



## CUSTOM COUNTERTOPS from Classic to Contemporary

BY TORI STAFFORD PHOTOS COURTESY OF CATARAQUI GRANITE

For centuries, granite has been revered for its incredible durability and unique aesthetic. Some things never change.

Now more popular than ever in modern home building and finishing, granite is used for everything from columns to countertops — the latter being the preferred selection in many of today's homes. With each piece of granite uniquely coloured and textured, the stone promises to create distinctive countertops individualized to each owner.

The customization of granite countertops isn't limited to the makeup of the stone

itself. At Cataraqui Granite Company, each counter is created to custom order, from start to finish. Locally owned and operated by Mark Tomlinson, Cataraqui Granite offers the very best in customer service to ensure satisfaction. And that all starts with the selection of the granite the customer desires, Tomlinson explains.

At its Highway 38 location, the Cataraqui Granite showroom offers clients a vast variety of granite slabs to see and touch, and a wide selection of options from slab suppliers within Ontario. For an even more hands-on approach, Tomlinson suggests taking the short trip to one of

those suppliers, where clients can view an even larger selection and pick the granite slab their pieces will be created from. With the stone selected, Tomlinson travels to each client's home to do the measurements himself, using state-of-the-art laser technology that measures to within 1/64-inch for superior accuracy.

Working with the client to ensure each counter suits their specific needs and tastes, Cataraqui Granite Company does all of their custom work in-house, making for a truly locally-produced product. It's this communication and customization that makes the work so enjoyable,



TOP-BOTTOM Matt Ellerbeck, Mark Tomlinson, Christine Wheeler

Tomlinson says. "The best part of my job is meeting new people every day," he expresses. "Every job comes with new challenges and rewards."

For Tomlinson, working with granite and all kinds of stone has been a passion for many years. After working for various monument companies from Belleville to Toronto, Tomlinson opened Cataraqui Memorials in 2002 here in Kingston. After just a year in business, the demand for granite countertops was so great, Tomlinson decided to use his skills to meet it. By 2003, the company was renamed Cataraqui Granite, and Tomlinson had found a new niche in the world of stonework. It's an ever-changing market and Tomlinson prides himself on staying on top of the latest technology and designs. This month, Cataraqui Granite will become the only company in Kingston with a cutting edge Computer Numerical Control (CNC) saw. This will deliver the

most clean cut and accurate counters to their clients with maximum efficiency.

However, Cataraqui Granite Company does more than countertops. From flooring a Peterbilt transport show truck to creating stunning front entrances to local estates, the company is capable of creating architectural and decorative pieces out of any stone. Also experienced in bathroom installations and fireplace surrounds, mantles and hearths, Cataraqui Granite boasts a selection of thousands of colours and patterns of stone, and is capable of many styles of edging and profiling. With such variety, Tomlinson says it's always exciting to start a new project and work with clients to create whatever they envision. ■

Cataraqui Granite Company  
2400 Highway 38  
Kingston  
613.389.3998  
www.cataraquigranite.com

