

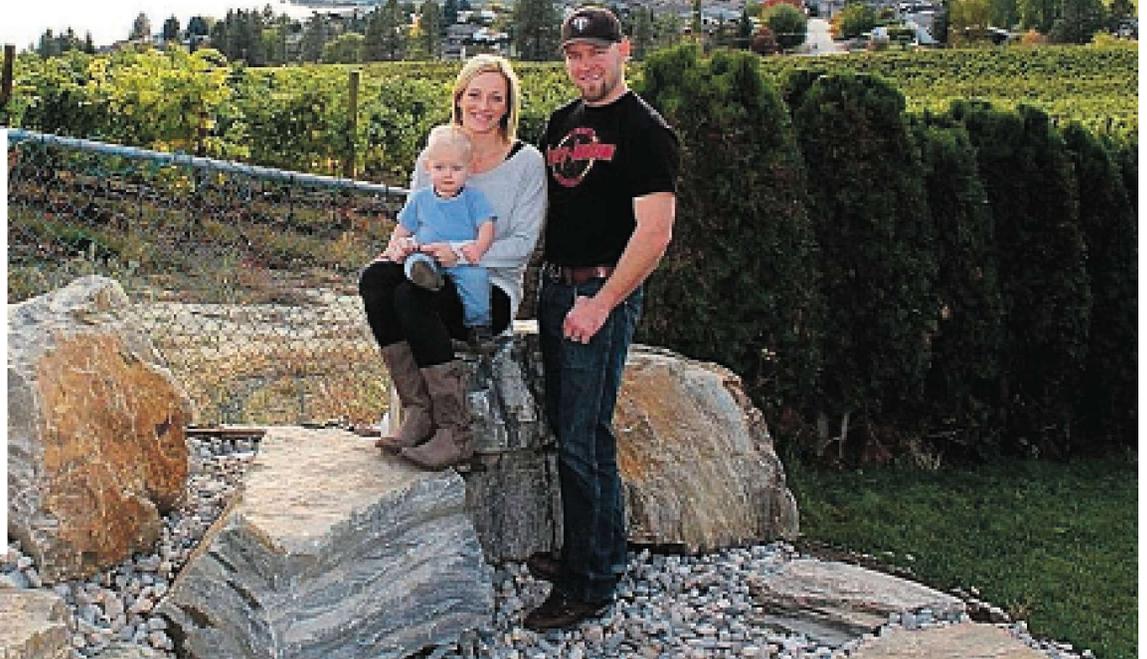


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CELEBRITY SPACES

Monster truck driver thrives on adrenaline rush



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Special to QMI Agency

Cam McQueen is the Monster Jam 2012 World Freestyle champion and drives a truck called Northern Nightmare.

At age five, McQueen attended his first Monster Truck show and he was instantly hooked. From then on, the

native of Calgary "loved cars, trucks, bikes, anything with a motor."

In high school McQueen and his brother along with their Dad, would compete in motocross racing. At age 12, a trip to Disneyland's Indiana Jones Stunt show only reinforced McQueen's dreams. "I bought a whip and leather jacket. All I wanted to do was be a stunt man!"

When McQueen was 19-years-

old, a friend took him to a motocross movie set. After getting caught up in the excitement, McQueen attempted an unauthorized jump on a dirt bike, but what could have been a disaster turned an audition. "The director came over to me and said 'do it again, nobody was filming it.'" Luckily, McQueen "was still in one piece" and able to perform again.

The early stunt work paved the way for McQueen to meet the people that gave him a chance to drive monster trucks and perform in Monster Truck (www.monsterjamcanada.ca) shows. He continues to do stunt work and appears in the MTV reality show Nitro Circus and FuelTV's Thrillbillies.

McQueen admits that he thrives on the adrenaline rush and it is the interaction with the fans that is the most gratifying for him. "Live your dreams. Never give up and do what you love doing and you will be happy."

McQueen invited Celebrity Spaces into his home.

Q: How would you describe your home in a few words?

A: Lots of work.

Q: Tell us about your home.

A: It is a 3,500-square foot house on a half acre lot backing onto a vineyard in the heart of the Okanagan Valley. We purchased it in 2010 and have spent the last two years renovating the house and yard. The master bedroom, kitchen, living and dining rooms were completely gutted and redone. We added an oversize garage, that still is not big enough to fit the Monster Truck.

Q: What attracted you to this space?

A: Both my wife and I grew up in the area and always loved the neighbourhood. My wife actually grew up in the house next door and her parents still live there. They are awesome neighbours. We wanted to start our own family in the same paradise that we grew up in. Also, the view is amazing.

Q: Who shares this home?

A: My wife, our one-year-old son

and our dog Bentley. He has "little dog syndrome". He weighs about 200 pounds but thinks and acts like he is 200 pounds.

Q: What is your favourite room and why?

A: The Garage! I spend a lot of time in there tinkering and the Man Cave or as my wife calls it 'man plus one woman cave', isn't quite finished yet so it's the next best thing.

Q: How would you describe your decorating style?

A: My wife likes to make the space cozy with home made crafts, candles, antique furniture that she has refinished. The entire house is painted in warm earth tones. My son's room is painted in a bluish grey shade. Even with the renovation going on, she always makes it feel like a comfortable, inviting place.

Q: What is your fondest memory in this home?

A: Building and decorating our sons' room and welcoming him to his new home.

Q: What is the one item in this house you can't live without?

A: His-and-her sinks in the master ensuite.

Q: Weekends at home, what are we most likely to find you doing?

A: Working on the house! It drives my wife crazy but I still spend the majority of my free time on house projects. I sometimes wonder if it would have been easier to build a new house from scratch.

Q: If your walls could talk, what would they say?

A: "Enough of the damn renos, hang some pictures on me already."

