

BEST of the BEST
granite & stone



Polished Elegance

By Katrina Geenevasen-Garlough Photos Stephen Wild

Long revered for its timeless beauty, granite has become the foremost choice for those wanting to add value and style to their homes — and Mark Tomlinson, owner of Cataraqui Granite, helps people do just that.

Tomlinson has been in the business since he was a student, falling into a job at a monument company during summer break one year, and never leaving. There was just something about it he loved, and although he can't quite nail down what that "something" was, his passion for the craft — which has only continued to grow stronger since opening his own company in 2002 — is palpable. "It's this indescribable passion... it's an addiction. I love knowing I made someone's house look that good. Some of the jobs we do are just phenomenal."

In keeping with the company's preeminent products and installers, Cataraqui Granite also works with elite, revolutionary equipment.

Their CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machine has completely transformed the way the company produces its granite products, allowing them to precisely cut stone in any shape, as well as mill, drill and scribe it — and it can do it quickly.

Whereas Cataraqui Granite used to take an entire day to complete one kitchen, the staff can now easily do three, sometimes four kitchens in the same amount of time. "This machine literally produces a kitchen within an hour," explains Tomlinson. "And it will fit perfectly; we're not having to cut into people's walls to make the counter fit."

Granite: Beautiful and Durable

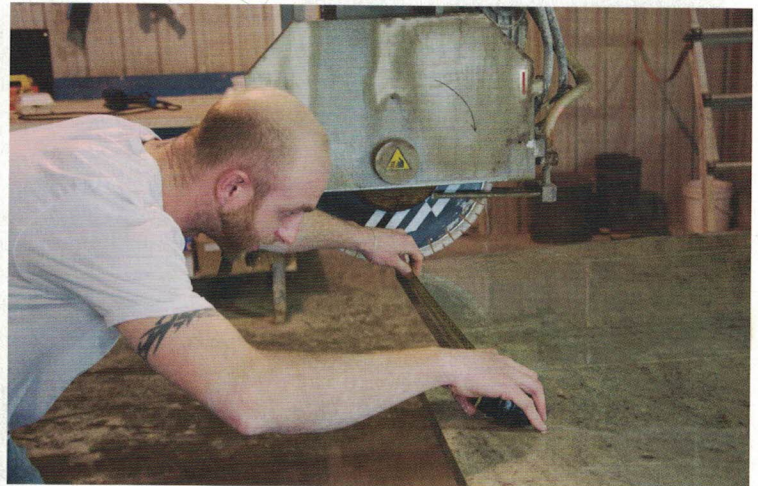
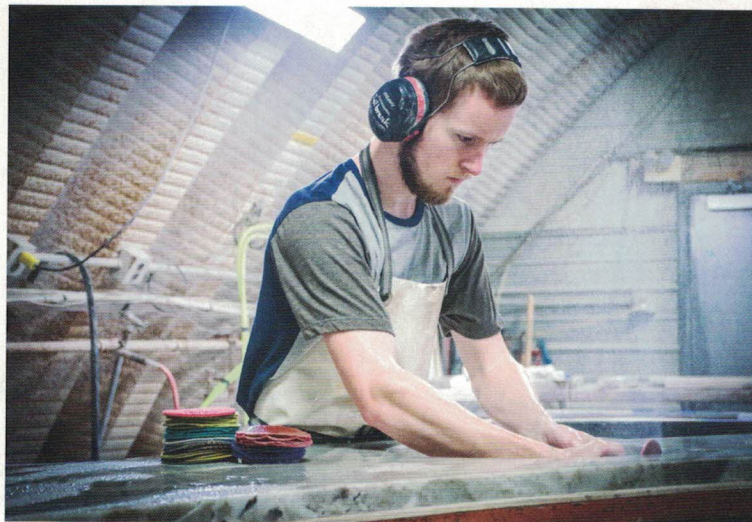
A beautifully unique stone that meets the discerning demands of today's homeowners, granite continues to be the top choice for many homeowners — and for good reason. "It's because of its durability but also because of

its natural beauty," explains Tomlinson. "It is a natural rock, from the inside out. It's been made by Mother Nature over millions of years, that's literally what it is."

Granite allows homeowners to enjoy their space without the worries of damaging their countertop; it won't scratch, and even with regular use, it won't show the wear and tear other surfaces are prone to. It can withstand the heat of a boiling pot, and endure the blades of sharp knives during food preparation.

And because granite is comprised of many different minerals, the colour of granite varies greatly, allowing homeowners to choose a slab that beautifully complements the colour and design of any room in their home.

The most commonly found rock, granite is mined around the world. The soaring mountains of Brazil, however, are where



most of the breathtaking slabs found at Cataraqui Granite come from. While some stone is shipped to China after being cut from the mountainside in blocks, most of the granite Tomlinson favours is shipped to Italy to be finished. "The Italians are very good at finishing stone," he says. "They've been doing it for hundreds of years, and yield much better results."

Quartz – A Stunning Alternative

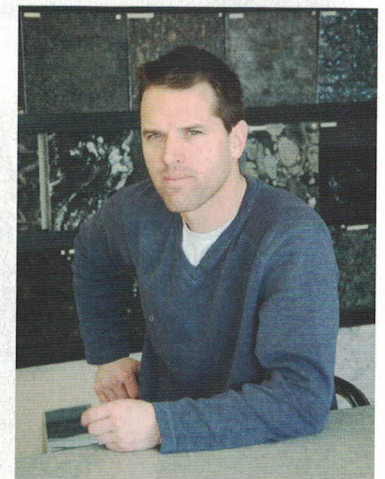
While granite continues to be the most popular choice, it's not for everyone; those seeking uniform colour appreciate the consistency quartz provides. A man-made product, it's no-maintenance and non-porous, does not require sealing and is stain-resistant.

Cataraqui Granite carries quartz from top manufacturers, including: Q from MSI, Hanstone, Caesarstone and Zodiac.

If you're seeking a locally-owned company small enough to care, but big enough to provide excellent quality for your next project, call Cataraqui Granite. **RK**

"We really care about what we do, and we really care about our customers – we truly do," says Tomlinson. "We try to make people happy no matter what it takes, and we really love them being happy and the kitchen being beautiful. We love the stone we work with; we're very passionate about it. We do our best to always give a great end result."

Mark Tomlinson,
owner Cataraqui Granite



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