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Lessons *from* Port Hope

Lee Caswell, the resident expert of Canada's antiques capital, takes us on an exclusive tour of some of the town's treasure-filled homes and shows us how easy it is to incorporate interesting old finds into any room.

BY VIRGINIE MARTOCQ PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL GRAYDON



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about an hour east of Toronto is the tiny historic town of Port Hope – population 20,000 and a hub for antiques. “It’s really the only place to stop between Toronto and Montreal” if you’re looking for an amazing one-of-a-kind piece from the past, says Lee Caswell. And he should know. He’s the president of The Canadian Antique Dealers Association, advisor for the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, appraiser for the *Canadian Antiques Roadshow* and co-owner of the shop Antiques on Queen in Port Hope. “We are fortunate to have a very dedicated group of collectors and dealers in such a small community,” he says.

As summer comes to a close, it’s the perfect time to get your last fill of open-air flea markets and fairs – antiques are, after all, enjoying a renaissance with increasingly young devotees getting hooked on the thrill of the hunt and the joy of the find. Whether your style is classic, contemporary, country or downright fussy, incorporating antiques into your decor is easier than you think. Here Caswell invites *Chatelaine* readers on a private tour of six antique lovers’ homes and shows us how anyone can become a collector of old treasures by following six ingenious rules.

In Lee Caswell and his partner Blaise Gaetz’s home, painted floors create a historic look. The colours were chosen from old layers of paint Caswell found when he restored the house. Using three-inch tape, he created the pattern on the floor and painted it in less than eight hours.