

## Enduring Elegance

*Tonya Lambert*

When you look back at all the enduring artifacts from the distant past - monumental buildings, exquisite sculptures, well-used tools – they all have one thing in common. They are all made from stone. Beautiful, durable, natural – stone has been the preferred building material of architects and craftsmen for millennia.

Mark Tomlinson has been working with granite for nearly two decades. He started out working on granite monuments and memorials as a summer job when he was in school. Over time, he worked for several different firms, gaining in knowledge and experience before opening his own company in 2002.

Tomlinson is extremely dedicated to his chosen craft. Several years ago, a 1300 lb memorial fell on his leg, breaking his femur. He was rushed to the hospital for surgery, where a titanium rod was inserted into this leg. Two days later, he attended his own wedding in a wheelchair. The scare was not over, though. The very next day, he nearly died when a fat embolism developed in his lung and spent the next two weeks in the hospital. Despite being urged by doctors to choose a different profession, Tomlinson returned to the work he loves. “It is very fulfilling to create something so beautiful out of stone,” he explains. “I get to see some beautiful homes and meet some wonderful people.”

## Expert Craftsmanship

Tomlinson and his talented team at Catarqui Granite Co. take great pride in crafting one-of-a-kind lasting works of art for your home or office. They combine the beauty of nature with the latest technology to create focal-piece fireplaces, classy countertops, beautiful backsplashes, distinctive desktops and much more.

The company has acquired a CNC (Computer Numerical Control ) machine. “With our new computerized CNC saw,” explains Tomlinson, “we can produce a kitchen in under an hour and it will fit perfectly. We measure with a LT-55 Laser and cut using the latest in CNC technology. Our laser is accurate to 1/64" and our CNC saw to 1/32". On this one machine, they can cut stone precisely and in any shape as well as do milling, scribing and drilling.

## Granite: Durable & Decorative

When you build something from stone, you are making a statement that lasts. A granite countertop, desktop or tabletop speaks to its owner’s success and sense of style. Its distinctive patterns full of swirls, specks and spots add a richness and elegance to any room, reflecting the owner’s own uniquely refined tastes.

The word ‘granite’ comes from the Latin term ‘granum’, meaning grain. During its formation, this igneous stone was heated to such extreme temperatures that it melted. As it cooled and hardened, it crystallized, the pieces of mica, feldspar, quartz and other rocks combining to create endless combinations of colours, textures and patterns. Every piece of granite is both exceptional and enduring.

Having been shaped by extreme heat, granite can handle heat up to 1800°. This makes it the ideal material from which to construct fireplaces, tabletops and countertops. A hot pot can be placed on a granite countertop and not damage the surface in any way.

In addition, a granite countertop is scratch resistant. Cut vegetables and meat directly on the countertop. With a granite countertop, preparing a meal is simple, safe and super easy to clean up afterwards. Just wipe the silky, smooth surface with warm water and a mild soap or quality granite cleaner. Its sealed, non-porous surface protects against stains, mold, mildew and bacterial contamination.

The most commonly found rock, granite is mined worldwide. At Cataraqui Granite, they carry quality granite slabs across the world. The firm has recently purchased more property and are pleased to be able to provide clients with an even more extensive selection than before. Bring in a sample of your paint, flooring and cabinets and the experts at Cataraqui Granite will help you to find the perfect fit.

“As first time buyers of granite, we were apprehensive about the process and the cost,” explain D. & S. Schell. “From the beginning, we found that Cataraqui Granite Company not only had competitive pricing, but Mark the owner, took the time to come to our house to measure and speak with us personally regarding our needs.”

As a natural stone, granite is great for outdoor use. It is incredibly strong and resilient, able to handle all types of weather. These same qualities also make it an excellent choice for outdoor kitchens. A granite front entrance to any home is at once grand and gorgeous, sure to be both noticed and remembered.

#### Quartz: Consistent Quality

The rich randomness of granite is not for everyone. Some people prefer a more predictable pattern. If you like colourful consistency and stylistic symmetry then the elegant allure of a quartz countertop is for you.

Quartz is a man-made product manufactured from natural stones, polymer and pigment. This is poured into high pressure molds and baked under extreme heat. Comprised of 95% quartz stones, quartz slabs have the strength and durability of stone. The manufacturing process ensures a uniformity in colour and pattern that is very aesthetically appealing.

The use of quartz for countertops and backsplashes in both kitchens and bathrooms is becoming increasingly popular. Incredibly low maintenance and non-porous, quartz does not require sealing, is stain resistant and anti-microbial.

Cataraqui Granite carries quartz from all the top manufacturers, including Caesarstone, Zodiac, Q, Samsung, LG and Hanstone. Stop by their store and view samples. If they do not have the desired style on site, they will be happy to order it in for you.

Any stone product can crack if not properly handled. Therefore, it is important to work with a company that has professionally-trained and experienced installers, like those at Cataraqui Granite Co. “Your employees have been amazing. They were extremely polite and considerate/respectful of being in my home,” says M. Lerikos. “My entire experience with Cataraqui Granite has been both enjoyable and satisfying.”

When it has to be tasteful and timeless, turn to Tomlinson and his team at Cataraqui Granite Co. Up to any challenge, they are the experts in enduring elegance.

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