

Take a trip down memory lane, and return to the sense of wonder that you felt as a small child. Do you remember picking up a pebble on the beach and discovering a variety of colours that filled you with delight — bright pink veins, layered gray tones, the brilliance of quartz?

Stone is the substance that has endured throughout all time and space. It has created monuments, cathedrals, sculptures, as well as serving more mundane household functions, from floors to walls and fireplaces to benches.

#### Four local quarries

A deep appreciation for the distinct textures, grains, and pigments of stone is very much alive at Muskoka Rock in Gravenhurst. As part of the pre-Cambrian Shield, Muskoka enjoys the rich bounty left by the glaciers from centuries ago. Because stone is carved from the earth, it varies widely in colour and texture. Muskoka Rock uses four local quarries, each one supplying granite of a different character, allowing their clients to select the stone that pleases their tastes and suits their décor for patios, floors, walls, steps, and special features.

Stone quarried from Rosseau is best adapted for the ‘classic Muskoka look’, with its black, gray, and light salmon hues. The Blue Lake quarry offers a range of gray tones, from light to dark. In addition to the third quarry at Lake Joseph, Muskoka Rock has just added a fourth source of granite to broaden the selection.

Located near Parry Sound, the new quarry yields granite that is best described as ‘rustic’. It has a pleasing natural appearance, evoking an earthy primal quality. “It’s a darker toned rock with cream-coloured highlights,” says plant manager Jeremy McCabe, adding that it is becoming a very popular alternative.

#### The versatility of precision-cut stone

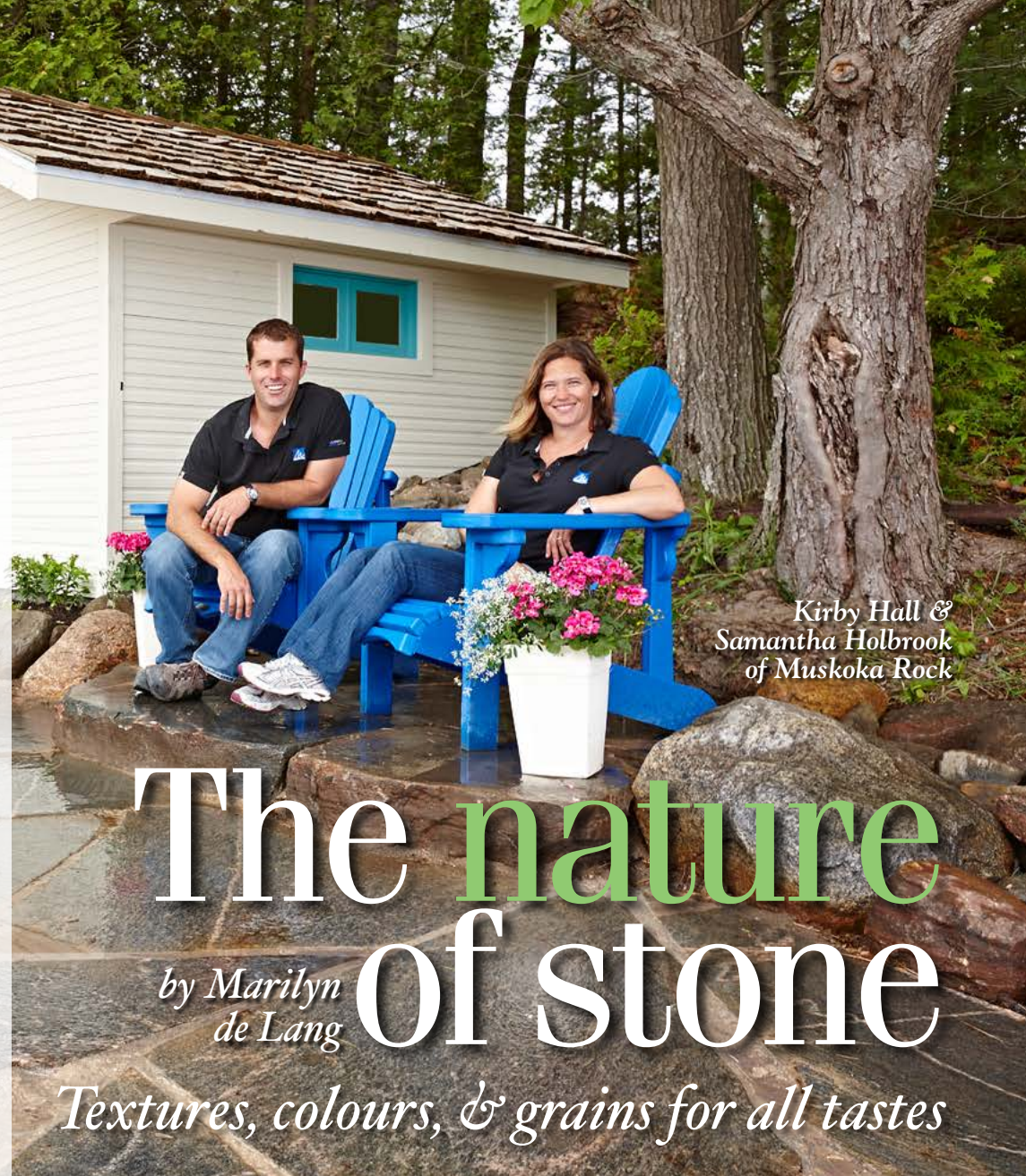
With the precise calibration produced by the giant Python saw at Muskoka Rock, there are no boundaries for the imagination in the use of stone. With its unique veining and pigments, stone flooring adds the textures of nature to a room, making traditional tiled and wooden floors seem somewhat bland in contrast. And beyond floors and patios, granite elements can give



Stone from the new Georgian Bay quarry

a special sparkle to a bathroom or kitchen, as well as traditional living rooms and outdoor spaces.

Whether you opt to go ‘classic’ or ‘rustic’ in installing stone flooring for the patio or adding tasteful



Kirby Hall & Samantha Holbrook of Muskoka Rock

# The nature of stone

by Marilyn de Lang

*Textures, colours, & grains for all tastes*



accents for the cottage interior, the distinctive textures, grains, and colours of the rock culled from Muskoka Rock’s quarries can be precision-cut and shaped to meet whatever vision your mind’s eye can conceive. **DS**