process.

Email Ellie: [ellie@therecord.com](mailto:ellie@therecord.com)

# A natural holiday look

Ho Ho Ho stops at warmly decorated Waterloo home to help HopeSprings

By Valerie Hill, Record staff

**WATERLOO** — It's amazing what you can do with some plain brown paper, a few scraps of white cotton and a bolt or two of rough burlap, though the thought of Christmas decorations might not spring to mind.

"The whole thing about this home is that it's a very natural home," said designer Jackie Hergott, one of a contingent of volunteers readying area homes for the HO HO HO Tour for Hope: Holiday Tour of Homes, on Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14.

Hergott was given the task of decorating the Waterloo home of Dr. David Judges and his wife Tracy. Though a newer-style house the couple prefers a country look and have filled their gorgeous space with antiques, mostly from the Quebec townships. Hergott realized immediately that using glitzy, sparkling decorations in this house just wouldn't fit and so she went with neutral colours, rougher textured fibres and plenty of elements from nature such as branches, pine cones, evergreen boughs and even large Styrofoam balls covered in birch bark plus gifts under the tree are wrapped in plain brown kraft paper, a favourite with her nieces.

Hergott, who runs Chameleon House of Design, said the design was "a very sophisticated way to go."

"The house has enough character you don't want a lot of decoration, that would be overkill," she said. "Everything is very muted." Wall colours blend from



PETER LEE, RECORD STAFF

Santa came a little early to the Judges.

soft moss greens to taupes and golds, enhancing the natural decorations which can be found in expected places, such as the den and kitchen but also surprising little alcoves above doorways. In this house, you have to look up as much as straight ahead, with Christmas filling every space.

For the dining area chandelier, Hergott tore strips of bleached white cotton which were tied in bows and attached to the fixture's metal arms then decorated with burlap and cedar boughs, producing a lovely rustic effect. The table

centre piece was highlighted by blues, enhancing the blue of the gingham seat covers.

For the Judges, incorporating Tracy's beloved Saint Nicholas collection was also important. The pieces were made by her friend, registered nurse Caryl Jordan of London, Ont.

"Every year I got another one," explained Judges. "She (Jordan) puts such life in their eyes."

Hergott said there is a rule of thumb that in decorating, collections should take up no more than 20 percent of the design. "It's the

simplicity," she said.

The eighth annual tour is a major fundraiser for HopeSprings, a Waterloo-based cancer support centre. Judges said she agreed to volunteer her house for the tour after visiting homes last year for the first time. But she had an even more compelling reason. "My husband is a cancer surgeon, so I put my name in and agreed to volunteer my house."

Judges was immediately impressed with number of volunteers required, from house managers who are responsible for individual homes, to decorators, florists and greeters.

"It takes a team to do this," she said.

This year's tour includes five homes, each one professionally decorated plus HopeSpring will be fully decorated and open.

Another house tour this weekend is the Holy Jolly Christmas House tour, Preston IODE. It includes four homes plus Wesley United Church on Ainslie Street. The tour includes refreshments and a raffle for a hand made quilt. Tickets for the tour are \$15. The tour runs this Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For ticket information call Rose at 740-1737.

[vhill@therecord.com](mailto:vhill@therecord.com)

## House tour

### HO HO HO Tour for Hope: Holiday Tour of Homes

- Friday, Nov. 13 from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 14, 12 to 5 p.m.
- Tickets \$25 (all proceeds for HopeSpring Cancer Support Centre. Call for ticket locations 519-742-4673 or [www.hopespring.ca](http://www.hopespring.ca).

# Cambridge orchestra receives rare donation

Prof's collection of sheet music finds new home

By Valerie Hill, Record staff

**CAMBRIDGE** — Dr. Harry Hurwitz faced a musical dilemma.

The retired University of Guelph psychology professor, amateur musician and conductor wondered what to do with his collection of orchestral and sheet music, some of which is no longer in print and all of it taking up more space than he had in his new Toronto apartment. So began the process of inquiring at college and university music departments, places that could make use of his collection. Hurwitz finally found a suitable recipient with the Cambridge Community Orchestra, a group of amateur and professional musicians founded in 2004.

"I was looking for a place to donate my music and I knew of Cambridge when I lived in Guelph," he said. "I was really surprised to hear they had an



DAVID BEBEE, RECORD STAFF

The Cambridge Community Orchestra is benefactor of a lifetime collection of music.

orchestra."

This illumination came after he discovered long time friend and collaborator Sabatino Vacca had been hired as the orchestra's music director three years earlier. Vacca is also artistic director for Chamber Music Hamilton and

assistant conductor of Symphony Hamilton as well as repititeur — or vocal coach — for Opera Hamilton.

"I was delighted when I heard Sabatino got the job," said Hurwitz who will be delivering a short talk Saturday, Nov. 7 at the orchestra's opening performance of its

2009/2010 season.

The two men had worked together off and on over the years after Vacca became a vocal coach at Hurwitz's training program for opera singers. Their association has been long and fruitful and now it was time to pass the baton so to

speak, with boxes upon boxes of music estimated to be having cost Hurwitz \$10,000 to collect over the years.

"We were so grateful," said Vacca. "I got his email, out of the blue."

In July, Vacca met with his friend and loaded up 14 or 15 liquor store boxes filled with an assortment of music, some full sized pages as well as at least one box of pocket-sized music sheets. Then began the task of sorting and cataloging each piece, a task taken on by the orchestra's volunteer board.

Were there any surprises? You bet.

Vacca explained "there's quite a collection of varying styles and composers," adding "these were obscure things, by Czech composers." As well he found new editions of musical scores from Mozart and Hayden, "really expensive editions" which reflected considerable scholarly research and updating. "These are the latest and best editions," he said.

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