

## YARDS BY THE YARD

New homes today are paired with a property that has a blank canvass. While this might be a creative gardener's dream, it may be difficult to picture you and your family enjoying your new yard. It can be easy to decide how many washrooms and bedrooms to have in your new home but you must also consider what your yard will have to offer.

### GREEN THUMBS

If gardening is a passion of yours, be sure your new yard will have adequate space for planting. Do you prefer a sun or shade garden? Look at where your home will be sitting and consider how the sunlight will hit your yard. What kind of soil does the area have? This might limit what types of plants and shrubs you can include in your gardens and to the serious gardener; this will influence your choice of location!

### PARTY ON!

If you plan on entertaining outside, there are several things to think about. If everyone centers around your barbeque in summertime, will there be enough space for a deck or patio to accommodate your guests? Swimming pools are another backyard favourite so if you love the water make sure your space can house it and its accessories. If you have small children, you might include a play structure which needs room on all sides for safety.

### THINK STORAGE

One of the most popular concerns among new home buyers is adequate storage. You might require a shed to house extra yard gear. Keep in mind what you will be storing outside if there is not enough room in your garage. If you will be hiring a landscaping service to maintain your property, you won't need room for lawnmowers and other gardening tools. Children's toys, hot tub and pool equipment, snow blowers, and barbeque accessories are some other items that may need a place to live when not in use.

### PRIVACY POLICY

If your privacy is important, you need to look at your new home's placement in its neighbourhood. Cul-de-sacs offer the most privacy while some streets might act as a pass through for extra traffic flow. Many new home builders are bringing in mature trees and shrubs to offer more privacy to their buyers. Check your local home building supply store for a large offering of privacy fencing as well.

When shopping for your new home, think about what you will be using your yard space for once settled in. Consider how your lifestyle will change as the years pass. It is easy to overlook your back yard's potential especially now when summer seems so far away!