

# HOME & GARDEN



## Spruce Up Your Home or Cottage with a New Floor

By Debbie Brown

There are so many choices of materials and floor designs manufactured for today's lifestyle needs.

Targett, produces a wide variety of laminate type flooring options. Whether you are thinking of a living room, kitchen or bathroom, the function in each room helps to determine your choices.

Laminate is often chosen for its durability and low maintenance. The surface treatment makes it resilient to shocks, scratches and stains. The melamine it contains has antibacterial properties. The tight locking system keeps the floor stable, preventing the formation of gaps. Another option for consideration is vinyl. Vinyl is hardwearing, easy cleaning and water proof.

The design, types of materials and look of vinyl has skyrocketed since the nineteen sixties. You can easily tailor the theme of your room with the design, feel and practicality of flooring. Vinyl is water resistant and comfortable.

When choosing a floor for the cottage, ask lots of questions. You want your investment to last. Floor materials

must hold up to the cold winter weather and no heat over the winter.

It's very important to install cottage flooring properly and ensure you use a quality product. Your flooring specialist can help you determine the type of material, the look, the need for durability and all with the budget. The floor is the gateway to your room.

## Bears Sightings on the Rise

By Linda Harrington

It seems the "teddy" bears are enjoying their picnics but the same can't be said for their human neighbours! Bear sightings seem to more frequent across the province this year. A recent bear/vehicle collision in Pictou County has prompted RCMP to issue caution to motorists, as the bears are waking up hungry and feeding along roadways or pillaging compost bins.

Liza Madore recently posted amazing photographs of her bear encounter on Facebook. The photos were taken in Debert, but like many other photographers she does not want to say exactly where to protect the bears and her privacy. The photographs were taken with her Nikon D90 at about a distance of 20 feet but she says, "it seemed like a lot closer!"

There have been bears in this area each summer and Liza says it is somewhat of a nightly habit to go for a drive and see if the bears are out. "The night the picture was taken the bear was hoping to find food in my sister in law's composter, which is right across from my driveway, and he heard the car and ran up the tree."

This was the first time she was able to get such amazing photos. "I've tried every year to get pictures of them but they are usually so far away or it's too dark but this year they are extra close... too close! So this definitely is the best picture I've ever gotten," says Liza.

Like many others in the area, Liza feels the bear presence has definitely increased. "We've already had one relocated. I don't want any harm to come to them but I have kids, ages 11 and 14,

and when they can't go outside without us, the bears are too close," Liza says, adding "They should be able to go outside whenever they want."

The presence of the bears is mostly a nuisance, having to clean up the mess they leave and the fact the kids can't play outside. Liza says it is a bit concerning the bears don't seem to care people are there and they come out anytime of day. "We used to go for family walks every night and we haven't been able to since they've moved in this year. My husband was out on the deck one night and turned around to come in the house. The bear was walking out of the woods, right towards the deck."

Dept. of Natural Resources have given residents suggestions on how to not attract bears and Liza says they have taken these precautions, "We have don't leave out our bird feeders, garbage and compost isn't put out until garbage day, and we have even poured javex on our composters. We also all have bear bangers, air horns and my husband and I bought fire works to set one off every time we know it's near with the hope of scaring it off."

A neighbour Maria Forman has huge concerns about the bear activity as well and blames the roadside composters for their presence. "We are becoming over run with bears and I think we should petition the County to provide a central facility for residents to drop off their food wastes. It's

the only way I figure we're going to get the bears under control around here."

Maria used to walk her dogs every night but has been afraid to even go out in her yard without an air horn. "I used to walk my dogs after work every day, but am nervous to do so anymore, even though Dept Natural Resources say they'll never challenge a human...I'd rather NOT test that theory," she laughs. Maria also worries about children getting on and off buses in the area.

District 9 Councillor Doug MacInnes says constructing a centralized compost drop off area in each community would be near impossible. "It would be cost prohibitive and not practical for a number of reasons, including trying to find a suitable location. Who is going to want this near their property? You would never be able to get the compost completely cleaned out and the odor of rotting food would be continuous, probably attracting more bears."

Councillor MacInnes says this is something we are going to have to learn to live with as we continue to clear cut woodlands higher up in the mountains and build subdivisions in the woods. "We are building in the bear's backyard. This is not our yard; it is their yard!" He notes it is a serious issue and we will have to adapt our lifestyles. "The fact is the bears would be here even without the composters. They wake up hungry this time of year and go looking for food. If they weren't into the composters they would be looking for something else but once the berries become ripe they move on."



Baby bear is keeping an eye on his two siblings hiding in the grass as momma tries to have some lunch in this unidentified Cumberland County field. Many people are reporting an increase in bear sightings and RCMP have warned people to be on the lookout for bears along roadways after a bear was hit by a motorist in Pictou County. (Harrington Photo)

## MacIntosh Landscaping Victim of Theft

Colchester District RCMP is asking for the public's assistance in solving a theft of equipment that occurred at MacIntosh Landscaping and Trucking Ltd. in Bible Hill. The following items were taken from the business sometime between June 1 and June 2, 2016: Cutmaster plasma cutter, Husqvarna cut-off saw, Husqvarna chainsaw, Stihl chainsaw and Dewalt canvass bag containing drill bits and other various tools.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact Colchester District RCMP at 902-893-6820. Should you wish to remain anonymous, please call Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers at 1-

800-222-TIPS (8477), text TIP202 + your message to 'CRIMES' (274637) or by

secure online tips at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca. The investigation is ongoing.

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