

# Business Profile



## A L Designs

By Alexa (Woods) McCarthy

After working most of her professional life employed in the home furnishings business, Arlene Lyon embraced the encouragement from her family and began her own company in Uxbridge. A L Designs is a one-year-old interior design firm that provides residential and commercial renovations, as well as new build designs, visual merchandising and home staging. To begin a project, Arlene will meet with you in an initial, two-hour consultation to discuss your ideas. Whether it be changing your home's colour scheme or doing a major renovation, A L Designs provides apt suggestions based on your budget, vision and style.

Arlene is passionate about her clients and about design. She says, "The words spoken by a client are like brush strokes of a painting; individually they are just a spot of colour, but put them all together and a masterpiece takes shape. I will take those words generously spoken, entrusted to me, and create your personal work of art." A L Designs approaches each project with integrity and consideration. "I love the challenge of learning new things! I want to know I haven't asked the impossible of the contractor and trades I work with," says Arlene. That being said, she has discovered a dislike for power tools! "They're made for larger hands than mine," she says. But she *has* learned the skill of grouting from one of her contractors, and she must be pretty good at it since he's asked her to help out on other projects. Arlene's biggest enjoyment in the interior design business? She says it's "working with my clients and bringing their ideas to fruition! Making them happy!" It's hard work that comes from all angles; any type of design can call in numerous talented tradespeople and Arlene is thankful for all those she gets to work with.

Uxbridge has been home for Arlene and her family for over 26 years. And though her job frequently takes her away from the town (A L

Designs caters to the GTA and the Kawartha Lakes), she is happy to come back at the end of the day. She and her husband love the community where their three children were born and raised. The kids all went to school, joined in extra-curricular activities, and got their first jobs, at Tim Horton's and Canadian Tire, in town. Today, they are all focused on their individual careers in construction, electrical, and graphic design. Arlene is fortunate enough to have been able to work with each of them this year in a professional capacity. In fact she says, "My daughter was instrumental in the design of my logo, website, and social media platforms."

To Arlene, family is important. "They are my biggest inspiration. Without their faith, support and encouragement, I'm not sure I would have started this company." Having found her niche in Uxbridge, Arlene says "It brings me the greatest joy being able to now work within the community. Not only do I have clients from Uxbridge, but I have the pleasure of working with other great, local businesses." She enjoys being active in the area, whether through volunteering, or her memberships in the Uxbridge Networking Group and the Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce.



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