

The image features a low-angle shot of the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games mascot, a brown and tan beaver-like creature, wearing a yellow hard hat with "TORONTO 2015" on it and white wristbands with the Pan Am logo. The mascot is smiling and has its arms raised. In the background, the CN Tower rises against a clear blue sky. The word "ON" is in large green letters, "the" is in a white script font, and "GO" is in large green letters, all at the top of the page.

ON *the* GO

TORONTO 2015 PAN AM GAMES JULY 10-26

EXTEND YOUR LIVING SPACE OUTDOORS

BY DVIRA OVADIA | Summer living in Toronto is one of the most enjoyable activities of the year. From entertaining, to relaxing or relishing in the great weather, we love to experience this season around the house. Creating that comfortable oasis in your own outdoors is all the buzz and allows you, your family and your friends the opportunity to leisure in the privacy of your own retreat.



As a designer tackling our many clients outdoor spaces, I am always looking beyond my client's living room and into their backyards to make those exterior spaces a true extension of their home. Bringing the indoors outside is becoming more popular as outdoor furniture options have become limitless. We can now source beautiful products for our clients whether they are on a budget or willing to spend a little more. Southport Outdoor Living for outdoor furniture is one of my favourite

go-to shops with a new location now in trendy Castlefield Avenue Toronto. Here you will find a vast selection of colours and finishes of tables, loungers, and accessories to create a stylish backyard that will make all your neighbours look twice!

No matter the size of your yard or patio, when designing outdoor living spaces, it is important to make zones that create flow and interest. Zones can be transformed into anything from dining, entertaining, cooking, lounging, and even focal points.

Creating a clear path in your yard is key to defining separate areas. Adding inexpensive planters and trees is a great way to define certain spaces. Furniture also plays a key role in outlining specific zones, from dining to lounge seating,

If you love entertaining and ample seating is important to you, introduce benches, inexpensive garden stools and fun pieces that are portable, flexible and can double up as chairs or side tables for resting your drinks!

Just as we do indoors, layering accessories outdoors is important in achieving that cozy and complete environment. A great way to introduce colour is with outdoor rugs — these are exceptionally lightweight and most surprisingly they are quite inexpensive. Made from woven polyurethane fibres, outdoor mats can be lots of fun!

Colourful fabrics, pillows and cushions will truly make your outdoor living space feel bright and inviting.

Using outdoor lanterns and even built in accent lighting is a great way to add that element of luxury to the privacy of your yard.

It's time to invest in your outdoors and turn your backyard into a hideaway retreat that you can enjoy this summer.

COURTESY OF **Southport Outdoor Living**



TIPS for YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE:

- Make sure your outdoor fabrics are Sunbrella fabrics or equivalent. This uniquely designed textile will not fade or wear under the harsh rays of the sun!
- Create a focal point with a firepit, an outdoor cooking station, or simply by planting some beautiful flowers and trees.



Toronto-based celebrity & award winning designer **Dvira Ovadia**, Principal of Dvira

Interiors is known for her appearances and design work on various HGTV shows. Dvira and her team use their profound understanding of design to create stylishly smart spaces. Servicing clientele throughout Ontario & GTA.
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